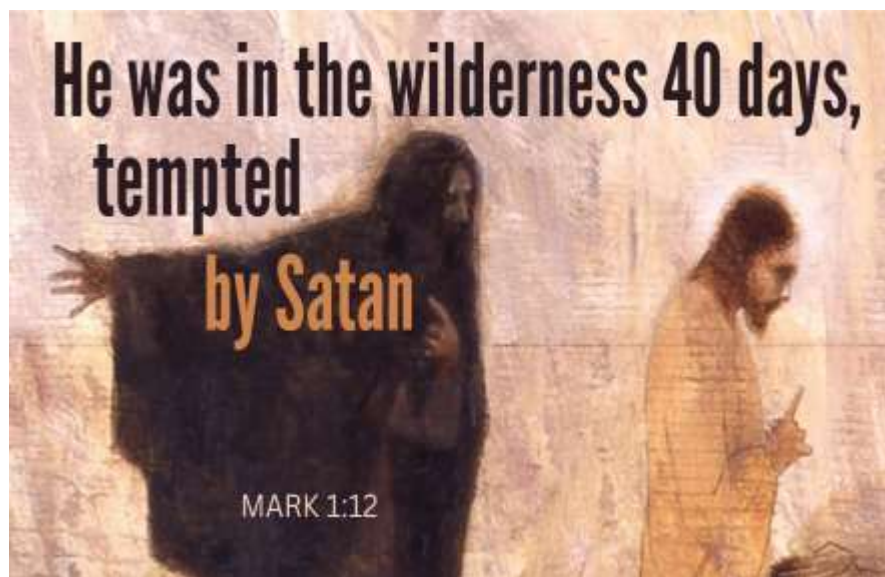


ST GERARD'S *Bulletin*

CATHOLIC CHURCH

8944 ELBOW DRIVE SW CALGARY AB T2V 1L2 TEL 403 253 2251 WEBSITE: STGERARDS.CA

February 18th, 2024



1st Sunday of LENT

Key events Coming Soon St. Gerard's:

- Weekday Stations of the Cross:
Tuesdays **after mass February 20**
Wed – Friday after 9:00 am mass – **Feb 21 – 23**
- Parish Pastoral Council Meeting – **Feb. 22 @ 7 pm**
- February Birthday Celebration - **Feb 23 at 9:45 am**
- Soup & Bun – **February 23 @ 5:30 PM**
- Friday Station of the Cross – **February 23 @ 7:00 pm**
- Parish Pastoral Renewal meeting – **Feb. 28**
- First Eucharist Session 3 – **March 2 @ 9:00 am**
- Confirmation Session 4 - **March 2 @ 10:45 am**
- Lenten Parish Mission – **March 3 -5**
- Lenten Parish Reconciliation – **Mar. 7 at 7pm**

MASS TIMES

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

ADORATION

Tuesday 5:00 - 6:00 pm
First Fridays 9:30 - 10:10 am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 pm

PARISH TEAM

Pastor: Fr. Ignatius Tran

fr.tran@stgerards.ca

Deacon: Rob McLean

Robert.McLean@calgarydiocese.ca

Gay Abuan-Summers

Pastoral Program Coordinator

Pastoral Related Inquiries:

pastoral.coordinator@stgerards.ca

Caroline Conley

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

Ash Wednesday and Lent



Dear friends,

Ash Wednesday began our season of Lent.

On Ash Wednesday, we received the sign of the cross made with ashes. The ashes remind us that God made us from nothing and that we will happily *return* to Him.

Lent is a time when we may give up things. What it boils down to is that we're freely choosing to deny ourselves of something we enjoy as a sacrifice to God. Through our fasting, we tell the Lord that we're truly sorry for always thinking of ourselves and *our* hungers and we are trying to be less self-centered. In that way, fasting really is *penance* for our sins.

The whole idea of giving something up during Lent is to help the poor. We *donate the money we saved* from whatever we gave up, to the poor.

