

ST. CECILIA'S PARISH

321 90 Avenue SE, Calgary AB T2J 0A1 (403) 252-2790

SECOND SUNDAY OF

Advent

SHOW US YOUR STEADFAST
LOVE, O LORD, AND GRANT
US YOUR SALVATION.

PSALM 85



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary



YOU
ARE
called
YOU MATTER.
YOU BELONG.

Dec 9/Dec 10, 2023

MASS TIMES & PARISH INFO

Parish priest:

Fr. V. Irudaya Paul Raj SAC
vipaulraj45@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Christine Thibeault-Kurylenka
office@stceciacalgary.com

Sacramental Coordinator:

Kelly Sereda
sacraments@stceciacalgary.com

Music Director:

Ross N. Ferby
ross@stceciacalgary.com

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5pm

Sunday 9am & 11am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Saturday
9:00am

First Friday

Mass at 7pm (no 9am Mass)

PARISH OFFICE

Office is closed on Mondays
Tues to Fri 9am to 4pm
Lunch break 12:00 – 1pm

Are you **NEW** or recent to our parish?

Welcome! If you have been coming consistently for 6 months or more, please pick up a registration form from our Information Desk in the foyer.

Confessions



Every Saturday

3pm – 4pm

Or by appointment



Adoration

Fridays:

9:30am - 6:00pm

First Friday:

9am to 6pm

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NO Obligation Free Home Evaluation
I'm happy to answer all question you may have!



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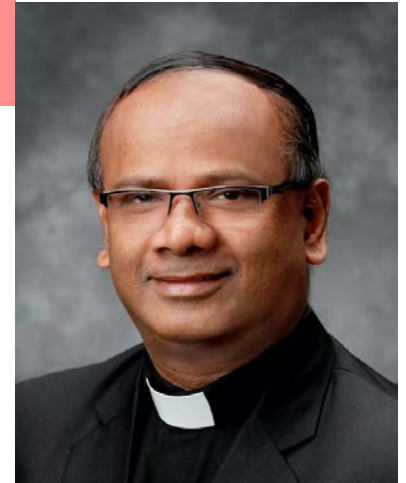
FR. PAUL'S COLUMN

SAINT OF THE WEEK

ST. LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR

(283 - 304)

DEC 13TH



St. Lucy was a wealthy young Christian martyr who had consecrated her virginity to God. St. Lucy is one of seven women, aside from the Blessed Virgin Mary, commemorated by name in the Canon of the Mass.

St. Lucy's mother, Eutychia, arranged a marriage for her. **St. Lucy** prayed at the tomb of Saint Agatha to change her mother's mind about her faith. As a result, her mother's long haemorrhagic illness was cured, and she consented to Lucy's desire to live for God.

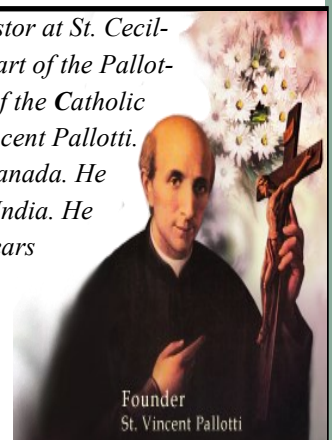
St. Lucy and her mother were grateful to God, the rejected bridegroom was deeply angered and betrayed Lucy's faith to the governor Paschasius. The governor attempted to force her into defilement at a brothel, but the guards who came to take her away were unable to move her, even after hitching her to a team of oxen. She was next condemned to death by fire, but she proved impervious to the flames. Finally, her neck was pierced by a sword, and she died.

St. Lucia's Day marks the beginning of the Christmas celebration in Sweden. On that day the eldest daughter of the family traditionally dresses in a white robe and wears as a crown an evergreen wreath studded with candles. The festival is meant to bring hope and light during the darkest time of the year.

St. Lucy is the patron saint of the city of Syracuse (Sicily), virgins and blind.

