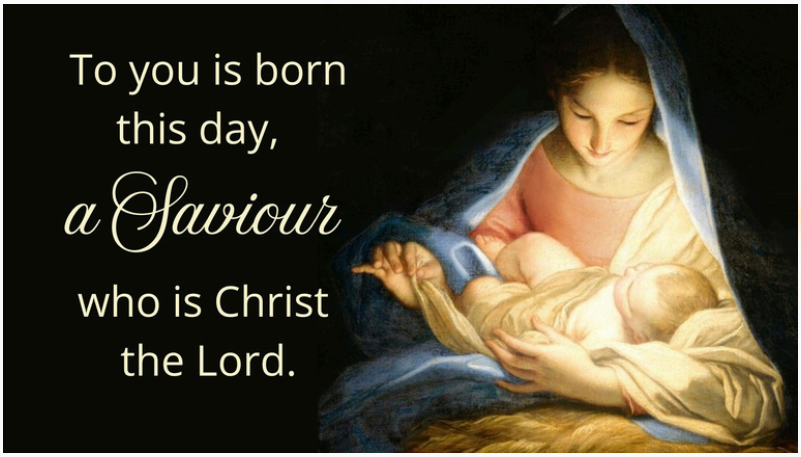
ST GERARD'S Bulletin

DECEMBER 21
4th Sunday of Advent
Christmas Edition

GOD WITH US

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



From Joseph's faithful obedience to the angel's message, Advent reaches its fulfillment as Jesus is born of Mary, Emmanuel—God-with-us—bringing salvation to the world.

What's Happening at St. Gerard's

Dec 20 Children's Choir Practice 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM - Church
Dec 24 Children's Mass 5:00 PM
Christmas Eve Mass 8:00 PM
Dec 25 Christmas Day Mass 10:00 AM (Livestreamed)
Christmas Day Buffet Potluck (Must register) Gather at 11:30 AM, Buffet at 12 Noon
Dec 27 COR Men's Prayer Group - Conference Room 10:00 AM
Dec 28 Recyclables Drop-off 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Dec 31 New Years Eve Mass 5:00 PM
Jan 1 New Years Day Mass 10:00 AM
Jan 2 First Friday Adoration 9:30 - 10:10AM
First Friday Muffin Social

Office Closed December 30, 31 and January 1
Office Open January 2 9:00 AM - 12 Noon
Regular Office Hours resume Monday, January 5, 2026

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

As we gather on this final Sunday of Advent, we're just days away from Christmas. The to-do lists are long, the days are busy, and many of us are feeling that mix of excitement and exhaustion that comes with this time of year. Advent reminds us to slow down—even just for a moment—and remember why we're preparing in the first place.

Today we meet Joseph, a quiet man who finds himself in the middle of a story he never expected. His plans change, his future looks different, and yet he chooses trust. He chooses love. Joseph doesn't say much, but his actions speak loudly: he makes room for God, even when it's inconvenient and confusing.

That's something we can all relate to. God often shows up in the middle of our ordinary days—right in the mess, the noise, the surprises. And like Joseph, we're invited to respond with openness, patience, and a willingness to let love lead.

As we head into this final stretch before Christmas, may we find small ways to make room for Christ: a kind word, a moment of quiet, a bit of extra patience with one another. These simple acts prepare our hearts just as surely as any decoration or tradition.

Christmas is close. Let's welcome it with the same steady, hopeful love that Joseph showed.

Fr. Ignatius Tran

Weekly Financial Pulse 2025

Rolling Financial Pulse	
Surplus /-Loss to Ocotber 31, 2025	$1,621
Weekly Collections	
07-Dec	$ 14,277.00
14-Dec	$ 11,700.00
21-Dec	
28-Dec	
31-Dec	
Total December 2025	$ 25,977.00
Monthly Breakeven	$ 40,444.00
Surplus/(Deficit) Month to Date	-$ 14,467.00

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.

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

The Dynamic Duo:

KATHY & LORETTA MURPHY

Some volunteers help when asked. Some volunteers see a need and quietly take care of it. And then there are these two sisters — inseparable in life, in faith, and in service. Whether it's cleaning chairs in the hall, stepping in to serve at funeral receptions, rolling up their sleeves for ministries, or leading the charge on fundraisers like Water Barrels and the Cookie Walk or for the Catholic Women's League, these sisters are always there. If something needs doing, chances are they're already doing it — together. They are among the first names that come to mind when help is needed, and two of the last people to seek recognition for it. Their strong work ethic, cheerful humor, quick wit, and deep devotion to the Church are gifts to our parish community. We are grateful for their faith in action, their generosity of time, talent and treasure, and the joy they bring wherever they serve.

