



Saint Michael Catholic Community

800 85th Street SW
Calgary, Alberta
T3H 4C7

March 15, 2026: 4th Sunday of Lent

Blindness to sight...

The theme of blindness/sight and light/darkness, so prominent in today's readings, continues the Lenten tradition of preparing for the Easter baptisms. It is not coincidental that this period of the liturgical year is referred to as the Period of Purification and Enlightenment. Blindness is a fitting image of the human condition we now know as Original Sin. John tells the story of the man's cure by Jesus in a way that reveals who it is that is truly blind: those who stubbornly refuse to accept Jesus as the light of the world. Social sin is not the same as original sin, but flows from it, and is the accumulation of human choices to turn away from the light. The dramatic unfolding of John's story gives eloquent expression to the way individuals in a community compound their blindness. Everyone gets involved: the man's neighbors, his family, those that have seen him begging, the Pharisees, the evil spread like cancer until in an act the man is expelled from the synagogue for acknowledging Jesus as the Messiah.

God's choice of David over his other brothers in the First Reading from the First Book of Samuel speaks of our own inability to see spiritual truth as God sees it. David is portrayed as the least likely to be the candidate for divine election. God sees into the heart and directs the prophet to choose and anoint the young David and consecrate him to be shepherd of God's people as king. The blindness of those around David to his potential as God's chosen leader speaks of how sin can blind us to God's will for us.

"Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light...", captures our desperate human situation without Christ's saving light that eradicates the effects of what we refer to as *social sin*, a term the Church uses to refer to communal situations, social structures and institutions which are the result of the accumulated effects of personal sin.

"Whenever the Church speaks of situations of sin or when the collective behavior of certain social groups, big or small, or even of whole nations and bloc of nations, She knows and She proclaims that such cases of social sin are the result of the accumulation and concentration of many personal sins."

As we gather today, we ask God to let His light penetrate the darkness of our lives, shining forth in goodness, righteousness, and truth. We seek His light and long to become children of His light, good and pleasing in His sight. Just as Jesus opens the eyes of the blind man to the wonders of belief in God's Son, God calls us, through baptism and the other sacraments, to insight into His mighty works. God calls on us to believe, to worship, and to follow the footsteps of His Son. God calls us to new life, to become God's enlightened children.

Fr. Edmund, fredmund@saintmichael.ca

Healing Lines



Women tolerate abuse due to the economic reality of separation. Women cannot provide for their families if they leave the relationship. Many men do not provide child or spousal support. Women fear leaving their partners because it will mean a substantial decrease in the standard of living, both for themselves and their children. Let us not turn a blind eye to the realities that victims of abuse face. Reach out to support those disabled by fear.

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. Andrew Obinyan frandrew@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 fam-brosino@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
Hospital; South Health Campus

Lent and Easter Schedule

Shrove Tuesday: Tues. Feb. 17, Pancakes, 6:30pm, Narthex

Ash Wednesday: Wed. Feb. 18, Mass 9am & 6pm, Sanctuary

Lenten Fridays: Fridays, Feb. 20 - Mar. 27, Mass 6pm, Sanctuary

Stations of the Cross: Fridays, Feb. 20 - Mar. 27, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

Fish Fridays: Fri. Mar. 6 and Fri. Mar. 27, Supper 7pm, Narthex

Lenten Retreat Day 1: Sun. Mar. 22, Mass 5pm, Reception 6pm, Talk 7pm

Lenten Retreat Day 2: Mon. Mar. 23, Mass 6pm, Talk 7pm

Lenten Retreat Day 3: Tues. Mar. 24, Mass 6pm, Talk 7pm, Reception 8pm

Parish Reconciliation: Thurs. Mar. 26, 7-9pm

Palm Sunday: Sun. Mar. 29, Regular weekend Mass times

Holy Thursday: Thurs. Apr. 2, Mass 7pm, Adoration 8pm-12am
(Note: there will be no 9am Daily Mass on Holy Thursday)

Good Friday: Fri. Apr. 3, Services 12pm and 3pm

(Note: Confessions 8:00-8:45am on Good Friday)

Easter Vigil: Sat. Apr. 4, Mass 8pm (no Mass at 5pm)

Easter Sunday: Sun. Apr. 5 Masses 9am, 11am, & 5pm

Office Hours:

The office will be closed on

Good Friday, April 3, and Easter Monday, April 6.