Fr. Paul Raj, SAC has been the pastor at St. Cecilia's since November 2014 and is part of the Pallottine Fathers Community (Society of the Catholic Apostolate) who's patron is St. Vincent Pallotti. St. Cecilia's is his first parish in Canada. He comes from the Tamil province of India. He was also in the Philippines for 3 years serving and studying.

To learn more about the Pallottine Fathers please visit their website:
www.pallotti.org






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Come and Adore
ALL DAY
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
EVERY FRIDAY

Mass Intentions

Saturday, Dec 9

9:00am: †Fred Dauk

5:00pm: Int. Edilberto Alfonso—Birthday

Sunday, Dec 10

9:00am: †Maria Loreto & Estevan Palomo

11:00am: All parishioners, living & deceased

Monday, Dec 11

No Mass

Tuesday, Dec 12

9:00am: †Leslie D'Souza

Wednesday, Dec 13

9:00am: †Evangeline Marie Bernardo

Thursday, Dec 14

9:00am: Int. Fr. Paul Raj, SAC

Friday, Dec 15

9:00am: Int. Peggy Mercer

Saturday, Dec 16

9:00am: †Noel Ryan

5:00pm: †Romy Camarillo

Sunday, Dec 17


9:00am: Int. Cecile Suple-Rattan—Birthday

11:00am: All parishioners, living & deceased

<i>Mass Readings</i>	
<p><u><i>Saturday, Dec 9 (9am)</i></u> Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26 Matthew 9:35-10.1, 5a, 6-8</p>	<p><u><i>Sun, Dec 10</i></u> Isaiah 40.1-5, 9-11 2 Peter 3.8-14 Mark 1.1-8</p>
<p><u><i>Mon, Dec 11 (no Mass)</i></u> Isaiah 35.1-10 Luke 5.17-26</p>	<p><u><i>Tuesday, Dec 12</i></u> Zechariah 2.10-13 Luke 1.39-47</p>
<p><u><i>Wednesday, Dec 13</i></u> Isaiah 40.25-31 Matthew 11.28-30</p>	<p><u><i>Thursday, Dec 14</i></u> Isaiah 41.13-20 Matthew 11.11-15</p>
<p><u><i>Friday, Dec 15</i></u> Isaiah 48.17-19 Matthew 11.16-19</p>	<p><u><i>Saturday, Dec 16 (9am)</i></u> Sirach 48.1-4, 9-11 Matthew 17.10-13</p>
<p><u><i>Sunday, Dec 17</i></u> Isaiah 61.1-2a, 10-11 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 John 1.6-8, 19-28</p>	

The Pope's Prayer Intention

Dec 2023



For persons with disabilities We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



Got bottles for refunding? We have a large, marked wooden box in the hall where the double doors are for those who wish to donate their bottles. All the refunds collected from these donations support our Youth Group. Please rinse bottles before donating. This is a great place to drop bottles from any holiday celebrations!

Parish News Update



If you would like to make a donation toward the altar poinsettias in memory of a loved one, please use the special envelopes found at the Information Desk in the foyer. The names will be printed in the Christmas bulletin.

2023 donations must be in by December 31st. All cheques dated after December 31, 2023 will not be included in your 2023 Tax Receipt.



Pageant Practice: Sun. December 10th at 10am

The pageant is done at the beginning of the 5pm Christmas Eve Vigil



Donation boxes for 2024 are now out for pickup!

Would the person who took **box 213** please call the parish office as soon as possible. You need to register your number otherwise we won't know who is making the donation.

St. Vincent de Paul Society 403-252-2790 ext. 223

Spiritual

Sometimes we are ready - as individuals, as a family, as a couple - to seek some opportunities to experience Advent with a different spirit. We are ready to have our hearts opened and engaged by doing some service for others. We know from past experience, or we've heard from others, that this is a very rewarding and grace-filled way to enter into Advent. It helps us to prepare for Christmas because we focus on how grateful we are and we enter into the spirit of sharing by allowing us to imitate our Savior who simply gave of his very self for us. And, it helps us get closer to the experience of the poor and needy of our world. We think about their needs and we do something - even if it is a small thing - to reach out.



