



Saint Michael Catholic Community



800 85 Street SW | 403-249-0423 | parish@saintmichael.ca | First Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2020

Events & Announcements

Read the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's 2019 report in the back of this bulletin

New Parish Office Hours

Effective March 2, our new parish office hours will be: Mon-Thurs from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. (instead of 8:30 p.m.), and Fridays: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please note that these changes pertain only to the parish office and **not the church building**: hence, this does not affect those who visit the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, library, or other programs during weeknights. If you have any questions, contact Suzy at 403-249-0423 ext. 119 or by emailing smoutinho@saintmichael.ca.

Lectio: Evangelization (Women's Ministry)

Thursdays at 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. beginning March 5

In this ten-part series, Dr. Mary Healy combines insightful biblical study with Church teaching and practical advice to show how modern Catholics can effectively impact their world for Jesus Christ. This study has morning and evening options available (10 a.m. or 7 p.m.) every Thursday beginning March 5, and will continue for ten weeks until May 14 (no meeting on Holy Thursday, April 9). Cost for the study guide is \$25, or download for free from FORMED. To sign up, visit saintmichael.ca/faithformation.

24-Hour Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, March 6

Spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament during our 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, March 6, following the 9 a.m. Mass. Sign up for a slot outside the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, or online at saintmichael.ca/events.

Family Retreat

Saturday, March 7

Re-orient your life this Lent: families are invited to our first-ever Family Retreat happening Saturday, March 7 from noon to 5 p.m., led by our NET missionaries. Come be renewed in your faith and enjoy an afternoon of inspiring talks, praise and worship, and more. This retreat is open to everyone and costs \$20 per family, including lunch. Sign up at the parish office or by emailing Nolan at nconrad@saintmichael.ca.

Mass Times & Stations of the Cross During Lent

In addition to our normal Mass schedule, please note that during Lent, we will also be having 7 p.m. Mass on Wednesdays and Fridays, followed by Stations of the Cross. For our full Lent and Holy Week schedule, visit saintmichael.ca/lent.

Praise & Worship Night

Sunday, March 8 at 7 p.m.

This month's praise and worship night will be on Sunday, March 8 at 7 p.m., which will be led by our NET missionaries. All are welcome!

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 [@saintmichaelyyc](https://www.instagram.com/saintmichaelyyc). Also, join Flocknote by texting **SMCYC** to 514-900-0130 or by visiting flocknote.com/smcyc.



Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m.

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

Weekday Masses:

Monday, Wednesday-Friday: 9 a.m.

Tuesday: 7 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m.

During Lent: Mass also celebrated at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays

Reconciliation:

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

Saturday: 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration:

First Fridays: 24 hours beginning 9:30 a.m.

All other Fridays: 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Stations of the Cross (during Lent):

Wednesdays and Fridays following the 7 p.m. Mass

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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 or Pastoral Care members 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 & Announcements

Blood Drive

Monday, March 9 at 3 p.m.

150 blood donors are needed at the blood drive here at St. Michael's on Monday, March 9, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. To donate blood, book your free appointment by visiting www.blood.ca or by calling 1-888-236-6283.

Moms and Tots

Fridays at 9:45 a.m.

In addition to our weekly coffee and fellowship (Fridays at 9:45 a.m.), please take note of the following notable upcoming events: **March 13:** Devotion to the Divine Mercy with Sharon Van Der Sloot • **March 27:** testimony on a Eucharistic miracle. Check out our full schedule at saintmichael.ca/momsandtots.

Marriage Ministry: Comedy Date Night

Saturday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m.

St. Michael's Marriage Ministry invites all married, engaged, and seriously-dating couples to *Comedy Date Night!* Join us on Saturday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m. and enjoy some comedy videos followed by snacks and fellowship. This is a **free event**, but we ask that you register so we know how many snacks to prepare. To register, visit saintmichael.ca/events.

