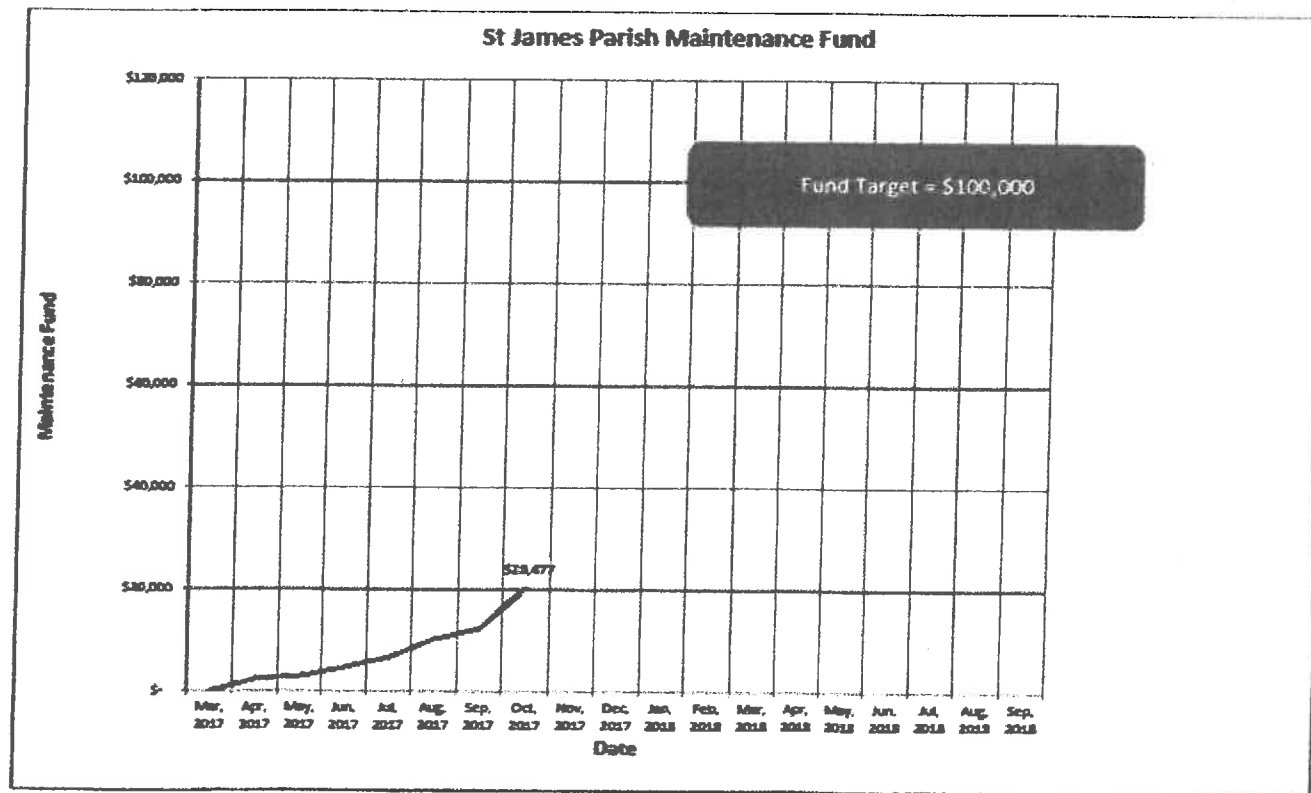


To keep the parish informed of our significant progress toward correcting our working capital deficit, and toward building a fund to be used for the future maintenance of our church, hall, and rectory, we present these charts.



St. James the Greater Church

5504 - 20 St. S.W. Calgary, Alberta T3E 1R2
 Ph: 403 243 2680 Fax: 403 287 1273 www.stjamescalgary.org

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

Mass Schedule

Saturday

5:00pm

Sunday

8:30am, 10:00am, 12:00

Weekday Mass

Tuesday thru Friday

9:00am

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday 9:30am—10:30am

Reconciliation

Tuesday thru Friday 8:30am

Saturday 4:00pm-4:30pm

or by appointment

Office Hours

Monday thru Friday

9:00am—3:00pm

*Closed 12:00-12:30

Did you know?

The Council of Trent, in its teaching on confession of sins, followed St. Jerome, and used the image of a doctor of medicine who cannot help the patient because the sick person is too ashamed to show the physician the wound. Without this exposure of the wound, the doctor cannot apply the proper healing medicine. God acts as a physician to probe our hearts and by the inner voice of conscience reveals to us the first steps in our spiritual health.

