



Saint Michael Catholic Community



800 85 Street SW | 403-249-0423 | info@saintmichael.ca | February 18, 2024

1st Sunday of Lent

A Gospel Reflection

by *Dr. Randy Gritter*

The first Sunday of Lent traditionally has the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. We get Mark's version this year which is just very short. I do want to highlight one thing. It says that immediately after Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted. What I want to recall is what happened at the Baptism. The heavens opened and voice of God the Father declared, "You are My beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." I am thinking that Jesus had these words echoing in His mind and His heart as He faced these 40 days of trial. You are My beloved son, in whom I am well pleased. That is a really good thing to remember as we journey through lent. Just keep reminding yourself that you are a son of God or a daughter of God. That God loves you. That He is pleased with how He created you. It matters because during lent we think about our sin. That is good. We need to think about that to make improvements to our lives. You are a sinner. I am a sinner. Sin penetrates deep into our hearts. Still, it is not the deepest truth about you. The deepest truth about you is that you are a child of God, you were created by God, you are loved by God. He loves you so much He would rather die than live without you. We must not lose track of that as we try and deal with our sin.

The first and second readings both talk about the story of Noah and the ark. So, what does it have to do with lent? One factor is the time period of 40 days and 40 nights. It is one of several places in the Old Testament that comes up. Looking closer at the story we see the seriousness of sin. That our wickedness is so great that God's most reasonable reaction is just to wipe humanity off the face of the earth. It talks about every desire of the human heart being evil. He chooses to save Noah and his family. That is called grace. It means God welcomes us even though we do not deserve it. Yet God does not just zap Noah and make him holy. He tells Noah to build an ark. That is a lot of work. Then He puts Noah and his family in the ark with a boatload of animals. It rains for 40 days and 40 nights. There is a big flood. Noah and his family are saved, but it is no picnic. That ark gets smellier every day and it takes a long time for the water levels to drop.

Grace does not mean God does everything and we do nothing. We need to cooperate with grace every step of the way. That is often a struggle which is what Lent is all about. Noah struggled through a hard time, but that struggle did not last forever. It led to a new beginning. His effort working with God blessed not only him, but his family, and the whole world. It was the difference between life and death. That is what we are called to. To be people who listen to God in a society that is ignoring God. That is going to be hard. Yet, we know Easter is coming. We know our sacrifice will lead to new life for ourselves, for our families and for the world. rgritter@saintmichael.ca

Healing Lines

Just as Jesus was tempted by the devil, we are often tempted to stray from His path. Sometimes it seems easier to not reach out to those who are being abused or bullied. We tell ourselves that others will help or that we shouldn't interfere with someone else's family. Other times we are tempted to become aggressive or abusive when we deal with family members. We feel we are justified in responding this way to them. We always need to work to resist the temptations that will lead us away from Jesus.

Mass Schedule for this Weekend

Saturday, February 17 at 5pm: Fr. Kevin Chukwurah with Dec. Randy Gritter
Sunday, February 18 at 8:30am: Morning Prayer with Fr. Jose Bustalino
Sunday, February 18 at 9am: Fr. Jose Bustalino with Dec. Randy Gritter
Sunday, February 18 at 11am: Fr. Kevin Chukwurah with Dec. Randy Gritter
Sunday, February 18 at 5pm: Fr. Jose Bustalino with Dec. Randy Gritter

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 pm
Wednesday to Friday: 9 am
Saturday: 5 pm
Sunday: 9 am, 11 am & 5 pm

Sunday 11 am live-stream
at saintmichael.ca/Mass or on Facebook Live

Reconciliation:

Friday: 8:00am to 8:45am
Saturday: 3:30pm to 4:45pm

Eucharistic Adoration:

Friday: 9:30am to 10:30am

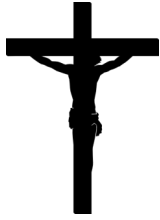
Office Hours:

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

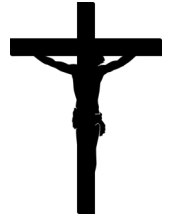
Home & Hospital Visits

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.**



Lent Schedule



Lent Fridays: Feb. 16 to Mar. 22 | Mass 6:00pm | Stations of the Cross 6:30pm

Fish Fridays: Feb.23 and Mar.8 | Fish Supper 7:00pm

Holy Thursday: Thursday, March 28 | Mass 7:00pm | Adoration 8:00pm - 12:00am

Good Friday: Friday, March 29 | Services 12:00pm and 3:00pm

Easter Vigil: Saturday, March 30 | Mass 9:00pm

Easter Sunday: Sunday, March 31 | Mass 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

