



Saint Michael Catholic Community

800 85th Street SW
Calgary, Alberta
T3H 4C7

December 14, 2025: 3rd Sunday of Advent



Christmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24:

Daily Mass 9:00am / Eve Mass: 4:00pm, 7:00pm (live-streamed), 10:00pm

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25:

9:00am, 11:00am (with incense and live-streamed)

Boxing Day, Friday, December 26:

Daily Mass 9:00am

New Years Eve, Wednesday, December 31:

Daily Mass 9:00am / Eve Mass: 5:00 pm

New Years Day, Thursday, January 1:

9:00am, 11:00am (with incense and live-streamed)

Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday

This Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday, symbolized by the pink candle of the Advent wreath, is the celebration of our joy of realizing that Christmas is at hand.

We rejoice at the nearness of our celebration of the event that has made God present in our humanity. We rejoice at the fast-approaching celebration of Christ's birth that has made God present among us, in the sacraments and in prayer, in our daily life and in the signs of the times, in other people and in occasions of serving one another. We rejoice at the promised gift of God's only begotten Son's taking on human form through the Blessed Virgin Mary that renewed our world from within, bringing about an abiding source of supernatural life and liberation from sin.

Our reason for great rejoicing is Christ's presence in our midst which began on the first Christmas Day. We see and feel Christ's presence in people whose lives reflect His love, mercy, and forgiveness. Although harder to see and understand, God is also with us in pain and suffering.

Our readings today urge us to move forward as we rejoice in the signs of God's presence in our midst. And we are called upon to live as a sign of Christ's presence in our daily life, in the midst of our difficulties, and in the challenges that we face in our journey of faith.

As we hasten towards Christmas, let us offer the gift of Christ's presence to our loved ones as well as to those who need most our love. Let us be more generous with our gift-giving, knowing that we give on behalf of Him who gave up His life for our sake.

As Christmas approaches, let us re-learn to welcome Christ not only in our hearts but also in the lives of others, especially those who are struggling to gain their human dignity in the midst of poverty, sickness, and need for love and comfort. The joy of Christmas is rooted in sharing Christ's love and presence with others in community. The birth of the Emmanuel, which means *God is with us*, highlights the continuing presence of God in our world through the life we live as followers of Christ. May this season strengthen us in our witness to Christ's presence in our midst.

Fr. Edmund, fredmund@saintmichael.ca

Weekday & Weekend Masses:

Tuesday: 6:00 pm

Wednesday to Friday: 9:00 am

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am Morning Prayer

Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and 5:00 pm

Live-Stream:

Sunday 11:00 am at saintmichael.ca/Mass or Facebook Live

Reconciliation:

Friday: 8:00 am to 8:45 am

Saturday: 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm

Eucharistic Adoration:

Friday: 9:30 am to 8:00 pm

Office Hours:

Tuesday to Friday: 9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Office:

Phone: 403-249-0423 info@saintmichael.ca

Pastor:

Fr. Edmund Vargas fredmund@saintmichael.ca

Associate Pastor:

Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah frkelvin@saintmichael.ca

Administrative Assistant:

Loreen Morrison lmorrison@saintmichael.ca

Office Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator:

Gladys Doh gdoh@saintmichael.ca

Sacrament Coordinator and Columbarium Manager:

Francesca Ambrosino fambrosino@saintmichael.ca

Music Director:

Jim Howells jhowells@saintmichael.ca

Children's Liturgy Coordinator:

Caroline Dixon cdixon@saintmichael.ca

Technical Director:

Kyle De Jaegher kdejaegher@saintmichael.ca

Bookkeeper:

Michelle Gregory accounting@saintmichael.ca

Anointing of the Sick:

Diocese of Calgary Call Center:
403-231-9505

Alberta Children Hospital; Foothills Hospital;
Peter Lougheed Hospital; Rockyview General

Healing Lines

Faith communities and faith leaders have a unique role to play in responding to the needs of abuse victims and their families. First and foremost, faith communities need to be safe places to disclose abuse. Persons of faith who are abused often feel that their spirit has been broken, that God does not care about their life, that they are worthless in every way. The healing journey from victim to survivor is long and arduous; ongoing emotional support and many caregivers are required. Many persons of faith who are abused would require assistance from both community agencies and their faith fellowship. Become one of the chosen as we are asked to assist with wherever we can.



