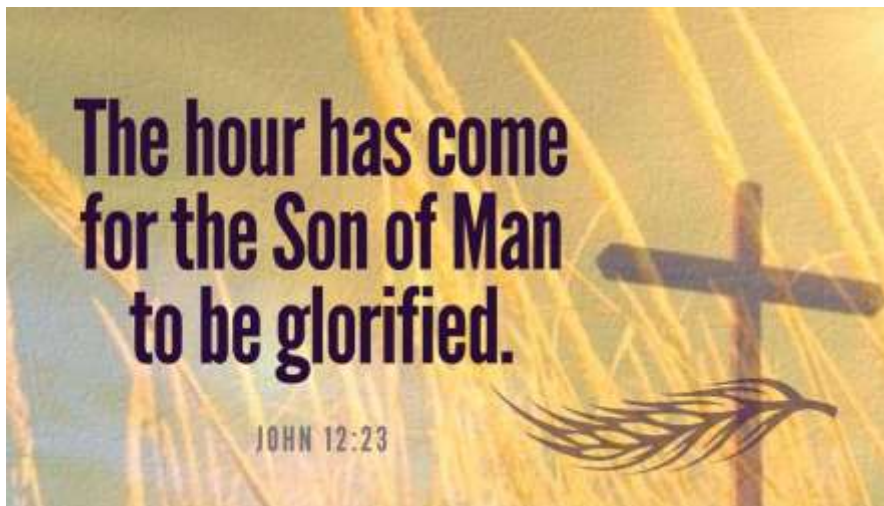


# ST GERARD'S *Bulletin*

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

**March 17th, 2024**



**5th Sunday of LENT**

## **Key events Coming Soon St. Gerard's:**

- Confirmation Session 5 – **March 16 @ 10:00 am**
- Infant Baptism, **March 17 @ 11:00 am**
- Catechumens' 3<sup>rd</sup> Scrutiny – **March 17 @ 11 am**
- Parish Pastoral Council Meeting. **March 21 @ 7pm**
- Pastoral Renewal Team, **March 27 @ 7:00 pm**
- Crafts and Fun, **March 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am**
- Triduum Schedule, **March 28 – 30, see page 3**
- First Eucharist Session 4 – **April 13 @ 9:00 am**
- Confirmation Retreat – **April 13 @ 10:30 am**
- Confirmation Celebration - **April 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm**
- First Eucharist Retreat – **April 27 @ 10:00 am**
- White Elephant Garage Sale - **April 27-28**
- First Eucharist Celebration – **May 4 @ 5:00 pm**
- 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](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



Dear Friends,

The rules of Fasting and Abstinence have changed over the years. Serious obligation to fast exists now only on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and abstinence from meat on all other Fridays during Lent.

Fasting is a practice found throughout Scripture. A fast in the Bible is usually a voluntary, total abstinence from food for a set time for the purpose of devoting ourselves to seeking God. Fasting denies our flesh what it wants so that we can focus more clearly on strengthening ourselves spiritually.

Why should we fast?

Because Jesus told us to! Fasting and prayer was a regular practice in the early church. When we fast, we humble ourselves before God and spiritual benefits will follow.

Not everyone is able to fast. If you are not able to fast completely from food, you can simplify your foods, cut out the big meals and eat crackers, toast, simple breads or fruit, cheese or juice. Many of us are unable to abstain from food for medical reasons. In that case, we can deny ourselves something else such as fasting from television or social media.

Fervent prayer and fasting practiced together are a *powerful combination*! When we fast, we don't just stop eating, we start *listening*. Fasting and prayer clears away the distractions and allows us to clearly hear the voice of the Lord for direction in our lives. As we spend time seeking God in fasting and prayer, we will begin to see a problem or an event from *two* perspectives: we will see ourselves the way *God* see us and the situation we're praying for as *He* sees it.

Fasting focuses our commitment to spend time with God, because we are paying a price to do so. Our hunger is a reminder of why we are doing this. We deny our bodies food for a time to awaken the *spiritual* hunger for God inside of us.

Fasting and prayer will deepen our relationship with God and when we willingly give up food to spend time with Him, we will develop a deeper intimacy with Him.

