

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

The Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2017

Regular 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 12-12:30 for lunch.)

Pastor—Fr. Edmund Vargas efvargas@shaw.ca

Deacon—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



Pastoral Notes

By Fr. Edmund

Christmas is Coming Home

Christmas is about coming home. It is about family and community. It is about personal relationships.

As we behold the day of Christmas, we ponder on the homelessness of the new-born Jesus, who had to be placed on a manger because there was no vacancy in the inn. We imagine the first worshippers of the new-born King: the shepherds who were nomads, unsettled in terms of residence.

The homeless spirit of the first Christmas relates to the poverty of our Christmas hamper recipients and to the predicament of the growing number of our street people.

And homelessness can take a deeper significance in our lives. Homelessness is a breakdown of personal relationships at home. Homelessness is the prevalence of domestic violence. Homelessness is the absence of trust and love.

The homelessness of Christmas challenges us to work for bridging the gap between the rich and the poor. The homelessness of Christmas invites us to take a look at our outreach programs. The homelessness of Christmas reminds us that action on behalf of justice is mandated by the Gospel.

Home is when we are reconciled with God. Home is when our poverty of our world becomes our own. Home is where the holiness of the new-born Child redeems the sinfulness of our lifestyles.

May our celebration of Christmas be our homecoming to God who is with us in Christ. May our New Year be filled with faith and hope in the Saviour who assumed the homelessness of our humanity to share with us the eternal home of our Father.

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.

Starting in the new year, the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist will be combined as a two-fold celebrated as part of the new diocesan approach. The new program has been piloted in five different parishes. Details of the Preparation Classes will be announced accordingly.

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 26

9:00am Intention of Barbara Simington

Wednesday, December 27

9:00am Intention of Jack Russell Family

Thursday, December 28

9:00am Intention of Jim Bond

Friday, December 29

9:00am Tamara Smrdely—RIP

Saturday, December 30

5:00pm Intention of Ashlynn Lerner

Sunday, December 31

8:30am Dennis Smrdely—RIP

10:00am St. James Parish

12:00pm Asuncion Dizon— RIP

Monday, January 1

8:30am S/Intention of Betty Fairhurst

10:00am—St . James Parish

12:00pm—Barbara Schmeekle—RIP

Tuesday, January 2

9:00am Nevan Dixon—RIP

Wednesday, January 3

9:00am S/l of Presentacion Kallansrude

Thursday, January 4

9:00am S/Intention of Tara Elsner

Friday, January 5

9:00am Angela Shegda—RIP

Saturday, January 6

5:00pm Sally Stotts—RIP

Sunday, January 7

8:30am Fred Phillips—RIP

10:00am St. James Parish

12:00pm Andre' - RIP



Merry Christmas

*Wishing you a very,
blessed Christmas!*

*Fr. Edmund, Brenda,
Tom, Lindsay & Anna*

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

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

Do we go to Mass twice on Christmas Eve and New Year this year? YES - We go to the 4th Sunday of Advent Mass on Dec 23 (at 5pm) or Dec 24 (regular am Masses) for the Sunday Obligation. Then on Christmas Eve/Day for the Christmas Obligation. The same applies for New Year's weekend. We go to Mass on December 30 (at 5pm) or the morning of December 31 for the Sunday Obligation. Then either on New Year's Eve* or New Year's Day for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation. (*No Mass at St James on New Year's Eve.)

Please pray for the sick:

Aidan Hanes, Harry Piet, Gabriel Serpas,
Shirley Valentine, Betty Harrison, Rolande Parel,
Laura Restrepo, Tony Doucette, Brian McAuley,
Marjorie Lefavre, John Otis, Darlene Otis

And for those who have died:

Peter Kadong, Genevieve Smith, Peter Funke,
William Acton

Thank you to all parishioners who helped with the Christmas hampers or contributed to them. We especially thank Vivian Moody for coordinating this project. We thank St James School, St. James Court, the Knights of Columbus the grade 9 students who packed the hampers, those who provided food, money or gifts for the children, and those who delivered the hampers on Monday evening. We provided 49 hampers to grateful individuals and families!