*Foundations in Faith
2006 RCL Publishing
Cincinnati, Ohio*

Pastor—Fr. Edmund Vargas efvargas@shaw.ca **Deacon**—Dc. Bruce Jurgens bruce.jurgens@calgarydiocese.ca
Secretary—Brenda Lerner office@stjamescalgary.org **Music Director**—Tom Linahan tglinahan@gmail.com
Parish Screening Coordinator—Lindsay Flynn pvsc@stjamescalgary.org **Bookkeeper**—Anna McKiernan

Parish Council—Nick Fader, Ralph Walicki, Daryl Engelman, Sheryl Schmitt, David Odongi, Elvira Castaneda, Ted Valentine, Kyle Hagan, Arkangelo Uyin **Finance Committee**—Neale Johannesson, Scott Iredale, Terry Gonsalves **Children's Liturgy**—Becky Elder **Pastoral Care**—Stephanie Davis **Altar Servers**—Jennifer Brosseau **Food Bank**—Vivian Moody **RCIA**—Deacon Bruce Jurgens, Allison Hay, Karen Serafini **Sacramental Preparation**—Deacon Bruce Jurgens **Baptism Preparation**—Dustin & Eloisa Greenwald **Maintenance Committee**—Arnie Funke, Richard Belzil, Al Meier, Tony Zuzic, Richard Roe **Knights of Columbus**—Tim Cove **Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers**—Colleen Cove, Richard Belzil, Zita Fulawka, David Odongi **Hospitality**—Marie Funke, Angela Nagy, Florence Dickson **Sudanese Community**—Martin Onon **Syrian Refugee Committee**—Pat Barry **Ushers**—Al Meier **Social Committee/Funeral Lunches**—Zita Fulawka, Teresa Schubert **Art & Environment Committee**—Lin Samson, Anita Zyla **Sudanese Choir**—David Odongi **Library**—Colleen Montgomery **Sandwich Days**—Vicki Oliphant **Christian Meditation**—Engeline Piet **Landscaping Committee**—Evelyn Bond, Mary Corns **Liturgy Committee**—Tom Linahan, Stephanie Davis, Catherine Peet, Midge Chartier, Ted Valentine, Michael Hudec, Colleen deSouza, Anita Zyla, Vivian Moody, Al Meier

Pastoral Notes

By Fr. Edmund

Our Baptismal Character

The significance of St. John the Baptist in our history of salvation is that he heralded the coming of Christ by proclaiming a baptism of repentance. His baptism is the forerunner of our Christian baptism which gives us the Christian life. Baptism leaves an indelible mark in the soul of the baptized, which we refer to as the baptismal character. Baptism characterizes the baptized, setting us apart, giving us the mandate to share with others the faith we have received. We are marked with the sign of faith.

In our parish, baptisms are usually celebrated on Sundays within Mass. The sacrament is celebrated on the day that Christ rose from the dead and when the Church community assembles in worship and praise. It begins the process of integrating the baptized into the community which reaches its fulfillment when we share the Eucharist. Baptism is the first step of a three-step process of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist which are also referred to as the Sacraments of Initiation. It is in the Eucharist (at Mass) that we share full communion with the Church.

Baptism, through the renewal of our baptismal promises, reminds us that we shape our lives by the choices we make. The renewal of our baptismal promises gives us the opportunity to reflect on the direction of our lives and to strengthen our resolve to be Christians. The words of the rite are richly symbolic. They ask us to choose between slavery to sin and the freedom of being God's children, between darkness and light, between the glamour of evil and the simplicity of truth. Ultimately, they ask us to choose between Satan and Christ.

We often refer to baptism as a christening which means joining to Christ. Through baptism we are united to Christ. We become Christians, members of the Church. The original meaning of the word "Christ" is anointed one. In the Scriptures, someone chosen for a special role such as priest, prophet or king was anointed with a fragrant olive oil. When the followers of Jesus eventually recognized him as the Messiah, they began to call him Christ, which means God's anointed one. In baptism, we are also anointed with Holy Chrism to express our unity with Christ and to show that we are called to share in Christ's work as priest, prophet and king.

2018 Donation Envelopes—available now at the back of the church. Special collection boxes are also available for those who use pre -authorized withdrawal. If you do not have a box but would like one, please let the office know. Also, if the address on the box is not correct, please advise the office in order to keep our records accurate.

