



Saint Michael Catholic Community



800 85 Street SW | 403-249-0423 | parish@saintmichael.ca | March 12, 2023

3rd Sunday of Lent

Water & Faith

Thirst, resulting from the absence or deprivation of water, becomes a metaphor for the need for God, for His saving love and forgiveness.

The life-giving water from the rock at Horeb, mentioned in the first reading from Exodus, is instrumental in keeping the Israelites in believing that the journey is the path to salvation. Exodus, the Greek word for “way-out”, is for Israel the way out from the hopeless situation of oppressive servitude through what we can call a journey through a trackless desert where one can die of thirst. The Old Testament thirst for the living water comes to fulfillment with the coming of the Messiah.

The grumbling, the mistrust and ingratitude of the Israelites in the desert is contrasted with the attitude of those who have accepted God’s gift of faith, exemplified by Moses who believes in God’s power to save. In the face of their grumbling, he proves God’s presence by striking the rock to bring forth water. St Paul’s letter to the Romans, in the second reading, reminds us that we have been “justified by faith”. Faith has come to us as God’s gift in Jesus, that is, “the love of God that has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us...”.

In today’s gospel, Jesus speaks of this outpouring of God’s love when He tells the Samaritan woman at the well: “The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life”. In a way, the Samaritan woman represents every infidelity borne of trying to quench our cravings on something other than the “living water” of God’s love. We indeed are thirsty for healing, for an end to hatred and indifference. We are thirsty for love and forgiveness. We are thirsty for acceptance and meaning in our lives. In our hearts, we thirst for God to fill us with life-giving water that only He can give.

Lent speaks of this thirst of the human spirit. Lent is a journey of the soul through the desert into the living water of Christ’s resurrection.

As we journey through Lent, let us ask God to pour His living water of faith upon all of us, to bless us with the water of life as we journey together in faith. As we make the sign of the cross with the water every time we gather for worship, we recognize and proclaim one faith in one God as we deepen our intimacy with Him.

fredmund@saintmichael.ca

Healing Lines

This month, we celebrate International Women's Day (March 8), marking a celebration of the economic, social, cultural and political achievements for women. Women in every country, often divided by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate this important date that represents equality, justice, peace and development. The celebration is the story of ordinary women as makers of history. It is rooted in the centuries-old struggle of women seeking to participate equally in society on an equal footing with men. Until women are fully represented at leadership levels of public, professional, economic and spiritual life, women do not have equal rights or an equal voice. Let us find ways to make the women in our lives count equally in all ways so we recognize that they too are the way-showers for others to find Christ.

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 am to 8:45 am

Saturday: 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm

Eucharistic Adoration:

Friday: 9:30 am to 10:30 am

Office Hours:

Tuesday to Friday: 9:30 am 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

Pastor's Updates

- We are recruiting a Children's Liturgy Coordinator as a paid position as well as volunteers to run the Kid's Kingdom and other related catechetical programs. This year, we are preparing 133 candidates for First Reconciliation/ First Communion (June 11 celebration) and 101 candidates for Confirmation (May 28). There are 16 catechumens/candidates who are currently in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Christian Adults (RCIA), preparing for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation this coming Easter.
- Last November, the National Evangelization Team (NET) offered a retreat for Grade 4-7 children (not well attended) and another one for Grade 8-12 students (well attended). The parish has a pending application for a NET team to come this year. Last year's application was not acceptance, due to lack of NET youth workers. After the NET program, we are hiring a Youth Coordinator to continue and sustain the NET initial efforts. Only recently, Michael Chiasson has agreed to prepare a transitional program for our youth, including a monthly or so Youth Mass/gathering. The monthly youth gathering is now scheduled every last Saturday of the month, starting March 25. He is also coming on March 15, Wednesday, 7pm for a Lenten Night of Music & Reflection.
- Joyce Vayalumkal (as coordinator) with Randy Gritter (an installed Acolyte preparing for his Diaconate) and Michelle Conway (former coordinator) is working on an Altar Servers program manual for the parish. The family-oriented ministry will include a monthly pray/prepare/pizza (PPP) gathering of the altar servers. An Orientation Meeting for those who are interested will be held on Palm Sunday, April 2, after the 11am Mass. Campaign for altar servers will soon be initiated.
- We need more volunteers for practically all our liturgical ministries and other services. Our current numbers are as follows: Ushers/Hospitality Ministers (58), Lectors (38), Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist (72), Music Ministry (15 for Sunday 5pm Mass & 45 for the rest of the weekend Masses), Pastoral Care Ministers (2), Kids Kingdom (none), Coffee Ministry (3). We need Hospitality Ministers at the Sunday 5pm Mass. We have also a handful of volunteers helping Francesca in the Sacramental Preparation sessions. Those interested to volunteer have to contact Marvin, our volunteer coordinator or the respective coordinators of the ministries.
- The Gallery of the Pastors will be re-installed.
- The church has recently installed an alarm system with connection with the police authorities. Access to the building will be limited accordingly. For security and wheelchair access (newly installed), the Columbarium is now accessible only to cardholders. Public access has to be arranged with the office or through families who have authorized access cards.
- The Day Chapel renovation is now underway. We need your prayers and financial support.

