

January 15, 2023



Here is the Lamb of God
who takes away
the sins of
the world!

JOHN 1:29

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the desk of Fr. Ignatius:

Read his message on pages 2-3

Donation Envelopes for 2023

LAST CHANCE - Pick up your donation envelopes today! Located across from the Jubilee Room. After this weekend, envelopes will be available in the office.

Lost and Found Table

Please check the lost and found table located at the back on the church. (Below the Knights of Columbus cabinet, towards parish hall). *All items not claimed after this weekend will be donated to charity.*

MASS TIMES

Tuesday 6:30 pm
Wednesday - Friday 9:00 am
Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 am

ADORATION

Tuesday 3:00 - 6:00 pm

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 pm

PARISH TEAM

Pastor: Fr. Ignatius Tran

fr.tran@stgerards.ca

Gay Abuan-Summers

Pastoral Program Coordinator

Pastoral Related Inquiries:

pastoral.coordinator@stgerards.ca

Nicolette Eden

Administrative Assistant

General Inquiries:

frontdesk.admin@stgerards.ca

Gordon Skaluba, Maintenance

WEBSITE: www.stgerards.ca

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday:

9 am to 12 pm (noon)

Closed noon - 1 pm (*lunch break*)

Afternoons **by appointment only:**

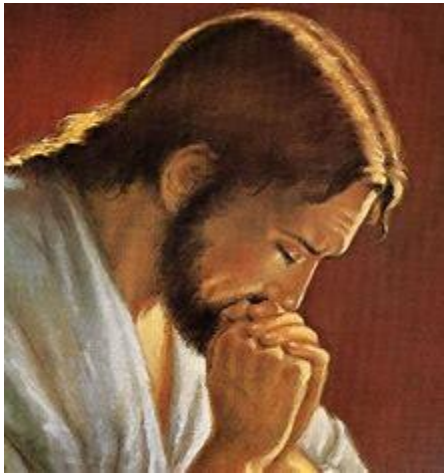
from 1 pm - 4:30 pm

Closed Holidays

Deadline for Parish Newsletter

Wednesday at 4:00 pm

Safe Parish



Dear Friends,

We've all lamented from time to time about how times have changed -- and not always for the better.

I grew up in Vietnam, increasingly feeling God's call to join the priesthood. It was not a possibility in my first country as the Communist Party took over and closed the seminaries and the churches.

In my early twenties, I was offered the opportunity to escape and come to Canada. I was among the "boat people" at sea in dangerous high tidal waves on a moonless black night worrying about capsizing in the storm at sea and possible pirate raids. When I landed in Hong Kong, I was sponsored over by our much-loved, Bishop O'Byrne.

I studied and learned a new language and culture.

I was so proud to be able to represent the Catholic Church and celebrate Mass and administer God's sacraments to all. I was so proud to have become a priest and do God's work.

Then came the horrendous scandals! I could not believe that God's priests could be capable of such gravely atrocious sins! How horribly shameful! Not all "priests" are called by God. The church has ordained men who were there for their own devious purposes.

There were those in the public who were looking at my clerical collar, and accusing me with their eyes, and sometimes with their words, of being "one of those." It is always so hard to be lumped in with them just because I'm a priest.

The result? While I still am honored and proud to be a priest doing God's work, I also feel shame due to those priests who abuse children.

The truth is, *Satan* is alive and well in the world. He doesn't come dressed in a red cape and pointy horns. He comes disguised as one you can trust.

Our Calgary Catholic Diocese has asked all priests and all who work or volunteer in every parish, to complete a series of lessons on how to spot a child abuser, report them and monitor all church programs -- especially those involving children and youth, in order to protect our parishes and keep everyone safe.

All involved with a parish in any way must have a police check.

Priests must have a police check, as well as being finger printed.

I understand why this has become necessary. We are all affected by the sins of others. Having a police check and being finger printed may help identify the offenders and prevent children from being abused. *It's definitely worth it!*

Still, Jesus must be shaking His head, if not actually weeping. How sad that our world and our Church has come to this!

Fr. Ignatius Tran

Our Weekly Financial Pulse as of January 13, 2023:

Collections Last Week – \$5,473.50

(= the sum of TIA Donations plus General donations)

Weekly Break Even - \$6,772.17

(= Budgeted Expenses -\$337,185 plus TIA target of \$_____ / 54 weeks)

SHORT: (-\$1,440.50)

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:

Baptism announcement:

Welcome and Congratulations to **Kaiden Benavidez!**



First Eucharist:

Session 1 begins January 14 at 9:00 am; plan to arrive at least 20 minutes early.

Next Session: February 11 @ 9:00 am

CONFIRMATION (Grade 6 and up)

Session 1 starts January 14 at 10:45 am

Next Session: February 11 @ 10:45 am



Introducing our Confirmation candidates to the community:

Parent's/ candidates, please drop off a 4x6 photo of the candidate at the parish office. Please label photo with your child's name. Parishioners are asked to keep the confirmation candidates in their prayers.

