



**ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**5504—20 ST. SW**  
**CALGARY, ALBERTA**  
**T3E 1R2**  
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**PASTOR**

Rev. Edmund Vargas  
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**DEACON**

Rev. Mr. Bruce Jurgens  
bruce.jurgens@calgarydiocese.ca

**SECRETARY**

Brenda Lerner  
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**MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Tom Linahan

**PARISH SCREENING COORDINATOR**

Lindsay Flynn  
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**CARETAKER**

Bobby Georgopoulos

**BOOKKEEPER**

Anna McKiernan

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**OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday to Friday**  
9:00am—3:00pm  
Closed 12:00-12:30

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**MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday**  
5:00pm

**Sunday**

8:30am 10:00am  
12:00noon

**Weekday Masses**  
Tuesday thru Friday  
9:00am

**Eucharistic Adoration**  
Fridays 9:30-10:30am

**Reconciliation**  
Saturdays 4:00-4:30  
or by request

**December 25, 2016**  
**Christmas—The Nativity of the Lord**

**Today, we celebrate the good news of our salvation:  
the birth of Jesus Christ as one of us, a human being.**

God has always shown his love for us in numerous ways: through the beauty of creation and the love of our families and friends. Today, he shows that love in a very special way: in the birth of his beloved Son into our world – God's gift to all of us!

Isaiah speaks to us today of the beauty of the one who brings us glad tidings: Jesus coming to tell of God's love. Hebrews goes further, describing Jesus as the one who fully reveals the depths of God's love for humanity. Finally, the Gospel reminds us that Jesus is the very Word of God, the one from the beginning – God born into human history.



*Pastoral Notes by Fr. Edmund*  
**What really matters?**

The horrific event of Hiroshima in 1945 ushered in the nuclear era. But what is surprising about the coming of the nuclear era, like so many earth-shaking events, is that its origin was hardly noticed. Indeed, big things begin in small ways. The nuclear era began in the brain of Albert Einstein when he discovered the special theory of relativity ( $E=mc^2$ ). The only external sign of it was a stare of wonder, probably followed by a muttering of "Aha!"

Today we celebrate the event with far more impact on the history of humanity than any scientific discovery or technical invention or artistic achievement. By any reckoning, God-becoming-human is such an impossible event that only God can make possible. The farthest the human imagination had ever gone in that direction was to surmise, as in the case of Greek mythology, that the gods could occasionally come down from their Olympus and held a conversation with a human or manifest themselves in some other way. Today's celebration is something of a completely different order. Here we are speaking of God, not the gods, but the only true God, the Infinite, the All-powerful, embracing our human nature in the form of a powerless baby.

Yet this event passed practically unnoticed. Only Mary and Joseph witnessed it. It happened in a damp and dirty cave which served as refuge for animals. The Child was placed in a manger where animals took their food. The Saviour came into our world in circumstances we would consider foul and uncomfortable. Later, a handful of shepherds were informed by angels and came to pay homage to Jesus.

Why did God so arrange things that His Son should come to us in such anonymity, obscurity and poverty? Perhaps, God wanted his son to identify with the homeless and destitute who pass their nights in shelters, under bridges or sidewalks. Perhaps, he wanted to warn us that material comfort and prosperity should not be our chief goal in life and that there are other things which really matter.

Looking at Jesus asleep in a manger, let us ask ourselves today and all the days of our lives: what should really matter in our lives? Christmas is God's answer to that question. It is an answer in flesh and blood, and it is called Emmanuel, God-is-with-us. To be with God is ultimately the only thing that matters. For he is our peace, our joy, our everything.