Lenten Music and Reflection

Wednesday, March 15 at 7 pm

Please join us for an evening of music and reflection hosted by Michael Chiasson on Wednesday, March 15 at 7 pm.

God Squad Canada

Registration is open for the 2023 God Squad 26th Annual Conference!

Friday March 17 from 6-9 pm, Saturday March 18 from 9-4 pm at St. Michael's Catholic Community

Take this opportunity to empower and inspire you to become who God created and calls you to be.

Why should you come to this year's conference?

Why should you bring another man with you?

To strengthen our culture, our family and our faith. And the way we do that is becoming men of the cross, living our faith from the Cross of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

This year's theme is Memento Mori which invites us to remember our death, that the final things are death, judgment, heaven or hell.

In the sheer silence of our hearts, the Lord's theophony calls us to be bearers of light and to live for heaven, drawing upon us amidst today's darkness of spiritual famine and moral confusion.

Register today : <https://godsquad.ca/2023-conference-deacon-harold.html>

Righteous Sounds of the Passion

Saturday, March 18 at 7 pm

Come and experience the Inspiration Band perform songs from their highly anticipated and emotional Good Friday service music on Saturday, March 18, 7 pm in the Mezzanine. Bring someone and listen to the Passion in song. Admission is free.

Undie Sunday

Saturday, March 18 & Sunday, March 19

The **Annual Undie Sunday** is back in support of the Elizabeth House on March 18 and 19. At this time, they are seeking women's personal hygiene items (conditioner, body wash, deodorant, body lotions, hair products), baby lotion and wash, hand soap with pump, towels – all sizes, dish towels and kitchen wash clothes, pots and pans, HE laundry soap, collapsible laundry baskets, double bed sheets and bed in bags, 2T-4T boys and girls clothes, Women's leggings (basic black), and Women's socks and underwear (M- XL). Please note, all items must be NEW. A drop off table will be set up in the main entrance.

Financial donations can be made online & will be matched 50%, please use <https://shawcharityclassic.com/charity/participating-charities/elizabeth-house/>. Cash and cheque donations can also be given on March 18&19 at the tables. Thank you for your support - Catholic Women's League and Knights of Columbus.

Baby Blanket Raffle - 6 gorgeous, stroller sized, hand-knitted, 100% acrylic baby blankets are up for raffle with all proceeds going to support the Elizabeth House. Pictures of the blankets can be seen on the poster board in the main gathering area. Tickets can be purchased in person on Undie Sunday, during Mom's & Tots on Thursday mornings, and also online by sending an e-transfer to SMCWLTREASURER@gmail.com with the password of "raffle". Tickets are 3 for \$5 or 1 for \$2.

Events and Announcements

Liturgical Ministers Lenten Retreat

Friday, March 31, 7 pm

Please join us for a **Liturgical Ministers Lenten Retreat** led by Fr. Edmund on Friday, March 31 at 7 pm (following Mass and Stations of the Cross). Enjoy a Lenten fish dinner while you listen to Fr. Edmund; free will offering to the Knights of Columbus. **ALL ARE WELCOME!!** This retreat will be especially beneficial for volunteers who serve in a liturgical capacity at Mass (Communion Ministers, Proclaimers, Ushers and Choir members) or for anyone who would like to serve as a Liturgical Minister. To register, please call the office at (403) 249 0423.

40 Days for Life Prayer Campaign

Friday, March 31

St. Michael is once again part of this prayer campaign. Over 5000 babies are killed at the Kensington abortion facility every year. 40 Days for Life is a prayerful, respectful campaign that seeks to bring awareness to the inconvenient truth that abortion kills innocent human beings. Our prayerful presence during 40 Days at abortion centres around the world draws attention to the plight of preborn children and seeks God's help through intercessory prayer. Will you join us? Sign up and be a loving, prayerful voice for the preborn babies who have no voice but ours. We know from the testimonies of many that these campaigns save lives. **St. Michael's day to pray this campaign is Friday, March 31.** Please join us and sign up online at [40 Days for Life](#). Click on the "SIGN UP FOR VIGIL HOURS" box and choose an hour or more on Friday, March 31. Please sign up for a time slot between the hours of 10 am to 4pm. Up to four persons can sign up for each one hour time slot. Signs are provided.

St. Michael Catholic Community Pastoral Council

Every month, a dedicated team of Pastoral Council members meet with our Pastor to discuss and advise on issues that affect Saint Michael's Catholic Community.

