



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

5th Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2026

MASS TIMES

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

Weekday

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

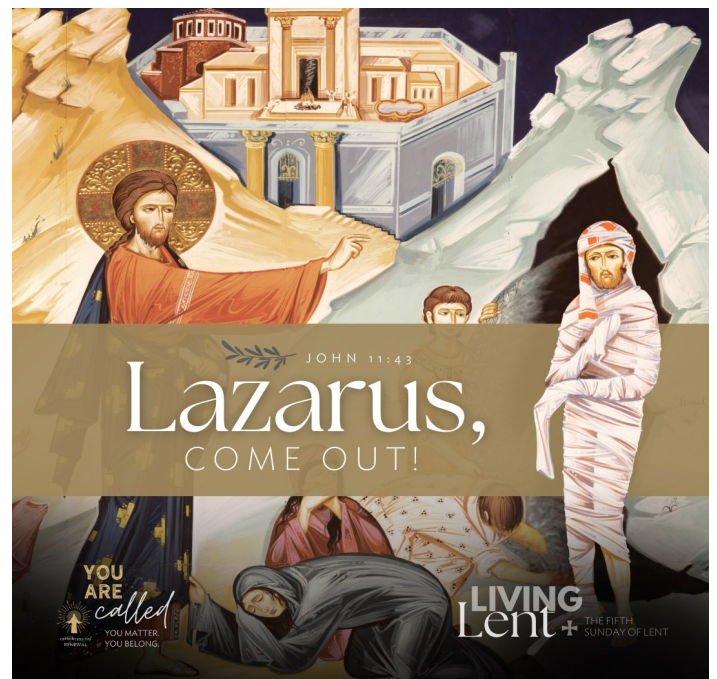
CONFESSION

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
Administrative Assistant—Brenda Lerner office@stjamescalgary.org
Music—Michael Scholfield - musdir83@gmail.com
Bookkeeper—Leanne Plamondon (temporary)
Volunteer Screening—Kerstin Daly pvsc@stjamescalgary.org
Sacrament Preparation—Lindsay Klein sacraments@stjamescalgary.org



Visit us on
Facebook!

"When God Came Too Late" - Fr. Domingo

Have you ever prayed... and felt like heaven was silent? You begged God to come... but He didn't show up. You cried, "Lord, where are You?" ...and all you got was... silence.

Imagine this: Someone you love is dying. You send word to Jesus—the healer, the miracle worker, your friend. "Lord, please come, please heal him." You expect Him to come running. But He doesn't. He stays. And while He stays... your loved one dies. Now tell me honestly—**what hurts more?** The sickness? *Or the feeling that God came... too late?*

The Gospel says something shocking: **"Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus... so when He heard that Lazarus was ill, He remained where He was."**

Did you catch that? Not *despite* loving them...but *because* He loved them... He stayed. This doesn't make sense to us.

Because in our mind: Love = immediate action. Love = quick rescue. Love = instant miracle.

Jesus loved Lazarus, Martha, and Mary, as part of a special family. Yet Jesus stayed away from them in the hour of their dire need. **What a strange event!**

God, in His infinite wisdom sometimes delays to act, or refuses to act as we want Him to act. But Jesus reveals a deeper truth: **God's love is not always immediate... but it is always**

intentional. St. John wants us to wrestle with this: **the love of Jesus does not always look like immediate intervention.**

Secondly, in John's Gospel, **"glory"** is not merely brightness, applause, or power on display. Glory means the revelation of who Jesus truly is. So why did Jesus delay?

Because if He had arrived early and healed Lazarus before he died, people would have seen Him as: a healer, a miracle worker, a powerful rabbi.

But by arriving after death, Jesus reveals something greater: He is not only the healer of sickness. He is the Lord of life itself. He is not only stronger than fever. He is stronger than the grave. The delay creates the setting for a fuller revelation.

In John 11:14-15 Jesus says to the disciples: "Lazarus has died. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe." That sounds hard. **Almost offensive.** How can Jesus say He is glad? He is not glad that Lazarus suffered. He is not glad that Mary and Martha wept. ***He is glad that this event will lead His disciples into a deeper faith.*** In John's Gospel, faith often grows through signs.

