

ST GERARD'S *Bulletin*

CATHOLIC CHURCH

8944 ELBOW DRIVE SW CALGARY AB T2V 1L2

TEL 403 253 2251

WEBSITE: STGERARDS.CA

March 3rd, 2024



3rd Sunday of LENT

Key events Coming Soon St. Gerard's:

- Friday Station of the Cross – **March 1 @ 7:00 pm**
- 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**
- Confirmation Session 5 – **March 16 @ 10:00 am**
- First Eucharist Session 4 – **April 13 @ 9:00 am**
- Confirmation Retreat – **April 13 @ 10:30 am**
- Confirmation Celebration - **April 20th at 5:00 pm**
- White Elephant Garage Sale - **April 27-28**
- Dinner and Show (Classic Hits and Comedy)- **May 11**

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

Lent



Dear Friends,

We often think of the time of Lent as being a somber period. Lent is not meant to be a dark season. Like Advent, it's meant to be a time of hope.

Do you know that the word, Lent, means springtime? Our days are getting noticeably longer. It signals the start of the end of Winter and the warmer than seasonal days we've been having, certainly do feel like spring. It's a time when we hope to see more warm sunshine and the start of new buds on our trees. It's a time to look forward to the return of colour to our world with signs of life poking up from the soil, promising the return of crocuses, daffodils, and tulips.

Lent is often a time when we give up things we love. It's a sacrifice that we can make if we choose to. Along with giving something up (if that's what we want to do) why not consider (also/instead) asking ourselves what we can do for others? Originally, all that time ago, we were asked to give up something (like expensive meat and eating less expensive fish instead one day a week). The idea was to take the saved money and give it to help the poor.

Jesus asks us to spend our time here on earth as He did. We're simply asked to live, love, and serve. Jesus came to live with us, to love us and to serve us.

Wow! God did that for us! Right to the bitter end!

During this Lenten time, let's try to be more patient with each other. Let's get better showing love the way Jesus did, with no conditions. Let's lend a helping hand where we are needed. Let's deepen our understanding of others when we don't agree with them. Let's put away our fears and place ourselves in Jesus' arms where we are safe and warm. Let's bring ourselves and others out of the cold wintry soil and into the flowering rebirth of life, which is the promise of Spring, the promise of Lent, the promise of Hope!

In Faith,

Fr. Ignatius Tran

Our Weekly Financial Pulse as of February 25, 2024



2023 Tax Receipts

All 2023 Tax Receipts have been mailed as of February 29.

If you require duplicate receipts or corrections on your 2023 tax receipts, please email accounting@stgerards.ca; Thank you for your generosity.

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)**

February 18: \$9,823 / **Over - \$1,578**

February 25: \$8,913 / **Over - \$668**



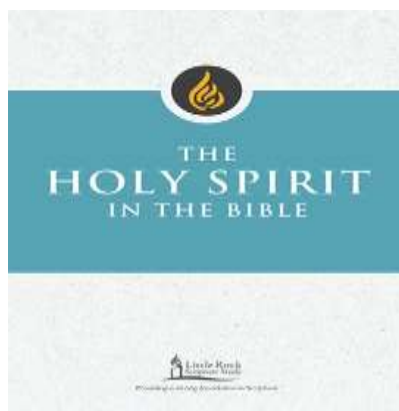
**Support St. Gerard's
Flower Fund**

For Altar Flowers and Special Occasions
Consider an 'In Memoriam' Donation

Thank You!

Please use the Yellow Envelopes in the pews.

Bible Study continues February 14 at 9:45 am (North Hall)



March 6 – Lesson 5

Join us for our next Bible Study on **The Eucharist in Scripture**. Cost of Material is \$25 or free will offering. Pick up your materials by contacting the parish office for details.

Does evening work best for you? Contact us! Pre-registering (minimum 10 -12 participants).

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

A purple banner for the Lenten Food Drive. On the left is the Knights of Columbus logo. To its right, the text "Knights of Columbus & St. Vincent de Paul" is written in white. Below this, "Lenten Food Drive" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Underneath the title, there is an illustration of various food items: a can of tuna, a jar of peanut butter, a box of instant noodle soup, and several cans of soup. To the right of the illustration, a bulleted list in white text provides details: "Non perishable food items", "See the food suggestion list: online or in the gathering area", and "Ends Easter Sunday, **March 31**".

- 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!

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 laminated.



Confirmation (Grade 6 and up)

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

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

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

The presenter will be parishioner Dr. Peter Baltutis, who is a professor of Catholic studies theology at St. Mary's University in Calgary. The theme of the mission is "The Saints' Guide to Happiness: Practical Lessons from the Spiritual Masters."

Over three nights, we will explore the lives of the 6 saints - 3 men and 3 women from all different periods of Church history - to see what RELEVANT and PRACTICAL lessons we can learn from them about finding happiness and purpose in our contemporary lives. All are welcome!