At our meeting in February, some of the matters we discussed were:

- Hiring a Children's Liturgy Coordinator
- Blessing of St. Mary's Chapel on Divine Mercy Sunday
- The Triduum – help is needed to decorate! Please email Bob camaro11@shaw.ca
- Liturgical Ministers Lenten Retreat on March 31 at 7 pm ALL WELCOME! Register at the office.

If you would like to read the minutes from our most recent meeting, or any past meeting, please go to www.saintmichael.ca/bulletin

Questions? Concerns? Please reach us at (403) 249 0423

Women's Conference by Beloved Daughters Ministry

May 26-27

Join Beloved Daughters Ministry for their first annual women's conference entitled, "Restoring the Feminine Heart." Conference will be held from May 26-27, 2023 at St. Luke's Parish (Calgary, AB) and guided by guest speakers Heather & Jake Khym of Life Restoration Ministries. For more information visit: www.beloveddaughtersyyc.com

Holy Land Pilgrimage

November 13 to 21, 2023

Holy Land Pilgrimage Alert! The deposit (\$600) due date for the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Fr Edmund this coming November is May 7, after which reservations will be based on availability. Deposits are refundable until May 14. Book now and save \$150 per person. Cost: double \$5,699, single \$6,849 and triple \$5,669. For more information visit: gateway.gocollette.com/link/1122663.

Lent & Easter Schedule

Lenten Fridays: March 17, 24 & 31

Mass at 6 pm

Stations of the Cross at 6:30 pm

Parish Reconciliation: Thursday, March 23

Confessions at 6:30-8:30 pm

Palm Sunday: April 2

Regular Sunday Masses: 9 am, 11 am & 5 pm



Holy Week

Holy Thursday: April 6

Mass at 7 pm

Adoration following Mass until 11 pm

Good Friday: April 7

Liturgy at 12 pm, 3 pm

Easter Vigil: April 8

Mass at 8 pm

Easter Sunday: April 9

Regular Sunday Masses: 9 am, 11 am & 5 pm

Parish Office: The office will be closed on Good Friday.

***Live-streamed 11 am Mass can be accessed at Saintmichael.ca/mass and on our Facebook Page. Once the livestreamed Mass has finished, the video can be viewed on our Facebook page.**

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, Solomon Ip, Samuel O'Ejeregbe, Benjamin Taylor, Santiago Torres, Joshua Walter

Please Pray For:

Steve Bollman	Paul Keough	Danielle Swerhone
Judy Chu	John Neely	Kevin Thorvaldson
Bill Dingman	Janeth Rodriguez	Jennifer Tipper
Lorraine Fleming	Blessie San Buenaventura	Bryan Williams Jr.
Jacob Jensen	Grant Schmick	

For the Souls of:

Yvonne Richter

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

	December	January	February
General Collections			
Collections	\$134,354	\$110,445	\$87,523
Operating Costs	\$157,020	\$93,026	\$122,238
Surplus (shortfall) YTD OpCosts	(\$22,667)	\$17,419	(\$34,715)
Central Fund Loan (Mortgage)			
Building Fund Collections	\$140,277	\$10,994	\$13,487
Building Loan Interest — none			
Surplus Mortgage Repayment or (shortfall)			
Current Loan Balance	\$3,924,590	\$3,900,821	\$3,877,683
Diocesan Annual Campaign			
Together in Action Collect YTD	\$29,192	\$5,632	\$7,674
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	\$30,939(M)	\$3,941(M)	\$2,774(M)

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 11

5 pm: Intentions of Jennifer Pinto & Family

Sunday March 12, 3rd Sunday of Lent

9 am: Carlos & Quila Ferrer †

11 am: For All Parishioners

5 pm: Intentions of Elena Matte †

Tuesday, March 14

6 pm: Intentions of Kayanne Bradford

Wednesday, March 15

9 am: Svetka Skific †

Thursday, March 16

9 am: Intentions of Joe Bradford

Friday, March 17

9 am: Carlos Yican †

Saturday, March 18

5 pm: John Kiely †

Sunday, March 19, 4th Sunday of Lent

9 am: Jason Steven Olszewski †

11 am: For All Parishioners

5 pm: Leslie Choquette †

Contact Us

For general info@saintmichael.ca

inquiries 403-249-0423

Pastor Fr. Edmund Vargas
fredmund@saintmichael.ca

Associate Pastor Fr. Ajeesh Komalachen

Parish Secretary Luisa Adams
ladams@saintmichael.ca

Admin Assistant Pina Rino
prino@saintmichael.ca

Receptionist Helen Gal
hgal@saintmichael.ca

Sacraments Preparation Coordinator Francesca Ambrosino
fambrosino@saintmichael.ca

Technical Director Kyle De Jaegher
kdejaegher@saintmichael.ca

Music Director Jim Howells
jhowells@saintmichael.ca

Volunteer Coordinator Marvin Matthews
mmatthews@saintmichael.ca

Bookkeeper Michelle Gregory
mgregory@saintmichael.ca