 **Mass Intentions**

**Tuesday, December 27**

9:00am RIP—Stanley DeLorey

**Wednesday, December 28**

9:00am RIP—Jeanne Hannan

**Thursday, December 29**

9:00am RIP—Mike Breggazi

**Friday, December 30**

9:00am Special Intention of Ashlynn Lerner

**Saturday, December 31**

5:00pm RIP—Mike Dunphy

**Sunday, January 1**

8:30am Special Intention of Rita Canie

10:00am RIP—Elizabeth Hall

12:00 St James Parish



**Please pray for the sick:**

Claire Oliphant, Mariah Lerner, Cameron Gibson,  
Aidan Hanes, Harry Piet, Shirley Valentine,  
James Wilson Jr., Betty Harrison, Renee Brassard  
Stan Czarnacki, Jean Doucette, Margaret McKague

**And for those who have died:**

Elizabeth Hall, Georgina Georgopoulos, Fred Phillips,  
Abiem Kuol Abiem, Adlan Wani, James Harris,  
Mary Hriskevich, John Kubik

**Welcome** to all visitors and new parishioners! We invite unregistered parishioners to complete a registration form found on our website or near the entrances to the church. Complete the form and drop it off at the parish office or in the collection basket. If you have requested donation envelopes, they can be found inside the hall. If you prefer to use pre-authorized withdrawal, forms can be found at the SW entrance or at the office.

**Come Pray with Us...**

**Rosary**—8:30am before weekday Masses

**Divine Mercy Cenacle**—9:30am

on the 1st Wednesday of the month

**Marian Cenacle**—9:30am on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th  
Wednesdays of the month



*On behalf of Fr. Edmund, Brenda, Tom, Bobby, Lindsay and Anna, we wish you and your family a very joy-filled Christmas and a blessed New Year!*



### Weekly Schedule

Monday	No Christian Meditation (will resume Jan 9)	
Tuesday	Mass	9:00am
Wednesday	Mass	9:00am
Thursday	Mass	9:00am
Friday	Mass Adoration	9:00am 9:30am
	No Sandwich Day	



### Christmas/New Year's Schedule

#### **Christmas Eve Masses: 5:00pm & 7:00pm**

*(Carols will be sung prior to the 7:00 Mass beginning at 6:30.)*

#### **Christmas Day Masses: 8:30am, 10:00am, 12noon**

#### **New Year's Eve: 5:00pm**

#### **New Year's Day: 8:30am, 10:00am, 12 noon**

### Last Sunday Donations

Children's Collection	\$51.60
TIA	\$415.00
Food Bank	\$1079.40
Mission Mexico	\$80.00
Regular	\$5146.25
PAPS*	<u>\$1058.00</u>
Total	\$6204.25

\*Pre-Authorized Payment System

2016 TIA Goal as Set by Diocese: \$27,583.

TIA total to date: \$27,629.

*Thank you for your generosity!*

### Holiday Office Hours

December 23—Closed at noon

December 26 & 27 - Closed

December 28 & 29—regular hours 9-3

December 30—Closed at noon

January 2—Closed

Regular office hours resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

### Christmas Hampers

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus, St James School, St. James Court, and to the many parishioners who contributed to the Christmas Hampers or volunteered in their assembly, distribution and delivery. Thank you also to all those who donated gifts - 84 children received gifts with their food hampers this Christmas! Thanks to your generosity we were able to deliver 60 hampers within our area. We saw many happy faces as we delivered their Christmas hampers on Monday evening!

### FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

As 2016 draws to a close, the Finance Committee would like to update the parish regarding the church renovations and the current financial status of St. James Parish.

First, the church renovations are now complete, and all suppliers and contractors have been paid. The renovations have resulted in a very beautiful and functional church that will serve the parish well for many years. While the renovation costs went approximately 15% over budget, the renovations were completed without the parish going into debt. At the same time, as a result of the renovation cost overrun, the parish's working capital has been reduced to nearly zero. Any significant unexpected expense would create a very serious problem for our parish.

