



St. James the Greater Church

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

Ph: 403 243 2680 Fax: 403 287 1273

office@stjamescalgary.org www.stjamescalgary.org

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 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

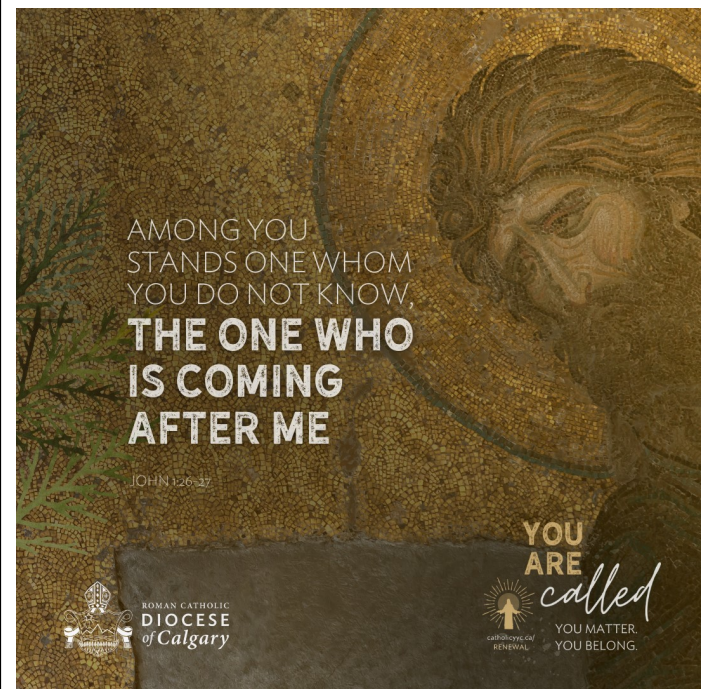
(or by appointment)

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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near! The third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means rejoice. This is the message expressed by St. Paul when he 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 that 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 relationship with God. Rightly then that St. Paul said, "rejoice in the Lord always." Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near!

So, to express our joy in the coming of Jesus as our Savior into our hearts, we lit the rose/pink candle in the Advent wreath. Indeed, there are several reasons why we rejoice. We rejoice at the thought that Jesus is going to be reborn in our lives, deepening in us His gifts of love and mercy and touching our hearts to see the good in every situation.

Last second Sunday of Advent in the 10 am Mass celebrating the children's liturgy, I am just amazed by the children in our Church smiling, brimming with joy and sometimes taking my attention of their noise. However, in the positive side of life, there is so much hope and joy in our community.

The voices of our children simply remind us of God's faithfulness to us in times that life is tough. While we see and hear members of our communities passed away and gone, there are also new babies consecrated to our Church for Baptism.

With God who lives with us and with God wanting to bless us ever more fully, we will be graced, and we are graced, and the Lord will continue to help us. And do not be ashamed that we are terrified, and we tremble at times. We have limits. We have weaknesses. We have strengths. God will assure us that if we trust in His power, nothing will be impossible.

With us walking with Him together as one family, we believe that God will continue to bless us with His grace. We are blessed. And we will continue to be blessed by the light of Christ's love and mercy. We need to trust and learn how to survive a faith-crisis.

On such occasions, Robert Cardinal Sarah has something to tell us. He said, "our life of faith most often walks in the night. The more faith has to confront trials, the stronger it becomes. Nights of faith always end with finding the little light of God.

As we pray today, we also rejoice that the Lord does not fail to show His power and might when we are down and in despair. As we pray today, we also rejoice because the Lord continues to strengthen us in our troubles and anxieties.

John is giving us a wonderful example. John lives totally for Jesus. His very being, his identity as a person is found in Jesus. As the example of John is telling us so clearly, the truth of the matter is, we find our identity when we live for others.

The key is love. When we love and care for others, as John did, we find ourselves. When we live for others, our whole becomes filled with meaning and happiness. May God bless us and help us to live for one another. In this way, we find ourselves and discover who we truly are.

ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS!!

Did you know your screening requirements must be up-to-date in order for you to continue in your ministry?

This means...

All Volunteers must complete the online Praesidium Sexual Abuse Prevention Training (or C.A.S.E below) and a refresher course every **2 years**. **High Trust/Risk Volunteers** must also provide a Police Information Check that is good for **5 years**, and must be redone before it expires. We are in the process of reviewing the files and will contact you if you require an update.

If you have any questions, please contact Kerstin Daly at pvcsc@stjamescalgary.org or call 403 243 2680 (Extension 6) on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING COURSES: If you receive emails directly from Praesidium about re-taking courses, please disregard! **Any communication about courses required will ONLY come from the office or our parish volunteer screening coordinator NOT FROM PRAESIDIUM.**

C.A.S.E Course—(Creating a Safe Environment) - All those who have been contacted by Kerstin and/or have not been able to complete the online courses are asked to attend our C.A.S.E. in-person class in the parish hall. Please mark your calendars!

