



St. James the Greater Church

5504 - 20 St. S.W. Calgary, Alberta T3E 1R2

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3rd Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

Weekend Mass

Saturday 5pm
Sunday 10am & 12noon

Weekday Mass

Tuesday thru Friday 9am
1st Saturday of the month 9am

Confession

Tuesday thru Friday 9:30am -10am
Saturday 4pm - 4:30pm
(or by appointment)

Adoration and Benediction

After Friday morning Mass for 30 minutes

Office Hours

Monday 9am—2:30pm
Tuesday to Thursday
9am - 12:30pm
Closed Fridays and statutory holidays.

Third Sunday of Advent

Exhorting and Expecting. Even in these troubled times, we are urged to rejoice this day, this week, this season. The question posed by nearly everyone to John the Baptist – What should we do? – is also our question. Saint Paul reminds us that the Lord is near. While we actively wait for Jesus Christ to come again, we are told to be merciful and just.

1. What in my closet can be given to clothe someone in need?
2. What actions in my job or my retirement can be fairer and more just?
3. What words from my mouth will speak only truth?

(Source: Diocese of Springfield)

PARISH STAFF

Pastor—Fr. Eligio “Eli” Canete - eligiocanete@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant—Brenda Lerner - office@stjamescalgary.org

Music - Michael Scholfield - mcscholfield@icloud.com

Bookkeeper—Magda Aguillon

Volunteer Screening—Vivian Moody—pvsc@stjamescalgary.org

Parish Pastoral Council: Nick Fader (Chairman), Fr. Eli Canete, Elvira Castaneda, Ralph Walicki, Daryl Engelman, Brian Lerner, Mike Adelino, Kyle Hagan, Andrew Beingessner

Finance Council—Joe Bichel (Chairman), Terry Gonsalves, Neale Johannesson, Kim Moody

The Shepherd Speaks—Fr. Eli Canete

The third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means rejoice. This is the theme expressed by St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians: Rejoice in the Lord always and Paul further said, I shall say it again, rejoice. The Church counteracts the negative gloominess.

Why is St. Paul so insistent in his exhortation? We must remember that Paul wrote this letter to the Philippians while he was in a dark Roman prison and without any certainty that he can still come out alive.

There was nothing to rejoice about in his situation. But joy is a virtue and a gift of the Holy Spirit. It is not dependent on any external condition. Rather, it all depends on one's intimate relationships with our God. Rightly then, that St. Paul said, rejoice in the Lord always. Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.

A person who knows and believes the Lord is always with him, that the Lord is near has reason to rejoice always, that is to be filled with joy. And that spirit leads and empowers him to be more hopeful, patient, kind and understanding towards others.

What must we do? They asked John. And John spelt out the answer for them in no uncertain terms. While their seeking for guidance showed their willingness to change, it also showed that they were lacking in the Holy Spirit, in that fire which according to John, Christ when He comes will baptize.

Christmas is near. We see Christmas decorations all around. We hear Christmas carols and songs in the air. We go to Christmas parties and gatherings here and there.

But are we really rejoicing? Are we filled with joy? Far from making us happy, the busy season leaves most of us physically tired and financially drained. We often hear people complaining about the economic crisis. A few people are jobless, homeless, and still others are struggling with health and emotional issues. What is there to rejoice about?

Rejoicing in the Lord is not just a matter of thanking and praising God. Rather, it means two things. First, it is an attitude of trust amid life's difficulties and trials. We may have worries and anxieties, but St. Paul said, have no fear and anxiety at all but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

Secondly, rejoicing should manifest itself in the acts of kindness. Again, St. Paul said, your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.

St. John the Baptist, therefore, calls us to action. When asked by his listeners what they ought to do, John the Baptist mentioned examples of acts of kindness, giving clothes to those who have none, avoiding extortion and cheating and being of service to others.

We are reminded to focus our attention on Jesus, the center of this joyous season. The liturgy challenges us to smile, hoping for good things in the future and being glad that Jesus was born into the world as Savior of all.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, December 14

9:00am Stefan Herciu—R/S

Wednesday, December 15

9:00am Lissa/Scott Anderson Family—R/S

Thursday, December 16

9:00am Yvonne/Thomas Le Family—R/S

Friday, December 17

9:00am Christine/Joey Wernikowski-Woo Family—R/S

Saturday, December 18

5:00pm Charles Herald McAfee—R/S

Sunday, December 19

10:00am Intention of Gail Evans
12:00pm St. James Parish

Exiting the Church

As per a recent visit from Alberta Health Services please exit the church through the NW doors marked as the EXIT. The SW doors can still be used for those with mobility issues and for weekday Masses due to the smaller numbers who attend.

