



Saint Michael Catholic Community



800 85 Street SW | 403-249-0423 | parish@saintmichael.ca | December 25, 2021

Christmas and New Year's Bulletin

What Really Matters?

Today we celebrate an event with far more impact on the history of humanity than any scientific discovery or technical invention or artistic achievement. By any reckoning, God-becoming-human is such an impossible event that only God can make possible. The farthest the human imagination has ever gone in that direction was to surmise, as in the case of Greek mythology, that the gods could occasionally come down from their Olympus and hold a conversation with a human or manifest themselves in some other way. Today's celebration is something of a completely different order. Here we are speaking of God, not the gods, but the only true God, the Infinite, the All-powerful, embracing our human nature in the form of a powerless baby.

Yet this event passed practically unnoticed. Only Mary and Joseph witnessed it. It happened in a damp and dirty cave which served as refuge for animals. The Child was placed in a manger where animals took their food. The Savior came into our world in circumstances we would consider foul and uncomfortable. Later, a handful of shepherds were informed by angels and came to pay homage to Jesus.

Why did God so arrange things that His Son should come to us in such anonymity, obscurity and poverty? Perhaps, God wanted His son to identify with the homeless and destitute who pass their nights in shelters, under bridges or sidewalks. Perhaps, He wanted to warn us that material comfort and prosperity should not be our chief goal in life and that there are other things which really matter.

Looking at Jesus asleep in a manger, let us ask ourselves today and all the days of our lives: what should really matter in our lives? Christmas is God's answer to that question. It is an answer in flesh and blood, and it is called Emmanuel, God-is-with-us. To be with God is ultimately the only thing that matters. For He is our peace, our joy, our everything.

Fredmund@saintmichael.ca.

Healing Lines

"While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." As we contemplate this birth of Jesus, let us not forget those who may be consumed by the trauma of abuse and homelessness at this time of year. How can we reach out to those who may need an extra hand at this moment? Can we remember to keep them in our prayers? What can we share of ourselves with those less fortunate?

Glad to have you here!

We welcome new parishioners and visitors. We'd love to see you again! Please register at the Parish Office, or online at saintmichael.ca

Connect with us

Follow us on social media at [@saintmichael.ca](https://www.instagram.com/saintmichael.ca)
Also, join Flocknote by texting **SMCYC** to **514-900-0130** or by visiting flocknote.com/smcyc



Church Schedule

Subject to change

Weekday & Weekend Masses:

Tuesday: 6 p.m.

Wednesday to Friday: 9 a.m.

Saturday: 5 p.m.

Sunday: 9 a.m., 11 a.m., & 5 p.m.

Sunday 11 a.m. live stream
at saintmichael.ca/Mass or on Facebook Live

Reconciliation:

Friday: 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

Saturday: 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration:

Due to the new Covid restrictions Adoration on Fridays is being suspended until further notice

Office Hours:

Tues-Fri from 9:30 a.m. to noon

Home & Hospital Visits

If you or someone you know is sick, cannot make it to Mass, and needs Anointing of the Sick and/or Holy Communion, we can arrange to have one of our priests visit them. Please call the Parish Office at **403-249-0423** to schedule a visit.

Diocese of Calgary 24-hour emergency

Priest paging hotline: **403-231-9505**.

Events and Announcements

Be Home for Christmas

Christmas is about coming home. It is about family. It is about relationships.

As we behold the day of Christmas, we ponder on the homelessness of the new-born Jesus...

And homelessness can take a deeper significance in our lives. Homelessness is a breakdown of personal relationships at home. Homelessness is the prevalence of domestic violence. Homelessness is the absence of trust and love.

Home is when we are reconciled with God. Home is when the poverty of our world becomes our own. Home is where the holiness of the new-born Child redeems the sinfulness of our lifestyles.

May our celebration of Christmas be our homecoming to God who is with us in Christ. May our New Year be filled with faith and hope in the Saviour who assumed the homelessness of our humanity to share with us the eternal home of our Father.

[\(fredmund@saintmichael.ca\)](mailto:fredmund@saintmichael.ca)

Bible Study

Mark your calendars for Bishop Barren's Bible study, "The Creed", starting on Monday, January 10. Please watch upcoming bulletins for further details.

CWL Fundraiser Save the Date

"Fish for Fridays" Lent Fundraiser, will be on-line ordering January 11 to February 7. Orders to be picked up at the church on Wednesday, February 23, just in time for Ash Wednesday on March 2.

2022 Contribution Envelopes

Next year's 2022 contribution envelopes are now available for pickup in the gathering area. Please look for your name alphabetically-organized, and note that your number may have changed from last year. If you have any questions, call the parish office at 403-249-0423.

Lectio Divina Books

Lectio Divina Books for Year C (2021-2022) are now available at the stand next to the gift shop or at the parish office. Free will offering.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Special thanks to all St. Michael parishioners for supporting the Society of St. Vincent de Paul! During the month of November we helped 18 families (25 adults and 9 children). The Christmas Hamper 2021 program was a success! Over 120 families were served!

We are looking for new members. If you are interested, contact us at SSVP@saintmichael.ca or 403-249-0423 ext 122.

Donations of non-perishable food items can be dropped off in the SSVP food chest in the gathering area. Currently we are looking for: cereal, pasta sauce, canned vegetables and canned fish/meat.

Monetary donations can be deposited in the drop-box in the food chest or by online donations through the St. Michaels Parish website <https://saintmichael.ca/giving/>. Please indicate funds are for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the drop-down menu.

