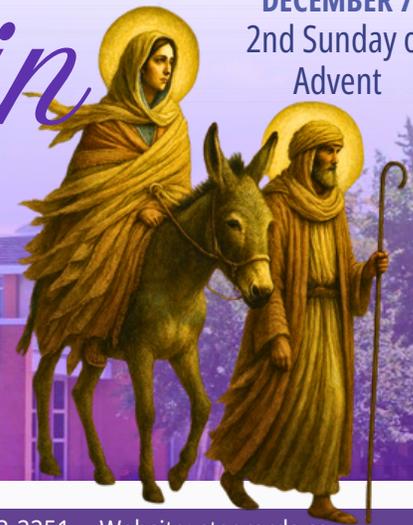


# ST GERARD'S *Bulletin*

DECEMBER 7  
2nd Sunday of  
Advent

# ADVENT



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



**PREPARE  
THE WAY  
OF THE LORD**

MT 3:3

### This Sunday's Gospel

teaches that John the Baptist called the people of his time to repent, produce good fruit as evidence of true conversion, and prepare the way for the coming Messiah who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.

### 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](http://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

- Dec 6** First Reconciliation Gathering #4 8:30 AM Church  
Confirmation 10:30 AM Church  
Advent Listening: *How the Word Forms Hearts for Discipleship & Mission* with Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, S.J. 9:30 AM Parish Hall  
Simbang Gabi Practice 1:00 PM 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 10** Card Party 9:30 AM  
Bible Study 7:00 PM  
OCIA - South Hall 7:00 PM
- Dec 11** Parish Reconciliation 7:00 PM Church
- 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  
Simbang Gabi Practice 9:30 AM & 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Church  
COR Men's Prayer Group 10:00 AM Jubilee Room  
Cookie Walk 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM North Hall  
Children's Choir / Christmas Pageant 1:00 - 2:30 PM - South Hall
- Dec 14** Simbang Gabi, Caroling 6:30 PM, 7:00 PM Mass  
All Masses - Second Collection - Mission Mexico  
"Multiply The Hope" Presentation after all masses
- Dec 20** Children's Choir Practice 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM - Church



# Fr. Ignatius Advent Message



## **Second Week of Advent – A Message of Peace**

As we enter the second week of Advent, we light the candle of Peace—a small flame that dares to shine in a world that often feels restless and uncertain. Advent doesn't ask us to pretend everything is perfect. Instead, it invites us to pause, breathe, and remember that God's peace is not the absence of struggle but the presence of hope in the midst of it.

John the Baptist appears in our readings this week, calling us to prepare the way of the Lord. His voice is bold, but his message is deeply gentle: make room. Make room in our hearts, our habits, our relationships, for the One who comes not with force, but with compassion. Peace begins in those quiet, interior places where we allow God to soften what has grown rigid and heal what has been wounded.

This week, may we become bearers of peace—through a kind word, a patient moment, a gesture of reconciliation. As the candle's light grows, so too may our trust that Christ is drawing near, bringing a peace the world cannot give and cannot take away.

May this Advent week bless you with calm, courage, and a renewed sense of God's presence.

**Fr. Ignatius Tran**

## Weekly Financial Pulse 2025

Rolling Financial Pulse	
Surplus /-Loss to October 31, 2025	\$1,621
<b>Weekly Collections</b>	
02-Nov	\$ 8,430.00
09-Nov	\$ 11,601.00
16-Nov	\$ 6,177.00
23-Nov	\$ 9,503.00
30-Nov	\$ 9,639.00
<b>Total November 2025</b>	<b>\$ 45,350.00</b>
Monthly Breakeven	\$ 40,444.00
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) Month to Date</b>	<b>\$ 4,906.00</b>



## 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.

St. Gerard's Recycle Fundraiser

# Turn Cans Into Blessings

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month**  
Next one: **DECEMBER 28**

Money raised will go to Coffee Fellowship and Altar Flowers

Drop off in the St. Gerard's overflow parking

**10 AM - 12:30 PM**

Due to limited space, please do not drop off early.

Thank you to Tim and Kam Renfrow (T & K Curbside Recyclers) for their logistical support!

**Thank you for your support!**

### 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.

## St. Gerard's Parish Volunteer Recognition

# JEANNE BURDEGO



Jeanne is a vibrant and talented member of our parish family. A past president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, she continues to serve with joy as a member of the Catholic Women's League, a regular at Wednesday Card Party, a faithful voice in the 11 AM Sunday choir, and a devoted Confirmation catechist on the Sacramental Preparation team.