WELCOME HOME WEBINAR

If anyone from our parish attended the Welcome Home webinar that the Diocese held online on Thursday, December 7th, please let Fr. Paul or the office know. We would like to hold a focus/discussion group on the topic.

Parish financial support -Thank you!

	Nov 11/Nov 12	Nov 18/Nov 19	Nov 25/Nov 26
Parish support (Envelopes + Loose)	\$3,907.85	\$3,090.00	\$3,242.00
Together in Action	\$435.00	\$65.00	\$105.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$355.60	\$175.00	\$900.00
Building Maintenance	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$45.00
Catholic Education	\$1,017.00	\$70.00	—

DIRECT DEBIT FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER: \$10,165.00 (includes special donations outside of parish support)

UPCOMING BAPTISM PREP CLASSES



Sat. Jan. 6 at 9:30am

Sat. Feb. 3 at 9:30am

Sat. Mar. 2 at 9:30am

**You must sign up
through the office.**

WANTED:

KOFC

Men who would like to
make a difference!

Len White: 403-271-6055

or fs4878@kofc.ab.ca

Knights of Columbus

SACRAMENT CLASS SCHEDULE

Class Dates for 1st Rec (Sat. at 10am): Jan 13

Retreat and Celebration of Sacrament on Saturday, March 9, 2024

Class Dates for 1st Comm (Sat. at 10am): Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 16,

Apr 13, Jun 1

Celebration of Sacrament on Saturday, June 2, 2024 at the 11am Mass

Class Dates for Confirm. (Sat. at 10am): Dec 30, Jan 20, Feb 10, Mar 23

Celebration of Sacrament still to be determined

We are still in need of volunteers for our **Southwood Nursing Home Mass** on Tuesday mornings. Please contact Connie Claeys or the office if you can help out. Training is provided.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE FOR OUR PARISH

Thursday, December 21st 6:30pm—7:30pm

2023 TIA GOAL:

31,539 Raised: 22,773.00 (72%)

Together in Action (formerly known as the Annual Bishop's Appeal) makes it possible for the Diocese to financially support ministries and programs that help families, individuals and communities (Elizabeth House, Mission Mexico, Care of Retired Priests, Vocations, etc). **THESE DONATIONS CONTRIBUTE TOWARD YOUR TAX RECEIPT**

e-bulletin

Subscribe today!

Email the parish office to be added to the list. By signing up you can expect the following: **Help reduce our printing cost, Diocese News, Parish Alerts (emergencies, last minute notices). Your email address is kept private and is not visible to anyone.**



Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 17th	<i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	9:00am and 11:00am
Monday, December 18th		No Mass
Tuesday, December 19th		9:00am
Wednesday, December 20th		9:00am
Thursday, December 21st		9:00am
Friday, December 22nd		9:00am
Saturday, December 23rd		9:00am Daily Mass 5:00pm Mass (4th Sun. of Advent)
Sunday, December 24th	<i>4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve Vigil</i>	9:00am and 11:00am (4th Sunday of Advent) 5:00pm <i>Vigil Mass with Pageant</i> 11:00pm <i>Vigil Mass</i>
Monday, December 25th	<i>Christmas Day</i>	9:00am and 11:00am
Tuesday, December 26th		9:00am
Wednesday, December 27th		9:00am
Thursday, December 28th		9:00am
Friday, December 29th		9:00am
Saturday, December 30th		9:00am Daily Mass 5:00pm Mass (Holy Family)
Sunday, December 31st	<i>Holy Family and New Year's Eve—Solemnity of the Mother of God</i>	9:00am and 11:00am (Holy Family) 5:00pm <i>Vigil Mass</i> 11:00pm <i>Vigil Mass</i>
Monday, January 1st	<i>New Year's Day—Solemnity of the Mother of God</i>	9:00am and 11:00am

