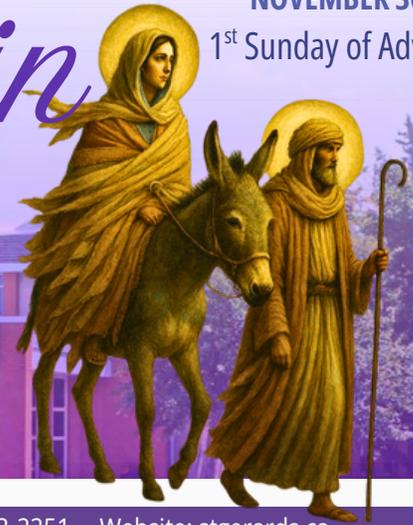


ST GERARD'S *Bulletin*

NOVEMBER 30
1st Sunday of Advent

ADVENT



St. Gerard's Catholic Church 8944 Elbow Drive SW Calgary, AB, T2V 1L2 403-253-2251 Website: stgerards.ca

KEEP AWAKE

FOR YOU DO NOT
KNOW ON WHAT DAY
YOUR LORD IS
COMING

MT 24:42

This Sunday's Gospel teaches us to stay vigilant and prepared, for the Son of Man will come at an unexpected hour, just as in the days of Noah.

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

Gay Abuan-Summers

Pastoral Program Coordinator

Pastoral Related Inquiries:
pastoral.coordinator@stgerards.ca

Caroline Conley

Administrative Assistant

General Inquiries:
frontdesk.admin@stgerards.ca

David Mu, Book Keeper

david.mu@calgarydiocese.ca

Gordon Skaluba, Maintenance

WEBSITE: www.stgerards.ca

PHONE: 403-253-2251

OFFICE HOURS

September - June

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

July - August

Closed Mondays
Tuesday through Friday:
9 am to 12 pm (noon)
CLOSED HOLIDAYS

What's Happening at St. Gerard's

- Nov 29** Advent Retreat "As We Wait in Joyful Hope" 9:30 AM
Crafts and Fun Fellowship 10:00 AM - 12 Noon North Hall
COR Men's Prayer Group 10:00 AM Conference Room
- Dec 2** Cappy Smart Band - Merry Merry Christmas Concert 7:30 PM
- Dec 3** Card Party 9:30 AM, Bible Study 9:45 AM & 7:00 PM
Knights General Meeting 7:00 PM
- Dec 4** PPC Meeting 7:00 PM North Hal
- Dec 5** First Friday Muffin Social 10:15 AM
- Dec 6** First Reconciliation Gathering #4 8:30 AM
Confirmation 10:30 AM
Advent Listening: *How the Word Forms Hearts for Discipleship & Mission* with Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, S.J. 9:30 AM Church
- Dec 7** Bella Vita Jewelry available to purchase after 9:00 + 11:00 AM Masses
- Dec 9** CWL Christmas Dinner after 6:30 PM Mass
- Dec 12** Christmas with THE CHOSEN - Holy Night Movie & Fellowship 9:45 am
Cookie Walk Drop-Off 9:00 AM - 12 Noon & 1:00 - 5:00 PM
- Dec 13** First Reconciliation Gathering #5 8:30 AM
COR Men's Prayer Group 10:00 AM Conference Room
Cookie Walk 1:00 AM - 2:00 PM North Hall
- Dec 14** Simbang Gabi, Caroling 6:30 PM, 7:00 PM Mass



Multiply the Hope Campaign

Advent: A Season of Hope and Renewal

As we begin the holy season of Advent, the Church invites us into a time of watchfulness, reflection, and joyful expectation for the coming of Christ.

In the spirit of the Jubilee Year proclaimed by Pope Francis last year and set to conclude this December, our Diocese is launching a matching financial campaign for parishes called, **Multiply the Hope**.

Once our parish has fulfilled all its financial obligations for the year, every dollar contributed will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to our parish goal. At this juncture, we are still finalizing plans for our Repairs and Maintenance fund, and we will have more information to provide you in the very near future.

