



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

**3rd Sunday of Lent**

**March 8, 2026**

### MASS TIMES

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

### Weekday

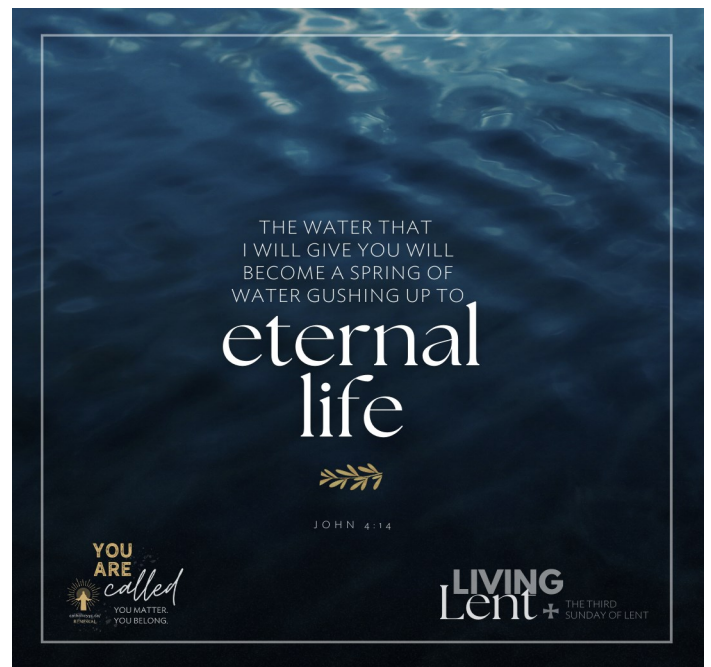
Tuesday thru Friday 9:00am  
1st Saturday of the month 9:00am

### 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 March:

**For disarmament and peace:** Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

### 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**—Leanne Plamondon (temporary)  
**Volunteer Screening**—Kerstin Daly [pvsc@stjamescalgary.org](mailto:pvsc@stjamescalgary.org)  
**Sacrament Preparation**—Lindsay Klein [sacraments@stjamescalgary.org](mailto:sacraments@stjamescalgary.org)



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Facebook!

## JESUS MEETS US AT OUR “WELL.”

Have you ever had a “noon” moment? Not noon on the clock—but noon in the soul. That time when the sun is hottest... when you don’t want to be seen... when you don’t want to explain... when you don’t want to be asked, “**How are you?**” Because if people really knew the whole story... they might judge you. If they knew what you’ve been through... they might label you. If they knew your struggles, your failures, your wounds... they might turn away.

So, we learn to hide. We learn to smile. We learn to pretend. We learn to come to the “well” when no one is there.

And today, the Gospel tells us something shocking: **Even if you are hiding... Jesus is already waiting.**

The woman in the Gospel came to the well at noon. That detail is important. In the ancient world, women usually drew water early in the morning or late in the afternoon when the air was cooler. It was a social time when neighbors talked, laughed, and shared the news of the day. But this woman came at noon—the hottest part of the day. Why? Because she was hiding. She had a painful past. Jesus reveals during their conversation that she had been married five times and was now living with a man who was not her husband. In her community, this likely made her an object of gossip and judgment. The whispers of the town and the silent stares of others had probably driven her into isolation. So, she chose the hour when no one would be there. She thought she would find the well empty. But when she arrived, someone was already waiting. Jesus.

What happens next is one of the most surprising encounters in the Gospels. Jesus breaks several social and cultural barriers all at once. First, Jews typically avoided Samaria because of a long history of hostility between Jews and Samaritans. Second, a Jewish rabbi would not normally speak publicly with a woman, especially a Samaritan woman. And third, Jesus knew her complicated personal history. Yet Jesus begins the conversation with a simple request: “**Give me a drink.**” Instead of ignoring her or condemning her, Jesus speaks to her with dignity. For a woman used to rejection and shame, this must have been deeply surprising.

Then the conversation takes a more personal turn. Jesus tells the woman to call her husband. She answers honestly that she has no husband. Jesus responds by revealing that he already knows her entire story. He knows about the five marriages. He knows about the man she is living with now.

