



# ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

**4th Sunday of Lent**

**March 15, 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.*

**\*The office will close at 12pm on March 19.**



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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## THE MIRACLE NOBODY EXPECTED—Fr. Domingo

*Sometimes the greatest miracles happen when no one expects them.* Not the crowd. Not the disciples. Not even the person who receives the miracle.

That is exactly what happens in the Gospel story of the man born blind (John 9). On the surface, it is a story about healing. But beneath the miracle lies another powerful truth: **it is also a story about a community that had stopped expecting God to do anything extraordinary.**

The scene begins with a man sitting by the roadside. He has been blind since birth and likely spends his days begging. His life follows a familiar pattern: the same place, the same darkness, the same routine. People pass by every day. Some drop a coin into his hands. Others ignore him. A few may feel sorry for him. But no one expects his life to change.

**Then Jesus walks by.** The disciples notice the man, but instead of offering help or asking Jesus to heal him, they begin a theological discussion. “Rabbi,” they ask, “who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

In that culture, many people believed suffering was a direct result of sin. If something went wrong in your life, it must mean someone had done something wrong. Unfortunately, that kind of thinking still exists today.

Years ago, I heard about a pastor who visited a patient in the hospital and asked bluntly, “What sin did you commit that caused this?” Imagine hearing such a question while already facing pain and uncertainty. Once, while visiting a friend who had just been diagnosed with breast cancer, a similar comment was made by a well-meaning but insensitive relative. My friend was frightened and vulnerable, and the question only deepened her distress.

The disciples in the Gospel fall into the same trap. Rather than showing compassion, they focus on assigning blame. They analyze the situation instead of addressing the suffering before them.

**Jesus, however, refuses to participate in the debate.** Instead, he says something remarkable: “Neither he nor his parents sinned. It is so that the works of God might be revealed in him.”

With these words, Jesus shifts the entire conversation. This story is not about blame—it is about God’s glory.

Then Jesus performs an unusual action. He spits on the ground, makes mud, and spreads it on the man’s eyes. At first glance, this gesture may seem strange, but it carries deep symbolic meaning. In the Book of Genesis, God formed the first human being from the dust of the earth. By using mud, Jesus is echoing that moment of creation. **The Creator is doing something new—almost as if he is re-creating the man’s eyes.**

Jesus then gives the man a simple instruction: “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam.”

**What makes this moment even more striking is that the man never asked to be healed.** He did not cry out to Jesus for help. He did not even know who Jesus was. Yet the blessing came anyway.

This reminds us of a beautiful truth: **God not only answers the prayers we offer—sometimes God blesses us in ways we never expected and never even asked for.**

Imagine that moment. After a lifetime of darkness, light suddenly floods his world. Perhaps the first things he sees are the rippling water of the pool, the sunlight shining on the surface, the trees swaying in the breeze, and the faces of the people around him. His entire world changes in an instant.

But the story does not end there. When he returns home, the neighbors can hardly believe what they see. Some say, “Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?” Others argue that it only looks like him. The miracle is so unexpected that people struggle to accept it.

In fact, no one in the story seemed to expect a miracle. The blind man did not expect to be healed. The disciples expected a discussion rather than a transformation. Even the community was more interested in debating what happened than celebrating the change.

This Gospel invites us to reflect on our own expectations. Have we quietly stopped expecting God to act in powerful ways? Sometimes we fall into comfortable routines. We pray, attend Mass, and go about our lives, but deep down we no longer anticipate that God might surprise us.

Yet the story of the blind man reminds us that God can bring light even when life has been dark for years. God can open doors we never imagined and bless us in ways we never anticipated.

Perhaps the real question this Gospel asks each of us is this: **Are we still expecting God to work miracles in our lives?**

