

St. James Catholic Parish

St. James Church (Okotoks) & St. Michael's Church (Black Diamond)



*O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord shall come to
save the nations; and the
Lord will make the glory
of his voice heard in the
joy of your heart.*

Introit, Second Sunday of Advent



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary



SECOND SUNDAY
IN ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 2020 ~ 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ABOUT US

We are a Christ-centered Catholic community modelling His vision for a faith-filled, joyful, loving, open home for everyone.

MISSION STATEMENT

Being disciples of Jesus Christ, growing through a sacramental life, serving and evangelizing to those in our parish and greater community.

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Vincent TuanHa, Pastor | pastor@stjamesparishrc.com

Fr. Troy Nguyen, Associate Pastor | fathertroyn@gmail.com

Leanne Plamondon, Religious Ed. Coordinator | religiousedu@stjamesparishrc.com

Tania Keller, St. Michael's Church Custodian

Youth Ministry | youth@stjamesparishrc.com

Reception/Bulletin | bulletin@stjamesparishrc.com

Parish Safety & Strengthening | volunteer@stjamesparishrc.com

Parish Mailing Address: Site 7 Box 41 RR 2, Okotoks, AB, T1S 1A2



338060 – 32nd St. East, Okotoks
402 Government Road, Black Diamond



Phone: 403-938-3122
Fax: 403-938-0524



office@stjamesparishrc.com
stjamesparishokotoks.ca

Eucharistic Celebrations & Devotions

ST. JAMES CHURCH

SUNDAY MASS:

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm
Sunday 8:00am / 10:00am / 5:00pm

WEEKDAY MASS:

Monday, Wednesday - Saturday 9:00am
Tuesday 7:00pm

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 10am - 12pm
Tuesday 5pm - 6:45pm
Or By Appointment

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Monday - Friday
6am - 9am / 5pm - 7pm
Saturday 6am - 11am (pause for mass at 9am)

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH:

SUNDAY MASS:

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm
Sunday 9:00am

WEEKDAY MASS:

Wednesday & Friday 9:00am

RECONCILIATION:

Friday after 9:00am mass
Or By Appointment

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Friday after 9:00am mass



May YOU know the deep love and support of our community through our thoughts and prayers.

OUR SICK & INFIRM - ESPECIALLY...

Dennis S.

OUR BELOVED DEAD

Peter C., Shirley D., AJ M., Larry S.

OUR SEMINARIANS

Andre B., Joshua C., Bennet C., Ian M.,
Martin N., Kevin P., Matthew S.,
James S., Santiago T.

Please contact the Parish Office to have your name or the name of a loved one placed here
(office@stjamesparishrc.com or 403.938.3122)

OUR EXPECTANT MOTHERS & NEW BABIES

Please contact the Parish Office to have your name or the name of a loved one placed here
(office@stjamesparishrc.com or 403.938.3122)

PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like to request prayers or be included in our prayer chain, please email Vi Lake - vilake@telus.net

SICK OR INFIRM PARISHIONERS

If you know of parishioners who are hospitalized or confined to their homes, please notify the office at 403.938.3122 to arrange hospital or home visitation. It is also important to arrange to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick before any surgery.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Main Office 403-938-3122
Emergency Operator 403-869-7382

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:30am - 2:00pm
Closed the 3rd Friday of each month

Mass Intentions

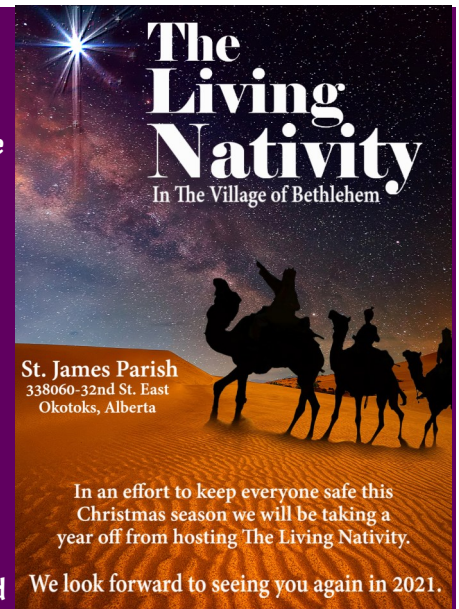
Saturday December 5	9:00am	Corey Johnstone
	5:00pm	† Joyce Wilcox
	5pm (BD)	Katy Morrison
Sunday December 6	8:00am	Peggy Hart
	9:00am	† Margaret Perry
	10:00am	Angie Steciw & Ron Syroishka
	5:00pm	People of the Parish
Monday December 7	9:00am	† Jeannette & Armand Amyotte
Tuesday December 8	7:00pm	Timothy Quinlan
Wednesday December 9	9:00am	† Jacob Black
	9am (BD)	Bernadette Hart
Thursday December 10	9:00am	† Joel Ostroski
Friday December 11	9:00am	† Steve Cudnik
	9am (BD)	Carla Jane Romeo