~ Lenten Insights ~

Lenten Insights (1). Less is more. Less talk, more acts of kindness. When we give the Sign of Peace at Mass (before Holy Communion), we share the gesture or sign of peace in silence, not with words or verbal greetings of peace. Less food and drink, more fasting. Fasting creates an emptiness or vacancy for God in our lives which can all be about ourselves. Selfishness makes us sinful and veers us away from God's power and presence. Communal prayer and obedience is more difficult than personal piety and devotion. Starting this Lenten season, the Morning Prayer will be recited as a community every Sunday at 8:30am, before the 9am Mass. Singing as a congregation is the ideal way of doing music at Mass, not leaving the choir to do the music for us. Alleluia is not recited or sung during the Lenten season in anticipation/preparation for the Alleluia Sunday (Easter Sunday). It is also not recited or acclaimed at Dismissal, unless provided by the rubrics during the Easter season. Outside the Easter season, alleluia is proclaimed during the Gospel Acclamation. Communal unity is more important than individual effort or action. Whatever we do can appear to be very important for us, but all should work towards unity. As we embark our Pastoral Renewal as a parish, let us reflect more about what we can do or share with the community, rather than what the community or parish can do for us. We do ministry, that is, all efforts are done on behalf and for God and His people, and not for us or for our own preferred or personal goals. *"Whenever applause breaks out in the liturgy because of some human achievement, it is a sure sign that the essence of the liturgy has totally disappeared and been replaced by a kind of religious entertainment."* (Pope Benedict XVI) *"At Calvary, there were also those who applauded Christ's death: the soldiers and the demons."* (Padre Pio) Liturgy is never about individual or group performance, but about God's action through us.



Special Event: IWIN Initiative | February 22, 2024 | Sanctuary | 6:30pm

On National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, IWIN invites you to a screening of the movie "Sound of Freedom" at St. Michael's Catholic Community. It is free of charge, but please RSVP to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054EA8A623A7FD0-46860946-film>.



Events and Announcements

Children's Liturgy | Cancelled: Sunday, February 18, 2024

There will be no Children's Liturgy of the Word for Sunday, February 18, 2024. The session will resume on Sunday, February 25, 2024: Session A at 8:30 am and Session B at 10:30am.

Bible Study: Lectio Eucharist | Cancelled: Monday, February 19

Lectio Eucharist is cancelled for Monday, February 19. It will resume on Monday, February 26, 2024.

Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours | Sundays Throughout Lent | Starting Sunday, February 18, 2024 | Sanctuary | 8:30am

Every Sunday morning throughout Lent, starting on Sunday, February 18, we invite you to join us for Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours at 8:30 am, just before the 9 am Mass, in the Sanctuary. You may visit ebreviary.com to follow along for the prayers. All are most welcome to attend!

2023 Tax Receipts

2023 tax receipts will be mailed and delivered in the coming days.

"Community Celebration: Restoring our Hope and Peace" | Wednesday, February 28, 2024 | Sanctuary | 7:00pm

A "Community Celebration: Restoring our Hope and our Peace" will be held at St Michael's Church on Wednesday, February 28, at 7:00pm.

The Liturgy of the Word service has been organized by the Calgary Catholic School District in the wake of the recent tragic incident in the John Costello School area. Everyone is welcome.

Handling Panhandling at SMCC and Other Places

What do we do? Respectfully acknowledge the person asking for money and politely say "no". Panhandling is illegal (Calgary by-law 3M99). Panhandlers may not be homeless or may panhandle as part of a larger syndicated operation. Our local Society of St. Vincent de Paul also distributes groceries to needy families in the area throughout the year. Or you may contact one of the city's social agencies that help, including the Drop-in Centre (263-6217), Mustard Seed Street Ministry (269-1319), Salvation Army (410-1111), CUPS (221-8781), Alpha House (234-7388) and EXIT (262-9953). Let us help our Church and other organizations help street people help themselves and re-discover their sense of human dignity and respect. If you see a panhandler in need or trouble, or if you have encountered an aggressive panhandler, you may call the Panhandling Outreach Worker (221-8788) or the Police (403-266-1234).