Our goal for this matching program is \$115,414. This means that every contribution toward this goal has twice the impact, allowing our parish to move forward with greater freedom in strengthening the renewal priorities.

As we enter this Advent season, I invite you to pray, to reflect, and to respond generously. Together, let us prepare a strong, welcoming parish home for all who seek Christ. May this season of expectation fill us with hope, and may God complete the good work He has begun in us.

Find out more about this campaign at www.catholicyc.ca/multiplythehope





CLERGY PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS November 27, 2025

PRIEST LEAVING THE DIOCESE

- **Rev. John Gannon, LC**, currently on administration leave has resigned as Pastor of Ascension Parish, Calgary, effective November 27, 2025.

RETIREMENT

- **Rev. Myles Gaffney**, currently assigned to Hospital Chaplaincy, Medicine Hat, has been granted retirement from ministry, effective January 1, 2026.
- **Deacon Ron Nowell**, currently serving at Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Parish, Calgary, has been granted retirement from ministry, effective November 27, 2025.

The Diocese of Calgary is grateful to the priests and the deacon for their service, and I wish them our prayers and best wishes.

Yours in Christ,

✠William T. McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary

PRIEST APPOINTMENTS

- **Rev. John (JP) Luxbacher, LC**, currently serving as Administrator of Ascension Parish, Calgary, has been appointed Pastor of Ascension Parish, Calgary, effective November 27, 2025.
- **Rev. Andrew Obinyan**, who arrived in the Diocese last month, has been appointed to Hospital Chaplaincy, Calgary, effective November 27, 2025.



PRIEST ASSIGNMENTS

- **Rev. Nathan Siray** has resigned from his appointment as Spiritual Advisor of the Calgary Catholic Medical Association (CCMA), effective November 27, 2025.
- **Rev. Kelvin Chukwurah**, in addition to being the Associate Pastor of St. Michael's Parish, Calgary, has been appointed Spiritual Advisor to the CCMA, effective November 27, 2025.

DEACON APPOINTMENTS

- **Deacon Armand LaFond**, currently retired from parish ministry will be returning to active ministry and has been appointed to St. James Parish, Okotoks, effective November 27, 2025.

DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

- **Deacon Ron Fortier**, currently serving at St. Mary's Parish, Cochrane, has resigned from the Permanent Diaconate Ministerial Council, effective November 27, 2025. He continues to serve in the parish.
- **Deacon Joseph Gingco**, in addition to serving St. Albert the Great Parish, Calgary, has been appointed to the Permanent Diaconate Ministerial Council, effective November 27, 2025.



Weekly Financial Pulse 2025

Rolling Financial Pulse	
Surplus /-Loss to October 31, 2025	\$1,621
Weekly Collections	
02-Nov	\$ 8,430.00
09-Nov	\$ 11,601.00
16-Nov	\$ 6,177.00
23-Nov	\$ 9,503.00
30-Nov	
Total November 2025	\$ 35,711.00
Monthly Breakeven	\$ 40,444.00
Surplus/(Deficit) Month to Date	-\$ 4,733.00



Important Announcement for All Parishioners

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
We thank you for your support for the parish. Any TIA surplus in 2025 will help cover upcoming capital expenditures.
Thank you for your continued generosity in helping to achieve our parish's contribution to the diocesan goal of \$2 million.

Become a Member of St. Gerard's Parish

Have you officially registered to become a member of our parish?
SIGN UP TODAY!

 [Click Here](#)



Did you know?

You will receive a Tax receipt for \$20+ donations?

Can you help...

to cover our increasing operating cost? Please consider increasing your regular donations **10%** this year.

[CLICK TO DONATE](#) 



Help Fund our Sunday Coffee Fellowship

Free will donations accepted.
Every dollar helps!
Thank you volunteers and donors.