**Come one! Come all! To a virtual
Living Nativity in 2020!**

In an effort to keep everyone safe this year as we prepare for Christmas and to celebrate the birth of Jesus, "The Shepherd's Tale", sung and narrated by the Pollock family and Keith Hartman, can be accessed through the website <https://www.stjamesparishokotoks.ca/living-nativity>.

We invite you to come to St James Church during Advent and spend a few minutes at the outdoor stable where each week of Advent there will be additions to the Stable in anticipation of Christmas Eve, when the Holy Family (Actors) will be in the Stable between Masses.

We look forward to welcoming you back to the replica of the Town of Bethlehem in 2021!



Save the date!
December 16th
7pm - 8:30pm
Details TBD

**Grades
7-12**

St. James Parish Christmas Mass Schedule 2020

St. James Church - 338060-32nd Street East, Okotoks

Christmas Eve (Dec 24) - 3pm / 5pm / 7pm / 9pm / 11pm

Christmas Day (Dec 25) - 8am / 10am

Holy Family (Dec 26) - 5pm

Holy Family (Dec 27) - 8am / 10am / 5pm

New Year's Eve (Dec 31) - 5pm

New Year's Day (Jan 1) - 8am / 10am

St. Michael's Church - 402 Government Road, Black Diamond

Christmas Eve (Dec 24) - 7pm / 11pm

Christmas Day (Dec 25) - 9am

Holy Family (Dec 26) - 5pm

Holy Family (Dec 27) - 9am

New Year's Eve (Dec 31) - 5pm

New Year's Day (Jan 1) - 9am

PARISH ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Due to COVID restrictions, in lieu of a parish wide penitential service, we will be offering extended hours for Reconciliation throughout Advent. We invite you to come individually at the following times from December 1st to December 22nd.

Tuesdays from 5pm-7pm

Saturdays from 10am-12pm

Ministers are needed for each Christmas Mass. Due to COVID restrictions on attendance, there will be several masses offered, therefore requiring many hands to help make it happen. Please pray about when and where you can help out. You can sign up online [here](#) or by contacting the Parish Office.



Financial Corner

Nov 28 - Dec 4 Budget

Offering Envelopes	\$9,320	
Online Donations	\$38	
Preauthorized	\$3,417	
Total Operating	\$12,775	\$9,375
Building Fund Nov.	\$11,114	\$7,289
Together in Action	\$920	\$2,555
TIA - Year to Date	\$37,819	\$44,289



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO SUPPORT US IN THIS DIFFICULT TIME - THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO HELP FINANCIALLY AS WELL AS THOSE WHO SUPPORT US WITH THEIR PRAYERS.

Stewardship Reflection

“Prepare the way of the Lord...” - MARK 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a Stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well.

To setup preauthorized donations or to donate online, please visit our website.

www.stjamesparishokotoks.ca/donate

2021 Donation Envelopes are now available in the Narthex. *Please do not use them until January 1st.* If you would like

to switch to Automatic Donations, please see our website (above) or call the Parish Office.



Ministry Opportunities

Audio/Visual - help with sound during mass, as well as running the PowerPoints before and during mass.

Hospitality Desk & Welcoming Committee-being present at our hospitality desk in the Narthex to answer questions, complete registrations, pass on items people are picking up, and being a welcoming presence for all parishioners. Calling new Parishioners to welcome them to our community.

2021 MISSALS NOW AVAILABLE
SUNDAY MISSALS \$5 EACH
YOUTH MISSALS \$8 EACH

Building Update

During the summer, a large hole was found in the roof membrane of the church. This was believed to be the source of leaking in the Narthex, therefore we brought someone in to fix it. They sealed the hole, but when it rained again, more water had leaked into the Narthex. We brought the company back to take a look and it was discovered that the seals for the drains came undone, therefore causing the leaks. While they sealed the drains the best they could, the recommendation is to replace the drains with the proper type to avoid the same problem from reoccurring.