This moment could have turned into humiliation. But it doesn’t. Jesus does not condemn her. He does not walk away. This shows something essential about the heart of God. Jesus does not wait for people to become perfect before he meets them. He meets them exactly where they are.

The transformation in the woman is immediate. She leaves her water jar behind and runs back to town. The very place where she once hid becomes the place where she now speaks openly. “*Come see a man who told me everything I ever did,*” she says. “**Could this be the Messiah?**” The woman who once avoided people becomes a messenger of hope. The Gospel even tells us that many Samaritans believed in Jesus because of her testimony. Her past did not disqualify her. In fact, it became the very story through which others encountered Christ.

This Gospel reminds us of an important truth: **none of us is beyond the reach of God’s grace. No failure, mistake, or painful chapter in our lives can separate us from the love of Christ.** Like the Samaritan woman, we all carry some form of thirst in our hearts. We also have places where we hide—memories, regrets, or struggles we would rather keep unseen. But the good news of the Gospel is that Jesus is not afraid of our hiding places. He meets us there. He sits beside our wells and gently invites us to receive the living water that only he can give.

When we allow that encounter with Christ to happen, shame can become healing, and our wounds can become a testimony of grace.

The woman at the well began her day alone, ashamed, and hiding. She ended it transformed—***because she met someone who knew her completely and loved her anyway.***

That same Jesus still meets us today.

### Lenten Schedule

#### Ash Wednesday

February 18—Mass 9am & 7pm

*\*Day of Fasting and Abstinence*

#### Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent at 6pm

**Penitential Celebration**—March 10 at 7pm

#### Parish Lenten Recollection

March 26 6pm Mass (No 9am Mass)



### Coming Soon! NEW Children’s Liturgy Program 10am Mass

3-8 year olds

(\*younger children may come with a parent)

Registration is required. No fee.

Visiting children may join without registration.

Adult volunteers are needed. Please contact Kerstin if you would like to help. We strongly encourage parents with children attending the program to consider volunteering. Welcome to our new coordinator, Xochitl Alvarez. We thank Michelle Jung for her years of volunteering.

**RCIA**  
**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults**

Please keep in your prayers the four adults that will enter the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. They have been preparing for several months.

Chris Dinsdale  
Sonya Hanson  
Ariga Agoes  
Christina Locking

**Together in Action 2026**

Ash Wednesday marks the official kick off for Together in Action 2026. For more than 40 years, TIA has supported diocesan ministries and partner organizations serving communities locally, nationally, and internationally. Every gift to TIA helps bring faith into action by supporting evangelization. Advancing social justice and providing compassionate care to those most in need. Together, we make a lasting difference in the lives of people from all backgrounds and circumstances.

Our Together in Action goal for 2026 remains the same as the last 2 years: **\$36,218**

**Together in Unity Circle**

2026 Together in Action marks the completion of the Diocese of Calgary's commitment to raise \$3 million in support of the national \$30 million Indigenous Reconciliation Fund.

Over five years, TIA raised \$600,000 annually, for a total of \$3 million, dedicated to grants supporting local and regional Indigenous-led initiatives across Southern Alberta.

**Tax Receipts**

The 2025 tax receipts were mailed out this past week. Only receipts over \$20 were mailed. **Please check for errors and advise the office if there are any discrepancies.** If your donations go through Canada Helps, they will provide your tax receipt.

**Knights of Columbus Fish Fry**

On Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> we will be holding our first of six Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm. It will be followed by the famous Knights of Columbus Fish Fry, a great family event. Prices are \$10 for a piece of fish, \$5 for each additional piece. Includes all the fries you can eat, coleslaw, and an ice cream sandwich.



**There will be a children's program in the library during the Fish Fry.**

**Mass Intentions**

**Tuesday, March 10**

9am Intention of Fr. Andrew Bogdanowicz

**Wednesday, March 11**

9am Intention of Fr. Domingo Bongalos

**Thursday, March 12**

9am Julia & Giovanni Ciccaglione +

**Friday, March 13**

9am Intention of Sedney Polinar

**Saturday, March 14**

5pm Sheila Ross +

**Sunday, March 15**

10am Annunziata Morrone +

12pm Parishioners of St James

**Michael Scholfield** will be retiring effective April 6, 2026.

The Diocese will be posting a job opportunity in two weeks time. If you know of anyone who may be interested in the position of Music Director, please let them know. More information to follow.