Pastoral Renewal Team

The Pastoral Renewal Team for our parish, after due consultation and prayerful reflection, is now constituted by the following community members: Karen Bout, Scott Dixon, Christian Estrella, Michael Fitzsimmons, Sarah Ibrahim, Sean Thomas Kelly, Julie Sisenda, and Margaret Tapuska. Our parish team will lead our community in our efforts towards pastoral renewal. We request that we all pray and offer sacrifice for the intention of our eight-member team that they will be guided by the promptings of the Spirit for the renewal of the face of the earth.

Events and Announcements

Elements of the Catholic Mass Series | February 17 & 18, 2024 | Before All Masses

Liturgical Vestments Part 1: The vestments worn during Mass are sacramental signs. This suggests that they not only serve the practical purpose of covering street clothes, but that they also represent hidden realities. To find out what they signify, go to Liturgical Vestments Part 1: <https://watch.formed.org/the-elements-of-the-catholic-mass/season:1/videos/vestments-part-i>.

Fish Fridays | February 23 and March 8, 2024 | Narthex | 7:00pm

The Knights of Columbus will host a dinner event in the Church gathering area after Lenten Friday 6.00 pm Mass, 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 for Feb. 23, please go to <https://forms.gle/S42wLCDs9r4QMZMS6>

To register for Mar. 8, please go to <https://forms.gle/tBw9tLuSwcNqbCFK7>

Altar Server Training | Sunday, February 25, 2024 | Sanctuary | 12:00-2:00pm

Are your children interested in joining the Altar Server Ministry? The next Altar Server training session will take place on Sunday, February 25 after the 11:00am Mass in the Sanctuary. The training takes place on the fourth Sunday of every month. If you, or your children, are interested please send an email to altarservers@saintmichael.ca, request access to the Altar Server group on Flocknote, or just show up on February 25th. This is a 2 hour session so please prepare accordingly.

2024 Youth Rally "Impact Nights" | March 16 | April 19 | June 14 | Sanctuary | 7:00-9:00pm

Youth Rally "Impact Nights" at St. Michael's Church are scheduled on the following nights from 7:00-9:00pm: | Saturday, March 16 | Friday, April 19 | and Friday, June 14. | The Youth Nights are coordinated through Michael Chiasson of Access 52. They are an expanded version of our recent Youth Gatherings.

Art Walk 2024

Art Walk 2024 will not be taking place in March as planned due to unforeseeable circumstances. We are hoping to reschedule the show in June and will post notices as soon as we have a new date. A new registration date will also be determined at a later date.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Special thanks to all St. Michael parishioners for supporting the Society of St. Vincent de Paul! If you have lost your job, please contact us for food support. *WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS.* If you are interested, contact us by email SSVP@saintmichael.ca or phone 403-249-0423, ext. 122. *DONATIONS OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS* can be dropped off in the SSVP Food Chest in the church Gathering Area or you can arrange for a pick-up, by emailing us at SSVP@saintmichael.ca. Currently we are looking for: syrup, canned ham, canned chili or stew, Hamburger Helper, shampoo, and conditioner. *MONETARY DONATIONS* can be deposited in the drop-box in the Food Chest or by online donations through the 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 by email SSVP@saintmichael.ca or phone 403-249-0423, ext. 122.



Partnership of Hope Sponsored Family Update

Update: Our current sponsored family arrived on November 7, 2023. With all of the continued support from St. Michael's Community, they have settled in nicely and are well on their way to a bright future. Our second family will be arriving in the Spring of 2024. If you would like more information or would like to donate, please contact Jocelyn Fitzgerald at cefitz@shaw.ca or 403-650-9741. Thank you.

A note from the family: Thank you and we appreciate your kindness regarding our family's resettlement in this peaceful place to live! We always thank you and we pray for the Church, especially St. Michael's Priest and Community, which have been supporting and helping us.

Yours Sincerely, Matthews, Maria, and our children Aryan, Adriyan, and Manley.