The cost for replacing the drains is \$2,510

Any donations towards the repairs of the roof would be greatly appreciated. Thank you to those who have contributed!

← WE NEED YOU!

Now accepting monetary donations, in memory of a loved one, for Christmas Poinsettias. Please drop off in the Narthex or at the Parish Office.



ST. JAMES PARISH - SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION - 2020-2021

Registration for all sacraments for Parishioners of St. James & St. Michael's

~ Ongoing at the Parish Office or online [here](#) ~

Please note: If your child has not received any sacraments at St. James or St. Michael's Church, a copy of their baptismal certificate must be given at the time of registration.

FIRST RECONCILIATION 2020

For students in Grades 2 and up. **ALL CLASSES WILL BE MONDAYS 6:30pm-8pm.** Parent & student to attend each session. Cost \$25.

- Registration for 2021 will begin in the Fall.

FIRST COMMUNION 2021

For students in Grade 2 & up who have completed their First Reconciliation. **ALL CLASSES WILL BE MONDAYS 6:30pm-8pm.** Parent and student are to attend each session and retreat. Cost \$25.

Session #1: Monday, April 12th
Blessing at Mass : Sat. Apr 17th @ 5:00pm

Session #2: Monday, April 26th

Session #3: Monday, May 10th

Session #4: Monday, May 17th

Retreat & Rehearsal:

- Saturday, May 29th @ 10am-12pm
- 1st Communion Sacramental Mass:**
- Saturday & Sunday, June 5th & 6th, 2021 (at all Masses)

Please note this schedule is subject to change based on COVID restrictions

CONFIRMATION 2021

For students in Grade 6 and up. **ALL CLASSES WILL BE MONDAYS 6:30pm-8pm.** Parent & student to attend each session. Cost \$40.

Parent Only Retreat: Mon. Jan 18th

Session #1: Monday, January 25th

Blessing at Mass : Sat. Jan 30th @ 5:00pm

Session #2: Monday, February 8th

Session #3: Monday, March 15th

Session #4: Monday, April 19th

Retreat: Saturday, May 8th @ 9am-12pm

Rehearsal: Date TBD

Celebration of Confirmation with Bishop William McGrattan: Date TBD

Please note this schedule is subject to change based on COVID restrictions

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Registration takes place at the Parish Office and a meeting is booked with one of our Parish Priests. A Baptism Preparation session is required for the baptism of your first child. (Baptisms take place the 2nd Saturdays & Sundays of each month.)

Sessions:

Wed, December 2nd, 2020
Saturday, January 16th, 2021 @ 1pm
Wed, February 24th, 2021
Wed, April 14th, 2021
Wed, May 26th, 2021

Documents required:

*Birth Certificate of child
*Baptism Certificate of parent(s)
*Annotated Baptismal Certificate of Godparent(s) This is a baptism certificate that shows date of Confirmation as well.

Sessions will take place online until COVID restrictions are removed

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Phone the Parish Office at least **6 months before marriage and make an appointment.** Marriage preparation sessions are mandatory for those preparing for marriage. **Cost is \$150.00 per couple.**

Sessions run Friday @ 7-9pm and continue Saturday @ 9am-4pm on the following tentative dates:

February 6th & 7th, 2021

April 23rd & 24th, 2021

Follow up meetings with a Sponsor couple take place after the weekend on your own time.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF CHILDREN (RCIC)

This program is designed for all children age 7 and older (grades 2 to 6) who desire to receive the Catholic Sacraments they have missed or who wish to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. **Contact Leanne for more information.**

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF TEENS (RCIT)

This program is designed for all youth from grades 7-12 who desire to receive the Catholic Sacraments they have missed or who wish to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. **Contact Leanne for more information.**

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Registration is ongoing for all Adults interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith. Inquirers are instructed in the Catholic Faith and introduced to the life of the Church. **Contact Leanne for more information.**

Contact **Leanne Plamondon**, our Religious Education Coordinator, at the Parish Office for more information about the sacraments.

By Phone: 403-938-3122 or by email: religiusedu@stjamesparishrc.com

Meditation Ministry

The practice of Christian Meditation is a simple and highly meaningful practice of being one with Jesus in the silence of our hearts and minds through focusing only on the special word "Maranatha" which means "Come Lord". The three elements of Christian Meditation are to be simple, silent, and still. All of the information on WCCM can be found at www.wccm.org OR the Canadian website

www.wccm-canada.ca

Taking place at St. James Church, Okotoks on Mondays at 7:00pm. An online option on Wednesdays at 8pm is also available. Please contact Andrea @ 403-999-3398 or andreat711@gmail.com to find out more and to register.