In Alberta, donations to a registered charity such as St. James Parish provide very attractive tax incentives to the donor. The first \$200 in donations receives a combined federal/provincial tax credit of 25 per cent. Any amount in excess of \$200 receives a combined credit of 50%. The tax credit reduces a taxpayer's amount owing or increases the amount being refunded. As a result, a donation of \$2,000 only costs the donor \$1,050 with the federal and Alberta tax credits making up the difference!

Because of the lack of working capital in the parish accounts, and to take advantage of the tax incentives available for charitable donations, we encourage any parishioners with the ability to do so to consider making a year-end donation to the parish. As always, your generosity is very much appreciated.

A Financial Report for 2016 will be presented in the new year.

-Neale Johannesson, Terry Gonsalves, Scott Iredale

*\*Please make cheque out to St James Church and indicate that the donation is for the "Maintenance Fund"*

## Sacraments

### Baptism:

Please call the office to coordinate an interview and registration. A baptism workshop is required.

### Marriage:

At least 6 months notice is required. A Marriage Preparation Course is also required. Visit [www.calgarydiocese.ca](http://www.calgarydiocese.ca) for options.

## Mark your Calendars!

\*Registration for **First Reconciliation** preparation classes will begin in February 2017. Orientation will be Sunday, March 5 at 11:00 in the hall. Classes will be on Sundays March 12, 19, 26 & April 2 at 11:00am (between the 10:00 and 12:00 Mass). One parent must accompany their child to each class. The Celebration of First Reconciliation will take place along with the Parish Penitential Service on Tuesday, April 4, 2017. First Reconciliation is open to all children who have been baptized and are in grade 3 or higher. More details to follow.

\*Registration for **First Communion** preparation classes will begin in March 2017. Classes will run every Sunday from April 23 to June 11th from 11:00am-12:00n. One parent must accompany their child to each class. The Celebration of First Communion will be June 18, 2017. First Communion is open to any child who has been baptized and is in grade 2 or higher. More details to follow.

**Confirmation** class registration will begin in June 2017 in order to prepare for an early start with classes at the beginning of September. One parent must accompany their child to each class. Confirmation is celebrated every 2 years at St. James and therefore the Sacrament is open to children in grade 6 or higher. Celebration of Confirmation with Bishop Henry will be Friday, November 3, 2017 at 7:00pm.

**\*Watch the bulletin or check the website for more details as they become available. Registration forms will be available closer to the registration months through the office and online.**

**Camp Cadicasu** is running a winter program

**January 1 – 7, 2017.** They are a traditional Catholic children's camp for kids ages 8 – 15 years in Kananaskis (30 minutes from Calgary). This is the perfect way for youth to enjoy the school break! Campers spend the whole week together having fun in the wilderness connecting to the Creator and each other. **Financial assistance is available.** ([www.cadicasu.com](http://www.cadicasu.com))

**St Joseph's Sunday Missals** are available in the hall for \$4.00 each.

**2017 Donation Envelopes** are available in the hall. If you do not have a box and would like one, please let the office know. Also if there are errors on the label, please advise the office so that our information remains up-to-date. Thank you!



Caring response to the lonely, shut-ins, the sick and dying to help in meeting their spiritual needs. Please notify the parish office so that a visit and/or Sacrament of the Sick may be arranged.

**St James Knights of Columbus** are proud to be sponsors of the **Basketball Free Throw Competition** open to all boys and girls ages 9 to 14. Age eligibility is determined by the age of the contestant as of January 1. The competition will be held at St. James School on January 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 1:00. Winners will advance to district and regional championships. This is a fun event open to children of the parish and community. Application forms will be handed out to St. James School students at the school in early January. If your child is interested and does not attend St. James School please have them contact Tim Cove at 403-246-2517 or email him at [cove@neucleus.com](mailto:cove@neucleus.com) for an application form and an opportunity to participate in this fun event.

St James Catholic School 2017-2018 Kindergarten Open House will take place on Thursday, Jan 26 at 6:30pm  
AND

St James Catholic School Open House will take place on Thursday, Feb 9 @ 6:30pm



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