



Saint Michael Catholic Community



800 85 Street SW | 403-249-0423 | parish@saintmichael.ca | December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

Rejoice Sunday!

This Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday, we light three candles, two purple and one pink, of the four candles of the Advent wreath. The pink candle of the Advent wreath symbolizes our joy of realizing that Christmas is at hand.

Our reason for great rejoicing is Christ's presence in our midst which began on the first Christmas Day. We see and feel Christ's presence in people whose lives reflect His love, mercy and forgiveness. Although harder to see and understand, God is also with us in our pain and suffering. Our readings today urge us to move forward as we rejoice in the signs of God's presence in our midst. And we are called upon to live as a sign of Christ's presence in our daily life, in the midst of our difficulties and the challenges that we face in our journey of faith. As we hasten towards Christmas, let us offer the gift of Christ's presence to our loved ones as well as to those who most need our love this season. Let us be more generous with our gift-giving, knowing that we give on behalf of Him who gave up his life for our sake.

We give the gift of Christ's presence even with gifts that come free for our sharing: the gift of listening, the gift of affection, the gift of laughter, the gift of solitude, the gift of favor, the gift of a written note, the gift of a compliment or the gift of a cheerful disposition. As a community, we share the gift of Christ's presence through the gift of hospitality to newcomers, the gift of acceptance to those who feel alienated or isolated or the gift of recognition to those who always do the "behind the scenes" work. We have also lined up activities that would help share the giftedness of our life, including the Christmas Hampers and other opportunities to help those in need.

As Christmas approaches, let us share the giftedness of our life that has been redeemed by God's becoming human in Jesus Christ. We have to realize that this period of the year that is considered the happiest can also be the lowest point for a growing number of people. Those of us who are struggling with difficulties and challenges at this time of the year understand that the approach of the Christmas season can make our life more stressful or even more painful.

The Christmas story is not entirely a pleasant one. The story that changed our human history is also made up of violent events and painful decisions for a lot of people involved in our history of salvation. The death of the prophets of the Old Testament, the martyrdom of John the Baptist and the slaughter of the Holy Innocents are also embroiled in the complicated drama of God's becoming human in Jesus Christ.

The joy of Christmas is rooted in sharing Christ's love and presence with others in community. The birth of the Emmanuel, which means God is with us, highlights the continuing presence of God in our world through the life we live as followers of Christ.

Fredmund@saintmichael.ca.

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

Healing Lines

Myth: Redemption only comes through suffering. **Reality:** Personal suffering can be an occasion for our own growth, but it is never the cause of growth. In other words, suffering is not necessarily redemptive. It embitters some persons rather than urging them towards growth. We can be redeemed in our suffering but we are never redeemed because of our suffering. God does not require any one or any groups of persons to pay a demanding price in order to purchase redemption. God grants wholeness and healing as free gifts of peace. For women in the church, the revolutionary theology of the Cross of Christ, a witness to His active choice to take a stand against the injustice in the world, has been distorted into a reactionary theology of suffering, a justification for the passive and unprotesting acceptance of their own unjust victimization.

Mass Schedule for this Weekend

Saturday, December 11, 5 p.m. – Fr. Edmund Vargas

Sunday, December 12, 9 a.m. – Fr. Edmund Vargas

Sunday, December 12, 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. – Fr. Raul Hernandez

“The Promise” Advent Mission

Join Michael Chiasson and the Access52 Team for a one-night mission designed to prepare and inspire your Advent experience on Wednesday, December 15 at 7 p.m. The night will be filled with inspiration, talks, stories and music. Free event. All ages welcome.

Stocking Tree

Fill a pair of socks with essentials for daily living such as: underwear, mitts, gloves, toques, Kleenex packets, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, bandages, shampoo, razors, shaving cream and, if you have room, candy bars. Hang the stockings onto the Stocking Tree in the Main Sanctuary. These stockings will be delivered to the Drop-In Centre on Monday, December 20. Thanks for your generosity!

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.