February Regular Events:

Sundays | Coffee Sundays | Narthex | After 9:00am & 11:00am Masses

Mondays | Bible Study: Lectio Eucharist | 7:00-9:00pm

Tuesdays | Rosary Group | Day Chapel | 6:30-7:00pm

Tuesdays | Grief Share | Rooms 143 & 144 | 7:00-9:00pm

Tuesdays | RCIA | St. Nicholas Room | 7:00-9:00pm

Wednesdays | TMIY | Day Chapel | 6:00am

Wednesdays | Bible Study: Wild Goose | 10:00am-12:00pm | St. Nicolas Room | or Zoom 7:00-9:00pm

Thursdays | Coffee Thursdays | Narthex | After 9:00am Mass

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

Thursdays | Knitting Ministry | Library | 10:00am-12:00pm

February 2024:

February 18 | Cancelled: Children's Liturgy of the Word

February 19 | Cancelled: Bible Study Lectio Eucharist

February 21 | Sacrament for Teens Session 3 | Library | 7:00-8:30pm

February 22 | IWIN Movie "Sound of Freedom" | Sanctuary | 6:30pm

February 23 | Lenten Friday | Masses 9:00am & 6:00pm

February 23 | Stations of the Cross | Sanctuary | 6:30pm

February 23 | Fish Friday | Narthex | 7:00pm

February 25 | Altar Server Training | Sanctuary | 12:00pm

February 27 | PPC Meeting | St. Michael's Room | 7:00pm

February 27 | SSVP Monthly Meeting | St. Gabriel Room 145 | 7:00pm

February 28 | Community Celebration: Restoring Our Hope and Peace | Sanctuary | 7:00pm

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, Andre Boudreau, Joshua Capicio, Bennet Chacko, Jonathan Dobek, Samuel Ejeregebe, Evin George, Solomon Ip, Jeffrell Painaga, Antonio Pasqualotto, Mikhel Sari, Benjamin Taylor, Joshua Walter

Please Pray For:

Mara Neely	Josh Helman	Kathy Salzl
Alessandro Bonvicini	Helen Gal	Pietro Jr. Duri
Jojo Deleon	Demy Navarro	Aaron Armstrong
Rosa Duri	Bill Dingman	Rina VandeGeer
Elizabeth Chandless	Joey Stevenson	Bert Saunders

For the Souls of:

Radka Dvorak

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: isupport@saintmichael.ca.

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.

Gifts to the Parish

	October	November	December
General Collections			
Collections	\$97,285	\$89,909	\$148,442
Other Income	\$29,506	\$58,358	\$57,002
Operating Costs	\$164,849	\$135,449	\$119,954
Surplus (shortfall) YTD Optg Costs	(\$38,058)	\$12,819	\$85,491
Central Fund Loan (Mortgage)			
Building Fund Collections	\$13,724	\$18,512	\$129,611
Current Loan Balance	\$3,698,763	\$3,675,809	\$3,653,177
Diocesan Annual Campaign			
Together in Action YTD	\$55,760	\$62,408	\$74,471
% TIA Goal \$121,243.00	46%	51%	61%
Society St. Vincent de Paul (monthly)	\$3,473	\$6,455	\$25,278

Mass Intentions

Book an intention online at saintmichael.ca

Saturday, February 17

5 pm: Ciro Urbina †

Sunday, February 18: 1st Sunday of Lent

9 am: All Departed Souls †

11 am: For All Parishioners

5 pm: Lyle Farmer †

Tuesday, February 20

6 pm: Catherine Wirth †

Wednesday, February 21

9 am: Derek Cooper †

Thursday, February 22

9 am: Rev. John Rose †

Friday, February 23

9 am: Fabio and Uriel Rincon †

6 pm: For All Parishioners

Saturday, February 24

5 pm: Victor Lameda Alvarez †

Sunday, February 25: 2nd Sunday of Lent

9 am: Marie Rocha †

11 am: For All Parishioners

5 pm: Intentions of Rosa Rino †

Contact Us

For General 403-249-0423

Inquiries info@saintmichael.ca

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fredmund@saintmichael.ca

Associate Pastor Fr. Jose Bustalino
frjose@saintmichael.ca

Deacon Dc. Randy Gritter
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Admin Assistant Pina Rino
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Technical Director Kyle De Jaegher
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Music Director Jim Howells
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Volunteer Coordinator Marvin Matthews
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Children's Liturgy Coordinator Caroline Dixon
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Bookkeeper accounting@saintmichael.ca