You are invited to our Zoom Meditation meeting.

When: Dec 9, 2020 08:00 PM Edmonton

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461212693>
[tZMlcOisqD8uHN010zJZYETIXf-G9UkP_x4](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461212693)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



**Pray the Rosary with us before
each weekday Mass at St. James
in Okotoks.**

St. James Catholic Women's League (CWL)

Memberships for 2021 are now available. The amount is \$30.00. Place your cash or cheque in an envelope marked "St. James CWL" and drop it off at the parish office or in the Sunday collection basket. The third option is a bank e-Transfer to StJamesOkotoksCWL@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 403-938-2369 or send an email.

Meetings will now be the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Knights of Columbus (KofC)

Our meetings are moving to the 1st Wednesday of each month. At this time we will continue to offer a virtual connection.

Adoration Schedule - Dec 24 - Jan 1

December 24 ~ 6am-9am

No adoration December 25 and 26

December 28-30 ~ 6am-9am / 5pm-7pm

December 31 ~ 6am-9am

Dec 31 ~ 6pm - Jan 1 ~ 6pm (24 hours)

Please contact Stephanie Foran @ stephanie.foran@rogers.com if you are able to help during any of these times.



In your school you take part in various activities that habituate you not to shut yourselves in on yourselves or in your small world, but to be open to others, especially to the poorest and neediest, to work to improve the world in which we live. Be men and women with others and for others, real champions in the service of others. To be magnanimous with interior liberty and a spirit of service, spiritual formation is necessary. Dear children, dear youths, love Jesus Christ ever more! Pope Francis

As per the new Alberta Government regulations, masks are to be worn at all times while in the church.

Please note that due to the ever changing health regulations, registration for our Christmas Masses will open one week prior to Christmas (December 17).

Attending Mass


- ◇ **Ministers, please sign up here: VOLUNTEER**
- ◇ Pre-registration is requested for weekend masses. Please sign up here. Contact tracing is optional.
- ◇ Capacity Limits: St. James = 200 / St. Michael's = 50
- ◇ Arrive early to answer health and travel questions. Doors open 30 minutes before mass.
- ◇ **Wear your mask at all times while in the Church**
- ◇ Sign in with a point of entry team member.
- ◇ **Wait for an Usher to bring you to your seat.**
- ◇ **Physical distancing to be observed - 6 feet (2meters) - at all times for those who do not live in the same household.**

Mass at St. Michael's

Due to increased numbers in attendance, pre-registration for weekend mass at St. Michael's in Black Diamond is **required**.

Deadline is Fridays at 9:00am.

If you have not registered before this time, you can still go to the church and see if there is space.



RORATE MASS

ST. JAMES PARISH, OKOTOKS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19TH
AT 7:00 AM

St. James Parish invites you to gather with us before the break of dawn for a candle-lit Mass. With incense and gregorian chant, and in the dark of this Advent season, we shall await the coming of the Light of the World!



Diocese of Calgary News

Is it okay to be vaccinated against COVID-19?

The Alberta & Northwest Territory Bishops have released a letter about the COVID-19 vaccination (dated today).

Many people might be surprised that the question is even being posed. What could be wrong about receiving a vaccine, when we know that vaccinations save lives? The moral issue arises from the fact that vaccine development and testing often make use of cell lines derived from either the tissue of aborted fetuses or destroyed human embryos. Therefore, reception of a vaccine developed and produced from this unethical research presents us with a dilemma that seriously engages our conscience. The short answer from our Bishops on whether it's okay to be vaccinated against COVID-10 is: Yes, it is.

Learn more about it from the Bishop's letter re: COVID-19 Vaccine.

- [Download Letter here](#)

Mission Mexico - Dec 12/13

Mission Mexico began in Alberta in the year 2000 as a Jubilee project by St. Mary's Parish in Cochrane, Alberta, under the leadership of Fr. Fred Monk, who had decided to raise \$100,000 to build an orphanage in Tlapa, Mexico. Soon, they were joined by other parishes in the Diocese of Calgary and Bishop Emeritus Frederick Henry declared December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mission Mexico Day in the Diocese. Students and parishioners

Come join us in

9 Days SIMBANG GABI

"A Filipino Religious Tradition"

Starting on December 16, 2020

6:30pm – Caroling
7:00pm – Mass

St. James Church Okotoks

338060 32 Street East, Okotoks AB

All are invited to join us in this **9 Days Novena Masses** in preparation for **Christmas**. **Simbang Gabi** is organized by the **St. James Church** and sponsored by **Couples for Christ** and **Light of Jesus**.