We will reopen on Tuesday, April 7 with regular office hours.

Holy Thursday Mass & Easter Vigil Mass

There will be incense used at Holy Thursday Mass and at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday. You may bring bells to ring during "Gloria" for both Masses.

Good Friday Morning Prayer

Booklets will be in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel on Good Friday to pray morning prayer.

Ash Wednesday & Good Friday Fasting Guidelines

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are universal days of fasting and abstinence from meat. **Fasting** means limiting food intake to one main meal and two smaller meals that together do not equal a full meal, with no solid food in between. **Abstinence** means refraining from meat. Catholics aged 18 to 59 are required to fast, while those 14 and older must abstain from meat. All Fridays of the year are days of abstinence from meat. In Canada, Catholics may substitute special acts of charity or piety on Fridays, except during Lent, when abstinence from meat is required.

Fish Friday

On Friday, March 27 the Knights of Columbus will host a dinner event in the Church gathering area at 7:00pm (after Lenten Friday Mass at 6:00pm which is followed by the Stations of the Cross at 6:30pm). This is a free event. Free will offerings are greatly appreciated to cover some of the cost, if you so wish. To register, please go to <https://forms.gle/Lzw3TH9gsUPZrgty5>

Together in Action (TIA)

The Together in Action 2026 campaign begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026. The theme for this year's TIA is inspired by the Jubilee Year of St. Francis. "But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith." (James 2:18) This year's TIA also marks the final year of the financial commitment of the Diocese to the National Indigenous Reconciliation Fund, supporting Indigenous-led initiatives across Southern Alberta. Our target goal this year is \$121,243 same as last year. We thank God for your generosity! All surplus funds this year will go to our Building Fund to help pay our loan.

Easter Vigil Reception

There will be a reception following the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, April 4 to celebrate our highest holiest night of the year. If you are attending the Easter Vigil, please plan to bring a platter of sandwiches, cupcakes, or cookies for all to share. Please contact Tammy Ringstad (403-968-9285) or email tammyringstad@gmail.com for any questions or an opportunity to help serve.



Easter Fundraiser 2026

St. Michael Catholic Community raises funds year-round to support initiatives within our Church and in the surrounding communities. With our fundraiser, you may choose from 66 products from a variety of meat, fish, seafood, pasta, and sauces. With your purchases, we can help the less fortunate and those in our parish all while enjoying some delicious food over the Easter season which is right around the corner! Stock up your freezers now. The fundraiser opens February 1 and closes March 15. Orders will be available for pick up on Tuesday, March 24 between 4:00-5:00pm outside the parish doors. To view and place an order, please visit [St. Michael Catholic Community Spring 2026 – Fund Forward](#)



SMILE! You're Wanted in Our New Parish Pictorial Directory!

Saint Michael Catholic Community is updating its pictorial directory, and we want **YOU** to be part of it!

- **Why?** To help us connect, put names to new faces, and celebrate our community, in a spirit of renewal.
- **When?** Tuesdays – Saturdays, April 21 to May 16
- **Where?** Rooms 143 and 144
- **What you get:** A FREE high-quality printed directory and an option to purchase your photos (there is no obligation)

How to Register for a FREE PHOTO SESSION:

Online: Visit <https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/837754yq/>

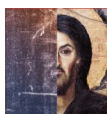
In-Person: Volunteers will be in the Narthex to help with on-line sign up after Masses April 11 & 12 and April 18 & 19.

