



ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH

5504 - 20 St. S.W. Calgary, Alberta T3E 1R2
Ph: 403 243 2680 Fax: 403 287 1273
office@stjamescalgary.org

www.stjamescalgary.org

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 18, 2026

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 January:

For prayer with the Word of God: Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

PARISH STAFF

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



Visit us on
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“JESUS, the Lamb of God.” - Fr Domingo Bongalos

There are moments in life when one sentence changes everything.

A doctor clears his throat before speaking.

A judge leans forward before announcing the verdict.

A loved one whispers, *“We need to talk.”*

In today’s Gospel, the crowd is going about their usual religious routine. Nothing dramatic. Nothing extraordinary.

And then John the Baptist suddenly stops, points to a man walking toward him, and declares: **“Behold, the Lamb of**

God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

Not *“Look, a good teacher.”*

Not *“Here is a powerful miracle worker.”*

But **“This is the Lamb.”**

At that moment, history shifts. Because John is not just introducing a person— He is revealing **how God chooses to save the world.**

To understand this Gospel, we must understand **the word “Lamb.”** For the people of Israel, the lamb was not a cute image—it was **a costly one.**

- At **Passover**, a lamb was sacrificed so death would pass over their homes.
- In the **Temple**, lambs were offered daily for the forgiveness of sins.

The lamb always carried the burden, the blood, and the price.

So, when John calls Jesus **“the Lamb of God,”** he is saying something shocking:

This man will carry what we cannot carry.

This man will pay what we cannot pay.

This man will suffer so others may live.

And notice something powerful: Jesus does not argue. He does not correct John. He accepts the title.

The Gospel then tells us that the Spirit descends upon Him and remains. This is crucial.

In the Old Testament, God’s Spirit **came and went.** But on Jesus, the Spirit **remains.**

Meaning: He is not just sent by God. He is **the chosen Son.** He is the one who takes away sin—not by force, but by **self-giving love.**

Imagine a family deeply in debt. The parents have tried everything. They have sold possessions. They have worked extra hours. But the debt keeps growing.

Then one day, someone knocks at the door and says, “I will take the debt upon myself. You are free.”

That is what Jesus does as the Lamb of God.

Or think of a parent who steps in front of danger to protect a child—

Not because the child earned it. But because **love does not calculate worthiness.** That is the Lamb.

God’s answer to sin and brokenness is not a sword— It is a **Lamb.** Silent. Humble. Willing.

This Gospel speaks directly to three kinds of people among us today.

First: those burdened by guilt. You keep replaying your failures.

You wonder if God is tired of forgiving you.

Hear this: Jesus is not the Lamb who exposes your sin—

He is the Lamb who **takes it away.**

Second: those exhausted from trying to be perfect. You think holiness means never falling.

The Lamb tells us: Salvation is not about proving yourself— It is about trusting the One who carries you.

Third: those suffering silently. The Lamb understands pain from the inside.

When life feels unfair, God does not watch from a distance. He enters the suffering.

John does not say, *“Understand the Lamb of God.”* He says, **“Behold.”** Look again. Look longer. Look deeper.

When you feel unworthy—**behold the Lamb.** When you feel broken—**behold the Lamb.** When you feel lost—**behold the Lamb.** Because the Lamb of God does not run away from our sin. He walks toward it.

When sin weighs heavy—**behold the Lamb.**

When hope feels far—**behold the Lamb.**

When love seems impossible—**behold the Lamb of God.**

And today, He still walks toward you.

Mindful Give

We have a new donation method called Quick Tap 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, January 20

9am Intention of Sarah Klein

Wednesday, January 21

9am Intention of Joseph Klein

Thursday, January 22

9am Intention of Heidi Pack

Friday, January 23

9am Intention of Kateri Poulin

Saturday, January 24

5pm Cathy Bichel +

Sunday, January 25

10am Shirley Valentine +

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. 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.catholiccycc.ca/multiplythehope

Word of God Sunday

The Sunday of the Word of God invites the Church to renew her love for Sacred Scripture and to deepen how God's Word shapes our prayer, our decisions, and our life together. Celebrated next Sunday, **January 24/25, 2026**, this year's theme, *"The Word of Christ Dwells Among You"* (Colossians 3:16), reminds us that the Scriptures are not only read but also lived in our homes and parish communities.

CCEF Cash Raffle + 50/50 (Jan 1-Mar 2, 2026)

The Calgary Catholic Education Foundation (CCEF<<http://www.theccef.ca/>>) is back with Alberta's largest Catholic school-supporting raffle-running January 1 to March 2, 2026-in support of Catholic education for 64,000 students across 120 schools in Calgary and area. This year includes 4 Early Bird cash draws with prizes totaling \$20,000, plus the 50/50 with a chance to share in a \$1 million pot. When you purchase, be sure to add on the 50/50 and select your school in the drop-down so it can share in the 50/50 proceeds. Thank you for supporting Catholic education in our community. Tickets start at \$10 and can be purchased here: <https://bit.ly/CCEFRaffle>



Donations—January 11

\$3265 + 2181 = \$5446

Next Week at the Church

Monday	6:00pm 7:00pm	Legion of Mary Vigil Prayers
Tuesday	9:00am 11:00am 7:30pm	Mass Funeral Mass Knights of Columbus
Wednesday	9:00am 7:00pm 7:00pm	Mass/Confession RCIA Confirmation Class 2
Thursday	9:00am	Mass
Friday	9:00am 1:00pm	Mass/Adoration/ Confession Singalong for Seniors
Saturday	4:00pm 5:00pm	Confession Mass
Sunday	10:00am 12:00pm	Mass 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 Lavalley, 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, Frank Toone, Maria Zuzic

And Those Who Have Died

Joe Fark, Jim Walters, Sheila Ross, Simon Duku

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026

THERE IS ONE BODY AND ONE SPIRIT. JUST AS YOU ARE CALLED TO THE ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING. EPHESIANS 4:4

SUN, JAN 18	St. Mary's Cathedral Noon Mass with Bishop William T. McGrattan	WED, JAN 21	Ascension Catholic Parish 6 pm at the church
MON, JAN 19	FCJ Retreat Centre 5:30 pm at the Chapel	THU, JAN 22	St. Michael Catholic Community Messianic Movement and Catholic Church 7-8:30 pm
WED, JAN 21	Sainte-Famille Church 10:30 am (in French)	THU, JAN 22	Westminster Presbyterian 12:30 pm at the church
WED, JAN 21	Mount Royal University 12 pm at I-143 Room (Christian Chaplaincies)	JAN 19-23	CCSD Schools Prayer services at the Calgary Catholic School District

For more information about the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, please visit WEEKOFPRAYER.CA

YOU ARE called
YOU MATTER YOU BELONG

A Call to Unity: Prayer & Worship with the Jewish Messianic Movement

Parishioners are invited to gather for an evening of prayer and worship with the Jewish Messianic movement. All are invited to this communal gathering of healing, repentance, and reconciliation with the Body of Messiah.

When: **Thu, Jan. 22 at 7 pm to 8:30 pm** - at St. Michael Catholic Community, Calgary

Funerals

Joe Fark—Saturday, January 17 at 2pm

Jim Walters—Prayers Monday, January 19 at 7pm
Funeral Mass January 20 at 11am

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.catholicyy.ca