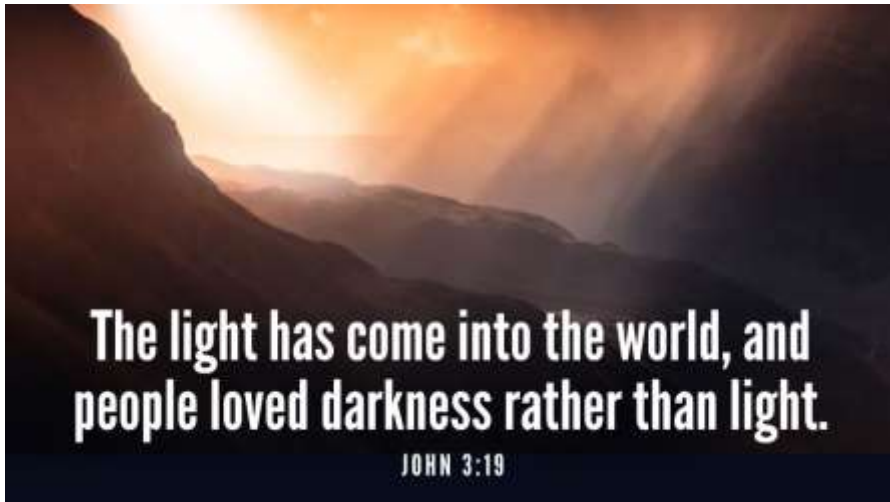


ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Bulletin

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

March 10th, 2024



4th Sunday of LENT

Key events Coming Soon St. Gerard's:

- Confirmation Session 5 – **March 16 @ 10:00 am**
- Baptism Prep, **March 13 @ 7:00 pm**
- Knights of Columbus Meeting, **March 13 @ 7:00 pm**
- Pastoral Renewal Team, **March 13 @ 7:00 pm**
- Liturgy Meeting, **March 14 @ 7:00 pm**
- Infant Baptism, **March 17 @ 11:00 am**
- Parish Pastoral Council Meeting. **March 21 @ 7pm**
- Pastoral Renewal Team, **March 27 @ 7:00 pm**
- Triduum Schedule, **March 28 – 30, see page 4**
- 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

HOW WILL YOU MAKE LENT DIFFERENT THIS YEAR?

Dear friends,

How will this year's Lent be different from past years?

You may want to consider:

- Daily Mass during Lent.
- If you can't get to daily Mass, get a list of the readings used each day in Mass, and read these readings daily during Lent.
- Spend at least 30 minutes in **Eucharistic adoration**.
- **Get to confession** at least once during the season of Lent after making a good examination of conscience.
- Daily, make a plan to get up earlier than anyone else in your house and spend your first 15 minutes of the day thanking God for the gift of life and offering your day to Him.
- Make a decision to read at least some Scripture every day during Lent!
- Make the Stations of the Cross each Friday of the Season of Lent either with a group or by yourself.
- Make it a habit to stop at least five times a day during Lent, raise your heart and mind to God, and say a short prayer such as "Jesus, I love you," or "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner," or "Lord, I offer it up for you."
- Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary often during Lent, especially on Friday and Wednesday. The glorious mysteries are especially appropriate on Sundays. Joyful and Luminous mysteries are great on other days.
- If you've never done a family rosary, begin doing it. You could start with once a week on Friday or Sunday. If it's tough to start with a full five decades, try starting with just one.



- Pray for Christians suffering from war. Pray for Christians suffering under persecution. Pray for all people suffering discrimination for any reason.
- Pray for Christian unity, that there would be one flock and one shepherd.
- Pray for the **evangelization** of all those who have not yet heard and accepted the Good News about Jesus.
- Here's a great Lenten idea: Pray for your enemies. In fact, think of the person who has most hurt you or who most annoys you and spend several minutes each day thanking God for that person and asking God to bless him or her.
- Pray for an end to abortion on demand. Pray for pregnant women contemplating abortion.
- Find a local homeless shelter, soup kitchen, or crisis pregnancy center, and volunteer some time there throughout Lent. Serve the people there with the understanding that in so doing, you are serving Jesus. Try to see Jesus in each person there.
- Visit someone at a nursing home or in the hospital or sick at home. Love Jesus in and through the suffering person.
- Is there a widow or divorced person living in your neighborhood? If so, it would be a great idea to invite that person to your home for dinner, a cup of coffee or a glass of wine.
- Get the video of Mel Gibson's movie *The Passion of the Christ* and watch it during Lent if you feel you can handle the violence (there is also a version with many of the most violent scenes cut out). Invite someone over to watch it with you.
- Spend some focused time together with your spouse or each of your children, or your siblings, or your parents. Listen. Pray. Maybe even have fun! Yes, fun can be an appropriate idea for a Lenten penance. Holiness is not supposed to be glum!