Good Friday Passion Re-enactment

We're looking for individuals interested in getting involved in this year's Good Friday passion re-enactment (actors, costume care, decorating, etc.). No experience is required to participate, although children ages 8-14 must be accompanied by an adult: either someone participating as a member of the re-enactment or staying for the rehearsals. Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, March 17. For more information or to sign up and see the full rehearsal schedule, visit saintmichael.ca/passion.

Voices of Grief

Saturday, March 21 at 9:55 a.m.

If you are grieving from the loss of a loved one, know someone who does, or if you're interested in knowing how to successfully navigate through grief, you are invited to a film screening of *Voices of Grief* on Saturday, March 21 at 9:55 a.m. For more details or to watch the trailer, visit saintmichael.ca/events.

Family Compass

Saturday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Family Compass is a series of workshops offered by the Schoenstatt Apostolic Movement of Calgary, designed for Spanish-speaking couples who want to enrich their relationship and connect on a deeper level with God and their family. These monthly encounters, which begins on Saturday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m., include time for prayer, a short talk, and discussion. Cost: \$15 per couple. Babysitting will be available for children ages 3-11 registered in advance. To register, visit saintmichael.ca/faithformation or email Will at schoenstattcanada@gmail.com.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul: Most-Needed Items

The SSVP is most grateful for the continued generosity of parishioners in helping us serve those in need in our community. For the month of March, we welcome donations of the following items which are in short supply in our larder: canned fruit, granola bars, chili, tea (black or green), and ground coffee. A donation of a dresser is also welcome. Thank you for your generosity! Food donations can be dropped off in the SSVP donation bin in the gathering area, while arrangements for larger items can be made by calling 403-249-0423 ext. 122.

A Liturgy of the Word
Ministry for children
ages 3+. Sundays at
8:50 a.m. and 10:50
a.m. **This Sunday:**

Jesus is Tempted (Matthew 4:1-11)



ROOTS

A ministry for youth in grades 4-6.

Monday, March 2

from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information, contact Alison at
astraface@saintmichael.ca.

UNITE Youth: for youth in
grades 7 to 12. Join us at our
weekly youth night **every**
Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Follow us on Instagram

@onthursdaynights for the latest updates.



Catholic Women's League

CWL welcomes all women ages
16+. We meet every 2nd Tuesday
of the month at St. Michael Rm.
B after the 7 p.m. Mass. Women
are encouraged to attend Mass,
our meeting, and enjoy refreshments after.
More info at saintmichael.ca/CWL.



Moms with little ones are
invited every **Friday at 9:45
a.m.** for coffee, faith, and
fellowship. Whether you're
pregnant, have an infant/
toddler, you're invited to come! Sign up for
our mailing list at flocknote.com/smcyycc/momstots to keep updated.



Knights of Columbus

If you feel there is a need that the
Knights of Columbus can support,
please contact Larry Wagner at
403-249-0423 ext. 115.



St. Vincent de Paul

Our role is to reach out to
those who call us and meet
them where they are. If you are
in need of assistance, please call
403-249-0423 ext. 122.



Events & Announcements

CWL & Knights' Undie Sunday

Weekend of March 21-22

The Catholic Women's League (CWL) and Knights of Columbus will be having their second annual *Undie Sunday* on the weekend of March 21-22. Parishioners are encouraged to donate new underwear, socks, nursing bras, baby sleepers, diapers, diaper wipes, and gift cards for the clients of Elizabeth House, Drop-In Centre, and the RESET Society of Calgary. Collection bins will be available at the gathering area. Also, any monetary donations earmarked *Undie Sunday* will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Calgary Shaw Charity Classic Foundation.

Vacation Bible Camp 2020

For all young families: this summer's Vacation Bible Camp will be on July 6-10 and 13-17. All children ages 5-10 are encouraged to sign up! Registration: \$65. Please register your child at the parish office — we are open Mon-Thurs from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and until 4 p.m. on Fridays. If you have any further questions or would like to volunteer to help run the stations (teen and adult volunteers needed), contact Alison at astraface@saintmichael.ca or call 403-249-0423 ext. 125.

