



Saint Michael Catholic Community

800 85th Street SW
Calgary, Alberta
T3H 4C7

December 25, 2025: The Nativity of the Lord



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)



Love Interrupts

Love interrupts... Christmas is the interruption of God's love in our history when God became human in Jesus Christ. The angel tells Joseph that Mary will bear a son conceived through the Holy Spirit. Like most of our life's interruptions, the purpose of God's interruption into Joseph's and Mary's personal plans is for our benefit. God is coming into our lives through Jesus who, we believe, "will save His people from their sins"--- He will save his people from themselves and from their alienation from God.

Today, we celebrate this greatest interruption in our human history. And we ask God to deepen our faith and trust in him so that we can appreciate our life with all its interruptions, including the collapse of our plans and the sense that we have been cast adrift on a stormy sea. As the Word takes flesh, we ask that we too can be born again into Christ's presence in the world. We will realize that this rebirth is happening when we find ourselves extending a generous hand to someone in need, when we grow in understanding those who are different from us. Christmas is about welcoming those who interrupt our lives on behalf of Jesus who interrupts our experiences and invites us to be part of God's plan in our own respective lives.

Born in straw poverty, he died in the most shameful death by crucifixion. It is an infinite process to lower himself from the divine level to the human level. Christ's becoming human has made us share His divinity. As a Church, we share the God's gift of love and forgiveness.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us remember that our life has been transformed by the great event of God becoming human in Jesus Christ. Let us celebrate his love and forgiveness in our relationships in the family and in the community. Let us share Christ with one another, by letting Him use of hands, our feet and everything we are and we have in His love and service.

May that "unspeakable power manifesting itself in a baby born in straw poverty" (Bono of U2), continue to inspire us to love and to forgive not only today but every day of our lives.

Fr. Edmund, fredmund@saintmichael.ca

Merry Christmas!



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

Christmas is the birth of Christ the Healer... Christ's healing reveals His divine compassion, power over sin and evil, and the inauguration of God's kingdom, touching the whole person: body, soul and spirit. May God's healing gift be with you this Christmas!



Donation Deadlines for 2025 Tax Receipts



To ensure you receive a tax receipt for the 2025 tax year... Mailed Donations must be postmarked by Canada Post on or before December 31. For Online Donations, Tax receipts should reflect the date and time of the donation. Donations made after 23:59 MT on December 31 will be considered donations for the 2026 tax year. Dropped-Off Donations: Must be received at the Diocese/Parish by the end of the workday on December 31. Please ensure that the envelope is date-stamped by the diocesan/parish office upon receipt and kept with the deposit in event of a CRA audit. Any donations received on or after January 1, 2026, will apply to the 2026 tax year.

Parish Finance Update

Our operations income is on track to exceed expenses, although we just wrote a cheque for \$22k for the elevator upgrade. Our TIA contributions sit at \$114k, still short of the target of \$121k. We hope that our year-end donations will cover the deficit, otherwise we will cover the shortfall from the General fund which is assessed (taxed). We need to maintain our loan payments, which is scheduled at \$420k per year. Our total parish goal for the Multiply the Hope matching fund is \$510,569. Please consider contributing to the opportunity to double contributions. Last day for contributions for the year is December 31. God's blessings on our community. God is never outdone in generosity!



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



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.

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. *You can visit our website at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/33185> and make your contribution to the "Building Fund / Multiply the Hope Campaign"*. 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.catholiccy.ca/multiplythehope



Christmas Hamper 2025 Update

A big thank you to all who came out to support our efforts over these past few weeks. Whether you supplied or wrapped a gift, donated to enable us to purchase the food, or came out on Hamper Day to assist, know that your efforts made this work. We served **679** people and prepared **184** Hampers – a new record! This number included **337** children. Total volunteer slots filled in advance **385 of 417 (92%)**. This doesn't include those who didn't sign up, but showed to help on Hamper Day. The total costs of the annual effort would be more than **\$72,000**. A final report will be provided later. We're still doing the final counting, but are very grateful for all the volunteers, donors, and behind the scenes parish staff who supported us in this outreach. We are truly living out the parish mission of being a church of outreach and encounter. God is never outdone in generosity.



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 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>



Men's Ministry

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



Cancellations

Coffee Wednesdays:

Cancelled Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 / Resumes Jan. 7, 2026.

Coffee Sundays:

Cancelled Dec. 28 and Jan. 4 / Resumes Jan. 11, 2026.

Children's Liturgy:

Cancelled Dec. 14, Dec. 21, Dec. 28, Jan. 4 /
Resumes Jan. 11, 2026.

Moms & Tots:

Cancelled Dec. 18, Dec. 25, Jan. 1 / Resumes Jan. 8, 2026.

Knights of Columbus Meeting:

Cancelled Dec. 18 / Next one Jan. 15.

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.

Elevation Youth Group (Gr. 4-6)

Youths in Grade 4-6 are invited to join our 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 is on January 9. 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! If you are able to volunteer, contact Gladys Doh gdoh@saintmichael.ca or Abigail Lewis youth@saintmichael.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



SSVP Volunteer Opportunity - Treasurer

Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is looking for a new Treasurer with experience with basic bookkeeping and accounting principles using Quickbooks. This volunteer role starts in January 2026 and training is provided. Contact Ernest Baraniecki at 403-540-4956 or ssvp@saintmichael.ca for more information.



