

St. James the Greater Church

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

Ph: 403 243 2680 Fax: 403 287 1273

The Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2021



Regular Mass Schedule

Saturday

5:00pm

Sunday

10:00am & 12:00pm

Weekday Mass

Tuesday thru Friday 9:00am
1st Saturday of the Month 9:00am

Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 9:30-10:00am

Reconciliation

30 minutes before and after all Masses,
Saturdays 4:00pm-4:30pm
or by appointment

Parish Staff

Pastor—Fr. Eligio “Eli” Canete

Administrative Assistant—Brenda Lerner

Music Director—Michael Scholfield

Bookkeeper—Magda Aguillon

Volunteer Screening—Vivian Moody

Regular Office Hours

office@stjamescalgary.org

Monday 9:00am-2:30pm

Tuesday thru Thursday 9:00am—12:30pm

Holiday Office Hours

Closed December 24-28

& December 31-Jan 3

**For emergencies during the holidays, please
leave a message on Fr. Eli’s extension (Ext 5)**

Wishing you a very blessed Christmas!

~Fr. Eli & Staff

Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 26

10:00am Intention of Lerner Family
12:00pm Dean Stoffel—R/S

Tuesday, December 28

9:00am Kathryn Dickson—R/S

Wednesday, December 29

9:00am Ron Pirot—R/S

Thursday, December 30

9:00am John & Maria Petrollini—R/S

Friday, December 31

5:00pm Sally Stotts

Saturday, January 1

10:00am St James Parish (New Year's Liturgy)
5:00pm St James Parish (Sunday Liturgy)

Sunday, January 2

10:00am Intention of Matthew Lojek
12:00pm In Thanksgiving—Anonymous

Tuesday, January 4

9:00am Dominic & Rita Petrollini—R/S

Wednesday, January 5

9:00am John & Maria Petrollini—R/S

Thursday, January 6

9:00am John & Maria Petrollini—R/S

Friday, January 7

9:00am Fr. Eli Canete
Happy Birthday, Fr. Eli!

Saturday, January 8

9:00am Annie Malone—R/S

Sunday, January 9

10:00am Stefan Lojek—R/S
12:00pm St. James Parish

Tuesday, January 11

9:00am Maria & John Petrollini—R/S

Wednesday, January 12

9:00am Gabriel Waschmann Ortiz—R/S

Thursday, January 13

9:00am Kathryn Dickson—R/S

Friday, January 14

9:00am Intention of Peter Thov

Saturday, January 15

5:00pm Intention of Francis Phan

Sunday, January 16

10:00am Intention of Kirsten Gerein & Family
12:00pm St James Parish

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

2022 Donation Envelopes—Available now at the SW entrance. If you do not have a box but would like one, please let the office know. Pre-authorized withdrawal forms are also available through the office and at the entrance.

Grey Cup Raffle—St. James Knights of Columbus would like to congratulate the winners of this years Grey Cup pool tickets:

First Qtr: West 4 East 0

Winner: Sheila Nicholson

Second Qtr: West 7 East 10

Winner: Jordan Tracey

Third Qtr: West 10 East 19

Winner: Conor O'Loughlin

Final: West 33 East 25

Winner: Catherine Doyle

Reverse Final: West 25 East 33

Winner: Rene Phaneuf

Thank you to all who purchased tickets in support of the activities of the Knights of Columbus.

Sacramental Preparation First Reconciliation/First Communion

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.

Next bulletin January 9th.



The Shepherd Speaks - Fr. Eli Canete

"As the world rejoices in the wonder of Christ's birth, may you and your family be blessed with a grace-filled Christmas and with every happiness in the New year 2022!" The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them the light has shone. (Isaiah 9:2)

Christ is born for us, alleluia. Christ is our light forever. God has shattered the darkness of night with the light of His Jesus Christ, the light of His unchanging love and the light of His mercy and forgiveness.

Have you experienced walking in the darkness of frustrations, despairs, and sins at this time of pandemic? How did you see the light of Christ? What did the power of God's light do to you? Why is it that the light of God never gives up on you?

