



St. James the Greater Church

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Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2024

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 January: For the gift of diversity in the Church. We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

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

Arise, shine out Jerusalem for your light has come; the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the people. The nations come to your light.

These sayings of the prophet Isaiah must have been very much in the mind of Matthew when he described the coming of the Magi to worship the newborn King and Savior of the world in Bethlehem.

This year 2024, I thank the Lord for adding life in my years as I celebrate my birthday with our wonderful people. I am grateful for witnessing so much faith in the hearts of generous individuals and families who trust in the providence of God. Equally consoled as well is with the deep faith of our parish staff, parish volunteers and lay faithful who selflessly offer loving services to God and to our Church without counting the cost. And this light of faith cannot come from us but comes from a faithful God.

Faith is born of an encounter with the living God who call us and reveals his love to us. Transformed by this love, we gain fresh vision, new eyes to see and we realize that it contains a great promise of fulfillment and that a vision of the future opens up before us. We come to see that faith does not dwell in shadow and gloom. It is a light for our darkness.

Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. We adore, we worship, and we renew our love to our Lord as He reveals to us, as He comes and enters in our hearts, in our families and in our faith communities.

The Greek word Epiphany means appearance or manifestation. Multiple revelations of Jesus as God are celebrated in the Feast of Epiphany.

First, the angels revealed Jesus to the shepherds. In the Western Church, the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the first appearance of Jesus to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi, Casper, Balthazar, and Melchior while in the Eastern Church, the feast is the commemoration of the Baptism of Christ where the Father and the Holy Spirit gave testimony to the identity of Jesus as Son of God. Later, in the synagogue of Nazareth, Jesus revealed himself as the promised Messiah and at Cana he revealed his Divinity by transforming water into wine.

The Gospel from Matthew reminds us that if God permitted the Magi, foreigners, and pagans, to recognize and give Jesus proper respect as the King of the Jews, we should know that there is nothing in our sinful lives that would keep God from bringing us to Jesus. There were three groups of people who responded and reacted to the Epiphany of the birth of Christ.

The first group headed by King Herod the Great who tried to kill and eliminate the baby Jesus, the second group were the priests and scribes who ignored Jesus and the third group were the shepherds and the Magi who came and adore the baby Jesus and offer their presence and gifts to HIM.

The shepherds and the Magi invite us to look also of our own journey of faith to Jesus, our Savior and Lord. When we go to Jesus, when we adore and give time to stay with Jesus, what do we give? What do we offer? What do we share to Jesus?

You may perhaps say that we have no gold, or frankincense or myrrh. That is true, but we have something more valuable, precious treasures that we can present to Christ. We bring gold to Christ when we try and make Him king of our hearts. We offer frankincense when by our worship and prayer, we proclaim His divinity. And we can in some small way, alleviate the pain of the wounds Jesus suffered for us by applying the myrrh of our own sufferings and sorrows and tears.

Let us plot a better course for our lives and the lives of our family, the lives of our children and grandchildren as the Magi did, choosing for ourselves a better way of life in this New Year 2024.

As Pope Leo the Great once said, "whoever preserves in himself or herself the brightness of a good and holy life becomes for many, a star which lights the way to the Lord." Amen.

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS:

Did you know your screening requirements must be up-to-date by the end of January in order to continue in your ministry? This means:

All Volunteers: An online Praesidium Sexual Abuse Prevention Training course must be completed and a refresher every 2 years.

High Trust/Risk Volunteers: Your police check is valid for 5 years. We are in the process of reviewing the files and will contact you if you require an update.

