



# ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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[www.stjamescalgary.org](http://www.stjamescalgary.org)

**4th Sunday of Advent**

**December 21, 2025**

### MASS TIMES

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

### Weekday

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

### CONFESSION

Wednesday & Friday 9:30 -10:00am  
Saturday 4:00 - 4:30pm  
(or by appointment)

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Thursday  
9:00am - 3:00pm  
*Closed 12-12:30 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. We hope to see you again soon!

### Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for the Month of December:

For Christians in conflict. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

### PARISH STAFF

**Pastor**—Fr. Domingo Bongalos [stjamespastorcalgary@gmail.com](mailto:stjamespastorcalgary@gmail.com)  
**Administrative Assistant**—Brenda Lerner [office@stjamescalgary.org](mailto:office@stjamescalgary.org)  
**Music**—Michael Scholfield - [musdir83@gmail.com](mailto:musdir83@gmail.com)  
**Bookkeeper**—David Mu [david.mu@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:david.mu@calgarydiocese.ca)  
**Volunteer Screening**—Kerstin Daly [pvsc@stjamescalgary.org](mailto:pvsc@stjamescalgary.org)  
**Sacrament Preparation**—Lindsay Klein [sacraments@stjamescalgary.org](mailto:sacraments@stjamescalgary.org)



Visit us on  
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**“St. Joseph, the figure of Advent”**

**Have you ever faced a moment when doing the right thing felt like it would cost you everything?** Your reputation. Your plans. Your sense of security. A moment when silence would be easier than courage... When walking away would hurt less than staying... When obedience to God would mean misunderstanding from everyone else.

**That moment is where today's Gospel begins.**

- Before the angels sing.
- Before the shepherds arrive.
- Before the star appears.

There is a man in the shadows—**Joseph**—standing at the crossroads of obedience and fear.

**Matthew tells us something striking:** When Joseph discovers that Mary is pregnant, he is described as **“a righteous man.”**

- Righteous—but confused.
- Faithful—but deeply wounded.
- Good—but facing a decision that could destroy his future.

**In Jewish law, Joseph had the right to expose Mary publicly.**

- He had the right to protect his name.
- He had the right to walk away.

Instead, he chooses mercy.

Then God speaks—not with thunder, not in public—but **in a dream.**

**“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid.”**

- Do not be afraid—to trust.
- Do not be afraid—to take Mary into your home.
- Do not be afraid—to accept a child who is not biologically yours.
- Do not be afraid—to let God rewrite your life.

**And Joseph does something extraordinary: He wakes up... and he obeys.**

No recorded words. No arguments. No conditions.

Joseph teaches us this powerful truth: **Faith is not proven by what we say—but by what we do when obedience is difficult.**

**That is Joseph's story.** Not a life he planned. **But a life he embraced—because God was in it.**

This Gospel speaks to anyone who is:

- Carrying a responsibility they did not ask for
- Loving someone who is difficult
- Staying faithful when life feels unfair
- Obeying God when the path is unclear

**Joseph reminds us:**

- Obedience does not require full understanding
- Faith does not mean the absence of fear
- Trust often begins when control ends

Some of us are praying, **“Lord, change the situation.”** But maybe God is saying, **“Trust Me—and stay.”**

Some are asking for answers. But God is asking for **obedience.**

**Joseph never preached a sermon.** Never worked a miracle. Never spoke a recorded word. **Yet heaven trusted him with Jesus.**

**Why?**

Because when God spoke—**Joseph obeyed.**

Even when it was hard. Even when it was costly. Even when it didn't make sense.

**May we have the courage to do the same.**

And when God whispers into our fears, **“Do not be afraid,”**

may our lives answer—not just with words—**but with faithful action.**

**Because obedience, even in difficulty, is where miracles begin.**

**Closing of the Jubilee Year**

**Saturday, December 27**

**Mass at 5pm**

**St Mary's Cathedral**

Join the diocesan community for Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family marking the end of the Jubilee Year of Hope, celebrated by Bishop McGrattan. All are welcome to gather in thanksgiving and prayers as we commend the fruits of this sacred year to the Lord.



A key amendment to Bill C-9 could be voted on soon with serious implications for people of faith. Read the Canadian bishops' letter at [www.catholicyc.ca](http://www.catholicyc.ca)

### Mindful Give

This weekend you will notice a Quick Tap donation display at the SW entrance. Quick Tap is a secure, contactless way to support the parish—simply tap your debit or credit card on the device to make a contribution and continue on your way. It is fast, easy, and especially helpful for those who don't carry cash or prefer a quick, no-fuss way to give. If you would like to receive a tax receipt for each donation, just scan the QR code on the display to complete a brief one-time registration. After that, your receipts will be emailed to you automatically each time you donate. We hope this makes giving more convenient and accessible for everyone. Thank you for your continued support!



