

# ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

# Bulletin

8944 ELBOW DRIVE SW CALGARY AB T2V 1L2

TEL 403 253 2251

WEBSITE: STGERARDS.CA

**February 24, 2023**



**First Sunday of Lent**

**Little Rock Scripture Study presents:**  
**Galatians and Romans**

**March 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:45 am – 11:30 am.**

Lesson 3 in the North Hall

**Check out Fr. Ignatius message:**

The number 40 – pages 2 to 3

**Pope's Prayer Intention - February 2023**

Please pray for the Pope's intention in February 2023: *Let us pray that parishes, placing communion –communion of people, ecclesial communion– at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith of fraternity and of welcoming the most in need.*

## 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](http://www.stgerards.ca)

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday:

9 am to 12 pm (noon)

Closed noon - 1 pm (*lunch break*)

Afternoons **by appointment only:**

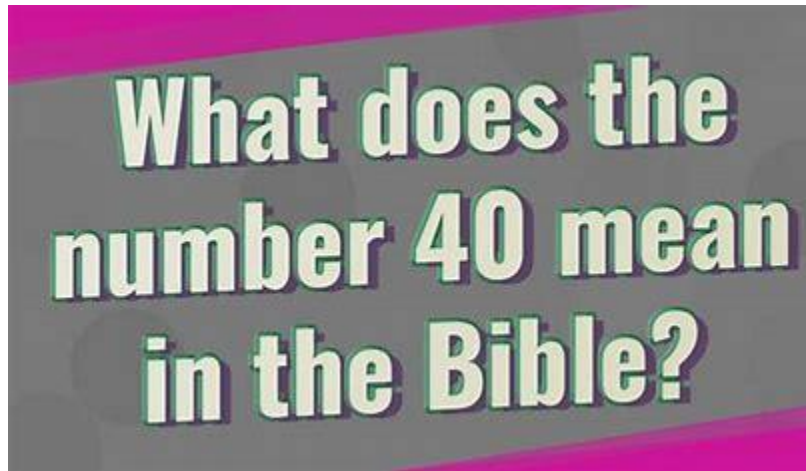
from 1 pm - 4:30 pm

Closed Holidays

**Deadline for Parish Newsletter**

Wednesday at 4:00 pm

## The number 40



Dear Friends,

We have entered the season of Lent which lasts 40 days- from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

I'm sure you've noticed that the number 40 keeps reoccurring over and over again in the bible. It's definitely one of our God's favourite numbers! But what does it mean?

The number 40 appears throughout the Old and New Testaments. It often represents a period of testing, trial or preparation. Here are just a few examples:

- It rained for 40 days and 40 nights during the Great Flood.
- The Israelites left Egypt and wandered in the desert wilderness for 40 years during which time they were tested and prepared for the challenges of entering the Promised Land.
- Elijah travelled for 40 days and 40 nights to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God.
- Moses spent 40 days and nights on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments from God.
- The spies spent 40 days exploring the land of Canaan.
- Goliath challenged the Israelites for 40 days before being defeated by David.
- Jonah prophesied to the city of Nineveh that it would be destroyed in 40 days.

- In the New Testament, Jesus fasted and prayed in the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights during which time He was tested and tempted by the devil, before beginning His ministry.
- After Jesus' resurrection, He appeared to His disciples for 40 days before He ascended into heaven.

Overall, the number 40 is often associated with a time of transformation and spiritual growth, as well as a period of waiting, preparing and endurance.

The number 40 is a symbol of God's faithfulness and commitment to leading His people through difficult times and preparing them for the challenges that lie ahead.

It serves as a reminder to us that our God *is always with us* during these times and that through our endurance, we can become transformed and strengthened in our faith.