Sacred Silence: Access52 Lent Tour

Wednesday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m.

All are invited to this one-night mission with Michael Chiasson and Access52, designed to prepare, challenge, and inspire your Holy Week experience as we talk about the themes of peace, pain, suffering, and hope. When: Wednesday, April 1, following the 7 p.m. Mass. Reserve your complimentary tickets or check out the full tour schedule at www.lenttour.com.

Volunteers for this Year's Easter Eggstravaganza

Our 2nd annual Easter Eggstravaganza will be on Sunday, April 12, and we're hoping to build on last year's tremendous success. We've had overwhelming support in the past, and once again we're reaching out to you to help us ensure that this year's event is as exciting. We are looking for people who can help us at the tables for our crafts, games and egg hunt. The time commitment would be (approx.) from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. If you're able to help out, please email Christina at christinaav@icloud.com. Thank you in advance for your help in bringing the community together to celebrate the most holy day of the year.

Save the Date: Lenten Penitential Service

Our parish Lenten penitential service will be on Thursday, April 2 at 7 p.m. There will be several priests available to hear confessions—come and prepare yourself for Holy Week with the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Lent & Holy Week Schedule

Wednesdays during Lent

- Mass at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Stations of the Cross following the 7 p.m. Mass

Fridays during Lent

- Mass at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Stations of the Cross following the 7 p.m. Mass

Sacred Silence: Access52 Lent Tour

Wednesday, April 1
after the 7 p.m. Mass (All-ages retreat)

Lenten Penitential Service

Thursday, April 2 at 7 p.m.

Palm Sunday: April 5

Mass at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 5 p.m.

Holy Thursday: April 9

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7 p.m.

Good Friday: April 10

Liturgy at 10 a.m. & 3 p.m.

Holy Saturday: April 11

Easter Vigil at 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday: April 12

Mass at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 5 p.m.

What's On This Week

Monday, March 2:

ROOTS: 6:30 p.m.

Acts Bible Study: 7 p.m.

GriefShare: 7 p.m.

External Campus Planning Comm.: 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3:

ELL: 10 a.m.

RCIA: 7 p.m.

Interior Enhancement Comm.: 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4:

Men's Ministry: 6 a.m.

Knitting Ministry: 10 a.m.

Alpha: 6:30 p.m.

Mass & Stations of the Cross*: 7 p.m.

12-Step: 8 p.m.

Thursday, March 5:

Women's Ministry: 10 a.m. & 7 p.m.

UNITE Youth Night: 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 6:

Reconciliation: 8 a.m.

24-Hour Eucharistic Adoration: 9:30 a.m.

Moms & Tots: 9:45 a.m.

Mass & Stations of the Cross*: 7 p.m.

Confirmation Preparation: 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 7:

Baptism Preparation: 9 a.m.

Marian Group: 9:30 a.m.

Family Retreat: 12 p.m.

Reconciliation: 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 8:

Kids Kingdom: 8:50 a.m. & 10:50 a.m.

Altar Servers Training: 12 p.m.

Discovery Faith Study: 3 p.m.

Praise & Worship Night: 7 p.m.

**In addition to our normal Mass schedule*

Pastoral Care Masses

Amica (10 Aspenshire Drive SW)

3rd Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.

Cedars Villa (3330 8 Ave. SW)

Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Wentworth Court (5717 14 Ave. SW)

3rd Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

Wentworth Manor (5717 14 Ave. SW)

4th Tuesday at 3 p.m.



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 438-800-8739 and follow the prompt. Once you're in, text any amount to the same number—anytime.

TITHE.LY

Be a witness. Share your story.

