



Saint Michael Catholic Community

800 85th Street SW
Calgary, Alberta

March 29, 2026: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

The story of the donkey

There is a story about a poor farmer who had a donkey which was so stupid to do any work. It could not carry anything on its back. So, he told his family that he was going to kill the donkey. But his children begged him to sell it, rather than harm it. *"How can I sell an animal that won't work?"* the father insisted. His son suggested: *"Father, tie the donkey to a tree on the road to town and let it be known that whoever wants it may have it for nothing."* The next morning, that was what the farmer did. Soon, two men approached and asked to take the animal. *"It will carry nothing,"* the farmer warned the takers. *"The Lord has need for it,"* replied one of the men. The farmer could not imagine what the Lord would want with such a useless donkey but handed it over. The men took the animal to Jesus. Jesus stroked the sweet animal's face and then mounted it without trouble. So, it was on that day we celebrate today as Palm Sunday, riding on the back of this tiny donkey, the Son of God led His followers into Jerusalem.

There is one lesson in this story that is central to our Christian life. The donkey, the rejected animal, is a figure of Christ Himself, Who is to be later rejected by His own people and eventually become their Savior. In Scriptures, Christ is referred to as the *"stone rejected by the builder that has become the cornerstone..."* (Mt 21:42)

The people and circumstances we tend to reject are the same people and circumstances that become our salvation. God chooses the weak to confound the strong: He chooses the foolish to shame the wise. (1 Cor 1:27)

When God strokes our faces, we realize our limitless possibilities. When we submit to God our own faults and failures, we are filled with His grace and blessing. It is in our weakness that God's power is at work in us.

As we join Jesus in His triumphant entry to Jerusalem, let us take with us our wounds and weaknesses so that He can transform them into a source of our healing and strength through the power of His resurrection.

Fr. Edmund, fredmund@saintmichael.ca

Healing Lines



"Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest." As we welcome Jesus this Palm Sunday, let us remember to welcome all around us as well. Jesus has always reminded us to take care of everyone, especially those who are most in need of our love and prayers. Some live in families and communities that are abusive, some are homeless, some are elderly and neglected, some are discriminated against.... Reach out to them all.

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 gдох@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.



CCCRS Prayer Meeting

Join us as we begin our weekly prayer meetings starting Wednesday, March 25, 2026 featuring praise and worship, bible study, and intercessory prayers. The prayer meetings will be from 7:00-8:00pm in the Day Chapel. "The expectation of the righteous shall not be cut short." (Proverbs 23:18). All are welcome. Come and be blessed!



Multiply the Hope (MTH)

Beloved Faithful: Multiply the Hope is a diocesan initiative of last year's Jubilee Year. With the matching program, the Diocese will match any contributions to the **Multiply the Hope** campaign to be applied against the outstanding St. Michael Central Fund Loan (i.e. mortgage). To accelerate the re-payment of the outstanding balance, we would encourage you to consider re-directing any building fund contributions made (either on-line, by text, pre-authorized payment or directly) to **Multiply the Hope** instead. Thank you for your continued generosity. God bless. Fr. Edmund.



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.



Pontifical Collection for the Church in the Holy Land on Good Friday, April 3, 2026

The Good Friday Collection helps to maintain the Church of the Holy Land by providing educational, pastoral, and social support of Catholic youth and families committed to living their faith in the land where Christ lived, and by maintaining the Holy Sites that are so important to the faith of Christians everywhere. At the request of the Holy See, this Pontifical Collection will be taken during the Good Friday celebration on April 3, 2026. Those who are unable to attend the service, or who prefer to contribute online, may use Credit Cards, Interac, or CanadaHelps, accessible at: www.commissariat.ca, in the "Support Us" link.



SSVP "Poor Box" Collection

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is grateful to parishioners for your generous "SSVP Poor Box" donations last weekend. It is such a blessing that as a parish family we can support so many in our area who are struggling to make ends meet.



Easter Vigil Reception

There will be a light 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.



Coffee Connections

Coffee Sunday is cancelled for Sunday, April 5, 2025. Coffee Wednesday is cancelled for Wednesdays, April 1 and April 8, and will resume on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.



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. * Online registration is now open. * Thank you to those who have already engaged with our Parish Volunteer Coordinator, Gladys. Please contact Gladys at gdoh@saintmichael.ca to begin/continue the parish volunteer engagement process.

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>

Feast of Divine Mercy

The Divine Mercy Novena:

Jesus asked St. Faustina to pray a Novena to the Divine Mercy beginning on Good Friday and ending on the following Sunday (the Feast of Divine Mercy.) *"On each day of the novena, you will bring to My heart a different group of souls and you will immerse them in this ocean of My mercy."* Divine Mercy Novena Pamphlet is available on the table outside St. Mary's Chapel on the week of Palm Sunday. It is also available on the St. Michael's website. [Click here](#) for a copy of the Novena.