Pastoral Appeal

As your pastor, I express my sincere appreciation for your continuing support for St. James Church. Our financials are looking much better after our recent appeal for increased donations. We still also need to replenish our Maintenance Fund for eventual building repairs. As the year ends and a new year begins, please continue to be generous to our church, especially during this season of giving. Don't forget that you will receive a 50% tax credit for every dollar donated over \$200 per year. Please pick up your 2018 donation envelopes. You may consider our pre-authorized payment system as an option. Donation of stocks is also an option. Our 2017 target for Together in Action (TIA), formerly the Bishop's Appeal, is \$28655 and we are still short \$3865. May God continue to bless our church with love and generosity as we strive to become a more welcoming and caring community!

The **Parish Office** will be closed December 25, 26, 27 and January 1 & 2. For **emergencies** during the holidays, please call the parish and leave a message on Fr. Edmund's voicemail (ext 5). He will return your call promptly.

Food Bank Coordinator Needed—The role of Food Bank Coordinator will be vacant as of January. It is imperative that we find a new coordinator as soon as possible. Contact the office for more information.

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!

Save the Date! St. James 1st Annual Mardi Gras Dinner will be on Saturday February 10, 2018, 6-9pm at St. James Church Hall - Dinner, Refreshments, Entertainment, Community. Student musicians may contact Fr. Edmund if they would like to perform at the event. Also, Kyle Hagan of the Pastoral Council needs some help in the organizing. More details to come in the new year.

Christian Meditation resumes January 15.

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. 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 donations.

Next Weekend's Ministers

Mass Times	Lectors	Communion Ministers	Ushers	Altar Servers
SATURDAY December 30 5:00pm	Brendan Engelman Lois/Mike Ross	Andrew Beingessner Ted Valentine Leila Wright	Larry Betts Glen Lilly	
SUNDAY December 31 8:30 AM	Colleen deSouza Maureen Wickens	Kathy Oczkowski Angela Alexandre	Nick Fader Alex Fader Bill Fletcher	
SUNDAY December 31 10:00 AM	Vicki Oliphant Daniel Danis	Lindsay Davis Martin Onon Cor Stuijts	Tony Zuzic, Al Meier Robert McKean, Roger Jeanson, James Emado, Alikali Tarawally	
SUNDAY December 31 12:00	Nakiru Ayudo Ayudo Ayudo	Bernadette Carrera John Atanasio Arkangelo Uyin	M. Malueth, R. Madhieu E. Boliamotoi, J. Atanasio,	Mimi, Okio, Antony, Aher, Achol, Darius

Sacraments

Baptism—If you are interested in having your child baptized, please contact Fr. Edmund to arrange a preliminary meeting. Attendance at a baptism workshop is required. A copy of the child's birth certificate is also needed. Registration forms for baptisms are available on our website. The candidate may have one or two godparents who are to be chosen by the parents, have the ability and intention to fulfill the role, be at least 16 years of age, be a confirmed Catholic who is leading life in harmony with the Catholic faith (including marriage), will be a good role model for the one being baptized, and be neither the father nor the mother of the child.

Marriage—To arrange a marriage, please contact Fr. Edmund several months in advance. A marriage preparation course is required prior to the marriage.

Anointing of the Sick—Contact Fr. Edmund at any time to arrange for the anointing of the seriously sick or dying. Messages left on his voice mail will be returned promptly.

Relic of St. Francis Xavier—The sacred first class relic of St. Francis Xavier's forearm is making a rare visit to Canada. It will be in Calgary for only a very short time on **January 21 & 22, 2018**, at 2 parishes in the Diocese. Presented by the Archdiocese of Ottawa, Catholic Christian Outreach, and the Jesuits of Canada. The relic pilgrimage is a gift for the Church in Canada at the close of the 150th anniversary year, bringing the famous relic of St. Francis Xavier to North America for the first time in generations. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to venerate the incorrupt first class relic of one of our greatest missionaries and evangelists since St. Paul the Apostle. More details at cco.ca/relic

Sacred Heart Church

1307 14 St SW
January 21, 2018 1:00pm—10:00pm with Mass
at 5:00pm with Bishop McGrattan

St. Michael Catholic Community

800 85 St SW
January 22, 2018 7:00pm—10:00pm