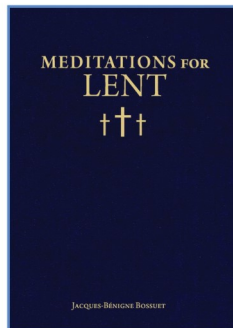
God wants you to be a blessing to others by sharing your personal testimony. By sharing how God has been at work in your life, you can encourage and edify others in their own faith journey. Your story could be exactly what someone else needs to hear right now. If you'd like to share your testimony, visit saintmichael.ca/witness.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

Meditations for Lent

by Jacques-Bénigne Bossuet



Dr. Christopher Blum has selected fifty remarkably powerful meditations from Bishop Bossuet's works that complement the daily readings at Mass during the Lenten season, thus offering to us the perfect companion for a thoughtful and fruitful Lent.

READ ON FORMED.ORG

POWERED BY THE AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

If you would like to receive short, catechetical weekly videos on the liturgy, join our Worship Wednesday Flocknote group at:

www.saintmichael.ca/worship

Please join in prayer for Catholic Education, particularly for each of the parish's four neighbouring Catholic school's intentions. The Parish will pray for each of them at the following Saturday 5 p.m. Mass:

1st Saturday: St. Michael • 2nd Saturday: John Costello •
3rd Saturday: St Joan of Arc • 4th Saturday: Guardian Angel

The Vocations Chalice

Will be presented to: Colleen and John Fitzpatrick
on Saturday, February 29 at the 5 p.m. Mass

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 **403-266-1234**.

Sharing Your Time & Talent

We have a number of ministries that could be strengthened by your involvement. If you feel that you have a gift to offer, visit our website at saintmichael.ca/volunteer and fill out the "*I Want to Help*" form. If you have any questions about volunteering in the parish, please contact Marvin Matthews, our Volunteer Coordinator, at mmatthews@saintmichael.ca or by calling 403-249-0423 ext. 158.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 29

9 a.m.: Luis Guerra †

5 p.m.: Intentions of Puerto-Gutierrez Family

Sunday, March 1: First Sunday of Lent

9 a.m.: Intentions of Tapuska Family

11 a.m.: For Everyone/St. Michael

5 p.m.: Intentions of Patrick Allen

Monday, March 2

9 a.m.: Basilio Moutinho †

Tuesday, March 3

7 p.m.: Kacper & Janina Haladyna †

Wednesday, March 4

9 a.m.: Alfredo Piro †

10 a.m.: (Cedars) Intentions of Tony Robinson

7 p.m.: Karl Schunicht †

Thursday, March 5

9 a.m.: Max Thum †

Friday, March 6

9 a.m.: Katica Valjan †

7 p.m.: Maria Fernandez †

Saturday, March 7

9 a.m.: Giovanni Straface †

5 p.m.: Trina Monsalve Lara †

Sunday, March 8: Second Sunday of Lent

9 a.m.: Joe Rino †

11 a.m.: For Everyone/St. Michael

5 p.m.: Adam & Wanda Gruszczynski †

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 contact Rosalie at 403-249-0423 ext. 124, or columbarium@saintmichael.ca.

Please Pray For:

Lourdes Abaun	Donald Estrada	Oscar Perez
Joanne Albertson	David Evans	Cindy Rude
Paz Alciso	Harry Fraser	Monica Rodzyniak
Wesley Almand	Hilda Ford	Geraldine Rogers
Annie Andal	Daniel Hickey	John Sterrett
Marilyn Arksey	Carol Huston	Morgan Thompson
Tony Arseneault	Lilly Kalmar	Isabel Umerez
Elizabeth Chandliss	Marilyn Kitteringham	Brian Van Kessel
Jinhui Cao	Gerard MacEachern	Perry Villeneuve
Leslie Choquette	Daniela Masek	Melissa Watson
Joyce Clark	Gerardo Navarro	Patricia Withers
Michelle Deschenes	Marian Palin	
Gloria Drayton	Wayne Parnell	
Sean Edwards	Angela Passarelli	

For the Soul of:

Cesar Tobias Ferrer

A View of Our Finances

Gifts to the Parish: February 2020		
	January	February (month to date)
<u>General collections</u>		
Collections	\$113,888	\$103,333
Operating Costs	\$135,217	\$126,210
Surplus (shortfall) YTD Operating Costs	-\$21,329	-\$22,877
<u>Central Fund Loan (Mortgage)</u>		
Building Fund Collections	\$23,186	\$18,200
Building Loan Interest Due (at 4.95%)	\$25,833	\$25,833
Surplus Mortgage Repayment or (shortfall)	-\$2,647	-\$7,633
<u>Current Loan Balance</u>	\$6,209,247	-
<u>Diocesan Annual Campaign</u>		
Together in Action Collections YTD		\$7,762
Together in Action Target		\$118,784
TIA Surplus (Shortfall)		
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	\$2,690	\$2,282

If you have any questions, please contact Director of Operations, Suzy Moutinho (smoutinho@saintmichael.ca) or Finance Council Chair, Michael McGee (michaeltmcgee0862@gmail.com)

St. Michael Catholic Community | 800 85 St. SW, Calgary, AB T3H 4C7 | 403-249-0423 | www.saintmichael.ca

Pray for our Seminarians

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

Contact us

Pastor Fr. John Nemanic
frjohn@saintmichael.ca

Associate Pastor Fr. Pilmaiken Lezano
frpilmaiken@saintmichael.ca

Deacon Art Beaubien
deaconart@saintmichael.ca

Director of Operations Suzy Moutinho
smoutinho@saintmichael.ca

Secretary Luisa Adams
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Youth Minister Nolan Conrad
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Ministry Support Coordinator Rosalie Geeraert
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Music Director Jim Howells
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Volunteer Coordinator Marvin Matthews
mmatthews@saintmichael.ca

Sacrament Coordinator Maureen Ross
mross@saintmichael.ca

Kids' Kingdom & Roots Alison Straface
astraface@saintmichael.ca

If you have any feedback or concerns, you can also use the online form at [saintmichael.ca/contact](https://www.saintmichael.ca/contact) (click the "feedback and concerns" button under the "Get in touch" section)



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary

Catholic Pastoral Centre
120 17 Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta T2S 2T2
Canada

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 29-MARCH 1, 2020

THE OUTDOOR WAY OF THE CROSS

Put it in your calendar: **Good Friday, April 10, at 9 am.** The stations begin at St. Mary's Cathedral.

LENTEN EVENTS & RESOURCES

We prepare ourselves to enter once again into Jesus' Paschal mystery and to renew it in our lives. Find Lenten events, reconciliation services, parish missions and various family resources to accompany your journey in this season of prayer and penance: catholicyycc.ca/lenet

ST. PATRICK'S FEAST DAY WITH BISHOP MCGRATTAN

The Irish Cultural Society (ICS) invites you to celebrate the Feast day of St. Patrick at St. Mary's Cathedral on Tuesday, **Mar. 17 at noon** with Bishop McGrattan. Following mass, a light community lunch will be served in the parish hall. Kindly bring a tray of sandwiches or baked goods to contribute to the lunch.

TRANSITIONS PROGRAM

The Transitions Program is a 15-week peer support program for those recently separated or divorced. The program began Tuesday, Feb. 18 at Sacred Heart Parish (1307 – 14 St. SW, Calgary) but will remain open until **Mar. 3.** Register at 403-218-5505 | alida.allen@calgarydiocese.ca