**Sunday, January 21
1:30 to 3:30pm**

**Tuesday, December 19**

9:00am Phil Streifel—R/S

Wednesday, December 20

9:00am Alistair John Sim—R/S

Thursday, December 21

9:00am Alicia Abreu Portillo de Zaldivar—R/S

Friday, December 22

9:00am Intention of Quintin Christiansen

Saturday, December 23

5:00pm Intention of Paul, Allan & Aishling

Sunday, December 24

10:00am Intention of Myrna Castro

12:00pm St James Parish

5:00pm Jillian O'Connell—R/S

7:00pm Charles Brister—R/S

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****Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament***New Year's Day—10am*****Solemnity of Mary—A day of obligation for the
Universal Church***Boxing Day. December 26 – No Mass****Sunday Collection—December 10**

Regular \$3777

PAPS \$1638
\$5415**Simbang Gabi Filipino Masses**

December 15 to December 23

6:30 Carols

7:00pm Mass

All welcome.

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.



Our Together in Action (TIA) campaign ends on December 31. Please consider helping us reach our TIA goal. Unfortunately, at this time we are still short of reaching our target. Your donations can be made with our TIA envelopes, online, or by contacting the parish office. Many thanks to those who have already contributed.

Collected: \$29,572 Goal: \$36,218

Remaining: \$6646

Deadline December 31, 2023**St James Christmas Hampers**

Huge thanks to all those who donated Walmart gift cards, funds, candy canes and chocolates for our Christmas Hampers. This year we provided 48 hampers to individuals and families living within our parish boundary.

Thanks also to Mr. Bashaw and St James School for their food donations and their help with assembly, the Knights of Columbus, and our Christmas Hamper Committee for their efforts and contributions. Special thanks to Elvira Castaneda, John Wilson, Andy Ostrowski, Brenda Lerner, Kyle Hagan.

This Advent, Bishop McGrattan alerts us to be intentional, not to become indifferent and unaware of the very presence of God in our lives. Begin by reflecting on the Bishop's five questions in the article and step into the Advent season differently this year.

[Bishop McGrattan's Advent Message](#)

The kitchen/hall will be closed on December 24 & 25 to allow for the set-up and overflow required for the many Masses on these dates and to allow our volunteers to spend some time with their families. Your cooperation is gratefully appreciated. SORRY NO COFFEE ON THESE DATES.



**Statement
by the
Canadian
Conference of
Catholic
Bishops
on Eutha-**

This Week at the Church

Monday	7:00pm 7:00pm	Legion of Mary Simbang Gabi
Tuesday	8:30am 9:00am 9:30am 7:00pm 7:30pm	Rosary Mass/Confession Marian/Divine Mercy Cenacle Simbang Gabi Knights of Columbus
Wednesday	8:30am 9:00am 1:00pm 7:00pm	Rosary Mass/Confession Choir Simbang Gabi
Thursday	8:30am 9:00am 7:00pm	Rosary Mass /Confession Simbang Gabi
Friday	9:00am 7:00pm	Mass/Confession/Adoration Simbang Gabi
Saturday	11:00am 4:00pm 5:00pm 7:00pm	Baptism Confession Mass Simbang Gabi
Sunday	10:00am 12:00pm 5:00pm 7:00pm	Mass Mass Christmas Eve Mass Christmas Eve Mass

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 Christmas gift tags at the SW entrance. All proceeds go to support missions. Simply drop payment into the white tin by the cards.

We welcome our new neighbor, Eugenia Landry, who has recently opened up **Enchanted Petals**, a floral shop across the street from our church. We thank Eugenia for her generosity towards our Christmas poinsettia order and for her assistance in arranging our bouquets. If you happen to need flowers, drop in to see Eugenia.

enchantedpetals27@gmail.com
www.enchantedpetals.ca
587 777 0101

Please pray for the sick in our parish and for those who have died especially Sylvia Kirkland and Chris Reynolds.

Christmas Note Cards

The Diocese provides Christmas note cards for parishioners to use in conveying care to others this Advent and Christmas. Here are some ideas on how to use them:

- Parishioners can convey God's love and care to colleagues at work by leaving these cards at their desks, either signed or anonymously.
- Students, parents, guardians, and teachers can share these cards with others in their schools.
- These cards can be inserted into Christmas cards and gift boxes.
- They could be shared with a stranger who seems down or burdened.

Look for these cards in your parish before Christmas!

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@stjamescagary.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