It has become a tradition to associate snow with Christmas and when it does come, shrouding everything with its white mantle, a stillness settles over the countryside, especially at nighttime. That combination of darkness and stillness was the setting for the First Christmas. It was as if God was saying a second time, let there be light, let the gloom and darkness which to such an extent exemplify the fallen and corrupt nature of the human race, be lifted, ushering in a new age of glory to God and peace on earth among all its people. And so, an angel of the Lord appeared to some humble shepherds tending their flocks in the darkness and the brightness of the Lord shone upon them.

Do not be afraid, the angel reassured them, Listen, I am bringing you good news of immense joy for all the people. To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you. You will find a Child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

These words are addressed to us also. We too must listen, listen in the silence of our hearts and like the shepherds, we must hasten and with eagerness, draw near to Christ. And the shepherds came with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in the manger. "They found" implies effort on their part. They had to search. But their search was not in vain. And seeing, they understood the word that had spoken to them concerning this child.

Likewise, we must search for Christ, hasten to Him with eagerness and in the quiet times of prayer, when we are alone with God, understanding of our need for Christ will come to us.

Pope Francis said, if we want to celebrate Christmas meaningfully, we need to contemplate the sign: the fragile simplicity of a small newborn, the meekness of where the infant Jesus lies, the tender affection of the swaddling clothes. God is there. That is the enduring sign to search and find Jesus. Not just then, but also today. Amen.

Thank you to our amazing volunteers!

We owe our appreciation and gratitude to our many volunteers who have so generously given of their time and talent to support our parish over this past year. If you would like to volunteer in any of our parish ministries, please contact the office. We would love to have you as a part of our volunteer team!

Please pray for the sick:

John Duffy, Linda Evans, Mary Figley, Marie Funke, Aidan Hanes, Sylvia Kirkland, Shirley Klein, Amorel Lerner, Elliot Nowell, Norma O'Hare, Darlene Otis, Michael Paplowski, Anthony Parel, Sarah Straathof, Shirley Valentine

And for those who have died:

Marie Moore, Marshall Swab, Violet Ducharme, Trudy Martin

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION **Registration 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 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.

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 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.

A Christmas Message from Bishop McGrattan

<https://www.catholicyc.ca/blog/a-christmas-message-from-bishop-mcgrattan>

Together in Action Campaign—Closing December 31st

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 3 areas of need:

1. Local charities such as Elizabeth House and Feed the Hungry as well as over 30 charities within the Diocese of Calgary
2. National and International Outreach including the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Missions Canada, and International Ministries
3. Diocesan programs that include care for retired priests, education of seminarians, and St Mary's University

We're almost there! Help us reach our goal of \$25,353. To date we have collected: \$23,901

SACRAMENTS

Baptism—If you are interested in having your child baptized, please contact the Parish Office to arrange a preliminary meeting with Fr. Eli. Attendance at a baptism workshop is required. Workshops are offered monthly. A copy of the child's birth certificate is also needed. Registration forms 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 the Parish Office at least 6 months in advance. A marriage preparation course through Catholic Family Service is required prior to the marriage. Information regarding marriage preparation can be found at www.cfs-ab.org or at 403 233 2360.

Anointing of the Sick—Contact the Parish Office or Fr. Eli at any time to arrange for the anointing of the seriously sick or dying.

Your donations are greatly appreciated! Ways to support our parish:

1. Online giving on the "Contribute" page of our website—one time or monthly with debit, Visa, Visa debit, Mastercard, and American Express
2. Mastercard, Visa or Debit through the office
3. Pre-authorized Withdrawal (Direct Deposit) - get forms from the office or front entrance
4. Collection baskets in the church or mailbox near the office entrance
5. Mailing in your donation

Christmas Hampers—St. James Knights of Columbus successfully completed the Christmas Hamper program. A total of 36 Christmas hampers and gifts for the children were delivered this year. We would like to acknowledge and thank the following:

- The parishioners of St. James as the funds to complete this project came from our Food bank donations and special Christmas hamper donations.
- The staff and students at St. James School who collected food and helped with the organizing of the hampers.
- The staff and students of Clear Water Academy who provided gifts for many of the children.
- Cascades who provided over 120 boxes
- The many volunteers who helped lead, organize, and deliver the hampers to the families in need.

Thank you all. Know that you have brightened the lives of these families during this Christmas season.

Collection—Dec 12 & 19

Regular \$4481
PAPS \$3484
\$8962

Tia Goal 25,353
Collected 23,901
Remainder: \$1452

Thank you for your generosity and support of our parish!

