

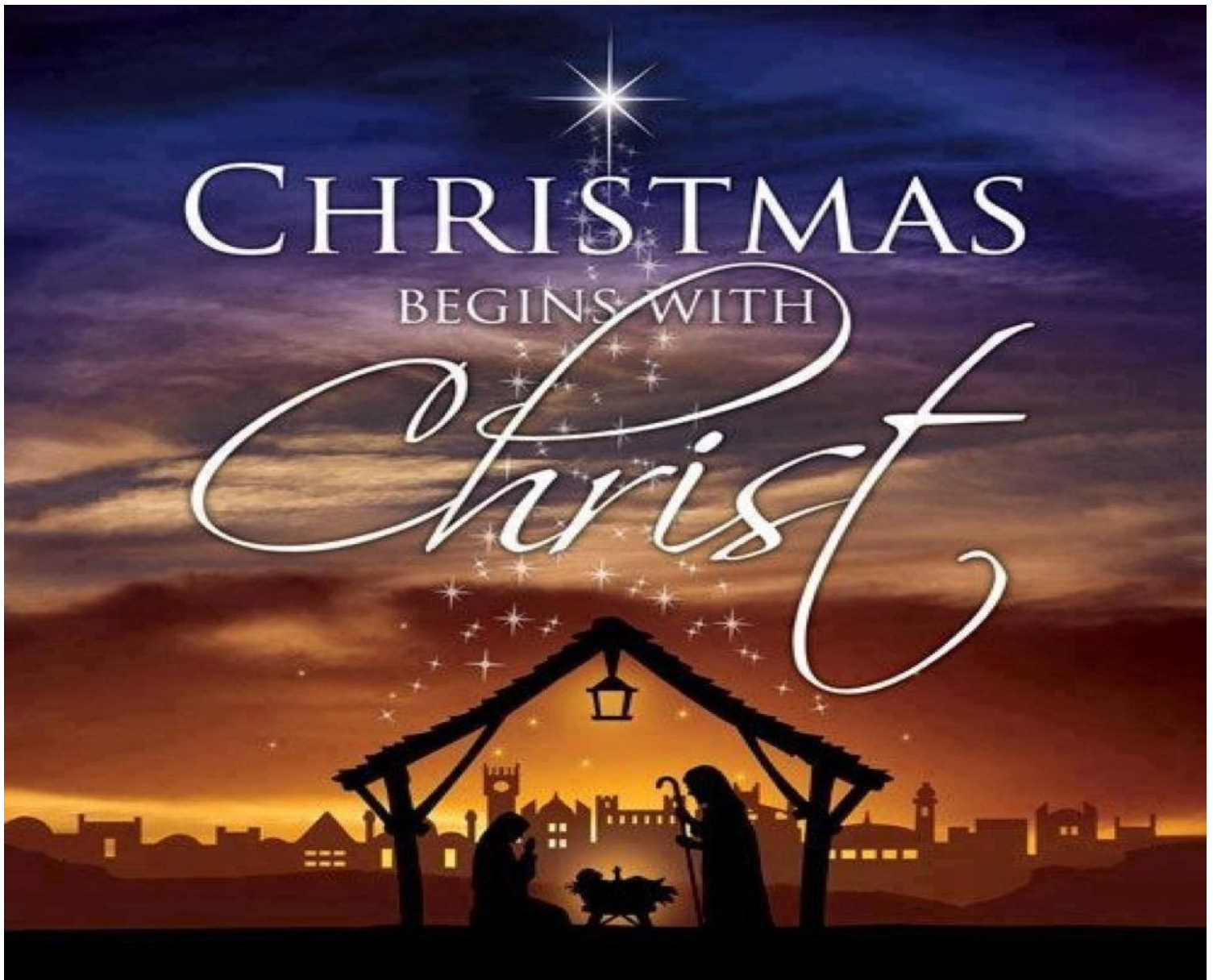
St. James the Greater Catholic Church

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

Ph: 403 243 2680 www.stjamescalgary.org

The Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2023



Merry Christmas! 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. We hope to see you again soon!

PARISH STAFF

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

Administrative Assistant—Brenda Lerner - office@stjamescalgary.org

Music - Michael Scholfield - musdir83@icloud.com

Bookkeeper—Magda Aguillon

Volunteer Screening—Kerstin Daly - pvsc@stjamescalgary.org



Visit us on
Facebook!