As you spend time in fasting and prayer, believe that God will give you wisdom and understanding. Not only in the thing you're praying for but also for every area of your life. He will give you a clear mind and better understanding.

Ask God to show you your heart and to show you what you've filled it with over the last few years. As He reveals the baggage you've been carrying, take each piece and give it to God. Let go of it! Lay it at His feet. He will haul it away and clean up your heart.

If you want divine intervention, seek God through prayer and fasting!

**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:  
MARCH

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

Mar. 3: \$10,638 / **Over - \$2,393**

Mar. 10: \$8,172 / **(Short - \$73)**

### 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”.



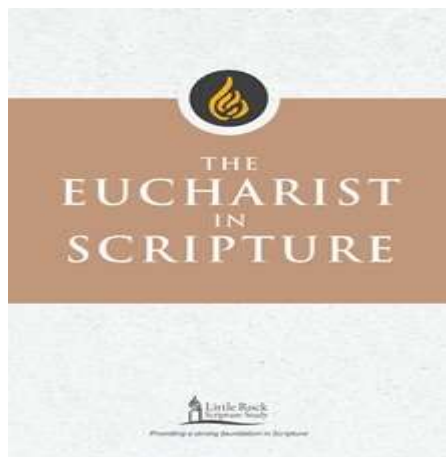
**Support St. Gerard's Flower Fund**

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

*Thank You!*

**Please use the Yellow Envelopes in the pews.**

The banner has a blue background with a pink flower illustration on the left. The text is in white and yellow.



## Bible Study on “The Eucharist in Scripture”

**Resumes April 10** at 9:45 am (North Hall)

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!*

Second class (Evenings): TBA if **Minimum of 10 -12 participants are met.**

## Knights of Columbus Lenten Food Drive (Mar.17 – Mar. 31)

The Lenten Food Drive being conducted by the Knights of Columbus and St. Vincent de Paul **NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

**Gift cards and non-perishable items are being collected until Easter!** Please be generous with your donation.



## 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 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm

## Confirmation (Grade 6 and up)

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

Sponsor and Saints project due NOW.

April 2: **Submit all projects** - Sponsors must submit a copy of their Confirmation certificate, candidate's Confirmation "Saints" name, letter to Bishop and Service projects.



## Celebrating Life – Birthday and Wedding Anniversaries



**19th - Ann Sunderland**

**24<sup>th</sup> - Ray**

**31st - Reynald Taguinod**

**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 19 6:30 PM	Laurance Daignault	RIP
Wednesday March 20 9:00 AM	Francisca & Jose Abuan	RIP
Thursday March 21 9:00 AM	Gloria Almoros	RIP
Thursday March 21 10:15 AM	CWL Memorial Mass	RIP
Friday March 22 9:00 AM	Dora & Reuben Rodriguez	RIP
Saturday March 23 5:00 PM	Dorota Klimeck	RIP
Sunday March 24 9:00 AM	Pro Populo	SI
Sunday March 24 11:00 AM	Brittany Berke	RIP

## 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!"

# Craft and Fellowship



**Peace Chaplets**

**March 30**

## EXPLORE YOUR CREATIVITY!

Every last Saturday of the month  
St Gerard's Parish Hall 10 am - noon  
This month: PRAYER CHAPLETS  
All supplies provided.

## Families Welcome!

## 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. **Note: Participants should receive approval from their Pastor and/or Pastoral Care Coord.** Please reach out to your parish for screening requirements

### 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:** \$70 per person, (Covers training costs, lunch for both sessions, and refreshments.)

**Register now** at [catholicyyca.ca/pastoralcare](https://catholicyyca.ca/pastoralcare)

#### 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.





YOU MATTER.  
YOU BELONG.

