



St. James the Greater Church

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

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4th Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

Weekend Mass

Saturday 5pm
Sunday 10am & 12noon

Weekday Mass

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

Confession

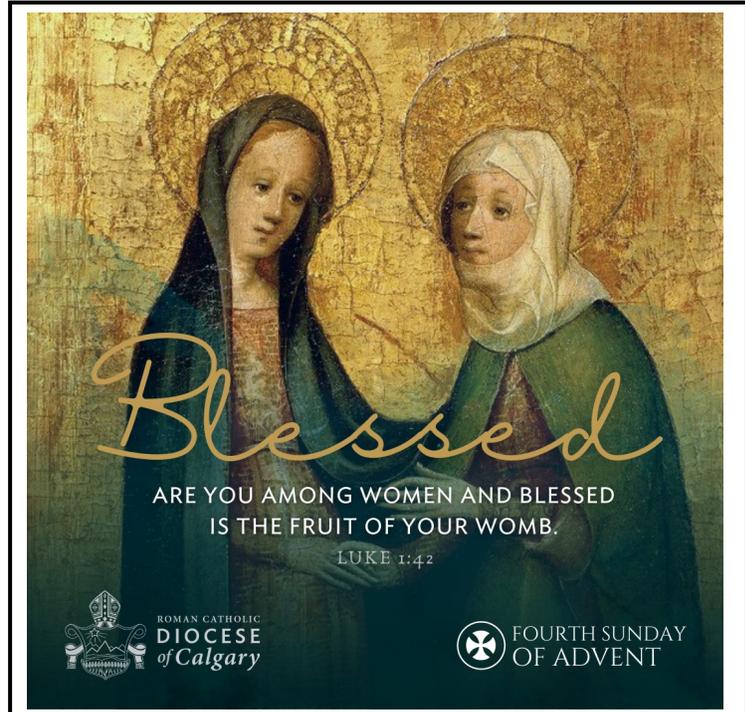
Tuesday thru Friday 9:30am -10am
Saturday 4pm - 4:30pm
(or by appointment)

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.



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

One of the wonders of God's plan is that He chooses to associate souls, one to another so that they help each other on their journey. As cousins, Mary and Elizabeth share a bond of kinship. But they also share a spiritual kinship because of how the Holy Spirit is acting in their lives, fashioning the Messiah and his prophet deep inside their womb.

During those months, Mary and Elizabeth do not just sit around waiting. They are working, preparing for Elizabeth's baby, quietly conversing, and praying. Together, they are like a monastic community.

In our lives too, God gives us spiritual friendships and soulmates who help us grow closer to Him. It can be our fathers, mothers, grandparents, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and family members. They are our support group, praying for us, helping us to grow in our intimacy with the Lord. God links our lives together for a larger purpose that will reveal itself with time. In this mystery, we ask Mary to help us, and our spiritual friends listen carefully for God's voice in our lives, so that we can walk with God and with each other.

Today's readings remind us that Jesus is reborn everyday in ordinary people living ordinary lives to respond to God's call and the openness to do God's will.

Prophet Micah gives assurance to the Jews that God is faithful to His promise and that from the unimportant village of Bethlehem, He will send them the long-expected ruler.

In the Gospel, Luke is telling us how two great women met to celebrate the kindness and fidelity of God. It shows us how sensitive Mary was to the needs of Elizabeth, her older cousin who had miraculously become pregnant in her old age.

On this last Sunday of Advent, the Gospel takes the focus away from John the Baptist and puts Mary on the centerstage. The blessed Virgin Mary is the purest and most worthy human container of the Word Made Flesh. Mary is the living tabernacle of the Son of God.

Mary is inviting us never to doubt in welcoming Jesus in our hearts, in our homes, in our workplaces and in our communities. It is worth saying Yes to God, for in God we find true joy, peace, and hope. We need to bring and carry Jesus to others as Mary did. Sharing Jesus with others, His love, peace, joy, and the kindness of Jesus is the best Christmas gift we can give. Amen

Attitude of Gratitude: Huge thanks to all who continue to give for the Together in Action (TIA). Your generosity is appreciated. We are nearing to hit our target this year. Please continue to help the programs of the Diocese help charitable organizations. God bless you and your family!

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, December 21

9:00am Intention of Peter Thov

Wednesday, December 22

9:00am Intention of Linh Phan

Thursday, December 23

9:00am Velma O'Reilly—R/S

Friday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

3:00pm Intention of Agnes Brundeder

5:00pm Sally Stotts—R/S

7:00pm Intention of Arnie & Marie Funke

Saturday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

10:00am St James Parish

12:00pm Trudy Martin—R/S

Sunday, December 26

10:00am Intention of Lerner Family

12:00pm Dean Stoffel—R/S

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

**~\$3000 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 Open
Deadline January 14th**

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. 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.



Sacramental Preparation First Reconciliation/First Communion

Praise Jesus that in spite of Covid concerns, we have 34 children registered this year in our First Reconciliation and First Communion instruction program. Their names and photos are displayed at the back of the church near the baptismal font. We invite everyone to check them out, and if you wish, pick a child or more to pray for. Short inspirational messages can be added to their photos using the sticky notes provided.

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**
Some Seats Still Available on Christmas Day

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 prior to noon on Dec 23. 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 call the church and leave a message on Fr. Eli's office extension (Extension 4) Note: Fr. Eli will be away Dec 27-Jan 3. Fr. Bill Stephenson will celebrate our weekday/weekend Masses in his absence.

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.
3. Diocesan Programs that include Care for Retired Priests, Education of Seminarians & 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 basket.

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

Thank you for your support!

**We thank all who have continued to support our parish through the pandemic.
Your contributions are so greatly appreciated!**

- ◆ Online giving on the "Contribute" page of our website—one time or monthly with debit, Visa, Visa debit, Mastercard, and American Express
- ◆ Mastercard, Visa or Debit through the office—one time donation or monthly
- ◆ Pre-authorized Withdrawal (Direct Deposit) - get forms from the office or at the entrance
- ◆ Dropping off your envelope into the collection basket at the entrance of the church
- ◆ Dropping off your envelope into the office mailbox (by office entrance)
- ◆ Mailing your donation to the church