Divine Mercy: Sunday, April 12:

Reconciliation: 1:15-2:00pm, Service 2:00-3:00pm.

Please join us in this Divine Mercy celebration: Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Divine Mercy praises, Homily, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration/Meditation, and Benediction. Please Note: incense will be used during the celebration. Refreshments will follow the service.

Feed the Hungry

Thank you to all who signed up to volunteer for Feed the Hungry on Easter Sunday, April 5! There is one vacancy available. If you would like to volunteer in the remaining position, please contact the office at info@saintmichael.ca. Our next opportunity to serve as a community will be on Fathers' Day, June 21. Please watch the bulletin for more information.

Diocese of Calgary Beyond Bulletin (Short Version):

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



Fr. Edmund's 47th Anniversary

Join us as we celebrate Fr. Edmund's 47th Anniversary of priesthood. There will be cake and coffee on Sunday, April 26 after the 9:00am and 11:00am Masses.

Women's Ministry Bible Study

We all have very real questions about death. What happens when we die? What does Scripture teach about death? How do we prepare for the life to come? Explore the mystery of death, dying, and everlasting life through Eternal Rest. Our bible study is called "Eternal Rest" and will begin on April 15 for five weeks. We will have morning sessions at SMCC, on Wednesdays from 9:30am-12:00, and Zoom sessions on Wednesdays from 7:00pm-9:00pm. To register please email womensministry@saintmichael.ca or use the link: <https://forms.gle/hyaBSGCPZkJHvPc1A>. Participant study guides will be available for purchase at \$20. The guides are recommended but are not mandatory. Anyone interested in the study guide can email womensministry@saintmichael.ca.

Monday's Bible Study: "The Pivotal Players I"

Join Bishop Barron on the journey to unlock the truth behind the most influential people of the Catholic Church. We'll discover how the Word of God was their light and driver for their close relationship with God. We will be able to meet St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Francis, St. Catherine of Siena, St. John Henry Newman, G.K. Chesterton and Michelangelo; and the places where they lived, learned, and worked on their teachings and arts. It will start on Monday April 20 with 8 in-person sessions (no zoom) in 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.

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.

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 (Full Version):

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



Week-at-a-Glance: (Sat. Mar. 28 - Sun. Apr. 5, 2026):**Saturday, March 28:**

Palms available.

Sunday, March 29 (Palm Sunday):

Palms available.

CANCELLED Children's Liturgy

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

Monday, March 30:

No event.

Tuesday, March 31:

Rosary Group: Day Chapel, 5:20pm

RCIA: St. Nicholas' Room 7:00pm

SSVP Meeting: Room 145, 7:00pm

Wednesday, April 1:

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

CANCELLED Coffee Wednesday

CCCRS Prayer Meeting (new): Day Chapel, 7:00pm

Thursday, April 2 (Holy Thursday):

CANCELLED Daily Mass 9:00am

CANCELLED Moms & Tots

CANCELLED Knitting Ministry

Holy Thursday Mass: Sanctuary, 7:00pm

Adoration: Day Chapel, 8:00pm

Friday, April 3 (Good Friday):

Confessions: 8:00am

CANCELLED Daily Mass 9am

Good Friday Services: Sanctuary, 12:00pm and 3:00pm

Saturday, April 4 (Holy Saturday):

Easter Vigil Mass: Sanctuary, 8:00pm

Light Reception: Narthex, 11:00pm

Sunday, April 5 (Easter Sunday):

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

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

CANCELLED Potluck Sunday & Name Tag Sunday: Narthex, 6:00pm

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

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 28:**

5 pm: Int. Di Stefano Family (Fr. Obinyan)

Sunday, March 29(Palm Sunday):

9 am: Tony Casello † (Fr. Edmund)

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

5 pm: Ricardo Danzer † (Fr. Obinyan)

Tuesday, March 31:

6 pm: Duncan Smith † (Fr. Obinyan)

Wednesday, April 1:

9 am: Int. of St. Mary's University (Fr. Edmund)

Thursday, April 2 (Holy Thursday):

7 pm: Sheila Lothian † (Fr. Edmund & Fr. Obinyan)

Friday, April 3 (Good Friday):

12 pm: None (Fr. Obinyan)

3 pm: None (Fr. Edmund)

Saturday, April 4 (Holy Saturday):

8 pm: Int. Liam Howlett (Fr. Edmund & Fr. Obinyan)

Sunday, April 5 (Easter Sunday):

9 am: Helen Craig † (Fr. Obinyan)

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

5 pm: Tomasa C. Hidalgo † (Fr. Edmund)

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

Ania Georges, Chris Mudry, Alice Flamand, Hendrik Heerema,
Michael Park, Degby Park, Margaret Baker, Patricia O'Brien,
Dolores & Gilbert Sieben, Patti Koskinen, Richard Edgington,
Suzanne Shenher, Olivia Ossai, Duri Family.

For the Souls Of:

Ruben Lacap, Rustico Medina

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: jsupport@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**.