**Thank you Jeanne for being part of St. Gerard's parish.**

## 2025 Children's Christmas Pageant Casting Call

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

**Practice for Christmas Pageant & Choir: Dec. 13 and Dec. 20 from 1:00 - 2:30 PM**

See poster for detail, inquiries contact Gay via email: [Pastoral.Coordinator@stgerards.ca](mailto:Pastoral.Coordinator@stgerards.ca)

## Christmas Schedule

### OFFICE CLOSED:

**December 25 - January 1, 2026**

**Office resumes January 2, 2026**

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

December 24 Christmas Eve:

5:00 PM Children's Mass

8:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass

December 25 Christmas Day 10:00 AM

December 26 NO Mass

December 31 New Years Eve 5:00 PM

January 1 New Year's Day 10:00 AM

## Children's Liturgy

**Children's Liturgy December 7 at 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.

## Children's Christmas Pageant

5 PM Mass - December 24  
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Sign up online:

**[Click HERE](#)**



# 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 #5 - Saturday, Dec. 13

- 8:30 AM **First Reconciliation**

### Gathering #3 - Saturday, Dec. 6

- 10:30 AM **Confirmation**

## Join Us For Little Rock Scripture Bible Study Dec '25

### Spirituality of the Gospels

**Note: 7 PM Bible study only**

**December 10** has been added to the schedule in lieu of missing November 26 evening session.

**Bible Study resumes January 14<sup>th</sup>** for both AM and PM (Evening) sessions.

Click [here](#) for the complete schedule. Sign up for next bible - Gospel of Mark part 1 and 2

## Cappy Smart Band Update

Thank you to all guest, PPC and all volunteers who attended the **CAPPY SMART BAND Concert!** 125 tickets were sold in support of purchasing the Hand dryers for our washroom. Congratulations to all 4 special draw winners! **Because of your generosity, a total of \$1137.65 was raised toward the purchased of the Hand Dryers. Truly an advent Miracle!**

## 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.

**Shut-In Parishioners** are invited to join us online. Zoom link sent via email.

## Christmas & New Year's Liturgy: Are you ready?

**ALL AVAILABLE VOLUNTEERS** for the Christmas and New Year's **MASSES** are encouraged to connect with your Ministry leads. **Many hands Make Light Work!**

Dec 24	Christmas Eve: 5:00 PM (Children), 8:00 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 or an area in the parish 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.



## Parish Reconciliation

Come home this Christmas and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus is waiting.

**December 11 at 7:00 PM**

Advance thanks to Fr. Ignatius Tran, Fr. Terry Connolly and Fr. Kelvin Churwurah for answering their call to the priesthood.

# Parish Life



## Mass Intentions

Tues. Dec 9 @ 6:30PM	CWL Memorial Mass	RIP
Wed. Dec 10 @ 9:00AM	Marino Sestoso	RIP
Thurs. Dec 11 @ 9:00AM	Jim Schmit	RIP
Fri. Dec 12 @ 9:00AM	Levstik Family	RIP
Sat. Dec 13 @ 5:00PM	Erika David	SI
Sun. Dec 14 @ 9:00AM	Anne Donkers	SI
Sun. Dec 14 @ 11:00AM	Pro Populo	

## 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

## Advent Reconciliation Service



Wednesday,  
December 11, 7 PM

## Christmas with The Chosen: Holy Night Movie

**December 12 after 9 AM Mass**

Come watch this beautiful 52-minute movie and enjoy coffee, treats and fellowship.

**EVERYONE  
WELCOME**



## ADVENT RENEWAL

Diocesan Retreat 

"Advent Listening: How the Word Forms Hearts for Discipleship and Mission." Join Archbishop Prendergast for a reflective retreat on how the living Word of God shapes our hearts for discipleship and mission.

 **SAT, DEC 6, 2025**

9:30 am to 12:30 pm  
Live-streamed  
to all parishes.

**SPEAKER**



Archbishop  
Terrence  
Prendergast



FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
[catholiccy.ca/renewal](http://catholiccy.ca/renewal)  
or call 403-218-5521

Join us at the Parish Hall. All are welcome!

