



St. James the Greater Church

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1st Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

MASS TIMES

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 10:00am & 12:00pm

Weekday

Tuesday thru Friday 9:00am

1st Saturday of the month 9:00am

CONFESSION

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30 -10:00am

No Confession on Thursday

Saturday 4:00 - 4:30pm

(or by appointment)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Thursday

9:00am - 3:00pm

*Closed from 12:00-12:30pm for lunch,
and on all statutory holidays.*



Thank you for joining us! We warmly welcome all new parishioners and visitors to our parish. If you are new to our parish community, please fill out a registration form available on our website, at the SW entrance of the church, or at the parish office.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for the month of December:

Pray that people with disabilities may be at the center of attention in our society

PARISH STAFF

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

Administrative Assistant—Brenda Lerner - office@stjamescalgary.org

Music - Michael Scholfield - musdir83@gmail.com

Bookkeeper—Magda Aguillon

Volunteer Screening—Kerstin Daly - pvsc@stjamescalgary.org



Visit us on
Facebook!

The Shepherd Speaks—Fr. Eli Canete

"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind." (1 Corinthians 1:4-5)

Welcome to Advent! Wherever you are now in your journey, whether you feel so close to the Lord or so distant from Him, whether you carry baggage of failures and hopelessness or celebrate the faithfulness and abiding presence of our God, be assured that God, our heavenly Father is eager to bestow and give his grace on YOU.

As St. Paul says in his first letter to the Corinthians, God has already poured his grace on you. He has given you access to every spiritual gift as you wait for Jesus to reveal himself to you.

And God wants to do even more. God wants you to have a great Advent! He wants to make this season a time for you to grow closer to Him and come to know him better.

That doesn't necessarily mean these days before Christmas will be easy. Your faith might deepen, or you might receive unexpected blessings. But you might also experience hardships and setbacks.

Yet, no matter what happens, God will reward whatever effort you put into Advent preparations. That's because He wants nothing more than for you to deepen your relationship with Jesus. That's the grace God is offering you this season.

So, dig in! Start by committing to have your Reconciliation entering Advent. Encounter the merciful God in Confession and you will find the grace of forgiveness giving you peace and more renewed life in God's grace. Spend more time in Eucharistic adoration bringing with you your family members. With open hearts, read the Scripture especially the daily and Sunday readings.

Pray the rosary as a family and be involved in our celebration "Evening with Mary." Attend faithfully the Sunday Masses and share your blessings by donating to our Food Bank and Christmas Hampers and support our Together In Action.

Above everything else, be hopeful. Our God is a God of hope. Our God is a God of possibility. And this is the good news of Advent giving us hope, that is as believers of God, followers of Christ, we should be people of possibility.

There are two forces that undermine our sense of hope to become a better person, a better community, a better family, a better and deeper preparation for a good celebration of the coming of Christ.

These are pessimism and cynicism. Both are enemies of faith telling us that we can never make it, we can't do it, we can't be a better, if not, the best person that we wish to be, with the help of the grace of God.

Maranatha is an Aramaic Syriac expression that means COME, LORD JESUS. It was used as a greeting in the early Church. When believers gathered or parted, they did not say hello or goodbye but MARANATHA, acknowledging the presence of Jesus in each of them.

If we have the same spiritual outlook today, it will help us go through a meaningful celebration of Advent. May God bless us and keep us ever prepared for the second coming of Christ, while preparing for the yearly celebration of Christmas. Let us remember what St. Thomas Aquinas said, "without God, I cannot. Without me, God will not." Amen.

An Evening With Mary
Friday, December 8
The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary
6:00pm—Rosary
6:30pm—Procession
7:00pm—Meatless Potluck
7:30pm—Video

St James Parish Penitential Celebration
Friday, December 8
6:00pm—7:00pm
Visiting priests will be here to assist with
confession.

Sunday Collection **November 26**

Regular \$2829
PAPS \$1638
\$4467

DONATION ENVELOPE BOXES

Our 2024 donation envelope boxes are now available in the church. If you have don't see a box but would like one, please contact the office. If you prefer to use our easy pre-authorized payment system, just let us know so we can provide the forms. (Envelope boxes not used in 2023 were not re-issued.)

REMEMBER that the sanctuary is a sacred space. PLEASE no chewing gum in the church. Properly dispose of gum in the garbage cans at the entrance before entering the church. Your cooperation is appreciated.