Ministry in Action

**St. Gerard's Parish
Volunteer Recognition**

**NOREEN
HESS**



If our parish volunteers are angels, then Noreen Hess, our own Italian Nonna, is truly the Archangel among us. For decades she has been the first to respond, the first to arrive and the last to leave—setting up events the kitchen and then cleaning up, decorating the altar with fresh flowers “because Mary likes things beautiful,” and magically producing homemade cookies whenever they're needed. She never says no, never seeks credit. At an age when most would be resting, she remains the beating heart of so many events, living proof that faith is practical, joyful, and unstoppable. She has been nominated not only because we need to say thank you out loud, but also to show our children what a lifetime of quiet, faithful love looks like.

***Thank You Noreen,
we love you more than
words can ever say.***

Eucharistic Miracles Team Meeting - November 30

Gentle reminder to all interested members of the Eucharistic Miracles Team. Meeting scheduled for Sunday, November 30 at 10:15 AM, South Hall Conference Room.

Ministries in Action Video in Progress

Lights... Camera.... Action! A PPC Lead Ministries in Action Video production is in progress and has begun. Thanks to Ellen Armstrong and Josh Chege for collaborating with St. Gerard's Ministries. Ellen will be in touch with each Ministry lead and their team to set up a schedule for their short video clip production. The goal is to highlight each ministry in our parish and promote growth among members.

2025 Children's Christmas Pageant Casting Call

Calling all interested children ages 5 - 17 to join us for the **2025 Christmas Pageant, presented on December 24, 5:00 PM Children's Mass.**

Talents needed: Two Readers, Choir Members, Mary, Joseph, Three Wiseman, Shepherds and Angels. Adult volunteers are also needed to assist during practice and with custom fittings. December practice will begin soon!

To get involved, contact Gay via email:
Pastoral.Coordinator@stgerards.ca

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy Nov 30 @ 11 AM.

Children are invited to sign up to be part of the Children's Christmas mass ie. Choir/ Angels/ Shepherds etc. Catechists please connect with Marcia to complete requirements needed. **Registration required.** See website for forms.

Parish Updates

Sacramental Preparation

2025 - 2026 Sacramental Preparation: To view the Sacramental Preparation Schedule online, [click here](#).

Gathering #4 - Saturday, Dec. 6

- 8:30 AM **First Reconciliation**

Gathering #3 - Saturday, Dec. 6

- 10:30 AM **Confirmation**

Advent Retreat, Nov. 29

Saturday, November 29 for our Advent Retreat.

Topic: *As We Wait in Joyful Hope* with Deacon Michael Soentgerath. (See page 8)

Adoration 9:30 AM, talk 10:00 AM -12:00 PM.

Join Us For Little Rock Scripture Bible Study Nov '25

Spirituality of the Gospels

Note: November 26 session has been cancelled and December 10 has been added to the schedule. Click [here](#) for the complete schedule and to sign up.

Cappy Smart Band Concert

Tuesday, December 2 at 7:30 PM. All ages welcome! Tickets \$10 per person or \$30 per family of 4 (children 12 and under are free). Tickets available after all masses. Proceeds towards the purchase of new hand air dryers for Men's and Women's washroom. (See page 9 for details)



Hosted by the Parish Renewal Team

Advent Renewal Diocesan Retreat Sat, Dec 6, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Enter into the holy season of Advent with a renewed spirit of listening. Join Archbishop Terrence Prendergast for a reflective diocesan retreat on how the living Word of God shapes our hearts for discipleship and mission.

Parishioners are invited to gather in person in our parish to participate together, as Archbishop Prendergast joins through livestream.

Altar Servers

Contact: Paula Hillman if interested in **Altar Serving for the Christmas and New Year's. Dates as follows:**

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 5:00 PM(Children), 8 PM

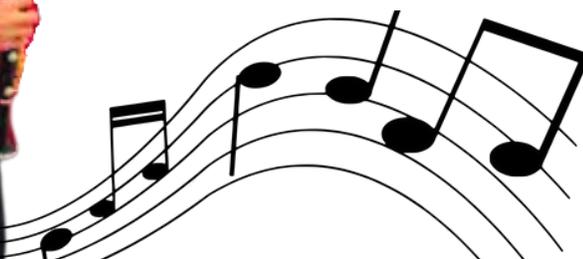
Dec. 25 Christmas Day at 10:00 AM

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve 5:00 PM

Jan. 1/ 26 New Year's Day 10:00 AM

Keeping Washrooms Tidy

Let's work together to keep our washroom facility tidy. **Thank you for using hand dryers or hand sanitizers.** Should the washrooms need immediate attention, please fill in a *Work Order Maintenance Form* located in the Parish Kitchen/ Men's or Ladies washroom. Submit forms in the envelope near the parish office mailbox. **Purchase a Cappy Smart Band ticket to support our upgraded hand dryer initiative.** (See page 9)