If you or anyone you know needs assistance, please contact us at SSVP@saintmichael.ca or 403-249-0423 ext 122.

Christmas at St. Michael's

Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve

9 a.m. – Fr. Edmund Vargas
4 p.m. – Fr. Raul Hernandez
6 p.m. – Fr. Raul Hernandez
8 p.m. – Fr. Edmund Vargas (Live Streamed)
10 p.m. – Fr. Edmund Vargas

Parish Office: 9:30 a.m. to noon

Saturday, December 25, Christmas Day

9 a.m. – Fr. Raul Hernandez
11 a.m. – Fr. Edmund Vargas (Live Streamed)

Sunday, December 26, Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

9 a.m. – Fr. Raul Hernandez
11 a.m. – Fr. Edmund Vargas
5 p.m. – Fr. Edmund Vargas

Tuesday, December 28, Feast of the Holy Innocents

6 p.m. – Fr. Edmund Vargas

Parish office closed

Wednesday, December 29

9 a.m. – Fr. Edmund Vargas
Parish office: 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Thursday, December 30

9 a.m. – Fr. Raul Hernandez
Parish office: 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Friday, December 31, New Year's Eve

9 a.m. – Fr. Edmund Vargas
5 p.m. – Fr. Raul Hernandez
Parish office: 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Saturday, January 1, New Year's Day, Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God - Holy Day of Obligation

9 a.m. – Fr. Raul Hernandez
11 a.m. – Fr. Edmund Vargas
5 p.m. – Fr. Edmund Vargas

Sunday, January 2, Epiphany of The Lord

9 a.m. – Fr. Edmund Vargas
11 a.m. Fr. Raul Hernandez
5 p.m. – Fr. Raul Hernandez

Eternal Springs Columbarium

The Columbarium at St. Michael's offers a consecrated and sacred space where the cremated remains of departed loved ones rest in perpetuity. For pricing or more information, please email columbarium@saintmichael.ca.

Pray for our Seminarians

Peter An, Mark Kostecky, James Schnitzler, Matthew Schnitzler,
Ian Mahood, Santiago Torres

Mass Intentions

Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve

9 a.m.: Intentions of Georgina Pintaric
4 p.m.: Al Fitzsimmons †
6 p.m.: Godofredo Manitas †
8 p.m.: Daniella Nicoletti †
10 p.m.: Annette Mackenzie †

Saturday, December 25, Christmas Day

9 a.m.: William Reinwart Jr. & Sr. †
11 a.m.: Salvador Mangacat †

Sunday, December 26, Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

9 a.m.: Fabiyan & Katica Valyan †
11 a.m.: For all Parishioners
5 p.m.: Intentions of James Pangilinan

Tuesday, December 28, Feast of The Holy Innocents

6 p.m.: Daniel Habte +

Wednesday, December 29, Feast of the Holy Family

9 a.m.: Benjamin Austria +

Thursday, December 30

9 a.m.: Intention of Janet Nyilas

Friday, December 31, New Years Eve

9 a.m.: Intentions of Christine & Jonathan
5 p.m.: Intentions of the Pinto Family

Saturday, January 1, Mary, Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

9 a.m.: Jackie Cameron +
11 a.m.: Joshua Pangilinan +
5 p.m.: Ernesto Codero +

Sunday January 2, Epiphany of The Lord

9 a.m.: Hazel Connaughton +
11 a.m. For all Parishioners
5 p.m.: Ivan Varela +

Please Pray For:

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Alden Gibson | Norma Padolina |
| William Hill | Lawrence Raffin |
| Joseph Javier | Duncan Smith |
| Sierra Knight | |
| Daniela Masek | |

For the Soul of:

Sexual abuse in the Church

Many suffer in silence. Perhaps you are affected by the news of sexual abuse of minors in the Church; perhaps you are a sexual abuse survivor or a relative of a friend of someone who was abused; perhaps you know about an abuse; perhaps you have sexually abused someone... Break the cycle of silence: you can choose to talk about it. 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**.

E-Transfer

You can now donate using e-transfer service. Sign in to your own banking institution and e-transfer the amount to jsupport@saintmichael.ca.



TITHE.LY

Text to Donate

Don't carry cash? You can now use text messaging to donate any amount to St. Michael's. To set up your account, text *give* to **833 768-0514** and follow the prompt. Once you're in, text any amount to the same number—anytime.

Contact us

For general inquiries: info@saintmichael.ca
403-249-0423

Pastor Fr. Edmund Vargas
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Associate Pastor Fr. Raul Hernandez
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A View of Our Finances

| Gifts to the Parish | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | September | October | November |
| <u>General Collections</u> | | | |
| Collections | \$80,777 | \$91,499 | \$99,356 |
| Operating Costs | \$69,959 | \$66,834 | \$103,871 |
| Surplus (shortfall) YTD Operating Costs | \$10,818 | \$24,665 | \$-4,515 |
| <u>Central Fund Loan (Mortgage)</u> | | | |
| Building Fund Collections | \$11,467 | \$16,939 | \$20,987 |
| Building Loan Interest — none | | | |
| Surplus Mortgage Repayment or (shortfall) | | | |
| <u>Current Loan Balance</u> | \$5,395,519 | \$5,375,581 | \$5,355,479 |
| <u>Diocesan Annual Campaign</u> | | | |
| Together in Action Collections YTD | \$42,245 | \$46,901 | \$50,717 |
| | | | |
| Society of St. Vincent de Paul | \$19,559 | \$29,044 | \$40,025 |

If you have any questions, please contact Michael McGee, Finance Council Chair at finance@saintmichael.ca.