## Lenten Schedule

### Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent at 6pm

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

**Palm Sunday**—March 29

### Parish Lenten Recollection

March 26 Mass 6pm; Talk 6:45pm



## Volunteers

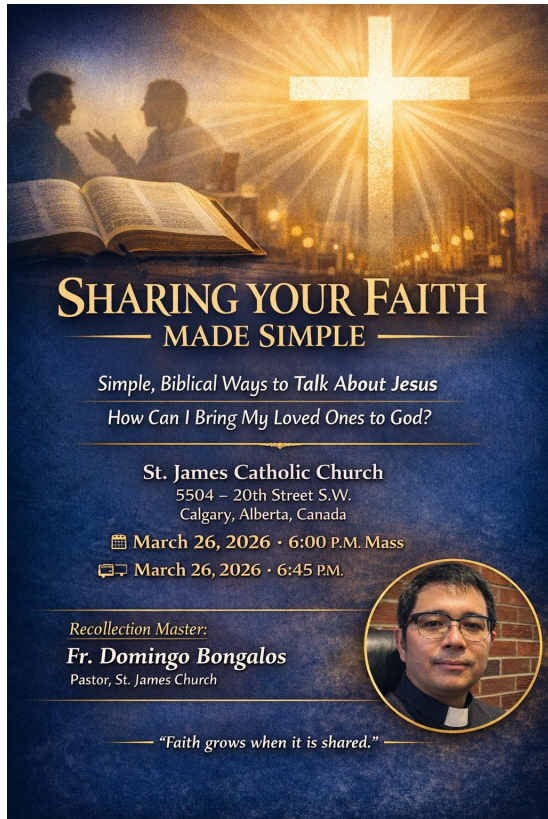
If you are no longer serving in a ministry, please let Kerstin or the office know so we can keep our records up to date. Thank you for your service!

**Call to Action**—The Diocese of Calgary encourages parishioners to sign 2 petitions online. Postcards with QR codes available this weekend. \*The first petition concerns a call for a ban on late-term abortions in Canada. \*The second supports Bill C-218 to ensure that mental illness alone cannot be used as the sole reason for requesting and approval of physician assisted suicide.

**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



**SHARING YOUR FAITH**  
**MADE SIMPLE**

*Simple, Biblical Ways to Talk About Jesus*  
*How Can I Bring My Loved Ones to God?*

St. James Catholic Church  
5504 - 20th Street S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

📅 March 26, 2026 - 6:00 P.M. Mass  
📅 March 26, 2026 - 6:45 P.M.

*Recollection Master:*  
**Fr. Domingo Bongalos**  
Pastor, St. James Church

— "Faith grows when it is shared." —

**Surplus Funds— 1st Notification**

If, at the end of the year, we have surplus funds for Together in Action, those funds will be allocated to our 1) Operations & Programs or 2) Repairs & Maintenance.

**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 17**

9am Joseph Reodica +

**Wednesday, March 18**

9am Marshall Swab +

**Thursday, March 19**

9am Intention of Brielle Lamontagne

**Friday, March 20**

9am Pauline Montemurro +

Intention of Monty Montemurro

**Saturday, March 21**

5pm Sheila Ross +

**Sunday, March 22**

10am Bill Lerner +

12pm Parishioners of St James

**Farewell to Michael Scholfield**

Michael will be retiring effective April 6, 2026. We thank Michael for his dedication and support at St James for the past several years. Michael and Rosemary will be moving to Saskatoon later this year to be closer to family.

**Sunday, April 26**

**Following the 10am Mass**

**Parish Hall**



**Music Volunteers Needed**

Do you have the skills to lead one of our choirs? Do you have a group that may want to provide music? We are looking for individuals who are interested in creating and/or leading 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 leadership 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 which will be posted soon.



**Updates on...**

**Parish Pictorial Directories**— Our directories are only now near the printing stage. Hopefully we receive them by the end of April.

**Roman Missals**—There continues to be a printing delay with the publisher. It is uncertain when these will arrive. No one has them in stock at this time.

### Next Week at the Church

|           |                                      |  |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Monday    | 6:00pm                               | Legion of Mary   |
| Tuesday   | 9:00am<br>7:30pm                     | Mass<br>Knights of Columbus  |
| Wednesday | 9:00am<br>1:00pm<br>7:00pm<br>7:00pm | Mass/Confession<br>Choir<br>RCIA<br>Confirmation Class #5          |
| Thursday  | CLOSED AT NOON<br>9:00am<br>6:30pm   | Mass<br>Communion Class #3   |
| Friday    | 9:00am<br><br>6:00pm<br>6:30pm       | Mass/Adoration/<br>Confession<br>Stations of the Cross<br>Fish Fry |
| Saturday  | 4:00pm<br>5:00pm                     | Confession<br>Mass   |
| Sunday    | 10:00am<br>12:00pm<br>2:00pm         | Mass<br>Mass<br>Baptism  |

*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, Tyler Norris, 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

### Save the Date

April 12—Pancake Breakfast  
 April 26— Farewell for Michael  
 May 2—Mother’s Day Tea  
 May 22/23—Knights’ Garage Sale  
 May 29—Confirmation Celebration (7pm) - Bishop J. Hansen  
 June 6—First Communion Mass (5pm)  
 June 28—Parish Picnic  
 July 5—Stampede Breakfast

### 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



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

### Sunday Collection

### March 8

|                    |    |         |
|--------------------|----|---------|
| Regular            | \$ | 4169.20 |
| Maintenance        | \$ | 120.00  |
| Flowers            | \$ | 15.00   |
| Food Bank          | \$ |         |
| Together in Action | \$ | 345.00  |

### 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)