FATHER IGNATIUS TRAN

## 2022 TAX RECEIPTS ARE READY!

Tax receipts are available to pick up starting this weekend at the gathering area below the last supper photo (Entrance). **After February 26<sup>th</sup> weekend**, *tax receipts not picked up will be mailed or emailed*. Any corrections or questions on 2022 tax receipts please contact the office or email [accounting@stgerards.ca](mailto:accounting@stgerards.ca)

## Our Weekly Financial Pulse as of February 24, 2023:

**Collections Last Week – \$5,451,34**

(= the sum of TIA Donations plus General donations)

**Weekly Break Even - \$8,184**

(= Budgeted Expenses -\$403,931 plus \$38,000 (Anticipated TIA) / 54 weeks)

**SHORT - \$1,959.00**

Donation envelopes are available at the parish office.

**Welcome NEW parishioners!!** Have you officially signed up to become a member of our parish? Sign up today to become a member of the parish.

Visit <https://www.stgerards.ca/becoming-a-registered-member>

Sign up for electronic giving at <https://stgerards.ca/donate>:



**E-transfers accepted** through [Frontdesk.admin@stgerards.ca](mailto:Frontdesk.admin@stgerards.ca) ; please specify intended ministry if applicable- ie. St. Vincent de Paul, Mission Mexico, TIA, etc.

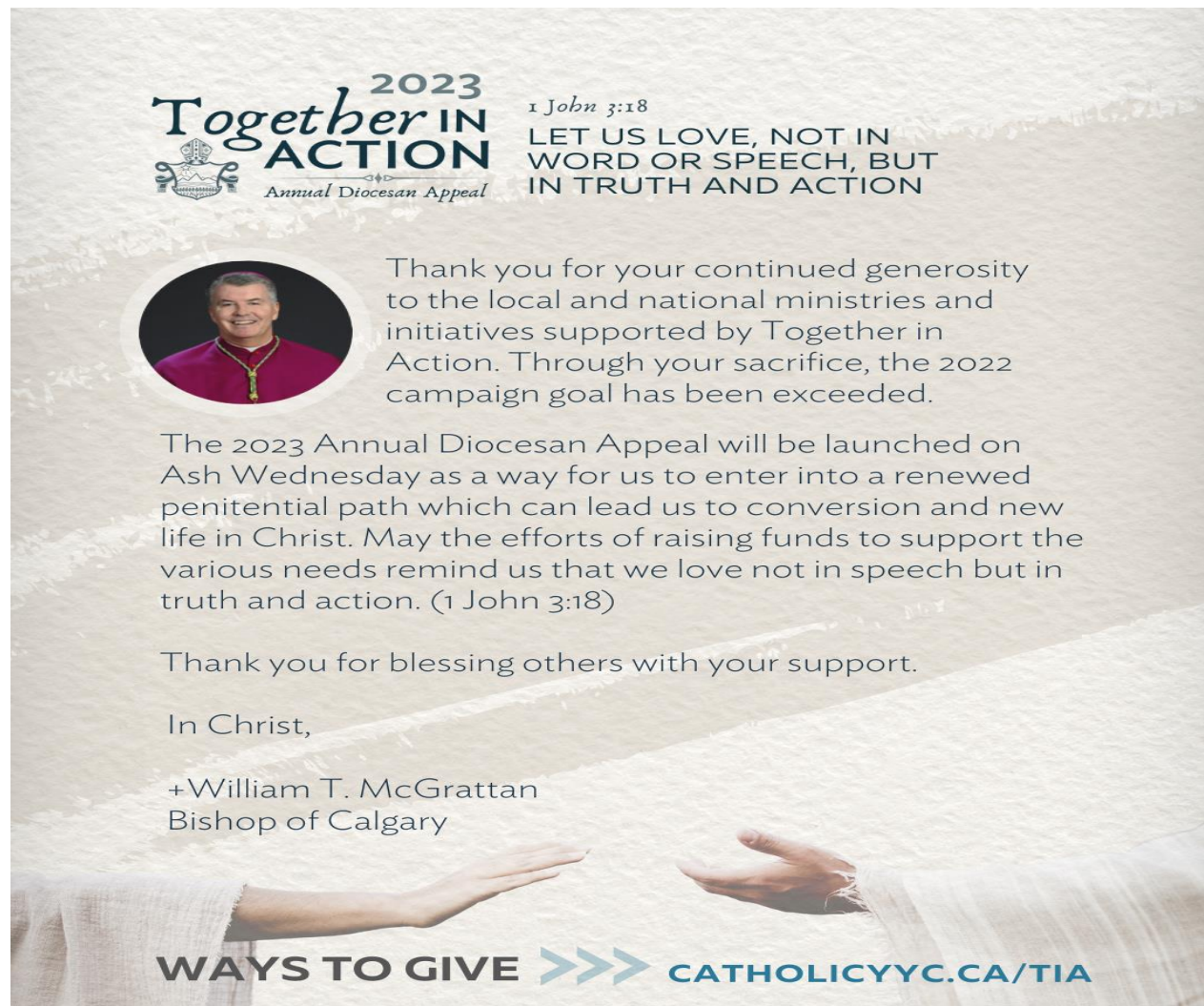
## Together In Action (TIA)