# THE *Outdoor* WAY OF THE CROSS

✦ GOOD FRIDAY  
MARCH 29, 2024  
AT 9 AM



with  
**BISHOP WILLIAM  
T. MCGRATTAN**

## HOW DO I GET THERE?

**C-TRAIN** Take the Fish Creek-Lacombe Station stop.

**DRIVING** Use the Providence Blvd. SE driveway of St. Mary's University, park on the street on Providence Blvd. SE, or park at the Fish Creek-Lacombe Station parking lot and use the walking bridge to the university campus. **Please gather at the Water Tower.**

## A NEW ROUTE! ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY TO FATHER LACOMBE CENTRE

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY: 14500 BANNISTER ROAD SE, CALGARY (USE THE PROVIDENCE BLVD. SE DRIVEWAY). **GATHER AT THE WATER TOWER.**



[CATHOLICYC.CA/WAYOFTHECROSS](http://CATHOLICYC.CA/WAYOFTHECROSS)

## Share Lent Campaign:

### This Lent, please give generously



This Solidarity Sunday, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's ***Reaping our Rights*** campaign invites you to give generously and thanks you warmly for your generosity.

**Your donation transforms the lives of some of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers across the world.**

“Development and Peace — Caritas Canada accompanies, supports and respects our institutional autonomy. It creates a climate of trust. I thank our sisters and brothers in Canada for their solidarity, a solidarity that generates life opportunities, that accompanies the dreams of women and men, of families, of communities and territories. **Thank you!**” — Eva Colque, Executive Director, Fundación NUNA, a partner in Bolivia

Help create hope and dreams of the communities we support in the Global South by giving to your Share Lent parish collection or at [devp.org/give](https://devp.org/give). **Thank you for your solidarity!**

### Kids Bulletin links

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

## DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES – 5th Sunday of Lent

# DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### Outdoor Way of the Cross

All are invited to join Bishop McGrattan on the **Outdoor Way of the Cross** on **Good Friday, March 29, 2024 at 9 am**. We are introducing a new route this year that begins at St. Mary's University and leads us to the Father Lacombe Centre in SE Calgary. Remember to dress appropriately for the outdoors. For more information, visit [catholiccyyc.ca/wayofthecross](https://catholiccyyc.ca/wayofthecross)

### 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/lent](https://catholiccyyc.ca/lent)

### Solidarity Sunday - Mar 17

**This Sunday, 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](https://www.devp.org)

### Pastoral Care Ministry 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 community members. **Note: Participants should**

**receive approval from their Pastor and/or Pastoral Care Coord.** Please reach out to your parish for screening requirements. Training dates: **Saturdays, Apr. 20 and May 4** at the Catholic Pastoral Centre. To register, visit [catholiccyyc.ca/pastoralcare](https://catholiccyyc.ca/pastoralcare)

### 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.**

### 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](https://catholiccyyc.ca/40hours) March dates for 40 hours devotion:

- **Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, Calgary** - Tue, Mar 20 at 7 am to Wed, Mar 21 at midnight
- **St. Anthony's, Calgary** - Fri, Apr 5 at 3 pm to Sun, Apr 7 at 7 am
- **Holy Spirit, Calgary** - Sat morning, Apr 6 to Sun evening, Apr 7

## 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](http://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.

## Holy Week & Triduum with Bishop McGrattan

All are welcome! Bishop McGrattan will celebrate the following liturgies at St. Mary's Cathedral:

- Chrism Mass on Mon, Mar 25 at 7 pm
- Holy Thursday, on Mar 28 at 7 pm
- Good Friday, on Mar 29 at 3 pm
- Easter Vigil, on Sat, Mar 30 at 8 pm

## 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 e-mail [calgarylivein@telus.net](mailto:calgarylivein@telus.net) or phone Don at 403-510-1208 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](http://godsquad.ca)

## Into the Deep: Finding Peace through Prayer Retreat

St. Albert the Great invites you to a retreat for anyone wanting to begin or deepen their prayer life with speakers: Elizabeth Sanesh, Michelle and Tom Diment together with the *Come As You Are* team on the weekend of **March 22-23, 2024**. What sets authentic Christian prayer apart from the many "spiritual" practices being promoted today? How does one pray? There will be video reflection, small group discussions, Adoration and prayer ministry. For more information, contact the parish office at 403-257-6054.

## 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 [catholiccyca.ca/tia](http://catholiccyca.ca/tia) - your contribution will be included as part of your parish contribution for TIA.