Simbang Gabi is not just a tradition that is celebrated because Filipinos need to do so. It is a significant moment not only because it strengthens relationships among family members and the community but also because it is a time when our faith is intensified. This is the time when we mostly feel the presence of the Lord because it is the spiritual preparation for Christmas, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There will be **NO** Fellowship after the Mass as per the guidelines from the Alberta Public Health Authority. Everyone attending the **Simbang Gabi** must strictly follow the Public Health Guidelines and be mindful of the following measures to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone.

1. Everyone attending the **Simbang Gabi** **MUST** wear a Mask.
2. **COVID** screening measures will be in place to ensure everyone's safety.
3. Mass attendees will be determined on "**First Come, First Serve**" basis, based on the **1/3 Seating Capacity** of the Church.

"Wishing you all a Merry Christmas!"

"Maligayang Pasko po sa inyong lahat !"

Keep safe and keep well ! God bless...

everywhere were invited to join in the work of Mission Mexico by giving a loonie and efforts continue to this day. Donations to this outreach project have provided greater access to education and self-sustaining projects to the people in the mountainous state of Guerrero, Mexico.

In celebration of 20 years in partnership and in spite of the challenges we are facing, we are encouraged to engage in a special time of prayer, solidarity, and action for the work and ministry of Mission Mexico, for "love does not go on lockdown and close itself away from the poor and vulnerable at their time of great need." (Caritas Message for World Day of the Poor)

- **Letter from Bishop McGrattan for 2020 Mission Mexico Sunday - [Download here](#)**
- **Video of Mike & Lindsey.** Here is a video from Mike MacDonald, on-site coordinator for Mission Mexico, and from Lindsey Victoriano, a former student who has benefitted from the scholarships provided through Mission Mexico. Watch video here - <https://youtu.be/JjwnhCrwJO0>
- **Direct link to donate online - <https://www.catholiccyc.ca/donatemissionmexico.html>**
- There will be a **Second Collection on the Third Sunday of Advent (Dec. 12/13) for Mission Mexico.**

Double it!

Do you know that if you donate to Elizabeth House this month (until Dec 24), your donation will be doubled by this one anonymous and generous Calgary couple? Please don't miss this opportunity to double your gift, helping each other, two generations at a time! To donate to our neighbour ministry, Elizabeth House, visit

<https://www.catholiccyc.ca/donateelizabethhouse.html>

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Intercede for me, BLESSED MOTHER MARY, that I may serve others with STRENGTH, WISDOM, HUMILITY & LOVE
 And so honour the PERFECT PEACE found only in living the TRUTH that is your Son, JESUS CHRIST. Amen

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LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Free Advent Devotional for children "Jesse Tree"

GET IT IN Faithfully this week

I am blessed
 BE THAT LIGHT FOR OTHERS DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES



IAMBLESSED.CA
 play now

Advent 2020

Twilight Retreat - Prepare the Way
 Wednesday, November 25
 6:00 pm (Supper at 6:30 pm)
 \$30

Advent Retreat - Wonders of God's Love
 Friday, December 4 - Sunday, December 6
 Register with Linda & Russ @ 403-932-1804
 \$195

Day Away - The Price and Promise of the Gospel
 Wednesday, December 9
 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
 \$30 (\$40 for private room)

Winter Stillness Retreat
 Friday, December 11 - Sunday, December 13
 \$195


Twilight Retreat - O Come O Come Emmanuel
 Tuesday, December 15
 6:00 pm (Supper at 6:30 pm)
 \$30

To register for any of these Advent Retreats please contact Deb at 403-923-2012 Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Greccio: A St. Francis Christmas Pageant
 Sunday, December 6
 Check our website for updated information on this year's virtual event.




BOTTLES FOR ALTAR SERVERS
 Bring your empties to the Okotoks Bottle Depot and let them know they are for St. James Parish.
 Money collected goes to celebrate the Altar Servers.



The Okotoks Foodbank Cookbook, celebrating 35 years of service to the community, is finally ready for purchase! The cost is \$40, with all proceeds going directly to the Foodbank. Cookbooks can be purchased online at okotoksfbcookbook.ca or at The Okotoks Food Bank, Unit 120-220 Stockton Avenue, 403-651-6629. It will make a great Christmas gift, so order soon!

OKOTOKS foodbank



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