In Faith,

Fr. Ignatius Tran

Triduum and Easter Schedule

Holy Thursday - March 28 at 7 PM (NO 9 AM mass)

Good Friday - March 29 at 3 PM (NO 9 AM mass)

Easter Vigil - March 30 at 8 PM (NO 5 PM mass)

Easter Sunday - March 31 at 9 AM and 11 AM

- **Holy Thursday – Easter Sunday (livestreamed)**, links to be posted soon.
- Easter Sunday mass at 11:00 am will be livestreamed as per regular schedule. Thank you for your support.

Our Weekly Financial Pulse as of March 3, 2024

Our Financial Picture General Collections

2024 Weekly Collection:
FEBRUARY - MARCH

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

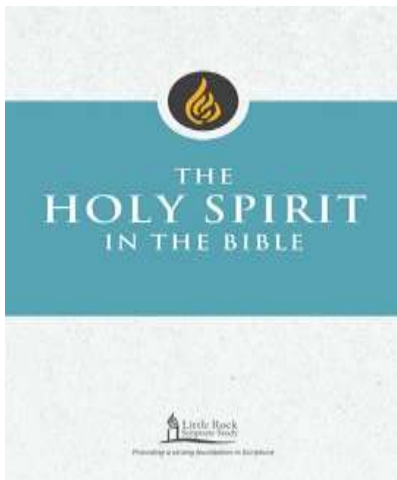
Feb.26 – Mar. 3: \$10,655 / **Over - \$2,420**

TIA Surplus Dedication for 2024

“Father Ignatius and the Parish Finance Council has elected to dedicate any surplus funds raised beyond our 2024 TIA target of \$36,194 to be retained as a savings toward upgrading our sound system in the hall.

We are currently seeking quotes and will keep our parishioners advised of developments as they occur”.





Bible Study continues March 13 at 9:45 am (North Hall)

March 13 – Lesson 6

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 (Mar.10 – Mar. 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:

First Eucharist:

Session 4: **April 13 @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.



First Eucharist Celebration is Saturday, May 4th at 5:00 pm

Confirmation (Grade 6 and up)

Session 5 Saturday, **March 16 @ 10:00 am** (Lesson 18, 21, 24)

April 2: **Submit all projects** - Sponsor names and a copy of their Confirmation certificate, candidate's Confirmation name, letter to Bishop and Service projects.



THANK YOU! To all attendees of the Lenten Mission with Dr. Peter E. Baltutis

Thank you to Dr. Peter Baltutis for sharing insights on the lives of 6 SAINTS - 3 men and 3 women from all different period of Church history.

Many thanks to all volunteers who prepared a hearty Lasagna meal to kick off the event. **Fifty-eight (58)** brave souls each night (March 3 – 5) weathered the cold weather to learn more about “The Saints’ Guide to Happiness: Practical Lessons from the Spiritual Masters (March 3-5)”.



What’s Happening during a Parish Pastoral Visit? – St. Gerard spotlight

The spirit of hospitality and service at St. Gerard’s is ALIVE and WELL!

Read more ... [What's happening during a Parish Pastoral Visit? - ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CALGARY \(catholiccyyc.ca\)](http://catholiccyyc.ca)

Celebrating Life – Birthday and Wedding Anniversaries



12th - Kay Power, Fieber Omana

16th - Adriel- Marcus Crisostomo, Ayesha Puno

19th - Ann Sunderland

Do you know anyone celebrating a birthday or wedding anniversary in March 2024? Let the parish office know and let's celebrate with you.

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

Tuesday March 12 6:30 PM	Sunderland Family	SI
Wednesday March 13 9:00 AM	Jemmy Vi Almoros	RIP
Thursday March 14 9:00 AM	Joyce Pickard	RIP
Friday March 15 9:00 AM	Peter Boyle	RIP
Saturday March 16 5:00 PM	Richard Skelton	RIP
Sunday March 17 9:00 AM	Pauline and Gordon Gerie	RIP
Sunday March 17 11:00 AM	Sylvia Kirkland	RIP

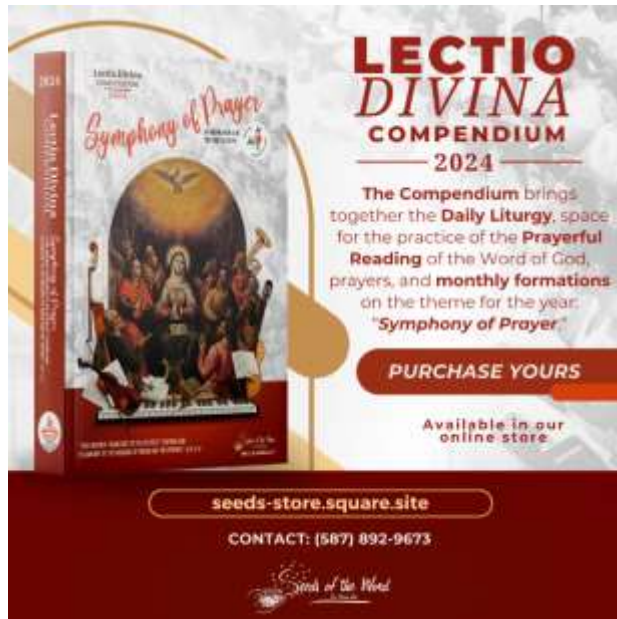
FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Eternal Rest, grant unto the souls of **Sophie Hamer** and **Joyce Pickard** 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**
- ✚ Memorial Mass for Joyce Pickard- **March 14 at 9:00 am**

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

Lectio Divina 2024 - March 16/17 on SALE!!!