Tuesday, December 5

9:00am Legion of Mary Deceased Members

Wednesday, December 6

9:00am Phil Streifel—R/S

Thursday, December 7

9:00am Intention of Jana Ferner

Friday, December 8

9:00am Intention of Ashlynn Lerner

Saturday, December 9

5:00pm Moe Nasser—R/S

Sunday, December 10

10:00am Mary Beaton/Mary MacKay—R/S

12:00pm St James Parish

Christmas & New Year Schedule

Saturday, December 23—5pm*

Sunday, December 24—10am & 12pm*

**4th Sunday of Advent*

Christmas Eve - 5pm & 7pm

Christmas Day - 10am & 12pm

Saturday, December 30—5pm

Sunday, December 31—10am & 12pm

New Year's Eve, December 31—5pm*

New Year's Day—10am*

**Solemnity of Mary—A day of obligation for the Universal Church*

Boxing Day— No Mass

(daily Mass schedule will resume on December 27)

Simbang Gabi Filipino Masses

December 15 to December 23

6:30 Carols

7:00pm Mass

All welcome.

Festival of Carols

December 10, 2023

2:00pm—3:30pm

St James Church

Come join us for an afternoon of carols! Our own wonderful choirs along with some special guests will be sure to bring some Christmas cheer!

Freewill Offering

Light reception to follow.



Our Together in Action campaign is ending at the end of the year. We know there are many demands for your donations at this time of the year. Please consider the many charities and church activities that are funded with your support of the TIA campaign. Unfortunately, at this time we are well short of reaching our target, however with your assistance we can achieve our goal. Your donations can be made with our TIA envelopes, online, or by contacting the parish office. Thank you for considering a donation to this worthy charitable appeal.

Collected: \$28,116 Goal: \$36,218

Remaining: \$8102

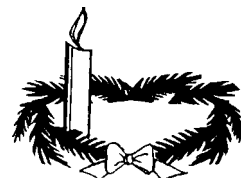
Fundraising

The Knights of Columbus Council #8471 (from Holy Spirit parish) will be selling ergonomic snow shovels for \$30 after our Masses on December 9 & 10.

Angel Giving Tree

We still have lots of tags on the Giving Tree. Please take one and return the item by next Sunday. To allow for more participation from parishioners, there are a variety of tags to choose from: tags for candy canes and chocolates that will be included with our Christmas Hampers, as well as tags for \$25 Walmart gift cards for the children on our hamper list.

Last year's decision to purchase Walmart gift cards instead of physical gifts was received very well by parishioners and by the hamper recipients themselves. It allows more flexibility for both parents and their children. If you wish to participate, take a tag from the tree and return the item to the church **by Sunday, December 10.**



Holiday Christmas Hours

The parish office will be closed from December 22 to December 26, and again from December 29 to January 1. Calls and emails will be returned on the next business day. For urgent matters, please leave a message on Fr. Eli's extension or call him directly at 403 929 8972.

This Week at the Church

Monday	7:00pm	Legion of Mary
Tuesday	8:30am	Rosary
	9:00am	Mass/Confession
	9:30am	Marian/Divine Mercy Cenacle
	11:00am	Funeral—Sylvia Kirkland
Wednesday	8:30am	Rosary
	9:00am	Mass//Confession
	1:00pm	Choir
	6:30pm	CFC Recollection
	7:00pm	RCIA
Thursday	8:30am	Rosary
	9:00am	Mass /Confession
	7:00pm	Opus Dei Men
Friday	9:00am	Mass/Confession/Adoration
	1:00pm	Sing-a-long for Seniors
	6:00pm	Evening with Mary
Saturday	10:30am	Baptism Preparation
	12:00pm	Pastoral Care Team Lunch
	4:00pm	Confession
	5:00pm	Mass
Sunday	10:00am	Mass
	12:00pm	Mass
	2:00pm	Festival of Carols

Funeral Mass for Sylvia Kirkland

Tuesday, December 5
11:00am

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

Coloring Page—[Click Here](#)

Kid's Bulletin—[Click Here](#)

Children's Liturgy of the Word—
[Click Here](#)



We have a great selection of re-purposed Christmas cards and tags at the SW entrance. All proceeds go to support missions.

We Pray for the Sick and All Who Care for Them

Stephanie Davis, Wendy Denis, Gaetano Dumo, Fr. Noel Farman, Mary Figley, Marie Funke, Aidan Hanes, Sylvia Harris, Ann Hayes, Sharon Jeanson, Charlotte Johansen, Dean Klein, Clifford MacFarlane, McDonald/Born Family, Bill Montgomery, Mark Naylen, Elliott Nowell, Rita Ortiz-Waschmann, Andrew Pelletier, Jorge Carlos Rotela, Gabriel Serpas, Brad Sluiter, Fr. Julian Studden, Shirley Valentine, Richard Zelichowski

And For Those Who Have Died

Sylvia Kirkland, Bishop Emeritus Paride Taban, Deacon Bill Young, Fr. Salvador Ahumada, Sr. Helen Hengel SCSL

We Are So Grateful For Your Financial Support!

- ♦ Online giving on the “Contribute” page of our website—one time or monthly with debit, Visa, Visa debit, Mastercard, or 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 church entrance
- ♦ E-transfer to ***isupport@stjamescalgary.org***
- ♦ Dropping off your envelope in the collection basket
- ♦ Dropping off your envelope at the office or into the office mailbox
- ♦ Mailing your donation to the church