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 12
9:00am Angela Shegda—RIP

Wednesday, December 13
9:00am S/Intention of Sharon Jeanson

Thursday, December 14
9:00am Bert Salter—RIP

Friday, December 15
9:00am Hugh Leiper—RIP

Saturday, December 16
5:00pm Jean Doucette—RIP

Sunday, December 17
8:30am Jose' Carmelotes—RIP
10:00am St. James Parish
12:00pm S/Intention of Kelly Bond

Stained Glass Window Fundraiser Update

Our Wine & Cheese/Auction Fundraiser, hosted by Lisa Frehlich and her collaborators, last December 2 has raised enough money (\$11,755.00) to cover the first three windows above the altar. The goal is to replace our old windows with energy-efficient ones and enhance them with stained glass inserts. With the maintenance fund depleted by the last renovation, help is needed in financing this initiative. While new energy efficient windows will save us money on electricity, the stained glass will also improve the spiritual feel of the church for many years to come. Current pricing for stained glass before installation ranges from \$150/sq ft for abstract art to over \$400/sq ft. for detailed artwork. This does not include the cost of replacing the window with new energy efficient ones. You can designate your donation to either new windows or stained glass. This initiative may take months or years, depending on our fund availability. You certainly can help us enrich our faith experience by sponsoring a window (\$1000+) or donating funds towards a partial window. Dedications can be made to individuals, couples, families, or *in memoriam* of the deceased or the unborn. Tax receipts are available for cash donations. We are also applying for the Non-Profit Energy Efficiency Transition (NEET) program to obtain detailed energy audits and energy management plans (EMPs). The program is run by the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) of the Alberta government. And it would subsidize up to \$12000 to cover the said energy audit. For details, you can contact Fr Edmund.

Penitential Service for Advent is on Friday, December 15, 7:30 pm with several priests available for individual confessions after the common Penitential Service. Penitential Rites are also celebrated in the following parishes: Sainte Famille (Dec 13), Sacred Heart (Dec 13), St Bonaventure (December 14), St Cecilia (Dec 15), St Patrick (Dec 15), St Albert (Dec 19), Holy Spirit (Dec 19) and St Michael (Dec 21). Priests are also available for individual confessions every Wednesday, 7:30-8:30 pm, in all parishes in the diocese.

Advent/Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve—5:00pm & 7:00pm
Christmas Day—8:30am, 10:00am, 12:00
New Year's Day— 8:30am, 10:00am, 12:00

There will be no Mass in the evening on Dec 31. Mass on New Year's Day, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Weekday Masses will continue as per our regular Mass schedule for Dec 26-29 & Jan 2-5 at 9:00am.

Please pray for the sick:

Aidan Hanes, Claire Oliphant, Harry Piet, Shirley Valentine, Mariah Lerner, Betty Harrison, Rolande Parel, Laura Restrepo, Gabriel Serpas, Tony Doucette

Christmas Ministry Sign-Up Sheet for the Christmas and New Year's Masses can be found at the back of the church along the west wall.

Mission Mexico – The loonie collection this weekend supports the Church and its mission activities in Mexico in conjunction with the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12.

Last Sunday's Donations

Maintenance Fund	\$450.00
TIA	\$580.00
Children's Collection	\$23.65
Flowers	\$30.00
Regular	\$5044.60
PAPS*	1195.00
	<u>\$6239.60</u>

Target \$6725.00 Shortfall: \$485.40

2017 TIA Goal: \$28655 TIA to date: \$24340
Thank you for your generosity!

This Week at St. James

Monday	Christian Meditation	7:30pm
Tuesday	Cenacle	9:30am
	School Christmas Concert	7:00pm
Wednesday	Choir	7:30pm
	Reconciliation	7:30pm
Thursday	Regnum Christi Moms	10:00am
Friday	Bridge	1:00pm
	Penitential Celebration	7:30pm

Food Bank Coordinator Needed—The role of Food Bank Coordinator will be vacant as of January 1, 2018. It is imperative that we find a new coordinator as soon as possible. We thank Vivian Moody for her involvement as coordinator for the past 3 years. Contact the office for more information.

Flowers for Advent & Christmas —As we are now entering the season of Advent we will be adorning the altar with poinsettias. In years past, we have asked parishioners to donate plants. However, this year we have pre-ordered our poinsettias to make it easier for the Arts & Environment team to plan and decorate the church. Flower donation envelopes can be found at the church entrances and in the pews. Your monetary donations are greatly appreciated.

Last Call for Christmas Hampers—If you or someone you know could use a Christmas hamper, please let the office know by Monday, **December 11th**. Thank you to all parishioners who so generously provided gifts for the children whose families will receive hampers this year. Volunteers will be needed to help deliver the Christmas Hampers on Monday, December 18 between 6:00-8:00pm. If you can help, please be at the parish hall at 6pm that evening. Adults only please.

Giving Tree to Remembrance Tree... The tree next to the Baptistry which we used for the tags for our gifts for our Hamper families is now a Remembrance Tree. Families are encouraged to hang mementos of loved ones who have passed away. We have taken the liberty of putting the memorial cards of our loved ones whose Funerals were held at this church or officiated by Fr Edmund in other places. We can remember them in our prayers this season! And may they rest in peace!