Mass Intentions

Tues. Dec 2 @ 6:30PM	Mary Marak	RIP
Wed. Dec 3 @ 9:00AM	Jim Schmit	RIP
Thurs. Dec 4 @ 9:00AM	Lydia Revivis	SI
Fri. Dec 5 @ 9:00AM	Elizabeth Huntley	RIP
Sat. Dec 6 @ 5:00PM	Hilda Willis	RIP
Sun. Dec 7 @ 9:00AM	Pro Populo	SI
Sun. Dec 7 @ 11:00AM	Phil Dowhaniuk	RIP

December Birthdays

Charles Pratt	6-Dec
Ed Cote	9-Dec
Christina Popescu	12-Dec
Stephen Dawes	14-Dec
Camille Landry	14-Dec
Michael Dunn	15-Dec
Like Truong	15-Dec
Raphael Modozie	15-Dec
Hiep Luke Truong	17-Dec
Ab Smith	23-Dec
Paul Willis	25-Dec
Wally Smelski	28-Dec



December Anniversaries

Mario & Kathleen Gallucci	3-Dec
Roschelle Ann & Michael Macaraeg	8-Dec
Alfred John & Sonia Pereira	29-Dec

December 12 after
9:00 am mass
**Christmas with
THE CHOSEN - Holy
Night Movie
& Fellowship**
(52 minute movie).



ADVENT RETREAT

As We Wait in Joyful Hope

WITH DEACON MICHAEL SOENTGERATH



SAT NOV 29

**ADORATION 9:30 AM
RETREAT 10 AM - 12 PM
ST GERARD'S CHURCH**

Advent is a time of waiting, stillness and reflection. A time to gather around the Advent wreath to pray, to contemplate and to think about life and reflect on the meaning of Advent and what its message can offer to our souls. This short retreat will be an intentional "setting aside some time" out of our busy pre-Christmas season to reflect on the presence of God's Love in our lives and how the Mystery of God becoming one of us in the birth of His Son, joyfully rekindles within us, the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love.



ABOUT THE SPEAKER: Ordained Deacon in 1983 (Edmonton), Michael Soentgerath began pastoral work in 1984 at Holy Spirit Parish (Calgary Diocese). Served in parishes, as High School Chaplain, and 21 years at Catholic Pastoral Centre. Retired 2019, he now volunteers in pastoral care/catechetics. Married to Chris Brochu-Soentgerath, retired Father Lacombe Principal and St. Mary's University sessional instructor.



What's Happening

Funds raised go towards the purchase of new hand air dryers (\$1200 x 2) in the washrooms

MERRY MERRY CHRISTMAS

with the
Cappy Smart Band

Christmas Concert
Sing-along and
Storytelling

**Tuesday
December 2
7:30 pm Parish Hall**

\$10 person
\$30 family (4 max)
Children 12 & under free
Only 150 tickets sold after masses
Must present ticket for entry to concert



5 PM Mass - December 24
Christmas Pageant
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sign up online:

[Click HERE](#)



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY **HAMPER EVENT** 2 WAYS TO GIVE **THIS CHRISTMAS**



SPONSOR A FAMILY

With gifts and
goodies to
brighten their
Christmas

TAKE A TAG

From the tree
in the church
entrance

Drop-off Deadline December 15
For complete details visit us online:
stgerards.ca/st-vincent-de-paul



ST GERARD'S FUNDRAISER

Christmas Cookie Walk

SATURDAY
DECEMBER

13

11 AM - 2 PM

\$25 / CLAMSHELL CONTAINER



Filipino Catholic Society of the Diocese of Calgary

cordially invites you



Simbang Gabi 2025

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition. It is a series of nine dawn masses on the days leading up to Christmas. In the Philippines, it begins on December 16 and ends on the 24th of December when a midnight mass is held.