Christmas & New Year Message From Fr. Eli

“The Word became flesh and we have seen his glory” (John 1: 14)

It is true. “No one has ever seen God.” (John 1:18) But today, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we hear that “the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory.” Today, we see Jesus, who is the very imprint of God’s being. (Hebrews 1:3)

So, as we celebrate Christmas, let us take a moment to behold the glory of the Lord. We can see God’s glory if we look through the eyes of the Apostles as they followed Jesus. They saw him heal the sick, multiply the food and change water into wine.

We can see God’s glory through special Marian apparitions like at Lourdes, Fatima, and Guadalupe. These apparitions displayed God’s glory through special flowers, a dancing sun and thousand of healings and conversions.

We can see God’s glory through the smiles and cries of the babies and children inside our Church of St. James who are the hope and our very strength.

We can see the glory of God in the hearts of our volunteers who selflessly serve our parish without counting the cost. We can see the glory of God among families who pray and come together to give praise, glory, and thanksgiving to the Lord every Sunday Mass.

We can also see the glory of God among our people who generously give and share their treasures and blessings to the projects and programs of our parish like Christmas Hampers, Food Bank, TIA and other charitable projects.

We can also see the glory of God through the hands and feet of the different members of ministries and organizations who show full support and love for the Church that we continue to building up one another with hearts filled with Pastoral Renewal.

We can also see the glory of God among our people who continue to build bridges instead of walls, promote communion rather than division, foster inclusivity rather than exclusivity, instill respect and peace rather than bitterness and anger.

But the best way for us to see the glory of the Lord is by gazing on the child in the manger. When we take the time to look at the manger scene, we cannot help but be cut to the heart by what we see.

The humility of a God who emptied himself and came among us so that He could raise us up displays the glory of God more than all the miracles and all the apparitions. Why? Because the manger is not about displays of power, it is about love.

All the miraculous works of God happening in our life would count for nothing if they did not reveal a loving God. So, this Christmas day, as we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us be grateful for the glory of God’s love, peace and hope beginning in our families and communities.

God is with us, God is among us, God lives in us! I invite you to look at the Nativity scene. Look at the wonders of God’s love in Christ Jesus, the baby Jesus born in our midst.

As we welcome the year 2024, I invite you and your family to keep Jesus in our hearts and with great trust pray that “forever, we will sing of your steadfast Love, O, Lord.” Yes, God loves us, and his love never fails. Yes, God loves us, and his love gives us hope.

Be not afraid! God constantly repeats these words as He seeks us out. Jesus was born to tell us that never again will anyone be alone and abandoned because Christ conquers every fear, sin, Satan, and death and loves us all, without exception. A blessed Christmas and New Year!

REGULAR MASS TIMES

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 10:00am & 12:00pm

Weekday

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

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will be open on December 27 & 28.
Closed December 25, 26, 29 & January 1.

For emergencies ONLY, please contact Fr. Eli directly
at 403 929 8972

Thank you so very much to Enchanted Petals, the new floral shop across the street (2114-54 Ave SW) for the beautiful poinsettias and floral arrangements. Drop in to see them for your floral needs.
Visit www.enchantedpetals.ca or call 587 777 0101

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, December 26

9:00am No Mass

Wednesday, December 27

9:00am Vera Nasri—R/S

Thursday, December 28

9:00am Intention of Veronica Kubik

Friday, December 29

9:00a Peter Pinto —R/S

Saturday, December 30

5:00pm Jose' Zaldivar—R/S

Sunday, December 31

10:00am Intention of Lerner Family

12:00pm St James Parish

5:00pm New Year's Eve—St James Parish

Monday, January 1

10:00am Joseph Neil—R/S &
Intention of Neil Family

Tuesday, January 2

9:00am Sandra MacKay—R/S

Wednesday, January 3

9:00am Phil Streifel—R/S

Thursday, January 4

9:00am Intention of Tara Elsner

Friday, January 5

9:00am Intention of Lorraine Moody

Saturday, January 6

9:00am David Henderson—R/S

5:00pm Gabriel Waschmann Ortiz—R/S

Sunday, January 7

10:00am Judy Welch—R/S

12:00pm St James Parish

Together in Action—2023

Goal: 36,218

Collected to Date: \$30,342

Remaining: \$5876

Please help us reach our goal.