Thank you to our beloved sisters: proof that sometimes the best help comes in pairs.

Sacramental Preparation

First Reconciliation Gathering resumes January 10, 2026

Children's Liturgy

No Children's Liturgy Dec 21 & 28

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Children's Liturgy Resumes January 4.

Catechists please connect with Marcia to complete requirements needed. **Registration required.** See website for forms.

Little Rock Bible Study Jan '26

SPIRITUALITY OF THE GOSPELS

Bible Study resumes January 14 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

Parish Updates

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 Livestreamed
December 26 NO Mass
December 31 New Years Eve 5:00 PM
January 1 New Year's Day 10:00 AM

Welcome to St. Gerard's!

Please welcome Seminarian:
Mikhel "Miko" Sari! Seminarian Miko will be staying with us over Christmas and New Year.

Work Order Forms

Should 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. We here to serve you better. Thank you!

Missed the Cappy Smart Band?

Save the date for a Spring Buzz with the **Cappy Smart Band Concert March 24, 2016!**

65th Photo Orders Update

Please note that the **65th Anniversary Photo Directory is in progress.** Please bear with us as we put the stories, photos and edits together. **Release date TBD.** Special Thanks for Ms. Helene Couture for her assistance on putting memorabilia's together.

For those who had photo orders at the time of their photo sitting, your order should have been completed (Ie. sent via email as of March 11and prints shipped April 22. 2025). **If you have not received them, please call IPC Photo at 1-800-391-5161 ext. 114 or 115 .**

Thank you for your patience & understanding. It takes a village to celebrate milestones.

Mass Intentions

Tues. Dec 23 @ 6:30PM	Jeannette Thompson	RIP
Wed. Dec 24 @ 9:00AM	No Mass Intentions	
Thurs. Dec 25 @ 9:00AM	No Mass Intentions	
Thurs. Dec 25 @ 10:15AM	No Mass Intentions	
Fri. Dec 26 @ 9:00AM	No Mass Intentions	
Sat. Dec 27 @ 5:00PM	Pro Populo	
Sun. Dec 28 @ 9:00AM	Bob & Shirley Donahue	SI
Sun. Dec 28 @ 11:00AM	Peter Berthelet	RIP

December Birthdays

Charles Pratt	6-Dec
Ed Cote	9-Dec
Christina Popescu	12-Dec
Catalina Cote	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

Monthly Birthday Celebrations CANCELLED THIS MONTH

TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS:

Wishing you a blessed, holy and happy Christmas,
and a peaceful New Year.

From the staff at St. Gerard's

Christmas Office Hours

Dec 24 Office hours: 9:00 AM - 12 Noon
Office Closed December 25 - January 1, 2026
Office Open January 2, 2026 9:00 AM - 12 Noon
Regular Office Hours resume Mon, Jan 5, 2026

A Special Follow-up Phone Call from the North Pole

Hello again, St. Gerard's Parish!

Santa Claus here—calling you directly from my snowy workshop at the North Pole!

Ho ho ho! What wonderful news has reached my ears! **Your Cookie Walk raised over $2,700,** thanks to an incredible 131 platters of homemade cookies lovingly prepared by your parish bakers. That's truly a sleigh-full of generosity! Mrs. Claus and I couldn't be prouder.

From buttery shortbread to cheerful gingerbread men and every delicious treat in between, your bakers worked Christmas magic—and your eager buyers cleared the tables in record time. The joy you created was felt far and wide.

In fact, word of your legendary Cookie Walk has traveled all the way up here! The elves are still buzzing about it. So when I fly over your neighborhoods on Christmas Eve, I'll be keeping a close eye out for some of those famous cookies—they'll help fuel me for the long night ahead!

For your generosity, teamwork, and festive spirit, St. Gerard's Parish has earned a place at the very top of my Nice List.

Thank you for spreading such warmth, kindness, and joy this Christmas season.

Merry Christmas to the entire St. Gerard's family. May God bless you abundantly!

With a very jolly ho ho ho,

Santa Claus

Be sure to register by Midnight, December 24.
All are welcome!

Christmas Day Buffet Potluck: Register Early. Limited Seating.