In other countries, Filipinos are creative in scheduling their Simbang Gabi.

This year, 13 Calgary Catholic Churches have committed to celebrate the Simbang Gabi.

Nov. 29	St. Albert the Great	10 Prestwvick Drive SE	6:30 pm caroling	7:00 pm mass
Nov. 30	St. Elizabeth of Hungary	819 – 13 th Avenue SW	4:00 pm caroling	4:30 pm mass
Dec. 6	St. Anthony's Church & Phil. Consulate Calgary	5340 - 4 th Street SW	6:30 pm caroling	7:00 pm mass
Dec. 7	Our Lady of Fatima	4747 – 30 th Street SE	6:00 pm caroling	6:30 pm mass
Dec. 12	St. Mary's Catholic Church (Cochrane)	10 River Heights Drive	6:30 pm caroling	7:00 pm mass
Dec. 12	St. Peter's Church	541 Silvergrove Dr NW	6:30 pm caroling	7:00 pm mass
Dec. 13	St. Luke's Church	1566 Northmount Drive NW	6:30 pm caroling	7:00 pm mass
Dec. 14	St. Gerard's Church	8944 Elbow Drive SW	6:30 pm caroling	7:00 pm mass
Dec. 14	Ste. Famille Church & El Shaddai	1717 - 5 th Street SW	6:30 pm caroling	7:00 pm mass
Dec. 19	Ascension Church	1100 Berkshire Blvd NW	6:30 pm caroling	7:00 pm mass
Dec. 19	Holy Spirit Church	10827 - 24 th Street SW	6:30 pm caroling	7:00 pm mass
Dec. 20	St. Cecilia Church	321 – 90 th Avenue SW	6:30 pm caroling	7:00 pm mass
Dec. 20	St. Michael Church & Filipino Catholic Society of the Diocese of Calgary	800 - 85 th Street SW	6:30 pm caroling	7:00 pm mass

CHRISTMAS DAY • December 25, 2025
St Anthony's Church • 5340 - 4th Street SW
3:30 pm caroling 4:00 pm mass

Kid's Page & More



Saints Comic Strip

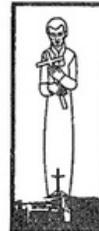
by Jacob Chang

Do you have a saint in mind for a comic strip? **Connect with the office** to Help Jacob Chang create awareness about Saints. Let us continue this Jubilee Year of Hope by walking with the Saints.

[Diocesan Sunday Updates](#)

[Kid's Bulletin this Sunday](#)

[Colouring Page this Sunday](#)



ENVELOPE ALERT

The 2026 Assigned Donation Envelopes are available for pick-up in the Narthex. Do not use until 2026.

Saturday
December 6
2025



HEALING SERVICE

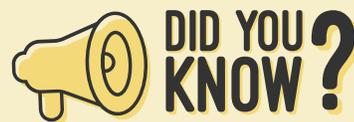
ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
541 Shvergrove DRIVE NW

Come and experience God's supernatural love!

- 5pm - Mass (optional)
- 6:30pm - Praise and Worship
- 7pm - Gospel Healing Presentation
- 7:30pm - Corporate Prayer for Healing & Testimonies
- 8:00pm - Individual Prayer Ministry

Jesus promised, "These signs will accompany those who believe ... They will lay their hands on the sick and they will recover." Mark 16:17

**JESUS CHRIST IS THE DIVINE PHYSICIAN.
LET US ENTRUST OUR HEARTS AND BODIES TO HIM.**



The Advent wreath has three purple candles and one rose candle. Purple is the Church's colour of penance and royalty — these candles remind us to prepare our hearts for Christ the King through prayer and repentance. The single rose candle, lit on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), means "Rejoice!" — we have passed the halfway mark and Christmas is almost here!