But the signs are never the final point. The sign points beyond itself to Christ. So, the delay serves faith in at least three ways: (1). **It shatters shallow faith.** If Jesus only solved problems quickly, people might believe in Him only as a fixer of emergencies. (2). **It invites trust in the midst of darkness.** It is easy to trust when miracles are immediate. It is harder, but deeper, to trust when heaven seems silent. (3). **It reveals resurrection faith.** Martha already believes in resurrection "on the last day" (John 11:24). Jesus leads her further: not merely belief in a future event, **but belief in a present Person:** *"I am the resurrection and the life"* (John 11:25). The delay moves them from believing in what God can do to believing in who Jesus is. That is deeper faith.

Jesus allowed death because John wants to show that He enters the fullest extent of human suffering. If Jesus had prevented every pain in this story, the depth of His solidarity with human suffering would not be revealed in the same way. Notice what happens when He does arrive: **He listens to Martha.** *He receives Mary's tears.* He sees the mourners weeping. He becomes "deeply moved." He weeps. "Jesus wept." **This is crucial.** He is deeply involved. He suffers with those who suffer. This means His delay is not indifference. He allows Himself to enter the wound. He steps into grief and cries.

That is one of the deepest theological truths in the passage: **the God who delays is also the God who weeps.**

Let's bring this home. Some of you right now are in a **"Lazarus moment."** A prayer unanswered. A relationship breaking. A dream dying. A burden getting heavier. And deep inside, you are asking: *"Lord... if You love me... why are You not coming?"*

Here is the truth this Gospel teaches us: **God's delay is not God's denial.** Sometimes God allows: the situation to worsen, the door to close, and the tears to fall. Not because He has abandoned you...but because He is about to do something deeper than what you asked.

You asked for a solution. *God is preparing a transformation.* You asked for relief. *God is preparing resurrection.*

And here's the hardest part: **Faith is trusting God... even when the timeline hurts.** Even when it feels too late. Because with Jesus... **"too late" does not exist.**

Remember this: **Jesus may not arrive when you expect Him...but He always arrives with something greater than you imagined.**

Because the God who delays... is the same God who raises the dead. And when He finally shows up—it will not just be on time.

It will be resurrection.



Lenten/Easter Schedule

Parish Lenten Recollection

March 26 Mass 6pm; Talk 6:45pm

Light refreshments to follow.

Stations of the Cross (last one—March 27)

Palm Sunday—March 29

HOLY WEEK

Holy Thursday—7:00pm

Good Friday—3:00pm

Easter Vigil—8:00pm

Easter Sunday—10:00am & 12:00pm



Call to Action—The Diocese of Calgary encourages parishioners to sign **TWO** petitions online. **Both petitions are on one postcard** with QR codes available this Weekend at the entry doors.

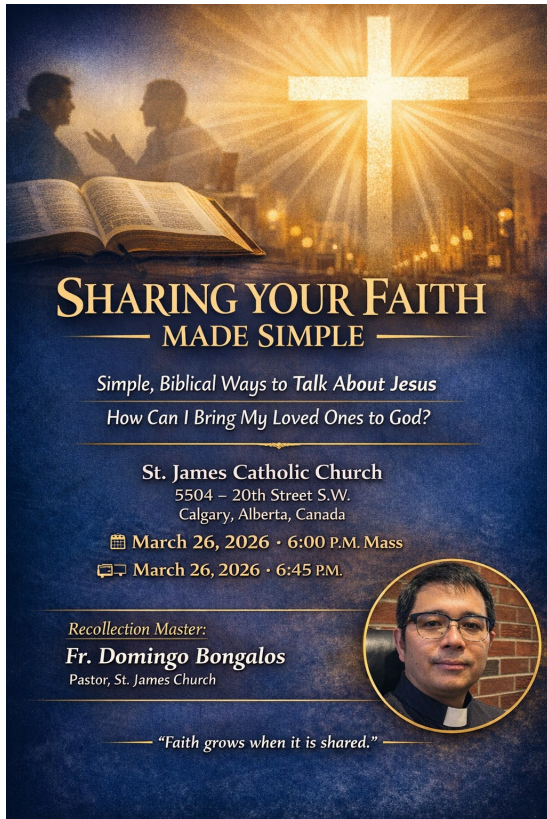
*The first petition concerns a call for a ban on late-term abortions in Canada.