Christmas Hamper Outreach 2021

Hamper night Tuesday, December 14

Thanks to a team of dedicated volunteers working behind the scenes, Christmas Hampers will be distributed on December 14. SSVP is working to meet the needs and deliver hampers while maintaining the safety of our volunteers and recipients. Many thanks to all who have contributed Angel Tree gifts, and monetary donations. SSVP has now purchased all required food from our wholesaler and if you have not yet contributed but would like to support this outreach, we would welcome your support for this in the form of monetary donations. Donations to SSVP may be dropped in the collection basket, placed in a green SSVP donation envelope and dropped off at the church in the SSVP locked box located in our collection bin, or made online: [Donate Now – St. Michael Catholic Community \(canadahelps.org\)](#) - Please select Society of St. Vincent de Paul (including Christmas Hampers) in the “Funds” drop-down menu. Tax receipts will be issued in January 2022 for any monetary donations received prior to December 31.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to assist with assembly and delivery this upcoming week. If you cannot make your assigned time, please email hampervolunteers2021@gmail.com.

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). We continue preparing for this year’s Christmas Hamper distribution.

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.

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.



Christmas at St. Michael's

Friday, December 24 Christmas Eve

Daily Mass at 9 a.m.
Masses at 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m.
(Livestreamed at 8 p.m.)
Parish office: 9:30 a.m. to noon

Saturday, December 25 Christmas Day

Masses at 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
(Livestreamed at 11 a.m.)
Parish office closed

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

Masses at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 5 p.m.
Parish office closed

Tuesday, December 28 Feast of the Holy Innocents

Daily Mass at 6 p.m.
Parish office closed

Wednesday, December 29 Feast of the Holy Family

Daily Mass at 9 a.m.
Parish office: 9:30 a.m. to noon

Thursday, December 30

Daily Mass at 9 a.m.
Parish office: 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Friday, December 31 New Year's Eve

Daily Mass at 9 a.m.
Vigil Mass at 5 p.m.
Parish office: 9:30 a.m. to noon

Saturday, January 1 New Year's Day

**Solemnity of Mary, the
Holy Mother of God**
Masses at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 5 p.m.
Parish office closed

Sunday, January 2 Epiphany of the Lord

Masses at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 5 p.m.
Parish office closed

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**.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 11

5 p.m.: Intentions of Elaine Atkinson

Sunday, December 12, 3rd Sunday of Advent

9 a.m.: Brian Roach †
11 a.m.: For all Parishioners
5 p.m.: Intentions of Gloria Thomas

Tuesday, December 14, Memorial, St. John of the Cross

6 p.m.: Joseph Rukovina †

Wednesday, December 15

9 a.m.: Intentions of the Costa family

Thursday, December 16

9 a.m.: Frank Grebenc †

Friday, December 17

9 a.m.: Sheila Foster †

Saturday, December 18

5 p.m.: Intentions of Evelyn Morgan

Sunday, December 19, 4th Sunday of Advent

9 a.m.: Jean Abt †
11 a.m.: For all Parishioners
5 p.m.: Giovanna Ledda †

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.

Please Pray For:

Casey
Coral
Rick Hagel
William Hill
Sierra Knight
Norma Padolina
Lawrence Raffin

For the Soul of:

Roberto Da Silva

Pray for our Seminarians

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

Contact us

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

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A View of Our Finances

Gifts to the Parish: September 2021			
	August	September	October
<u>General Collections</u>			
Collections	\$82,649	\$80,777	\$91,499
Operating Costs	\$70,964	\$69,959	\$66,834
Surplus (shortfall) YTD Operating Costs	\$11,685	\$10,818	\$24,665
<u>Central Fund Loan (Mortgage)</u>			
Building Fund Collections	\$16,109	\$11,467	\$16,939
Building Loan Interest — none			
Surplus Mortgage Repayment or (shortfall)			
<u>Current Loan Balance</u>	\$5,415,588	\$5,395,519	\$5,375,581
<u>Diocesan Annual Campaign</u>			
Together in Action Collections YTD	\$39,958	\$42,245	\$46,901
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	\$18,739	\$19,559	\$29,044

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