**Thank you** for your contribution in 2022 Together in Action! Read Bishop's message below. Your generous donation continues to support the ministries that make a positive difference in the world.

The 2023 Together in Action campaign began on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023. **As of February 24, TIA collection is \$1,280.**


The theme for this year's Together in Action is taken from 1 John 3:18, "Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

To give to Together in Action, please drop off donations to your parish office, or give online at [Frontdesk.admin@stgerards.ca](mailto:Frontdesk.admin@stgerards.ca) ; memo TIA



**2023 Together IN ACTION**  
Annual Diocesan Appeal

1 John 3:18  
LET US LOVE, NOT IN WORD OR SPEECH, BUT IN TRUTH AND ACTION



Thank you for your continued generosity to the local and national ministries and initiatives supported by Together in Action. Through your sacrifice, the 2022 campaign goal has been exceeded.

The 2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal will be launched on Ash Wednesday as a way for us to enter into a renewed penitential path which can lead us to conversion and new life in Christ. May the efforts of raising funds to support the various needs remind us that we love not in speech but in truth and action. (1 John 3:18)

Thank you for blessing others with your support.

In Christ,

+William T. McGrattan  
Bishop of Calgary

**WAYS TO GIVE** >>> **CATHOLICYC.CA/TIA**

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:** Parishioners, please visit our Sacramental Preparation board (South Hall) and keep the **First Eucharist** and Confirmation candidates in your prayers. Thank you!



**First Eucharist:**

**ESPP (Extra Sacramental Preparation Program) First Eucharist Celebration – Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.** A light snack and refreshments will provide after mass.

**Session 3-** March 11 at 9:00 am; plan to arrive at least 20 minutes early.

**Candidates/ Parents:** **Don't forget to complete & post** your **"Please Pray for me"** profile at the South Hall Sacramental Prep board. **Completed placemats**, drop off via First Eucharist mailbox for lamination. Pick up laminated placemats in the same spot after weekend mass or drop off at the parish office. **Don't forget to write 2023 & your name.**

**CONFIRMATION (Grade 6 and up)**

Session 3: March 11 at 10:45 am (Lesson 12, 13,14)

**This week read & reflections on:**

**CHOSEN Lesson 13 "What does the Holy Spirit do for me?"**



**Candidates/ Parents:** **Don't forget to complete and post** your **"Please Pray for me"** profile at the South Hall Sacramental Prep board.

May 13 @ 1:00 pm, Confirmation celebration.

Revised schedule posted on our website; <https://stgerards.ca/childrens-sacraments>  
Video Presentation of the pastoral letter, view: [https://youtu.be/fRmOqT\\_W2ZY](https://youtu.be/fRmOqT_W2ZY)

**Mission Council Ministry**



## REFLECTIONS ON GOSPEL READING – Matthew 4:1-11




Both Luke and Matthew write a detailed account of Jesus being tempted in the desert right after the “high point” of Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan. It is not accidental that each temptation occurs in a special place: the desert, the temple, and the mountain. The Bible tells us that each of these places pulsates with the possibility of encountering God there. One by one, Jesus needs to make clear choices as to what kind of Messiah God intends him to be. This passage also has both Satan and Jesus quoting Scripture, thereby illustrating that knowing Scripture is not enough – it must be properly interpreted and lived out.