Visit our website for detailed confirmation schedule using:

[Children's Sacraments - St. Gerards - Calgary, AB, Canada \(stgerards.ca\)](http://stgerards.ca)–

Also, Register with Ascension Press' online course of [Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation, Online Course – Ascension \(ascensionpress.com\)](http://ascensionpress.com) Cost is US \$18.95 and families register directly with Ascension Press.

CWL NEWS:

NEW MEMBERS Welcome! Membership fees are due \$40 for 2023. Please contact Marie Robertson 403-710-0391, if you would like further information.

MASS INTENTIONS - JANUARY 2023

Tuesday, January 17 @ 6:30 pm	Mary Palmer	SI
Wednesday, January 18 @ 9:00 am	Regino Abanto	RIP
Thursday, January 19 @ 9:00 am	Joe Zorko	RIP
Thursday, January 19 @ 10:15 am	Jemmy Vi Almoros	RIP
Friday, January 20 @ 9:00 am	Stefan and Margaret Kropec	RIP
Saturday, January 21 @ 5 pm	Nicolette Eden	SI
Sunday, January 22 @ 9:00 am	Paul Rowley	RIP
Sunday, January 22 @ 11:00am	Levstik Family	SI

***Accepting mass intentions in FEBRUARY 2023** please contact the office via email or call the parish office today. *The best gift we can offer our loved-ones, living or deceased is our prayer intentions.* **Do you have a person in mind? Let's connect soon.**

Celebrating Life – Birthday and Wedding Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to all January celebrants including...

Gordon Skaluba, Thomasz Czarnomski 14th

Miguela Lammerhirt, Roland Abuan, Dannica Mae Dulay 16th

Donna and Kathleen Schaef, 20th

John Mader, 21st

Victoria Sumague, 23rd

Mataroa Lowry, 25th

Natasha Lammerhirt, 28th

Macaraeg, Michael Angelo, 31st

Do you know anyone who has a Wedding Anniversary or Birthday in February 2023? Let the parish office know and let's celebrate with you.



ONLINE MASS

Effective January 15, 2023, in order to improve the quality of our online streaming. Zoom link will be discontinued. **Weekly email with YouTube links will be sent every Friday** or visit www.stgerards.ca

Volunteers needed for MAYFAIR Nursing

Starting February at 10:15 am, mass will be held every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month;

Mayfair St. Gerard Pastoral Care Ministry needs your help:

2 Helpers and 1 piano player.

Please contact Mary Sylven through the parish office if interested.

Horizons of Hope - Jan 16 @ St. Gerard's

Almost 300 participants came out to seek better understanding of the human experience of dying and death in the 1st Module of the Horizon of Hope series.

All are invited to join *Horizons of Hope* to learn and reflect upon end-of-life issues, as well as to promote the need for excellent palliative care. Please join our next workshops:

- **Monday, Jan. 16 (7 to 9 pm)** | Module: Discerning and Making Decisions at the End of Life
- **Monday, Jan. 23 (7 to 9 pm)** | Module: Accompanying Those at the End of Life
- **Monday, Jan. 30 (7 to 9 pm)** | Module: Supporting and Integrating Within the Wider Community



The workshops are offered on Mondays of January 2023, at six locations throughout the diocese. For more information, visit catholiccyc.ca/HorizonsofHope

Around the Diocese: TRAiD for MAiD - Jan 24

True Assistance in Dying: Why is MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dying) embedding itself in our country? St. Peter's CWL invites you to attend a session with Peggy

Thomson Gibson, MDCM.FRCP(C). She will present how to "Defend the Faith without Raising our Voice" to shed the light of faith through prayer, action and sacrifice. When: **Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 7:45 pm**, at St. Peter's (541 Silvergrove Dr NW Calgary) church hall following the 7 pm Mass. Refreshments will be served.

TRANSITIONS (January 17 – 25)

The Pastoral Ministry Office of the Diocese of Calgary is offering Transitions, 15-week peer led support group for individuals who are working through the pain of separation and divorce toward growth and new life. Every Tuesday, from January 17, 2023 to April 25, 2023, from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Catholic Pastoral Centre (120 – 17th Avenue SW, Calgary) No fee registration. Register at catholiccyyc.ca/transitions or call 403-218-5500.

Movie Night at St. Cecilia's January 17

St. Celilia's CWL and K of C is presenting the film Mother Teresa No Greater Love at the church on January 17 at 7:30 pm. All are welcomed.

Bishop Carroll High School Open House

Registration for 2023-2024 school year begins in February 2023.

Visit: <https://bishopcarroll.cssd.ab.ca> to register for an open house on January 26 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm or Guided tours offered at 9:30 am or 1:00 pm.

Career opportunities:

There are a number of employment opportunities that are currently available in the Diocese of Calgary and beyond.

● Coordinator & Assistant Coordinator (Casual) - Feed the Hungry, Calgary
Please visit catholiccyyc.ca/careers for more information and application details.

Lectio Divina booklets

Booklets are available at the gathering area in support of the sisters and brothers of the Seeds of the Word Community; **\$20.00 per book.**

KID Bulletin INSERT – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- [Colouring page this Sunday](#)
- [Kid's Bulletin for this Sunday](#)