In Vietnam, while I was growing up, we did not give up any food item simply because food was so scarce. Instead, we focused on giving up some of our bad habits:

Give up on complaining...	focus on Gratitude
Give up on pessimism...	become an Optimist
Give up on worry...	trust Divine Providence
Give up bitterness...	turn to Forgiveness
Give up hatred...	return Good for evil
Give up negativism...	be more Positive
Give up anger...	be more Patient
Give up pettiness...	become Mature
Give up gloom...	enjoy the Beauty all around you
Give up jealousy...	pray for Trust
Give up gossiping...	control your tongue
Give up sin...	turn to Virtue

Along with this, we also focused on *doing a good deed daily*. My parents often told us children that whatever good deed we did, we needed to do *happily*.

What good is a deed done with a begrudging attitude and a glum face? There's no love of God visible there!

May this Lenten season fill you with the peace of Christ and help you to *grow in spirit* closer to God.

***In Faith,
Fr. Ignatius***

Thank You note

Anita and I want to thank the parishioners of St. Gerard's for their prayers, cards, and the gifts of the Sacrifice of the Masses in remembrance of our loss of our brother John. All your kind gestures have provided much solace to our family.

May God continue to Bless you in all that you do.

Deacon Rob and Anita McLean

Our Weekly Financial Pulse as of February 11, 2024

Our Financial Picture General Collections

2024 Weekly Collection:
FEBRUARY

Weekly Target: **\$8,245** vs
actual weekly collections

February 4: \$10,808 / **Over - \$2,563**

February 11: \$7,988 / **(Short - \$257)**

2023 Tax Receipts

Tax Receipts will be emailed or mailed the week of February 21st.

Any corrections or questions regarding your 2023 tax receipts please email accounting@stgerards.ca; If you prefer your tax receipted to be printed for pick up, please contact the office via email: accounting@stgerards.ca

Donations through Canada Helps and St. Vincent de Paul:

2023 Tax receipts will be emailed or mailed to you directly by February 28, 2024.

Thank you for your patience!



Rite of Election / Call to Renewal weekend



This year the Rite of Election for Catechumens will be celebrated with Bishop McGrattan at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday, February 18 at 3:30 pm.

Please keep our Catechumens - 2 Adult RCIA and 4 Children together with their sponsor in your prayers.

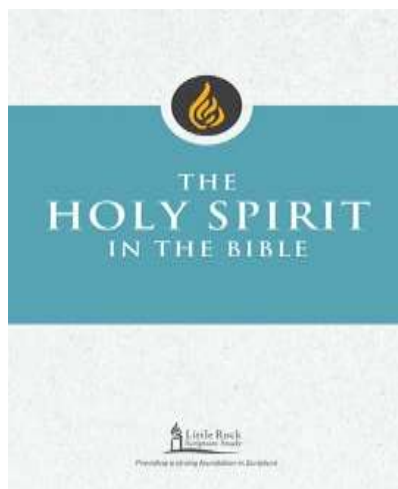
Together In Action Lenten Campaign begins Ash Wednesday

The 2024 Together In Action's campaign kicks off our Lenten journey. The Lenten call to almsgiving means making other people's needs become part of our concerns. The Parish goal for the 2024 Together in Action campaign is 36,194. Thank you for your continued generosity in helping to achieve our parish's contribution to the diocesan goal of \$2 million.



Donations are accepted using various methods on the Donate page. Please mark donations as **TIA** (Together in Action). **TIA** envelopes can also be found in the pews. For more information visit: <https://stgerards.ca/together-in-action>

Bible Study continues February 21 at 9:45 am (North Hall)



February 21 – Lesson 3.