Parish Lenten Reconciliation – March 7th



Lent Resources:



Visit our webpage for additional Lenten Devotion and updates.

<https://stgerards.ca/lent-1>

THANK YOU! From the Our Lady of the Rockies High School

Thank you to All parishioners who participated in the recent Eucharistic Adoration last February 26 from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm. Special Thanks to Anthony Hulse (Chaplain) and Principal Marilyn Nasse for inviting our parish community.

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Eternal Rest, grant unto the souls of **Sophie Hamer** and **Elizabeth Huntley**; Oh Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. AMEN.

- ✚ Prayers for Sophie Hamer (RIP) - **March 8 at 8:00 pm**
- ✚ Funeral Mass for Sophie Hamer – **March 9th at 11:00 am**

Sincere Condolences to the **Hamer** and **Huntley** family from your St. Gerard's family.

MASS INTENTIONS – MAR 2024 **RIP – Rest in Peace; SI – Special Intentions; Pro Populo – For the People of the Parish

Tuesday, March 05 @ 6:30 PM	Francisca R. Abuan	RIP
Wednesday, March 06 @ 9:00 AM	Staff of Our Lady of the Rockies	SI
Thursday, March 07 @ 9:00 AM	Jacques Wong	SI
Thursday, March 07 @ 10:15 AM	Salvacion Sestoso	RIP
Friday, March 08 @ 9:00 AM	Jacques Wong	SI
Saturday, March 09 @ 5:00 PM	Josephine Gonzalez	RIP
Sunday, March 10 @ 9:00 AM	Val Horne	SI
Sunday, March 10 @ 11:00 AM	Erlinda Mendoza	RIP

Celebrating Life – Birthday and Wedding Anniversaries



Mar 01 – Ruth Bascones
Mar 04 – Michelle McMeel
Mar 05 – Benedicta Davies / Prescy Rigor
Mar 07 – Gideon Van Metter
Mar 09 – David Chambers

Share Lent Campaign:

Denouncing oil pollution in Nigeria

Nigeria is Africa's largest economy and biggest oil producer. Despite oil exports worth billions of dollars, millions of Nigerians remain in poverty and face food insecurity. In the south, pollution and contamination by the oil industry are causing great hardship.

Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's partner Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) defends farmers' rights and helps protect their lands.

To learn more about the work of HOMEF, read our [Mini-magazine](#) and watch the video at devp.org/lent.



Kids Bulletin links

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

DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES – 3rd Sunday of Lent

DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Lenten Penitential Services

In preparing us as the faithful for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Join our parish's penitential service and rejoice in God's Mercy! See schedule at: catholiccy.ca/lenet

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 catholiccy.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
- **Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, Calgary** - Tue, Mar 20 at 7 am to Wed, Mar 21 at midnight

Together in Action 2024

This year TIA draws 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 catholiccy.ca/tia - your contribution will be included as part of your parish contribution for TIA.

The Saints' Guide to Happiness

St. Gerard's Parish invites you to their Lenten Mission with Dr. Peter E. Baltutis, with topic: The Saints' Guide to Happiness: Practical Lessons from the Spiritual Masters. When: **Mon to Wed, Mar 3 -5 at St. Gerard's Parish** (8944 Elbow Drive SW, Calgary). Free Will offering to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Youth & Holy Week Missions

Regnum Christi Calgary is inviting young people to a week-long event during Holy Week 2024. This event is designed to help young people develop a deeper relationship with Christ and will include various activities such as Mass, Adoration, Confession, games, food, live Stations of the Cross, and a Marian procession. The event will be held from **Mar 24 - 30** at St.

James' Parish in Okotoks. Register at rccalgary.com

Lenten Retreat at St. Paul's

All are welcome to St. Paul's Lenten Retreat in Airdrie on **Tue, Mar 12 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm** led by Friar Michael Perras. The evening retreat will include a reflection, moments of quiet, music, sharing, and a closing spiritual. Free will offerings accepted.

Ablaze Youth Ministry

Set your hearts on Fire - ablaze with love for God and His Catholic Church! The following events are available for all youth in the Diocese:

- **Fri, Mar 1, from 7 to 9 pm - for Gr. 9-12** | FacetoFace Ministries at St. Bonaventure's, Calgary
- **Sat, Mar 9 from 10 am to 5 pm - for Gr. 6-8** | Elevate: FacetoFace at St. Bonaventure's, Calgary
- **Sat, Mar 16 (7 to 9 pm) - for Gr. 7-12** | Impact Nights with Access52 at St. Michael's, Calgary
- **Mar 22-23 - for Gr. 9-12 (Boys only)** | God Squad Conference at Ascension, Calgary

For info, call 403-278-7556 or email troy.nguyen@calgarydiocese.ca

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: **Sat, 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, Mar 14 at 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**, at Clear Water Academy, Calgary. See catholiccyyc.ca/news for more information.

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