

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, 2018

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

Regular Office Hours

Monday thru Friday

9:00am—3:00pm

(Closed 12-12:30 for lunch.)

Parish Staff

Pastor—Fr. Edmund Vargas efvargas@shaw.ca

Deacon—Bruce Jurgens bruce.jurgens@calgarydiocese.ca

Secretary—Brenda Lerner office@stjamescalgary.org

Interim Music Director—Michael Scholfield mcschofield@shaw.ca

Bookkeeper—Anna McKiernan

Parish Screening Coordinator—Marielle Thom

pvsc@stjamescalgary.org



Pastoral Notes - by Fr. Edmund
The Incarnation Factor

Christmas is God's becoming human in Jesus Christ, that is, the Mystery of the Incarnation. Emmanuel means "God is with us!"

The Mystery of Incarnation affects all aspects of our human life, making us share His divinity, making us children of God and heirs of His kingdom. As a community, we share God's gift of love and presence. Christ becomes present through the Sacraments of the Church and through every human experience.

Christ's becoming human also requires us to be part of human family, redeemed through his death and resurrection. It requires us to be part of a community where we experience his love and forgiveness. It requires us to be "incarnated" into a local community we call our own. It requires us to become involved and participative in the various activities of our community, helping us in our common journey of faith. Christ's becoming human is the reason we are saved not alone but in the context of community.

As we celebrate the Eucharist on this special day, let us be more expressive of our appreciation of his abiding presence and everlasting love for all of us. Let us be more "incarnated" into our community in the spirit of Christ's love. Our being Christian is all enmeshed in the human relationships within our family, work and community. Life, as we live it, is all about our human relationships which have to be anchored on our personal relationship with God whose becoming human we celebrate today.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us remember that our life has been transformed by the great event of God becoming human in Jesus Christ. Let us celebrate his love and presence in our everyday relationships in the family and in the community. Let us share Christ with one another, by letting Him use our hands, our feet and our whole being in the ministry of love and service in our respective families and communities.

May Christ be incarnated in our lives today and every day.

Healing Corner. After Mary conceived Jesus, she was at risk of shame and ridicule being an unwed mother. God chose Joseph to take her as his wife and he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, taking her into his home. As we await the arrival of Jesus, let us remember the obedience of Joseph with his love and caring for Mary. Men hold a special role in the prevention of violence against women and children. They can learn to handle their anger in a constructive manner, teach their children to develop healthy relationships and support violence prevention initiatives in our parish and communities.

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 24

5:00pm Alan Perry—RIP

7:00pm S/I Todd & Crystal Oczkowski

Tuesday, December 25

8:30am Martin Bale—RIP

10:00am S/I Sarah Straathof

12:00pm St. James Parish

Wednesday, December 26

9:00am S/I Abigail Somera

Thursday, December 27

9:00am S/I Catherine Peet

Friday, December 28

9:00am Bill Coulston—RIP

Saturday, December 29

5:00pm Marie Kelly—RIP

Sunday, December 30

8:30am S/I Lerner Family

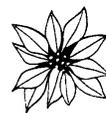
10:00am St. James Parish

12:00pm Asuncion Dizon—RIP

2018 Donation Envelopes—available now at the back of the church. If you do not have a box but would like one, please let the office know.

Welcome visitors and new parishioners! If you are new to our parish community, please fill out a parish registration form available at the entrances of the church and drop it off at the parish office or in the collection basket.

Wishing you all the blessings
of Christmas!



From Fr. Edmund,
Brenda, Michael,
Marielle & Anna

Confirmation Registration and Parent Information Session is **Sunday, January 13** at **2pm** in the parish hall. The sacrament of Confirmation is offered to students in grade 6 or higher who have already received the sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Please bring a copy of your child's baptism certificate and \$25 registration fee.

Advent/Christmas Schedule

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

**New Year's Day, the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God, is a Holy Day of Obligation in Canada.*

Weekday Masses will continue as per our regular Mass schedule for Dec 26, 27, 28 & Jan 2, 3, 4.