Mission Mexico Sunday

Join us in supporting Mission Mexico Day on Dec 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Mission Mexico Sunday on December 13 & 14 in the parishes. These special days remind us of our call to walk in solidarity with marginalized communities in southern Mexico, providing vital support for education, healthcare, and sustainable development. Let us come together to share hope and transform lives through our generosity. Direct link to donate online - <https://www.catholiccyc.ca/donatemissionmexico.html>



Elevation Youth Group (Gr. 4-6)

Youths in Grade 4-6 are invited to join our brand new youth group: *ELEVATION youth*! Join us on Fridays from 6:30-8:30pm in the St. Nicholas room for devotions, snacks, games, faith, and fun! The next session of the program is on December 19 and will run until the spring. Pre-registration is required and capacity is dependent on volunteer availability. Register by scanning the QR code or by emailing youth@saintmichael.ca. All are welcome! We are also looking for volunteers to supervise activities, help with games, and provide a small snack for the group each week. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Gladys Doh gdoh@saintmichael.ca or our group leader Abigail Lewis at youth@saintmichael.ca.



Cancellations

Coffee Wednesdays:

Cancelled Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.

Resumes January 7, 2026.

Coffee Sundays:

Cancelled Dec. 28 and Jan. 4.

Resumes January 11, 2026.

Children's Liturgy:

Cancelled Dec. 14, Dec. 21, Dec. 28, Jan. 4.

Resumes January 11, 2026.

Moms & Tots:

Cancelled Dec. 18, Dec. 25, Jan. 1.

Resumes January 8, 2026.

Knights of Columbus Meeting:

Cancelled Dec. 18



Advent: A Season of Hope and Renewal

As we begin the holy season of Advent, the Church invites us into a time of watchfulness, reflection, and joyful expectation for the coming of Christ. In the spirit of the Jubilee Year proclaimed by Pope Francis last year and set to conclude this December, our Diocese is launching a matching financial campaign for parishes called, ***Multiply the Hope***. Once our parish has fulfilled all of its financial obligations for the year, every dollar contributed to reduce our parish loan will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to our parish goal. Even after the Jubilee year concludes on December 28 this year, the Diocese has extended this campaign to the end of 2027, giving us additional time to reach our parish goal. Our goal for this matching program is **\$510,569**. This means that every contribution toward this goal has twice the impact, allowing our parish to move forward with greater freedom in strengthening the renewal priorities. As we enter this Advent season, we invite you to pray, to reflect, and to respond generously. Together, let us prepare a strong, welcoming parish home for all who seek Christ. May this season of expectation fill us with hope, and may God complete the good work He has begun in us. Find out more about this campaign at www.catholiccyc.ca/multiplythehope



2026 Donation Envelopes

Next year's 2026 donation envelopes are ready for pick up. They are arranged alphabetically on tables by the main washrooms. Continue to use your 2025 envelopes until the new year. Please note: you may use envelopes only for the **current year**, all previous year's envelopes must be discarded.



Parish-Wide Advent Reconciliation Night

There will be a parish-wide reconciliation night on Thursday, December 18, 2025 from 7:00-9:00pm with a number of priests available to hear confessions. Consider this an opportunity to receive God's mercy and grace.



Simbang Gabi

Simbang Gabi Mass will be celebrated at our parish on Saturday, December 20, 2025 at 7:00pm, preceded by carols at 6:30pm and followed by a reception. Filipino families are encouraged to email Fr. Edmund at FrEdmund@saintmichael.ca or text him at 403-874-2015 if you are interested to help contribute to the reception.



Grief Share Program

Grief Share is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult times. This program consists of a **video seminar** (Christian based with personal stories from Christian experts who have experienced grief), **group support discussions** with facilitators, and a **personal workbook**. This is an 8-week program and will run from January 13 - March 3, 2026, on Tuesdays from 7:00-9:00pm. Free will giving/ \$20 charge for the workbook. For registration, contact the Parish Office at 403-249-0423 or email: peggy.tan@shaw.ca



Catholic Women's League

St. Michael's Catholic Women's League will have a membership drive on the weekend of January 17 & 18 in the Narthex after all Masses. For more information on the event or to join our group, contact SMCWLpresident@gmail.com



Men's Ministry

Men's Ministry will resume on January 21, 2026 in the Theater and continue until April 15, 2026.