Christian belief in the Holy Spirit as the Third Person of the Trinity was not officially defined by the church until the fourth century. But centuries earlier, the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament were already describing the action and presence of God's Spirit. In *The Holy Spirit in the Bible*, George Smiga unpacks key Scripture passages, exploring the activity of the Spirit at creation, within Israel, in the ministry of Jesus and the early church, and at the end of time. The role of the Holy Spirit in our personal and spiritual lives is also explored.

Knights of Columbus Lenten Food Drive (Feb. 14 – Mar. 31)



The poster features the Knights of Columbus logo in the top left corner. The title "Knights of Columbus & St. Vincent de Paul" is in white text on a purple background. Below it, "Lenten Food Drive" is written in large, bold yellow letters. To the left of the list is an illustration of various food items: a can of tuna, a jar of peanut butter, a carton of orange juice, and several cans of soup labeled "Good Soup". To the right of the illustration is a bulleted list of instructions.

- Non perishable food items
- See the food suggestion list: online or in the gathering area
- Ends Easter Sunday, **March 31**

Stop by the St. Vincent de Paul and pick up a Hamper list, you may choose to bring any item corresponding to your last name. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated and cheques may be payable to The Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Please avoid donating stale dated items. Non-perishable items only please. Thank you!

Mission Council



The poster has a dark blue background with a pink banner at the top that says "Support Overseas Missions". On the left, there are illustrations of three greeting cards: one that says "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" with a tulip, one that says "MOM" with a heart, and one that says "get well soon" with a floral pattern. To the right of the cards, the word "Donate" is written in a large, green, cursive font. Below it, the text "Your used and new All-occasion Cards to MISSION COUNCIL" is written in white and green. At the bottom, a green banner contains the text "Drop off at the Hospitality Desk marked **Mission Council**". A white flower icon is in the top right corner.

Support Overseas Missions

Donate

Your used and new
All-occasion Cards
to **MISSION COUNCIL**

Drop off at the Hospitality Desk
marked **Mission Council**

Sacramental Preparation updates:

Full schedule available on website for 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation:

<https://stgerards.ca/childrens-sacraments>

First Eucharist:

Session 3: **March 2 @9:00 am** (Church Sanctuary)

Print and draw your family having a meal together on your placemat; submit to the parish office to be laminate.



Confirmation (Grade 6 and up)

****Feb 14** is Ash Wednesday. Every Friday in Lent (**Feb – 16 – March 22**) is Soup and Bun at 5:30 pm, followed by 7:00pm Stations of the Cross.

***February 23 @ 7:00 pm**, volunteer opportunity to lead / participate in the stations of the cross, please contact Pastoral Coordinator at 403-252-2251 press 3.

Session 4: Saturday, **March 2 @ 10:45 am** (Lesson 14-15)

***Parish Reconciliation: March 7 at 7:00 pm**



Lent Resources:



Begins Thursday, February 15

After all weekday masses:

Tuesday after 6:30 PM mass

Wednesday to Friday after 9 AM mass

RECITATION OF THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday in Lent: Fellowship and Spiritual Nourishment:

A graphic for the Stations of the Cross. It features a purple background with a white silhouette of Jesus carrying the cross. The text is in white and yellow. The top right text reads: "SOUP AND BUN 5:30 PM WHILE QUANTITIES LAST FOLLOWED BY STATIONS AT 7:00 PM". The bottom text reads: "EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT STATIONS OF THE CROSS".

**SOUP AND BUN 5:30 PM
WHILE QUANTITIES LAST
FOLLOWED BY
STATIONS AT 7:00 PM**

**EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT
STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Eucharistic Adoration - Our Lady of the Rockies High School

A graphic for Eucharistic Adoration. It features a purple background with a white silhouette of a cross and a sunburst. The text is in white and yellow. The top text reads: "8:30 AM - 12:30 PM MON FEB 26 SIGN UP ONLINE stgerards.ca/lent-1". The bottom text reads: "OUR LADY OF THE ROCKIES HIGH SCHOOL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION".