*Contributions support many
charitable organizations.*

Christmas Donations

Thank you for thinking of us at this Advent/Christmas season. We grow in our Christian faith when we show others the love of Christ to people through building parish communities and offering programs that nurture our faith. We are truly grateful for your support.

Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) requires that for gifts to be receipted in 2023, donations must be processed online, received by, post marked or dated by December 31st. 2023 donations can also be dropped off in the mail slot by the office entrance and will be counted as a 2023 donation until January 7. More info on back page.

Confirmation Registration & Information Session

Thursday, January 11

7:30-8:30pm

In the parish hall

Registration is open to all students who:

- Are in grade 6 or higher
- Have been baptized
- Have celebrated the Sacrament of the Eucharist (First Communion)

Our program will run between January and May with monthly in-person classes on Thursdays from 7:30—8:30pm in the parish hall. This is a parent-student program and, as such, a parent or guardian must attend with the student. This program also consists of a series of online classes using the resource

CHOSEN: Your Journey to Confirmation program from Ascension Press. Cost of the program is \$18.95 US. Details on how to register will be provided at the Information Session.

ATTENTION: ALL VOLUNTEERS **Volunteer Screening**

Do you know that screening requirements for ALL volunteer roles must be up-to-date by the end of January for you to continue in your ministry? All volunteers must complete the Praesidium Sexual Abuse Prevention Program. **For all volunteers who have not completed this training online, please plan to attend our in-person program on Sunday, January 21 from 1:30pm—3:30pm in the parish hall.** A representative for the Diocese will be here to run the program. For more information, contact Kerstin Daly at (403) 243 2680 Extension 6.



Wishing you all a blessed Christmas!
~Fr. Eli, Brenda, Kerstin. Michael & Magda

2024 Donation Envelopes can be found in the hall. If you do not see a box and would like one, please contact the office. **If you have moved this year, please ensure that we have your new address before tax receipt time.**

**Sunday Collection
December 17**

Regular	\$5617.55
PAPS	<u>\$1638.00</u>
	\$7255.55

Congratulations to the families of Jayce Olson, Molly McNally, Joseph McNally, Lance Cariaga, Kehlan Barry, Axel Hanson, Reginald Kenway, and Zachary Garol, baptized at St James Church during the month of December.

Resources for Children

Kid's Sunday Bulletin—[click here](#)
Liturgy of the Word with Miss Heidi—[click here](#)



**Sing-A-Long For Seniors
Resumes January 12**

Join us on Friday afternoons from 1:00 - 2:30pm in the parish hall. All are welcome!

**Children's Liturgy
Sundays at 10am Mass**

Will resume on Sunday, January 14.

January 1—Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass will be celebrated at 5pm on December 31 with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to take place following the Mass for 30 minutes; and at 10am on January 1.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) has decreed that the Holy Days of obligation to be observed in Canada are: **all Sundays of the year, Christmas Day and the Feast of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day)**

Next Bulletin - January 7. If you wish to receive our bulletin via email, please contact the parish office.

FAQS: The Christmas Monday

Q: If I attend Mass on the morning of Dec. 24 (Sunday), do I still need to go to Mass for Christmas Day which falls on a Monday this year?

A: Yes! This year, the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas are distinct obligations, each requiring separate attendance (see Canon Law 1248). A Mass on Sunday morning (Dec. 24) only satisfies the Sunday obligation, and a Mass on Monday (Dec 25 or the vigil on Dec 24) satisfies the Christmas obligation .

We Pray for the Sick and All Who Care for Them

Stephanie Davis, Wendy Denis, Gaetano Dumo, Fr. Noel Farman, Mary Figley, Marie Funke, Aiden Hanes, Sylvia Harris, Ann Hayes, Clifford MacFarlane, Bill Montgomery, Mark Naylen, Elliott Nowell, Rita Ortiz-Waschmann, Jorge Carlos Rotela, Gabriel Serpas, Shirley Valentine, Richard Zelichowski.

And For Those Who Have Died

Ark Banaszek, Sylvia Kirkland, Chris Reynolds, Deacon Bill Young, Fr. Salvador Ahumada

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