*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.

THERE IS ALSO A PAPER PETITION TO SIGN AT THE CHURCH ENTRANCES IF YOU PREFER.

Beloved Daughters Women's Conference

Join Beloved Daughters Ministry for their fourth annual women's conference entitled, "Who You Say I Am." Conference will be held from May 22-23, 2026 at Our Lady of Fatima Church (Calgary, AB) with guest speakers Sr. Hope, SV and Sr. Fidelity Grace, SV from the Sisters of Life as well as Fr. Cristino Bouvette. For more information visit: www.beloveddaughtersyyc.com"




**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— 2nd 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 Only One Weekend Left



The Stations of the Cross at 6pm 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. A children's program will take place in the library during the Fish Fry.

Volunteers Needed To Help Set Up During Holy Week

Wednesday, April 1 at 6pm—Set up for Holy Thursday
Saturday, April 4 at 10am—Take down Holy Thursday set/
Set up for Easter Vigil

No need to register with the office, just come at the designated time.

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, March 24

9am Millicent Gonsalves +

Wednesday, March 25

9am Intention of Sybille & Mike Melotte

Thursday, March 26

9am Intention of Fr. Domingo

Friday, March 27

9am Intention of Karen Cartier–Aries

Saturday, March 28

5pm Sheila Ross +

Sunday, March 29

10am Delores Halwa +

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

wishing
you 
ALL THE BEST

Employment Opportunity—Music Director Casual Parttime

A new music director is needed for the parish. Availability is required for the 5pm Saturday and 10am Sunday Masses and special celebrations throughout the year, weddings and funerals. Candidate should be familiar with the Catholic liturgy and have a proficiency and knowledge of music. Responsibilities will also include music selection, working with the pastor and parish staff, and leading/creating two choirs. Music type is flexible but must be from approved Catholic sources. Wage will be dependent upon experience and training. Please check the [Diocese of Calgary employment](#) page for more details. Competition will remain open until a suitable candidate has been found. 

Holy Week Volunteers

Attention: Lectors, Communion Ministers, Servers

There are still some slots available for the Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Masses. Please check the sign-up sheet in the sacristy.

12 Volunteers for Foot Washing Also Needed Holy Thursday

Next Week at the Church

Monday	6:00pm	Legion of Mary
Tuesday	9:00am	Mass
	7:00pm	Parish Council
Wednesday	9:00am	Mass/Confession
	1:00pm	Choir
	7:00pm	Altar Server Training
	7:00pm	RCIA
Thursday	No 9:00am Mass	
	6:00pm	Mass
	6:45pm	Lenten Mission
Friday	9:00am	Mass/Confession/Adoration
	6:00pm	Stations of the Cross
	6:30pm	Fish Fry
Saturday	4:00pm	Confession
	5:00pm	Mass
Sunday	10:00am	Mass
	12:00pm	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, Tyler Norris, Elliott Nowell, Kathy Oczkowski, Guy Ouellette, 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

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

**please inform the office if names can be removed from the sick list*

Save the Date

April 12—Pancake Breakfast/Bottle Drive
 April 26— Farewell for Michael (after 10am Mass)
 May 1—Teen Night—grades 7-12 (7pm-9:30pm)
 May 2—Mother’s Day Tea
 May 22—Mass for the Unborn 7pm
 May 22 & 23—Knights’ Garage Sale
 May 29—Confirmation Celebration (7pm) - Bishop J. Hansen
 June 5—Games Night for Kids –grades 1-6 (7pm-9pm)
 June 6—First Communion Mass (5pm)
 June 26—Memorial Mass for the Dead: 2025-present (7pm)
 June 28—Parish Picnic
 July 5—Stampede Breakfast

**More details will follow regarding these upcoming events.*

Find out more about this campaign at www.catholicyyc.ca/multiplythehope



To Date

Together in Action (Goal: \$36, 218)

\$2858

Maintenance

\$4380

Sunday Collection	March 15	
Regular	\$	1894.60
Maintenance	\$	125.00
Flowers	\$	40.00
Food Bank	\$	
Together in Action	\$	40.00

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
- ◆ 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