**8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
MON FEB 26
SIGN UP ONLINE
stgerards.ca/lent-1**

**OUR LADY OF THE ROCKIES HIGH SCHOOL
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

All parishioners are welcome to attend and help us pray and adore in the presence of Christ. Please check in at the school office when you arrive.

Click [here](https://stgerards.ca/lent-1) to sign up.

Celebrating Life – Birthday and Wedding Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to all February celebrants including...



Feb 19 – Donna Seguin

Feb 20 – Mary Ann Abuan-

**Feb 20 - Mary Ann Abuan-Fanella ,
Jun Abuan, & Zorina Abuan**

Feb 21 – Gemma Martinez

Feb 23 – Tony Swain

Feb 24 – Robert Lauinger

MASS INTENTIONS – FEB 2024 **RIP – Rest in Peace; SI – Special Intentions

Tuesday, February 20 @ 6:30 PM	Juanity Idjao	RIP
Wednesday, February 21 @ 9:00 AM	Patricia Atkinson	SI
Thursday, February 22 @ 9:00 AM	Cappy Smart Band Members	SI
Friday, February 23 @ 9: 00 AM	Lucas Tomes	SI
Saturday, February 24 @ 5:00 PM	John McLean	RIP
Sunday, February 25@ 9:00 AM	Mia & Tony Yu Family	SI
Sunday, February 25 @ 11:00 AM	John Jan Kraska	RIP

Pope Francis FEBRUARY Prayer Intention | For the terminally ill

Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

Kids Bulletin

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

Diocesan Sunday updates - see last page of bulletin.

Lenten Parish Mission - March 3 -5, 2024 with Dr. Peter E. Baltutis

All are invited and welcome to attend!

ST GERARD'S PARISH LENTEN
MISSION
THE SAINTS' GUIDE TO HAPPINESS
Practical Lessons from the Spiritual Masters

MARCH 3-5

With **DR. PETER E. BALTUTIS**

LENTEN TALKS BEGIN AT 7 PM EACH EVENING

Sun Mar 3: St. Mary of Nazareth and St. Benedict of Nursia
5 PM Dinner (Parish Hall) and Fellowship (Sunday only)
Adoration 6:15 PM - 6:50 PM

Mon Mar 4: St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare of Assisi
Adoration 6:15 PM - 6:50 PM

Tues Mar 5: St. Ignatius of Loyola & (Servant of God) Dorothy Day
Adoration 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Mass at 6:30 PM

ST GERARDS.CA
FREEWILL OFFERING TO THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Guest Speaker Profile:

Dr. Peter Baltutis is an associate professor of history and religious studies at St. Mary's University in Calgary, where he also holds the Catholic Women's League (CWL) Chair for Catholic Studies. He earned his doctorate in theology from the University of St. Michael's College (the Catholic Graduate Faculty of Theology in the University of Toronto), with a specialization in the history of Christianity. His research focuses on the historical and theological development of Catholic social teaching in Canada. Outside of the university, he enjoys camping with his family and long-distance running in the Rocky Mountains. He is also a professed lay member of the Order of Preachers (the Lay Dominicans of Calgary).

DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



40 Hours Devotion for Vocations

As part of the Diocesan Renewal, the Office of Vocations is excited to launch the 40 Hours Devotion for Vocations in our diocese. This initiative invites us to pray continuously for forty hours before the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with a focus on increasing vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Please read the letter from the Bishop inviting you to this initiative at catholiccycc.ca/40hours March dates for 40 hours devotion:

- **St. Mary's Cathedral**, Fri, Mar 1 at 7 am to Sat, Mar 2 at 11 pm
- **St. Anthony's, Calgary**, Fri, Mar 1 at 3 pm to Sun, March 3 at 7 am
- **St. Luke's, Calgary**, Fri, Mar 8 at 8:30 am to Sun, Mar 10 at 8 am
- **St. Bonaventure's, Calgary**, Wed, Mar 13 at 7 am - Thu, Mar 14 at midnight