**Sing-along for Seniors has been cancelled.**

**Music Volunteers Needed**

Do you have the skills to lead one of our choirs? We are looking for individuals who are interested in leading either our Saturday 5pm or Sunday 10am choirs. Music selection is flexible but must conform to approved Catholic liturgical music. Proficiency in music, familiarity with Catholic liturgy, and experience with leading groups are necessary. Individuals or groups interested, please contact the parish office. An informal audition will take place to determine suitability. Depending on who comes forward will determine our needs for the position of Music Director.

**Horizons of Hope**

Horizons of Hope is an educational resource to help understand and reflect end-of-life issues and to promote the need for excellent palliative care. It will assist in clarifying misinformation and reverse the deceptive messaging found in this increasing culture of death. We invite you to attend the 4-module workshop program.

**St Mary's Cathedral Hall**

March 5, 12, 19 & 26 6-8pm

Register by March 1

**St Gerard's Parish Hall**

May 2, 9, 16 & 23 7-9pm

Register by April 28

Please see poster and QR code at the SW entrance.

**Solemnity of Saint Joseph**

Thursday, March 19 at 5pm

St Albert the Great

Celebrant: Bishop William McGrattan

### Next Week at the Church

Monday	6:00pm	Legion of Mary
Tuesday	9:00am 7:00pm	Mass Penitential Celebration
Wednesday	9:00am 1:00pm 7:00pm	Mass/Confession Choir RCIA
Thursday	9:00am 7:00pm	Mass Parish Renewal Team
Friday	9:00am  11:00am 6:00pm 6:30pm	Mass/Adoration/ Confession Funeral—Gabriel Oberg Stations of the Cross Fish Fry
Saturday	11:30am 4:00pm 5:00pm	Funeral—James Lokiru 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, Lucy Ciccaglione, Stephanie Davis, Patrick Driscoll, Mia Dumonceaux, Gabrielle Engels, Scott Evans, Tracy Fader, Nancy Farrell, Mary Figley, Bernice Foley, Marie Funke, Merle Gonsalves, Aidan Hanes, Jennifer Hazen, Sharon Jeanson, Charlotte Johansen, Lara Lavalley, Martin McCarthy, George McDonald, Monty Montemurro, Bill Montgomery, Dave Moran, Mark Naylen, Elliott Nowell, Kathy Oczkowski, Ashleigh Patterson, Emil Rawlyk, Nash Reyes, Jocelyn Robb, Gabriel Serpas, Brad Sluiter, Graham Smith, Marie Swab, Ildiko Szikora, Mary Terek, Frank Toone, Maria Zuzic

### And Those Who Have Died

Gabriel Oberg, James Lokiru, Frances Kapp, Pauline Montemurro, Joe Fark, Jim Walters

### Parish Renewal Team

We encourage parishioners to check our updated parish Renewal website page. The content has been refreshed with

- A new video message from Bishop McGrattan
- A copy of our parish renewal mission
- A copy of our Renewal plan
- A booklet of all the ministries at St. James
- A place to leave your ideas and feedback



Check out our Renewal page on our parish website: [stjamescalgary.org/parish-renewal/](http://stjamescalgary.org/parish-renewal/)



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

### Stations of the Cross Schedule

- February 20—10am Choir
- February 27—Knights of Columbus
- March 6—Parish Council
- March 13—Sacrament Children
- March 20—Legion of Mary
- March 27—Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers

### Outdoor Way of the Cross

Good Friday—April 3  
St Mary's Cathedral Parish Hall  
Starts at 8:30am

### Sunday Collection

	February 15 & 2	March 1
Regular	\$	4992.00
Maintenance	\$	315.00
Flowers	\$	240.00
Food Bank	\$	200.00
Together in Action	\$	431.00

### 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](mailto: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)