Monday's Bible Study

Our bible study for Winter 2026 will be "*Letter to Ephesians: Discover your Inheritance as a Child of God*". This letter of St. Paul, in its six short chapters, contains some of the most discussed passages in the New Testament. It examines important and relevant themes: nature of marriage, purpose and nature of the Church (as a body, a household, a mystery, a communion, a bride, and an army), pre-eminence of grace in God's plan and the reality of spiritual warfare. It will be 8 in-person sessions (no zoom) from January 26 - March 23 (no class on February 16) in the St. Nicholas Room every Monday at 7:00pm. To register or to get additional information, please contact Augusto Bitter at abitter@telus.net or Lee Ettinger at letting1@yahoo.com.



Women's Ministry Bible Study

Our next bible study is called "*Into the Deep: Finding Peace through Prayer*" and it starts on Wednesday, January 21. The questions *What is prayer, exactly? What sets authentic Christian prayer apart from the many "spiritual" practices being promoted today? How does one pray? Is it really necessary?* - and many more - are answered in this video series by Dan Burke. We will have morning sessions in the St. Michael's Theater on Wednesdays from 9:30am-12:00pm, and Zoom sessions on Wednesdays from 7:00pm-9:00pm. To register visit: <https://forms.gle/Sfz1T7d3LpEGoiLh7>

Christmas Hamper Program

"You, O Lord, are my hope." (Ps 71:5)

Hamper Day: Monday, December 15, 2025.

We plan to prepare and deliver 184 hampers.

We have been busy accepting referrals from parish schools and our SSVP. We have reached maximum capacity, so your support is needed more than ever.

Thank You Volunteers! Your response to our request for volunteer assistance is amazing! We have almost 400 individual volunteer spots filled, with some folks filling multiple spots. We still need 20 more pairs of drivers to help us get all the hampers out on the evening of December 15. If you are able to drive, please email us at christmashampers@saintmichael.ca, or please use the link/QR Code below to sign up.



If your plans have changed, and you need to cancel your volunteer spot, please do so also using this link, as we will attempt to fill any empty spots prior to December 15th.

Angel Tree: Thanks also to those who signed out an Angel from the Angel Tree to provide a gift. If you have signed out an Angel, it is very important to return the gift by this Sunday, December 7th to allow time to prepare it. If you cannot provide your gift in time, please either call the Parish Office or email christmashampers@saintmichael.ca

Donate: We reached our planned capacity much earlier than expected, and have decided to increase the number of hampers we are providing this year. Our plan is to provide 184 hampers, revised up from our initial budgeted 170 hampers. We need your financial support more than ever. Donations may be made via:



- * the collection box, noted for Christmas Hampers,
- * online at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/33185>
- * or via the QR Code.

Tax receipts will be issued in Jan 2026.

Questions: christmashampers@saintmichael.ca

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Need assistance? Contact SSVP@saintmichael.ca or phone 825-417-1720. Donations of non-perishables and monetary: drop off at SSVP Food Chest in the Narthex. Monetary donations: go to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/st-vincent-de-paul-society-st-michaels-conference/>. New Members: SSVP@saintmichael.ca. Annual Report: <https://www.ssvpstmichael.ca/annual-report-2024/>



Diocese of Calgary Beyond Bulletin (Full Version):

[Diocesan Info for Parishioners - Sunday Updates - Google Docs](#)

Diocese of Calgary Beyond Bulletin (Short Version):

[Current Bulletin Insert.pdf - Google Drive](#)

Week-at-a-Glance: (Sat. Dec. 13, 2025 - Sun. Dec. 21, 2025):**Saturday, December 13:**

Movie, "The Chosen: Holy Night": Day Chapel, 10:00am-12:00pm, coffee and muffins served prior to the movie in the Narthex at 9:30am

Sunday, December 14:

Cancelled Children's Liturgy: 8:30am and 10:30am

Coffee Sunday: Narthex, after 9:00am Mass & 11:00am Mass

Nativity Pageant: Sanctuary, 1:00pm-2:30pm, Reception to follow

Hamper Day Assembly (for those who signed up): St Nicholas' Room & Narthex, 4:00pm-10:00pm

Monday, December 15:

Mass for Hamper Deliver Day: Day Chapel, 8:00am

Hamper Delivery Day: Narthex, 8:30am-Evening

Tuesday, December 16:

Rosary Group: Day Chapel, 5:20pm

RCIA: St. Nicholas Room, 7:00pm

Wednesday, December 17:

Coffee Wednesday: Narthex, after 9am Mass

Thursday, December 18:

Parish Advent Reconciliation: 7:00-9:00pm

Friday, December 19:

Elevation Youth Group: St. Nicholas Room, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Saturday, December 20:

Simbang Gabi Carols: Sanctuary, 6:30pm

Simbang Gabi Mass: Sanctuary, 7:00pm, Reception to follow

Sunday, December 21:

Cancelled Children's Liturgy: 8:30am and 10:30am

Coffee Sunday: Narthex, after 9:00am Mass & 11:00am Mass

Mass Intentions:

Mass Intentions are booked in person at the office.

Mass Intentions are not final and can be moved to accommodate urgent pastoral needs.

Saturday, December 13:

5pm Christina Schuh † (Fr. Kelvin)

Sunday, December 14:

9 am: Antonio Garcia † (Fr. Edmund)

11 am: For the People of God at St. Michael (Fr. Edmund)

5 pm: Int. James Schnitzler (Fr. Kelvin)

Tuesday, December 16:

6 pm: Agnes & Martin Affonso † (Fr. Edmund)

Wednesday, December 17:

9 am: Int. Dina Sosa (Fr. Edmund)

Thursday, December 18:

9 am: Simeon & Lourdes Javier † (Fr. Kelvin)

Friday, December 19:

9 am: Epifanio Soliman † (Fr. Kelvin)

Saturday, December 20:

5 pm: Wanda Konicki † (Fr. Edmund)

Sunday, December 21:

9 am: Int. Katrina Greenough (Fr. Kelvin)

11 am: For the People of God at St. Michael (Fr. Edmund)

5 pm: Marie Martin † (Fr. Kelvin)

Please Pray For:

Please contact the office with your request.

Cyril Boudreau, Brenda Arseneault, Justin Hewitt,

Richard Edgington, Ada Kerpan, Pamela Chaput,

Malaya Rosales, Christine Estor, Julie Parinas, Peigi's Family,

Ernesto Soliman, Roberto Cantillo, Brian Dourley, Duri Family.

For the Souls Of:

Mercedes Carr, Mark Trudel, Elizabeth Wagner

Funeral:**Pray For Our Seminarians:**

Please pray for vocations in our Diocese.

Eternal Springs Columbarium:

For pricing or more information,

please email: columbarium@saintmichael.ca.

E-Transfer:

Sign in to your own banking institution and e-transfer the amount to: isupport@saintmichael.ca.

Text to Donate:

To set up your account, text **give** to **833-768-0514** and follow the prompt.

Sexual Abuse in the Church:

Call the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary's Hotline at **1- 833-547-8360**. To report sexual abuse, call the Police at **1-403-266-1234**.

Gifts to the Parish

	August 2025	September 2025	October 2025
<u>General Collections</u>			
Collections	\$87,509	\$104,710	\$115,426
Other Income	\$20,917	\$15,356	\$58,215
Operating Costs	\$124,903	\$113,471	\$143,988
Surplus (Shortfall)	(\$16,477)	\$6,595	\$29,653
<u>Central Fund Loan (Mortgage)</u>			
Building Fund Collections	\$11,322	\$11,754	\$12,744
<u>Current Loan Balance</u>	\$3,179,800	\$3,155,140	\$3,130,740
<u>Diocesan Annual Campaign</u>			
Together in Action Year-to-Date	\$77,040	\$79,665	\$88,418
% TIA Goal \$121,243.00	63%	65%	73%
Society St. Vincent de Paul (monthly)	\$1056	\$1968	\$1046