Mercy from Age to Age: From Loneliness Toward a Culture of Encounter

You've probably heard of St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body, but have you heard of Pope Francis's theology of aging? Recently, Pope Francis delivered a series of Wednesday audiences on the meaning and value of the alliance between generations. Join a workshop with expert panels on **Sat, Feb 24 at 10 am to 2 pm** at St. Bonaventure, Calgary. Lunch included. More info at agetoageseries.ca

Together in Action 2024

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, marks the beginning of our 2024 Together in Action campaign. This year, we draw upon Philippians 4:19: *"God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."* This scripture passage encourages us to trust in God's abundant provision and to share this abundance with others through service and love. Our diocesan goal of \$2 million will make a broad impact through our commitments to service and outreach. It will provide care for our retired priests, support hospital chaplaincy and pastoral care ministries, and aid local healing and reconciliation initiatives for residential school survivors. You can participate by donating at your parish, or online at catholiccycc.ca/tia - your contribution will be included as part of your parish contribution for TIA.

Pray the Diocesan Pastoral Renewal Prayer

We invite you to join us in praying the Novena to the Diocesan Prayer of Renewal below and to incorporate it into your prayers at home and within the parish communities. May the grace of God transform us and our communities in faith, charity and hope. Visit

catholiccyyc.ca/renewal

Lenten Resources

Visit our Diocesan Lenten Resources at catholiccyyc.ca/Lent to find a listing of Lenten missions/retreats in parishes throughout the Diocese, daily Lenten reflections, Stations of the Cross, and lenten activities and inspiration for individuals, children, and families.

Priestly Vocations Night

Have you ever thought God might be calling you to be a priest? Come to the Priestly Vocations Night with Fr. Derek Remus. Mass at 5 pm, followed by Evening Prayer, supper, presentation on discerning a vocation, and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. When: **Saturdays, Feb. 24 and Mar 16, from 5 pm to 9 pm** at St. Luke's, Calgary.

Men's Night: Brotherhood

Men in the Diocese of Calgary are invited to join "Into the Breach" Men's Formation Program on "Brotherhood" with Regnum Christi and Clear Water Academy. When: **Thu, Feb 22 at 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**, at Clear Water Academy, Calgary. See catholiccyyc.ca/news for more information.

Lenten #Renewal Mission with Dr. Peter Baltutis

St. Luke's Parish invites you to attend their Renewal Parish Lenten Mission with Dr. Peter Baltutis, which ends with penitential service on Thursday. When: **Monday to Thursday, Feb 26-29 at 7 pm**. Peter

teaches history & religious studies at St. Mary's University and is a lay member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans). He also serves as CWL Endowed Chair for Catholic Studies.

Indigenous Christians: An Authentic Faith

St. Mary's is excited to host Father Deacon Andrew, where he will discuss with a panel of Indigenous peoples from Treaty Seven, their faith experiences. It is an opportunity to hear from Elders and an alumnus of St. Mary's about how Indigenous culture and Christian faith co-exist. When: **Wed, Feb 21 at 7 pm to 9 pm at the McGivney Hall**.

27th Annual God Squad Men's Conference

God Squad Canada is hosting its annual Men's Conference called "*The Way to the Father*" on **March 22-23, 2024** at Ascension Catholic Parish in Calgary with keynote speaker: Jon Leonetti (author, speaker, radio host, but most importantly a husband and a father); as well as Brother Simon of the Seeds of the Word Community in Calgary. Get tickets at godsquad.ca

Career Opportunities

The Catholic Pastoral Centre has opportunities to join our dynamic team

- [Bookkeeper \(Full-time\) - Catholic Pastoral Centre](#)
- [Assistant Coordinator \(Casual\) - Feed the Hungry](#)
- [Administrative Assistant \(Part-time\) - St. Anthony's, Calgary](#)

For additional information, visit catholiccyyc.ca/careers.