St Joseph Our Spiritual Father—This documentary created by the Knights of Columbus in the US is receiving rave reviews featuring interviews with leading experts and theologians, as well as powerful personal testimonies. As the Year of St Joseph comes to a close, learn more about St Joseph. [Click here](#)



Collection—Dec 5

Regular	\$5497
PAPS	\$1742
	\$7239

2021 Together in Action Goal: \$25,353

Collected: \$21,932

\$3421 Remaining to Goal
Campaign ends December 31

Please help us reach our TIA goal! Shortfalls must be paid to the Diocese from our regular parish income.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION Class Registration NOW OPEN

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is open to all Catholic students who are in grade 6 or higher and who have already received the sacraments of Baptism and First Eucharist. Our program will be a combination of 5 monthly in-class sessions at the parish (Thursdays from 6:00-7:30pm) and 11 sessions with the **CHOSEN** online program. This program takes young people on a journey through the Catholic faith in all its richness and vitality. Teens will be captivated by the story from Creation through salvation history, and will come to see how the sacraments, prayer, and discipleship are the keys to a happy life. The **CHOSEN** program is nothing short of winning over the hearts of teens and making them disciples for Christ.

In-class sessions will be presented by Fr. Eli and our Confirmation Sacrament Coordinator, Vicki Oliphant. In-class sessions are **parent/student classes** with a parent attending each session with their child. Parent(s) and child will be seated together and physically distanced from other households. Registration deadline is January 14th, 2022 but it is recommended that you **register early as space is limited**. Registration forms can be found at the SW entrance of the church, at the office, and on our website. Return completed forms to the office along with a copy of your child's baptism certificate. More information and class schedule will be provided at time of registration.



Popes Francis' Prayer Intention for December

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Donation Envelope Boxes

Envelope boxes are available now in the parish hall. Please stop by to pick yours up as you come into Mass. If you do not see a box assigned to you but would like one, please contact the office or leave your information on the notepad provided by the envelopes so that a box can be prepared for you.

Letter from Bishop McGrattan

Advent Message—[Click Here](#)

Children's Resources

Children's Bulletin—[CLICK HERE](#)

Children's Coloring Page—[CLICK HERE](#)

Christmas Schedule

**ONLINE SIGN UP IS REQUIRED THROUGH
OUR PARISH WEBSITE**

Christmas Eve
3pm, 5pm, 7pm

Christmas Day
10am, 12pm

New Year's Eve*
5pm

New Year's Day*
10am

**Solemnity of Mary—Day of Obligation*

If you are unable to do the online sign-up, please contact the office for assistance. Remember that EACH family member needs to be registered individually. Please only sign up for **ONE** Christmas Mass and **ONE** New Year's Mass to allow everyone the opportunity to attend. If you book seats for a Mass you will not be attending, please inform the office as soon as possible. Cancellations cannot be made online.

NO REGISTRATION WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE REGULAR SUNDAY MASSES ON DEC 26 (10am/12pm), JANUARY 1 (5pm) AND JANUARY 2 (10am/12pm).

Holiday Office Hours

Closed Dec 24 to Dec 28
Closed Jan 3

For emergencies during the holidays, please contact Fr. Eli's office extension and call him on the number provided on his recording.

Weekday Masses at 9am will be celebrated Dec 21, 22, 23, and Dec 28, 29, 30.

St. James Christmas Donation Tree in support of Together in Action.

In previous years we have used the Christmas tree to help with gifts to children of our hamper program. This year our hope is that parishioners and visitors choose support of the Diocese of Calgary's fundraising campaign.

Established in 1992 Together in Action has raised more than 43 million dollars to assist our churches and vulnerable populations. The money raised will fund three areas of need.

1. Local Charities such as Elizabeth House and Feed the Hungry as well over 30 charities within the diocese region.

2. National and International Outreach including Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Mission in Canada, and International Ministries.

Diocesan Programs that include Care for Retired Priests, Education of Seminarians and St Mary's University.

The Donation tree is located at the back of the church. If you feel you can assist, please take an envelope off the tree, and place your donation in the donation box.

Thank you and God bless the works of Together in Action.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Darlene Otis, John Duffy, Linda Evans,
Mary Figley, Marie Funke, Aidan Hanes, Sylvia Kirkland, Shirley Klein, Elliott Nowell, Norma O'Hare,
Michael Paplawski, Anthony Parel, Gary Ritter, Sara Straathof, Gary & Janice Tipper,
Margaret Ukrainec, Shirley Valentine

AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED

Marshall Swab, Violet Ducharme, Trudy Martin

The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass continues at this time.

[CLICK HERE FOR UPDATED RESTRICTIONS IN THE DIOCESE OF CALGARY](#)

**NEW TEMPORARY MEASURES EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 20
CAPACITY 1/3 (134 people) - First Come/First Serve**

- **MASKS ARE MANDATORY AS PER THE CITY OF CALGARY BYLAW IN THE SANCTUARY AND THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING**
- **SOCIAL DISTANCING IS ALSO MANDATORY**—Alternate rows are marked as before.—Please be respectful of distancing between parishioners when in the church and in the office areas.
- The reception of Holy Communion on the tongue is allowed. Communion will only be given under one species —the consecrated Host
- **50 person limit** for Funeral Masses, Weddings and Baptisms
- No social gatherings are allowed
- Meetings and classes may continue provided physical distancing and masking can be maintained

PLEASE...

- Continue to use hand sanitizer as you enter and leave the church
- Practice proper respiratory etiquette (coughing or sneezing into a bent elbow, promptly discarding used tissues in a garbage bin)
- If you have cold or flu-like symptoms, please refrain from attending Mass
- Exercise charity and kindness towards one another