Volunteers are needed to help with the sign-up process and with registration at the photography sessions. Please click this link if you are able to VOLUNTEER <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054EA8A623A7FD0-62867253-parish>



Lenten Retreat / Mission

"Who is the Man of the Shroud?" Fr. Andrew Dalton L.C. reflects on the suffering (1), death (2) and resurrection (3) of Christ in the light of the Shroud of Turin on March 22, 23, and 24, 2026, respectively. Fr. Dalton will celebrate Mass before the talks: Sunday, March 22, 5pm, Monday, March 23, 6pm, and Tuesday, March 24, 6pm. Reception follows after the 5pm Mass on Sunday before the talk at 7pm. And after the talks on Monday and Tuesday. If you plan to attend, please sign up with the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeCc40JuCa9YSUYcm0GI1wKGZlONov8JgtDEF_j6laO0xF13w/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=104090574354753911203 Please [click here](#) and select "Lenten Mission 2026" in the fund list to donate.



Vacation Bible Camp 2026:

"Rainforest Falls - Exploring the Nature of God"

* SMCC 5-day Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) 2026 has limited spots available (50) for all students/minors aged Kindergarten (6yrs.) to Grade 12. \$100 fee per student/minor or \$200 maximum fee per family (same household only please). Registration is due by Mon. June 1, 2026 at 12pm noon. Please contact Caroline Dixon (Camp Director) at cdixon@saintmichael.ca * Online registration is now open. * Financial assistance is available for anyone in need for the enrolment fee. For more information, please contact Fr. Edmund at 403-249-0423. * Thank you to those who have already engaged with our Parish Volunteer Coordinator, Gladys. Please note that programs like this requested by parish families (i.e. children's liturgy, mom & tots, elevate, youth nights, etc.) are also run by parish families as well. If you are in favor, and would like faith-based programs for families like VBC 2026 to proceed, please contact Gladys at gdoh@saintmichael.ca to begin/continue the "parish volunteer engagement process" A.S.A.P.



Parish Council

A meeting of Pastoral Council was held on March 10. We are happy to welcome Fr. Andrew Obinyan to SMCC, and to Pastoral Council! We covered many topics, including the Men's Ministry initiative to send 20 youth (18-35) to World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea in August 2027. Information about WYD is available on-line at <https://wydseoul.org/en>. Dates have been booked for the parish pictorial directory, April 21 – May 16. Sign-up will be on-line, and volunteers are needed to help at picture sessions. The parish Lenten Retreat is fast approaching, March 22-24. Please watch the bulletin and Flocknote for more information regarding all of these items and more! The meeting minutes for March 10 will be published after Pastoral Council approval at our next meeting, scheduled for April 28, 2026. The minutes from our January meeting can be found [here SMCC-Pastoral-Council-Minutes-of-Meeting-January-27-2026-Bulletin.pdf](#) If you would like to attend one of our meetings as an observer, or if you have any questions or concerns, call 403-249- 0423.



Feed the Hungry

St. Michael Catholic Community will be supporting Feed the Hungry on April 5, Easter Sunday, at St. Mary's Cathedral as part of our Parish Renewal initiative. Volunteers are needed for many roles. If you would like to volunteer, sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex the weekend of March 14 and 15. You may also contact the office at 403-249-0423 or info@saintmichael.ca to volunteer. Thank you for your generosity of time!



2025 Tax Receipts

The 2025 tax receipts have been mailed.



Eucharistic Adoration Ministry

To assist the Eucharistic Adoration Ministry with scheduling the adoration of the exposition of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays, please consider signing up for a time slot so that they know Jesus will not be left alone. There is a paper sign up outside of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, or you can visit the link on the parish homepage under "Adoration". The impact of your time spent with Jesus in this way is profound for you and your family - please don't miss out on this spiritual treasure.



Coffee Sundays

We are looking for volunteers to join our coffee ministry for Sundays after the 9am and 11am Masses. If you are interested, please call Scholastica (403-708-1565) or Arun (587-433-1304). Thank you!



Library Ministry

Please note that the Library is currently unable to accept any book donations at this time, and also will not be accepting any future donations of textbooks, magazines, pamphlets, CDs, DVDs, or materials written by non-Catholic authors. Should you require further information, please email Joan at joandvorak@telus.net. Thank you for your co-operation.