1. What temptations in your life most challenge your faith commitment to Jesus?
2. Have you ever faced temptations in the process of clarifying your God-given mission?
3. Who or what helps you to be true to your faith and to Jesus Christ our saviour?

## Stations of the Cross Devotion

All are welcome to join the community in prayer. Following the 9:00 am weekday mass (every Wednesday – Friday) and every Friday evening at 7:00 pm.

Join us for **SOUP & BUN every Friday at 5:30 pm** starting February 24<sup>th</sup> prior to the 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross




### Stations of the Cross

February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31

### Soup & Bun

Fellowship @ 5:30 – 6:30 PM  
Stations of the Cross @ 7 PM  
FREE WILL DONATION WELCOME



*Thank you to our Ministry Sponsors:  
Sacristans, Cards Group, Baptism, Ushers,  
PPC, Knights of Columbus and the CWL.*



## MASS INTENTIONS – FEBRUARY TO MARCH 2023

Tuesday, February 28 @ 6:30 pm	CWL Memorial Mass	RIP
Wednesday, March 1 @ 9:00 am	Levstik Family	RIP
Thursday, March 2 @ 9:00 am	Dr. Joseph Leon	RIP
Thursday, March 2 @ 10:15 am at Mayfair	Brian Baldwin	SI
Friday, March 3 @ 9:00 am	Jemmy Vi Almoros	RIP
Saturday, March 4 @ 5 pm	Wayne Benner	RIP
Sunday, March 5 @ 9:00 am	Francisca R. Abuan	RIP
Sunday, March 5 @ 11:00am	Joe Zorko	RIP

**\*Accepting mass intentions for April 2023** please contact the office via email or call the parish office today.

### Celebrating Life – Birthday and Wedding Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary to all February wedding celebrants! May God strengthen your marriage each day as you continue to grow in love with him and each other.

Congratulations!!

**Happy Birthday to all February celebrants including...**

Robert Lauinger 24th

Thompson Fifield, 25th

Catherine Ryan, 26th

Kerry Hope, Ryan Summers 27th.

Irene Langille, 28th

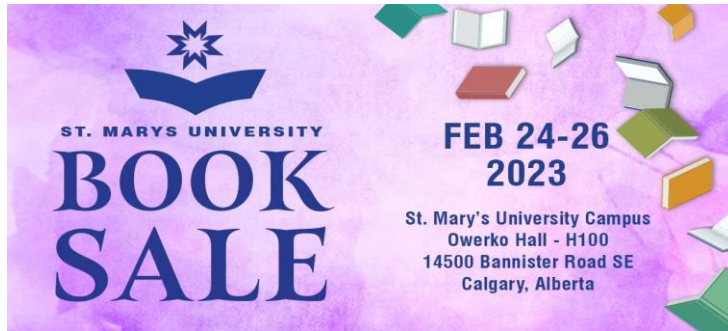
Marcus Langille, 29th



Happy Anniversary to **Fr. Greg Coupal** on his **50th Anniversary** to the priesthood on March 3rd! Thank you, Fr. Greg, for your 12 plus years of service at St. Gerard's parish and faithfulness to your vocation. Please include him in your prayers.

Do you know anyone celebrating a birthday or wedding anniversary in February 2023? Let the parish office know and let's celebrate with you.

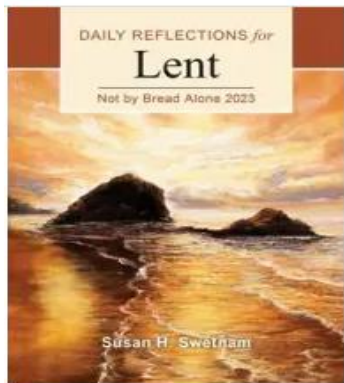
## St Mary's University – BOOK SALE FEBRUARY 24- 26 (free admission)



St. Mary's University Library is hosting a HUGE book sale - <https://stmu.ca/event/book-sale/>

## Lent Reflection Booklets

Lent Reflection books will be at the back of the church for sale.



2023 Lent books **\$5.00 each** (limited copies)



Assorted Lent booklets prior to 2023 (including teen reflection booklets): **\$2.00 each** while supply last.