# What's Happening

CWL

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

TUESDAY DEC 9



After the 6:30 PM Mass

**All ladies of the parish welcome!**

Please bring a \$5 Gift for the Gift Exchange

We will be collecting socks, mitts, underwear and toques for the Vincent de Paul Society.

*Hope to see you there!*

## 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](http://stgerards.ca/st-vincent-de-paul)

DECEMBER 25 POTLUCK

## Christmas Day Buffet

AFTER THE  
10 AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

*Bring a needed dish!*

Mark your  
calendar!  
Details to  
follow.



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

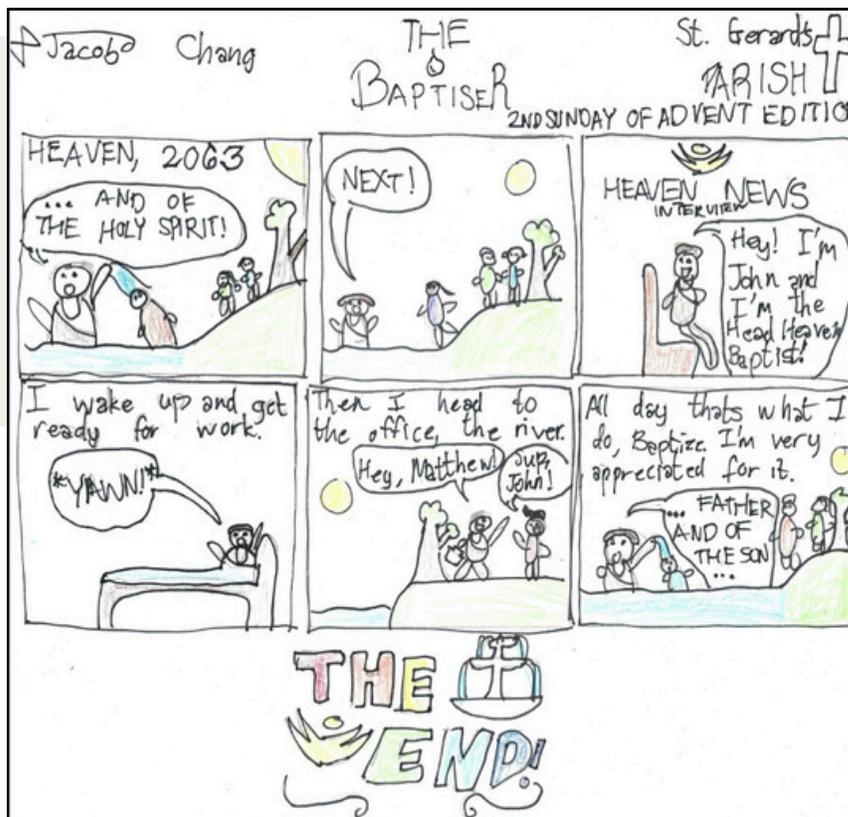
Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition. It is a series of nine dawn masses on the days leading up to Christmas. In the Philippines, it begins on December 16 and ends on the 24th of December when a midnight mass is held.

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 <sup>th</sup> Avenue SW	4:00 pm caroling	4:30 pm mass
Dec. 6	St. Anthony's Church & Phil. Consulate Calgary	5340 - 4 <sup>th</sup> Street SW	6:30 pm caroling	7:00 pm mass
Dec. 7	Our Lady of Fatima	4747 – 30 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Street SW	6:30 pm caroling	7:00 pm mass
Dec. 20	St. Cecilia Church	321 – 90 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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**



## 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](#)

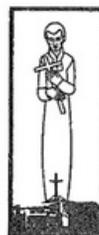
[Kid's Bulletin this Sunday](#)

[Colouring Page this Sunday](#)

## Become a Member of St. Gerard's Parish

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

 [Click Here](#)

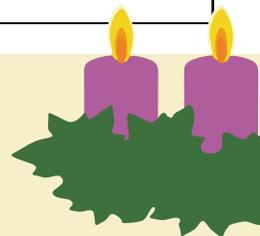


## ENVELOPE ALERT

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



## DID YOU KNOW?



In the Catholic Church, the Second Sunday of Advent is traditionally dedicated to St. John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ. The readings and prayers focus on his urgent call to "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths," reminding us that Advent is not only about waiting for Christmas, but about actively repenting and leveling the rough ground of our hearts so Jesus can enter more fully—at Bethlehem, at the end of time, and today.