Join us for a joyous Christmas Day celebration on December 25th in the parish hall! Gather at 11:30 AM, Buffet at 12 Noon. Enjoy great food, caroling, fellowship and surprises.

What We're Providing
Turkey, ham, potatoes, gravy, stuffing, peas and carrots are generously being provided by your fellow parishioners, who will be serving at the buffet.

What You Bring
This is a potluck buffet—please bring a dish to share! Whether it's your favorite holiday side, dessert, or appetizer, your contribution will help create a festive feast for our parish family.

HOW TO REGISTER (Required - 2 Steps!)

STEP 1: Register Your Attendance

You MUST register to attend so we can plan for the right number of guests (maximum 150).
Register online: Click here. Registration deadline is midnight, December 24.
OR Sign up on the sheets in the church entrance.

STEP 2: Sign Up for Your Food Contribution

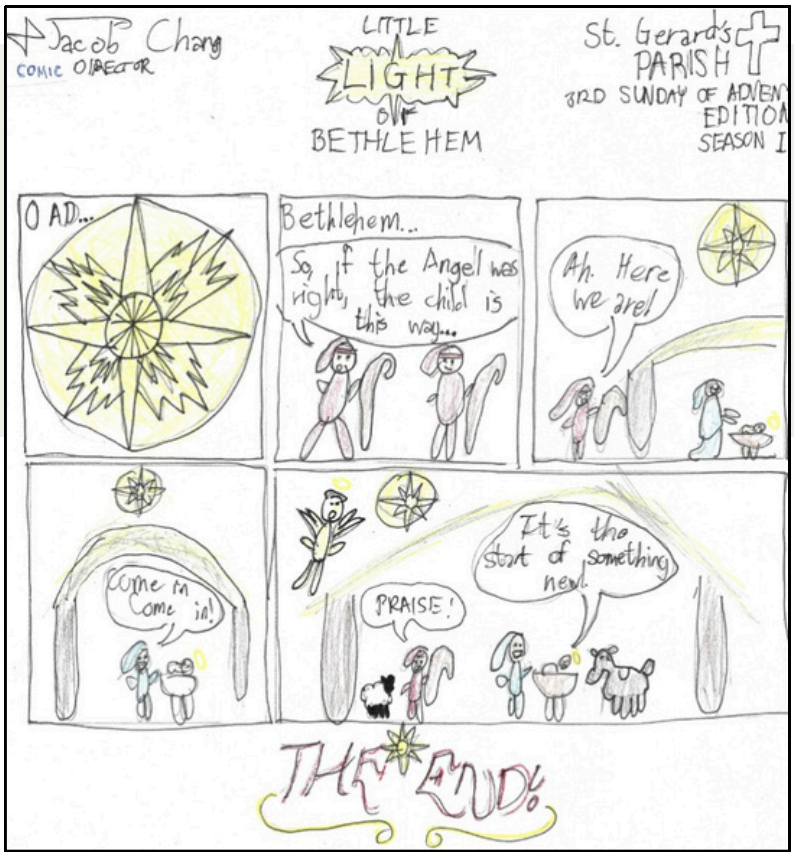
After registering, please tell us what dish you're bringing: Click here to sign up for your food choice.

Volunteers Needed!
We need helpers to make this celebration run smoothly. Helper options are listed on the food sign up link; click here.

Let's come together in the spirit of sharing, love, and community on this special day to celebrate our Lord's birth. All are welcome!

Merry Christmas to all!

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 Christmas Colouring Page this Sunday

Kids Colouring Page

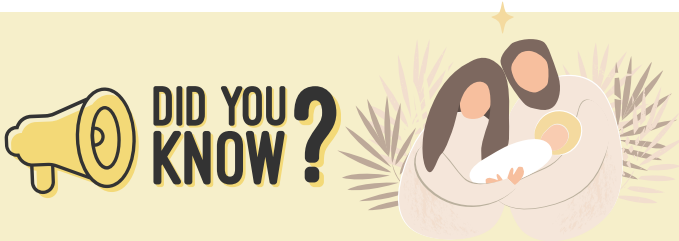
Become a Member of St. Gerard's Parish

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

Click Here

ENVELOPES

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



The Catholic Church celebrates three distinct Christmas Masses—at night, at dawn, and during the day—each with its own Gospel and focus: the Mass at Night proclaims the birth of the Savior, the Mass at Dawn tells of the shepherds' joyful visit, and the Mass during the Day reveals Christ as the eternal Word made flesh.