Knights of Columbus 8636

Want to become a member? Council member meetings are every third Thursday of the month in the main Theatre. Contact: Vernon Lewis at vernlewis@shaw.ca



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: [Annual Report 2025 – Society of St Vincent de Paul – St Michael Conference Calgary](#)



Diocese of Calgary Beyond Bulletin (Short Version):

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

Diocese of Calgary Beyond Bulletin (Full Version):

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

Week-at-a-Glance: (Sat. Mar. 14 - Sun. Mar. 22, 2026):**Lent and Easter Fundraiser Closes March 15:**St. Michael Catholic Community Spring 2026 – Fund Forward**Saturday, March 14:**

Christians of the Holy Land: Mezzanine, after all weekend Masses

Sign up for Feed the Hungry: Narthex, after all weekend Masses

Sunday, March 15:

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

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

Christians of the Holy Land: Mezzanine, after all weekend Masses

Sign up for Feed the Hungry: Narthex, after all weekend Masses

Monday, March 16:

Bible Study: St. Nicholas Room, 7:00pm

Tuesday, March 17:

Rosary Group: Day Chapel, 5:20pm

RCIA: St. Nicholas Room & Theater, 7:00pm

Wednesday, March 18:

Men's Ministry: Theater, 6:00am-7:30am

Coffee Wednesday: Narthex, after the 9:00am Mass

Women's Ministry Bible Study: Theater, 10:00am –12:00pm

Thursday, March 19:

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

Knitting Ministry: Library, 10:00am

Knights of Columbus Meeting: Theater, 7:00pm

Friday, March 20 (Lenten Friday):

Lenten Mass: Sanctuary, 6:00pm

Stations of the Cross: Sanctuary, 6:30pm

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

Saturday, March 21:

No event.

Sunday, March 22:

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

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

Lenten Retreat "Shroud of Turin": Sanctuary, Reception 6pm, Talk 7pm

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, March 14:**

5 pm: Intentions Judy Ivanski (Fr. Edmund)

Sunday, March 15:

9 am: Melvin Kaskiw † (Fr. Obinyan)

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

5 pm: Jonathan Denum † (Fr. Obinyan)

Tuesday, March 17:

6 pm: Angelo Tomasi † (Fr. Edmund)

Wednesday, March 18:

9 am: Trevor & Tracy Piper † (Fr. Edmund)

Thursday, March 19:

9 am: Aline Guenette † (Fr. Obinyan)

Friday, March 20:

9 am: All Souls in Purgatory † (Fr. Obinyan)

6pm: Lucien Guenette † (Fr. Edmund)

Saturday, March 21:

5 pm: Paul Chernoff † (Fr. Obinyan)

Sunday, March 22:

9 am: Eugette Guenette † (Fr. Obinyan)

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

5 pm: Gutierrez Millan Family † (Fr. Andrew Dalton)

Please Pray For:*Please contact the office with your request.*

Duri Family, Elizabeth Slade, Ann O'Brien, Melchor Diolata, Ania Georges, Chris Mudry, Alice Flamand, Hendrik Heerema, Michael Park, Degby Park, Margaret Baker, Patricia O'Brien, Dolores & Gilbert Sieben, Patti Koskinen.

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**.

Gifts to the Parish

	December 2025	January 2026	February 2026
<u>General Collections</u>			
Collections	\$182,278	\$83,939	\$87,745
Other Income	\$90,416	\$38,679	\$49,039
Operating Costs	\$158,305	\$114,988	\$128,298
Surplus (Shortfall)	\$114,389	\$7,630	\$8,486
<u>Central Fund Loan (Mortgage)</u>			
Building Fund Collections	\$163,739	\$15,600	\$60,100
<u>Current Loan Balance</u>	\$3,081,350	\$3,056,783	\$3,032,216
<u>Diocesan Annual Campaign</u>			
Together in Action Year-to-Date	\$138,874	\$2,226	\$6,759
% TIA (Goal for 2026: \$121,243)	114% Surplus goes towards 2026 Campaign	1%	5%
Society St. Vincent de Paul (monthly)	\$0	\$1,243	\$1,883