### Mass Intentions

**Tuesday, December 23**  
 9am Intention of Mary Lou Campbell  
**Wednesday, December 24**  
 5pm Guido Ciccaglione +  
 7pm Rita Grier +  
**Thursday, December 25**  
 10am Intention of Ada Kerpan  
 12pm Parishioners of St James  
**Friday, December 26**  
 No Mass  
**Saturday, December 27**  
 5pm Intention of Merle Gonsalves  
**Sunday, December 28**  
 10am Intention of Lerner Family  
 12pm Parishioners of St James

### Multiply the Hope

The Calgary Diocese recognizes that parishes like ours carry financial challenges related to aging buildings that require necessary repairs, while other parishes also have loans to repay. In the spirit of the Jubilee Year proclaimed by Pope Francis, our Diocese has launched a financial campaign called, **Multiply the Hope** to help with these costs. Under this campaign, the Diocese will match every dollar contributed to our repairs and maintenance fund up to a maximum of \$94,630. This means that every contribution made to our repairs and maintenance fund will have twice the impact, allowing our parish to move forward with some of our more significant repairs and maintenance initiatives. Thanks to donors like you, our 2025 Together in Action obligation has been met! The **Multiply the Hope** campaign runs to the end of 2027, giving us 2025, 2026 and 2027 to benefit from this matching program and to reach our parish goal of \$94,630.



Find out more about this campaign at [www.catholiccy.ca/multiplythehope](http://www.catholiccy.ca/multiplythehope)

### Christmas Hampers

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, 46 households received Christmas Hampers this week. We are also grateful to St James School for their outstanding amount of collected food items, the Knights of Columbus, the JB Schultz Foundation and our Christmas Hamper Committee (Brenda Lerner, Andrea Engels, Andy Ostrowski, Kerstin Daly and Jennifer Brosseau) for their efforts in making this year's hamper project a success once again.

**Many thanks to those who came out to help us with the hamper assembly on Wednesday and the delivery the following day despite the weather.**

### Knights of Columbus

The Knights would like to kick off the matching funds for the Multiply the Hope Campaign for our parish with our biggest donation to date of \$5,000. We thank the parish's support of our fundraisers which allows us to support our parish and Catholic charities in our community.

**Thank you, Knights!**

### Advent & Christmas Schedule

**Advent Penitential Celebration - December 10 at 7pm**

Christmas Eve Mass 5pm & 7pm  
 Christmas Day Mass 10am & 12pm

New Year's Eve Mass 5pm  
 New Year's Day Mass 10am



**Office Hours—Open Dec 22 & 29 only**  
 Regular hours resume on January 5. (For emergencies only, call 403 860 6357)  
**\*If you or your loved one is in need of the Anointing of the Sick or Dying, please call 403 231 9505 for the priest on call.**

### **This Week at the Church**

Monday	6:00pm	Legion of Mary
Tuesday	9:00am	Mass
Wednesday	5:00pm 7:00pm	Mass Mass
Thursday	10:00am 12:00pm	Mass Mass
Friday	No Mass	
Saturday	4:00pm 5:00pm	Confession Mass
Sunday	10:00am 12:00pm	Mass Mass

*Rosary at 8:30am prior to all weekday Mass.*

### **We Pray for the Sick and All Who Care for Them**

Ali Boyd, Emma Boccardo, Paul B., Lucy Ciccaglione, Fr. Luciano Cortopassi, Stephanie Davis, Patrick Driscoll, Mia Dumonceaux, Gabrielle Engels, Scott Evans, Msgr. Noel Farman, Nancy Farrell, Mary Figley, Bernice Foley, Marie Funke, Merle Gonsalves, Aidan Hanes, Keith Hannan, Jennifer Hazen, Sharon Jeanson, Charlotte Johansen, Lara Lavelle, Martin McCarthy, Pauline & Monty Montemurro, Bill Montgomery, Dave Moran, Mark Naylen, Elliott Nowell, Kathy Oczkowski, Ashleigh Patterson, Emil Rawlyk, Jocelyn Robb, Gabriel Serpas, Brad Sluiter, Marie Swab, Ildiko Szikora, Mary Terek, Elizabeth Tisseverasinghe, Frank Toone, Maria Zuzic

### **And Those Who Have Died**

Simon Duku, Tomasa Tolentino, Shirley Valentine, Guido Ciccaglione, Juliette Seguin

### **Did You Know?**

It is the directive of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary that parishioners are to stand at the Memorial Acclamation that follows the consecration when the priest says the words, "The mystery of faith."

### **Parish Directory Advertising Opportunity**

If you would like to advertise your business in our new parish directory, please contact Lisa Frehlich (403 969 4939) prior to **December 31, 2025**.

Full page: \$750

Half Page: \$450

Quarter Page: \$250

Business Card: \$75

You must supply original art work on USB memory stick or online cloud. Image formats including JPEG, TIFF, PNG, PDF, BMP, EPS are acceptable. Full payment due at time of submission or postdated cheque for January 1, 2026.

### **Regular Donations**

**December 14**

Regular \$12,972 + 2181 (PAPS) = \$15,153

### **Together in Action**

**Correction:** \$5518 remaining

### **Help Needed to Set Up the Church for Christmas!**

**December 23 at 5pm**

Volunteers to help our coordinator set up the church for Christmas Eve

### **Your Financial Support Is Greatly Appreciated**

- ◆ 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
- ◆ Quick Tap

For a complete list of events in the Diocese of Calgary, please visit [www.catholicyyc.ca](http://www.catholicyyc.ca)