## Lenten Reconciliation Service

March 16, 2023  
7:00 PM  
*Lenten  
Reconciliation  
Service*



## Lenten Parish Mission led by the Sisters of Divine Mercy

An opportunity for a deeper, intimate, and powerful relationship with Jesus: Face of Mercy. The Mission will be led by the Sisters of Divine Mercy, Sr. Katrina and Sr. Gabrielle





## MISSION SCHEDULE:

### Day 1: Sunday, March 19

5 pm Dinner, followed by 6 pm Angelus & Rosary and First Talk: "Be Not Afraid"

### Day 2: Monday, March 20

6 pm Angelus & Rosary, 6:30 pm Mass followed by Second Talk: "Living Your Life with Meaning and Purpose"

### Day 3: Tuesday, March 21

6 pm Angelus & Rosary, 6:30 pm Mass, followed by short concluding talk, Adoration, Confession and Inspirational Music (led by the Sisters of Divine Mercy)

## God Squad's annual Men Conference!

All men are welcome to a weekend of formation with guest speakers: Fr. Raymond De Souza and Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers on God Squad's upcoming Conference "Memento Mori: Remember your death and live for heaven". When: March 17-18 at St. Michael's Church (800 85 St SW, Calgary). For more information or to register, visit [godsquad.ca/register](http://godsquad.ca/register) or call 587-888-5482. Order today and get a [Terror of Demons- Disc Golf set](#) (supplies are limited)

## Pastoral Care Ministry Training

The Diocese of Calgary is offering a Pastoral Care Ministry Training for those who feel called to assist their parish in a healing ministry to the sick, elderly, dying, homebound and bereaved members.



- **Session 1:** Friday, March 24 (7 to 9 pm) to Saturday, March 25 (9:30 am to 4 pm)

- **Session 2:** Friday, March 31 (7 to 9 pm) to Saturday, April 1 (9:30 am to 4 pm)

**Location:** Catholic Pastoral Centre (120 17 Ave SW, Calgary)

**Registration Fee:** \$50/person (Covers training costs, lunch for both sessions, and refreshments). Note that **all participants must be pre-approved** by their Pastor and/or Pastoral Care Coordinator -

Stefan Winters, please contact the parish office prior to registration.

For more information or to register, visit [catholicyycc.ca/pastoralcare](http://catholicyycc.ca/pastoralcare)

## Career opportunities:

The Diocese of Calgary is looking for passionate and dedicated individuals to join their team! Check out new career opportunities in the Diocese:

- Administrative Assistant (Part-time) - Our Lady of the Rockies, Canmore
- Administrative Assistant (Part-time) - St. Pius X, Calgary
- Caretaker (Casual) - St. Ambrose, Coaldale
- Assistant Care Coordinator (Full Time) - Elizabeth House, Calgary
- Support Staff (Casual) - Elizabeth House, Calgary

Please visit [catholiccyyc.ca/careers](http://catholiccyyc.ca/careers) for more information and application details.

## KIDS Bulletin – First Sunday of Lent

**Kid's challenge this week:** After Jesus spent time in the desert he was hungry. Have you ever been hungry? What did it feel like? Then Jesus had to make some choices. First, he had the choice to either rely on God or turn stones into bread. Even though he was very hungry, Jesus chose to trust in God. We can also choose not to do something we know is wrong, even if we really want to. It takes a lot of strength to make the right choices. This Lent, let's think about how we can make good choices – just like Jesus did in the desert – even when we find it hard. (CAFOD)

- [Kid's Bulletin for this Sunday](#)
- [Sunday Connection for this Sunday \(Gr. 1-8\)](#)

## Pastoral Letter for Young People (CCCB)

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has issued a Pastoral Letter to Young People in honour of the anniversary of the death of Blessed Carlo Acutis, the first beatified millennial. Read now at <https://www.catholiccyyc.ca/blog/pastoral-letter-for-young-people>

Video Presentation of the pastoral letter, view: [https://youtu.be/fRmOqT\\_W2ZY](https://youtu.be/fRmOqT_W2ZY)