"The Seeds of the Word Community will be at our parish on the weekend of March 16th to 17th, at all Masses. They will be selling their Lectio Divina Compendiums for \$20 and Baked Goods for \$10 in support of their ministry and the Community.

The Seeds of the Word have been present in the Diocese of Calgary for the past 10 years, doing missions in parishes, schools, universities, and various other groups.

All the money raised goes to support all of the Community's activities in Calgary

and their missions around the world. We thank you for your generosity in supporting our mission!"

2024 Pastoral Care Training

The Diocese of Calgary invites individuals who feel called to assist their parish in a healing ministry. This Pastoral Care Training is designed for those who wish to support the sick, elderly, dying, homebound, and bereaved members of their community. Whether you're a new minister or someone with prior training in Pastoral Care Ministry, this workshop warmly welcomes you.

2024 Pastoral Care Ministry Training in Calgary, AB

Sessions: Saturdays, April 20, 2024 & May 4, 2024

- **Where:** Catholic Pastoral Centre - 120 17 Ave SW, Calgary
- **Deadline to register:** April 15

Registration Fee:

The registration fee is \$70 per person, which covers training costs, lunch for both sessions, and refreshments.

We understand that the fee might be a concern for some, but please rest assured that it should not be a deterrent to your participation. No one will be denied the opportunity to join us. If you need alternative arrangements, please contact Anthony at anthony.bank@calgarydiocese.ca.

Notes:

- We welcome participants who have received approval from their Pastor and/or Pastoral Care Coordinator. Please reach out to your parish for screening requirements; they'll be happy to assist you!
- Lunch will be provided on both Saturdays.
- Be sure to attend the entire course as you'll receive a Certificate of Completion at the end of the course.

Share Lent Campaign:**Training next-generation farmers in Indonesia**

In rural Indonesia, young people are abandoning agriculture to work in cities. Over time, this could threaten food sovereignty.

Our partner PAYOPAYO empowers village communities to work together to find solutions to common challenges related to agriculture, food, energy, natural resource management and the engagement of youths, especially women.

This Lent, meet our solidarity visitor Karno Batiran, the executive director of PAYOPAYO. Learn more at devp.org/lent.

Kids Bulletin links

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

DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES – 4th Sunday of Lent

DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

FOURTH 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: catholiccyyc.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 catholiccyyc.ca/40hours
March dates for 40 hours devotion:

- **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
- **Holy Spirit, Calgary** - Sat morning, Apr 6 to Sun evening, Apr 7
- **St. Anthony's, Calgary** - Fri, Apr 5 at 3 pm to Sun, Apr 7 at 7 am

Solidarity Sunday - Mar 17

The Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 17, is celebrated throughout most of Canada as Solidarity Sunday, where parishes hold a

special collection for Development and Peace - Caritas Canada and pray for greater fellowship and understanding amongst people worldwide. To donate online go to www.devp.org

Mother Maria of Russia, on Uniting the Cross and the Sword

Fr. Tim Boyle will speak on The Art of Accompaniment, picking up on the theme from the Synod preparation document "Enlarge the Tent." When: **Mon, Mar 18 at 10:30 am at St. Martha's, Lethbridge** or via [live stream at stmarthasparish.ca](http://live.stream.at.stmarthasparish.ca).

Solemnity of St. Joseph Mass with Bishop McGrattan

All are welcome to celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph's Mass with Bishop McGrattan, and celebrate 400 years of St. Joseph as Patron of Canada. Refreshments will follow at the Parish Hall. More: **Tue, Mar 19 at 7 pm - St. Joseph's Church, Calgary.**

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.**

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

St. Joseph's Pilgrim Icon Prayer Service

A blessed copy of the beautiful icon of St. Joseph, fashioned after the original icon housed at St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, will be on display at St. Bonaventure church for this special evening service. When: **Tue, Mar 19 at 7 pm** - St. Bonaventure, Calgary.

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:

- **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

Lenten Resources

Visit our Diocesan Lenten Resources at catholiccy.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.

Live-In Retreat in Okotoks, AB

A Live-In is a weekend retreat to grow in faith with Jesus. Organized by the Calgary Live-In Retreat Society, the upcoming Live-In will be hosted on **March 22-24** (Friday evening and ends Sunday afternoon) in Okotoks. Please contact us by e-mail calgarylivein@telus.net or phone Don at 403-510-1208 for more information or to register.

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

Together in Action 2024

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.