LENTEN RETREATS / MISSIONS

- **St. Patrick's Lenten Mission:** St. Patrick's in Calgary invites you to join Fr. Jerome, Fr. Cristino and Fr. Poul on a Lenten Series on "The 7 Last Words of Christ". When: **Thursdays in Lent, at 7:15 pm until 8 pm.**
- **Lenten Mission with St. Paul's, Airdrie** with Fr. Adrian Martens. When: Monday to Wednesday, **Mar. 9-11, at 7 pm** (start with Mass). Where: St. Paul's Church (1305 Main St., Airdrie).
- **Lenten Mission with St. Anthony's, Calgary** with Fr. Edmund Vargas. When: **Mar. 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 7:30 pm** (following 7 pm Mass). Where: St. Anthony's Church (5340 4 St SW, Calgary)
- **SFXC Young Adult Lenten Retreat** (18-35) at Camp Chestermere (1041 East Lakeview Rd., Chestermere, AB). When: **Friday, Mar. 20** (all day). To register, contact 587-232-9728 | sfxcc@calgarydiocese.ca | sfxc.ca
- **St. Agnes' Lenten Mission:** St. Agnes invites you to their parish Lenten Mission with speaker Fr. Daniel Gurnick. When: **Monday (Mar. 22) to Wednesday (Mar. 24) - at 7 pm.** All are welcome!

BRUNCH WITH THE BISHOP

The Calgary Catholic Medical Association (CCMA) invites you to have brunch with Bishop McGrattan at the Canmore Opera House at Heritage Park (1900 Heritage Dr SW, Calgary). When: **Saturday, Mar. 7.** This event is open to everyone. Tickets: \$30

each. For any questions or to register, contact catholic-medyycc@gmail.com

WOMEN' RETREATS

- **Religious Vocation retreat for single women (16-35) at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish** (7624-39 Ave. NW Calgary). When: **Mar. 7.** Contact Sr. Terry Smith at 403-228-3623 | terry@fcjcentre.ca
- **Totus Tuus for Young Women (18-45)** at the Divine Mercy Centre (15206 Township Road 262, Calgary) for a life deeply rooted to Mary, the Mother of Mercy. When: **Mar. 8 at 2-4 pm.** Contact 587-755-1019.

FAMILY COMPASS

Schoenstatt Apostolic Movement of Calgary invites Spanish-speaking couples to *Family Compass*, a series of workshops designed for couples who want to enrich their relationship and connect on a deeper level with God and their family. The series begins on Saturday, **Mar. 21 at 6:30 pm** happening at St. Michael Catholic Community (800 85 Street SW, Calgary). Visit saintmichael.ca/faithformation

FAITH AND FUN FLAMES GAME

Join Bishop McGrattan and the Catholic Community in the Diocese of Calgary at a hockey game - Calgary Flames vs Tampa Bay Lightning. The first one hundred purchasers will be entered into a draw for an autographed hockey stick. For each ticket sold we raise \$5 for the Diocesan youth ministry. There will be a pre-game meet & greet with Bishop McGrattan. When: **Saturday, Mar. 21.** Cost: \$56 (discounted tickets). Get tickets at flamesgroups.com/faithandfun

LIVE-IN RETREAT

You are invited to a Live-In weekend retreat to grow in faith with Jesus. When: **Mar. 27-29** near Okotoks (starts Friday evening and ends Sunday afternoon). To register, please contact calgarylivein@telus.net | 403-239-0979. If you have attended your own Live-In, please consider serving at the retreat.

JOIN US AT BISHOP'S DINNER

Join friends, family and the Catholic community for the 20th Bishop's Dinner. When: **Friday, May 8,** at Telus Convention Centre (120 9 Ave SE., Calgary). Funds raised will support the St. Francis Xavier Chaplaincy Program and the continued spiritual formation of young adults throughout our Diocese. More information: bishopsdinner.ca.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul St. Michael's Conference 2019 Report to St. Michael Catholic Community

The Mission of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is to live the Gospel message by serving disadvantaged individuals within our parish boundaries and beyond with respect, justice, and joy ... regardless of creed, ethnicity, or point of view. Members meet regularly to pray, deepen their understanding of the Society, share ideas, discuss challenges encountered in serving the poor, and develop fellowship. We define **the "poor"** as individuals who face a constant challenge to live with dignity, such as persons who are unemployed/underemployed, disabled, depressed, living with violence, drug or alcohol addiction, isolated, and / or unable to cope with daily challenges for a variety of reasons (e.g., bereavement).