A Very Big Thank You to all parishioners who so generously supported the Christmas Hamper program this year with food, gifts, and monetary donations! We thank Vivian Moody for coordinating this project along with Danielle McKinnon, Evelyn Bond and Brenda Lerner. We thank St. James School for collecting over 1000 food items and for the students who made the Christmas cards which were included with each hamper. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for their assistance in providing boxes and fresh produce, and for their help with hauling and deliveries. The help of Mrs. Walsh and her grade 9 students who sorted the food and packed the hampers was greatly appreciated. Thanks also to the residents of St. James Court, and all those who helped assemble boxes, wrap gifts, deliver hampers or helped in any other way. We provided 52 Christmas Hampers which included gifts for each child. May God bless your love and generosity!

Food Bank Update: Danielle McKinnon, our Food Bank Coordinator, reported that for 2018, a total of 75 "weekly" hampers were provided over 28 weeks. Ten (10) individuals returned two or more times; seven (7) families (three or more individuals in the household) returned two or more times; fourteen (14) individuals and six (6) families used the Food Bank once only. We assisted a total of 60 adults (individuals over 18) and 26 children. Six (6) volunteers repeatedly gave their time every month to shop/order, assemble, and distribute food hampers. If you would like to help with the Food Bank, please contact Danielle at 587 434 4415.

The **Parish Office** will be closed December 24, 25, 26, 31 and January 1. 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.

Altar Décor Volunteers Needed—We are in need of volunteers interested in helping with altar décor. Direction will be provided. Volunteers will be responsible for maintaining, ordering and arranging flowers and plants in the sanctuary as needed. We thank Lin Samson and Anita Zyla for the time they have given in making our sanctuary look so beautiful over the past years. Both ladies are retiring in January so your help is needed. No experience is required though helpful. Time to show off your creative side! Please call the office or speak with Anita Zyla if you are interested or would like more information.

Please pray for the sick:

Aidan Hanes, Harry Piet, Gabriel Serpas,
Shirley Valentine, Rolande Parel, Laz Terek,
Sarah Straathof, Joe MacNeil, Terry Davidson,
Gary Ritter, Marie Hood, Marie Funke,
Margaret Earle

And for those who have died:

Kay Rath, John Dicey, Lauralei Dumonceau,
Wilma Garanio, Frieda Kraft

A Our Lady of Montserrat (Black Madonna) stained glass window has been underwritten. The new window, now in the design stage, will be located on the north side of the church to match the St. Francis window on the south side. Families who are interested in sponsoring stained glass installations in the church may contact Fr. Edmund for options and possibilities.

Last Week's Donations

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|-----------------------------|----------|
| TIA | \$35.00 |
| Maintenance | \$729.00 |
| Children's Collection | \$50.50 |
| Flowers | \$15.00 |
| Food Bank/Christmas Hampers | \$180.00 |

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| Regular | \$5541.70 |
| PAPS* | <u>\$1333.00</u> |
| | \$6874.70 |

Weekly Goal: \$6725

*Pre-Authorized Payment System

Thank you for your generosity!

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.

First Reconciliation/First Communion—As of 2018, within the Diocese of Calgary, the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion are celebrated during the same school year with preparation starting in the fall and ending in the spring. Children must be in grade 2 or higher and be baptized.

Confirmation—As of 2018, Confirmation preparation begins in January with the sacrament being conferred by either Bishop McGrattan or Emeritus Bishop Henry in the spring. Confirmation is available to students in grade 6 or higher who have already received the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and First Reconciliation.

Marriage—To arrange a marriage, please contact Fr. Edmund several months in advance. A marriage preparation course through Catholic Family Service 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.



INSIGHTS OF DISCIPLESHIP IN THE DIOCESE OF CALGARY

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This monthly online publication will be sent by email to all subscribers. A print version will be circulated in March 2019.

“We are all part of something bigger. Our individual lives and the way we live our Catholic faith together form part of the evangelizing mission of Christ - to govern, sanctify and teach. It is my hope that Faithfully will support and encourage us as disciples of our Lord in the Diocese of Calgary and beyond.” MOST. REV. WILLIAM T. MCGRATTAN. D.D.

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