In-Person Praesidium course for those who have not completed the online version:

Sunday, January 21

1:30—3:30pm in the parish hall

****If you are required to attend the in-person course, please watch for an email from our Volunteer Screening Coordinator, Kerstin Day.***

**Tuesday, January 9**

9:00am Anne Brister—R/S

Wednesday, January 10

9:00am Sharon Charnetski—R/S

Thursday, January 11

9:00am Intention of Jana Ferner

Friday, January 12

9:00am Intention of Terry & Merle Gonsalves

Saturday, January 13

5:00pm Intention of Mary & Sergio Plazas

Sunday, January 14

10:00am Euclid Dore'—R/S

12:00pm St James Parish

Happy Birthday, Fr. Eli!**Potluck Birthday Lunch
Sunday, January 7
Immediately following the 12pm Mass**

All are welcome to come and celebrate Fr. Eli's birthday and the gift of his life.

There will also be treats served after the 5pm & 10am Masses for those who cannot attend on Sunday afternoon.

**Sunday and Holiday Collections****December 24** $\$6330 + \$1638 \text{ (PAPS)} = \$7968$ **Christmas**

\$5606

December 31 $\$5894 + \$1638 \text{ (PAPS)} = \$7532$ **New Year's Day**

\$1150



Immense thanks to all who contributed to our 2023 Together in Action campaign. Thanks to many generous donors we almost reached our goal.

Collected: \$33,922 Goal: \$36,218

Remaining: \$2296

**Some online donations have not yet been added to the numbers above. Update next week.*

A big thank you to Matthew Schneider who cleaned our pews this week for some required volunteer hours for his school. Thank you, Matthew!

**Confirmation Registration and
Information Session
Thursday, January 11
7:30 - 8:30pm
Parish Hall**

Registration is open to all students who:

- Are in grade 6 or higher
- Have been baptized (copy of baptism certificate required)
- Have celebrated First Communion

Our preparation program for the Sacrament of Confirmation will run between January and May with monthly mandatory in-person classes on Thursdays from 7:30—8:30pm in the parish hall. This is a student/parent program and therefore students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian,. This program also consists of a series of online videos using the resource **CHOSEN: Your Journey to Confirmation** from Ascension Press. Details about the online program will be provided at the information session.

The Knights are again holding a **Pancake Breakfast** on Sunday January 21st after the 10:00 Mass. Bring the whole family together and enjoy pancakes with sausages and ham. All donations support local charities and events in our parish.



This Week at the Church

Monday	7:00pm	Legion of Mary
Tuesday	8:30am 9:00am 9:30am	Rosary Mass/Confession Marian/Divine Mercy Cenacle
Wednesday	8:30am 9:00am 1:00pm 7:00pm	Rosary Mass//Confession Choir RCIA
Thursday	8:30am 9:00am 6:15pm 7:00pm 7:30pm	Rosary Mass /Confession Reconciliation Class #4 Opus Dei Men (in sanctuary) Confirmation Registration
Friday	9:00am 1:00pm	Mass/Confession/Adoration Sing-a-long for Seniors
Saturday	2:00pm 4:00pm 5:00pm	Reconciliation Retreat & 1st Confession Confession Mass
Sunday	10:00am 12:00pm	Mass Mass

DONATION ENVELOPE BOXES

Our 2024 donation envelope boxes are now available in the hall. 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.

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

Coloring Page—[Click Here](#)
Kid's Bulletin—[Click Here](#)



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



ENCHANTED PETALS
FLOWERS AND MAGIC

We thank **Enchanted Petals** for the beautiful poinsettias and ongoing assistance in arranging and providing arrangements for us.
Place an order and receive 10% off—please use coupon code:

enchanted petals10

enchantedpetals@outlook.com

www.enchantedpetals.ca

587 777 0101

2114 54 Ave SW

**across the street from the church*

Thank you to those donors who contributed to our parish through grants from the Szikora Family Flow Through Fund at Calgary Foundation, and the United Way of Calgary, Donor Choice program.

We Pray for the Sick and All Who Care for Them

Emma Boccardo, Stephanie Davis, Wendy Denis, Gaetano Dumo, Fr. Noel Farman, Mary Figley, Marie Funke, Aidan Hanes, Sylvia Harris, Ann Hayes, 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, Shirley Valentine, Richard Zelichowski

And For Those Who Have Died

Kendra O'Hare, Sylvia Kirkland

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