Our funding is entirely derived from the parishioners of St Michael Catholic Community and other local benefactors who donate with generosity, kindness, and thoughtfulness.

We currently have 35 active members serving in various capacities (e.g., home visitor, food purchaser, phone coordinator, banking director, or special advisor). In the past year, our volunteers contributed an estimated 2447 hours in serving the needs of the less fortunate in our community.

Primary Activity

During 2019, volunteers visited **289** homes, providing support to **702** adults and **508** children (including Christmas Hampers). We provide food hampers, and/or assist with rent, utilities, or other urgent needs as required. A significant increase (> 70%) in requests for rental and utilities assistance was noted in the past year, a symptom of the prolonged economic downturn in our city. Many of our new callers are referred to us through the City of Calgary 211 help line or other social support agencies. We continue to refer individuals or families to other community agencies better equipped to meet ongoing needs when the situation requires expertise exceeding that of our volunteers.

We welcome referrals from anyone who is aware of members of our parish community who could potentially benefit from our services. Please contact (403) 249-0423, extension 122 if you know of anyone in need of support.

2019 Christmas Hamper Program

The Society provides financial support for the **Christmas Hamper** program, which served 598 individuals, including 285 children. On December 17th, volunteers helped prepare and deliver 176 hampers — thirty (30) of which served residents within the boundaries of St. Bernard parish, as has been our practice for many years. Eighty-two hampers included gifts for 196 children, donated through the Angel Tree program.

The total value of the Christmas Hamper program was estimated at \$47,216, which comprised cash directly expended, as well as donated food and gifts. The value of each hamper is consistently estimated at about \$78 - \$80 per person. About half of the needed items are donated and the remainder is funded through contributions specifically directed to SSVP for the Christmas hamper program, and throughout the year.

Over 360 volunteers participated in the Christmas Hamper program. Further, we endeavored to comply with the Diocese of Calgary's Vulnerable Sector policy, which necessitated a revision to our prior approach of assigning individuals to deliver hampers. While it is unfortunate that we've lost some volunteers due to this revision, we are confident that in doing so, we demonstrate our commitment in ensuring the safety of both our volunteers and those we serve. The support of parish administration, office staff, Hamper Committee volunteers, students and staff from parish schools, and all parishioners involved in the program is gratefully acknowledged and sincerely valued.

Once again, the amazing generosity of St Michael's parishioners helped the Society not only meet expenses related to the Christmas Hamper program but ensured that we will have adequate funds to help us meet ongoing demand throughout the coming year. We are very grateful to the Knights of Columbus for directing the proceeds from pancake breakfasts to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, as well as to all individual benefactors who support us not only at Christmas, but throughout the year.

Financial Report

Finances	2019	2018	2017	2016
Total Revenue	\$125,026.72	\$100,743.38	\$79,897.41	\$88,574.82
Total Expenses	\$108,571.15	\$75,572.11	\$96,010.48	\$101,576.71
(Deficit)/Surplus	\$16,455.57	\$25,171.07	(\$16,113.07)	(\$13,001.89)

Disbursements

Bank Service Charges	183.05
Bus Tickets	340.00
Christmas Hampers/Gift Cert.	32,467.15
Client Clothing	308.02
Client Household Items	60.00
Client Medical	176.25
Client Other	3,625.15
Client Rent	35,955.10
Client Utility	7,591.68
Food Purchases for Larder	15,196.81
Gift card expenses	4,620
Insurance	115.74
Member Training	150.00
Paid to St Bernard SVVP	390.00
Paid to West Particular	5,000.00
SSVP Supplies	372.20
Twinning	<u>2,020.00</u>
TOTAL:	108,571.15

“Make it a practice to judge persons and things in the most favorable light at all times and under all circumstances.”

“Go to the poor: you will find God.”

St. Vincent de Paul

Please contact **the Society of St Vincent de Paul** at (403) 249-0423, extension 122 or at ssvp@saintmichael.ca if you have questions or would like to join our Ministry. We would welcome new members!