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP)

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: (Wed. Dec. 24, 2025 - Sun. Jan. 11, 2026):

Wednesday, December 24:

Daily Mass: 9am, Christmas Eve Masses: 4pm, 7pm, 10pm

Cancelled Coffee Wednesday

Thursday, December 25:

Christmas Day Mass: 9am and 11am

Christmas Day - Office Closed

Cancellations: Knitting Ministry, Moms & Tots

Friday, December 26:

Daily Mass: 9am

Boxing Day - Office Closed

Saturday, December 27:

No events.

Sunday, December 28:

Cancellations: Children's Liturgy, Coffee Sunday

Monday, December 29:

Christmas Holiday - Office Closed

Tuesday, December 30:

Christmas Holiday - Office Closed

Rosary Group: Day Chapel, 5:20pm

Cancellations: Library Cataloging, RCIA

Wednesday, December 31:

New Year's Eve - Office Closed

Daily Mass: 9am, New Year's Eve Mass: 5pm

Thursday, January 1:

New Year's Day Mass: 9am and 11am

New Year's Day - Office Closed

Cancellations: Knitting Ministry, Moms & Tots

Friday, January 2:

Office re-opens.

No event.

Saturday, January 3:

No event.

Sunday, January 4:

Cancellations: Children's Liturgy, Coffee Sunday

Potluck Sunday and Name Tag Sunday: Narthex, after 5pm Mass

Monday, January 5:

No event.

Tuesday, January 6:

Library Cataloging Committee Resumes

Rosary Group: Day Chapel, 5:20pm

RCIA: St. Nicholas & Theater, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Wednesday, January 7:

Coffee Wednesday Resumes: Narthex, after the 9am Mass

Thursday, January 8:

Moms & Tots Resumes: St. Nicholas' Room, 9:30am - 11:30am

Knitting Ministry Resumes: Library, 10:00am

Friday, January 9:

Elevation Youth Group Gr. 4-6: St. Nicholas' Room, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Saturday, January 10:

Saturday Night Lights Gr. 7-12: Sanctuary, 7:00pm

Sunday, January 11:

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

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

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:**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**.

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.*

Wednesday, December 24:

9 am: Don Watson † (Fr. Kelvin)
4 pm: Ryan Gerard Smith † (Fr. Edmund)
7 pm: Int. Pinto Family (Fr. Edmund)
10 pm: Int. Callan Boyce (Fr. Kelvin)

Thursday, December 25:

9 am: Marciana Oyed † (Fr. Kelvin)
11 am: For the People of God at St. Michael (Fr. Edmund)

Friday, December 26:

9 am: Mirko Ilic † (Fr. Kelvin)

Saturday, December 27:

5 pm: Marion Bast † (Fr. Edmund)

Sunday, December 28:

9 am: Daniel Habte † (Fr. Kelvin)
11 am: For the People of God at St. Michael (Fr. Edmund)
5 pm: Colin Wilson † (Fr. Kelvin)

Tuesday, December 30:

6 pm: Pero & Kata Raic † (Fr. Kelvin)

Wednesday, December 31:

9 am: Int. Caroline & Christine (Fr. Kelvin)
5 pm: Joe Rino Sr. † (Fr. Kelvin)

Thursday, January 1:

9 am: Joshua Pangilinan † (Fr. Kelvin)
11 am: For the People of God at St. Michael (Fr. Kelvin)

Friday, January 2:

9 am: Jose & Francisca Abuan † (Fr. Kelvin)

Saturday, January 3:

5 pm: Sebastian & Marie Rocha † (Fr. Kelvin)

Sunday, January 4:

9 am: Douglas Morishita † (Fr. Kelvin)
11 am: For the People of God at St. Michael (Fr. Edmund)
5 pm: Jorge Varela † (Fr. Edmund)

Tuesday, January 6:

6 pm: Aranguren Family † (Fr. Edmund)

Wednesday, January 7:

9 am: Elizabeth DeCoste † (Fr. Edmund)

Thursday, January 8:

9 am: Elizabeth DeCoste † (Fr. Kelvin)

Friday, January 9:

9 am: Int. Marchand Family (Fr. Kelvin)

Saturday, January 10:

5 pm: Donato & Lisa Grossi † (Fr. Edmund)

Sunday, January 11:

9 am: Maria Victoria S. Capati † (Fr. Kelvin)
11 am: For the People of God at St. Michael (Fr. Edmund)
5 pm: Serafin Sestoso † (Fr. Kelvin)

Gifts to the Parish

	September 2025	October 2025	November 2025
<u>General Collections</u>			
Collections	\$104,710	\$115,426	\$110,762
Other Income	\$15,356	\$58,215	\$55,883
Operating Costs	\$113,471	\$143,988	\$148,286
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$6,595	\$29,653	\$18,359
<u>Central Fund Loan (Mortgage)</u>			
Building Fund Collections	\$11,754	\$12,744	\$17,813
<u>Current Loan Balance</u>	\$3,155,140	\$3,130,740	\$3,105,917
<u>Diocesan Annual Campaign</u>			
Together in Action Year-to-Date	\$79,665	\$88,418	\$97,769
% TIA Goal \$121,243.00	65%	73%	80%
Society St. Vincent de Paul (monthly)	\$1968	\$1046	\$0