Mass Options
 Sat evening + Sun evening
 Sat evening + Mon morning
 Sun morning + Sun evening
 Sun morning + Mon morning

Mass Options
 same as above



Diocesan News

NEWS.CalgaryDiocese.ca | FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING *in the* DIOCESE. Contact: 403-218-5500 | communications@calgarydiocese.ca

Advent Season

Advent has a twofold nature: It prepares us for Christmas, when we recall Christ's first coming among us, and it is also a time when we look forward to his second coming at the end of the ages. Advent is a season of joyful expectation. During Advent, each Sunday's Gospel reading has a specific focus. The Old Testament readings, especially those taken from Isaiah, are prophecies about the Messiah and messianic times. The selections from the writings of the Apostles present exhortations and instructions on different themes of this season.

Advent & Christmas events

- Dec. 9** | [The Living Nativity](#) – St. James, Okotoks
- Dec. 10** | [Catholic Advent Market](#) – St. Michael's, Calgary
- Dec. 10** | [Festival of Songs and Christmas Carols](#)
- Dec. 11** | [Advent Carols & Cookies](#) – Holy Name, Calgary
- Dec. 17** | [Nine Lessons and Carols](#) - St. John Choir Schola
- Dec. 17** | [Cocoa & Christmas Sing-Along](#) - St. Joseph's, Calgary

Simbang Gabi Masses

- Dec. 9** | [Simbang Gabi](#), St. Michael's, Calgary
- Dec. 10** | [Simbang Gabi](#), St. Gerard, Calgary
- Dec. 14-22** | [Simbang Gabi](#) - St. Mary's, Brooks
- Dec. 15** | [Simbang Gabi](#), Sacred Heart, Calgary
- Dec. 16** | [Simbang Gabi](#), St. Luke's & St. Patrick's, Calgary
- Dec. 17** | [Simbang Gabi](#), St. Cecilia, Calgary
- Dec. 22** | [Simbang Gabi](#), Ascension, Calgary
- Dec. 23** | [Simbang Gabi](#), Sacred Heart, Calgary

Non-Permissibility of Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide in Catholic Health Facilities

| The statement on the Non-Permissibility of Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide within Canadian Health Organizations with a Catholic Identity is available:

[Read/Download](#): Statement by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on the Non-Permissibility of Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide within Canadian Health Organizations with a Catholic Identity ([PDF](#))



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DRIVING DOWN YOUR MAINTENANCE COSTS

Check out new [**career opportunities**](#) in the Diocese:

No postings at this time.

Theology of the Body | Join experts Dr. Christopher West, Sister Helena Burns FSP, Fr. Cristino Bouvette, and internationally acclaimed songwriter, Mike Mangione, as they introduce and reflect St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

- When/Where: **Friday, Feb. 9, 2024 from 6 pm to 10 pm at Holy Spirit Catholic Church** (10827 24 St SW Calgary) [Register online](#)

For any questions, please contact theologyofthebodyconference@gmail.com

Advent Mission: Called to be Missionary Disciples Each year, Advent invites us to prepare for the greatest event in human history - The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. You are invited to St. Michael's Advent Mission with speaker Peter Thompson:

When: Mon, Dec. 18 at 7 pm | Theme: God's love affair with humanity

Tue, Dec. 19 at 6 pm (Mass followed by Mission) | Theme: Who do you say that I AM? Matthew 16:15

Wed, Dec. 20 at 7 pm | Theme: His mercies never come to an end. Lamentation 3:22

Location: St. Michael's Parish (800 85 St. SW, Calgary. Mission will be livestreamed at [St. Michael's Youtube page](#).

National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples | Dec. 12 The National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples is celebrated on December 12 every year, on the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, who appeared to a humble native peasant, [Juan Diego](#), in Mexico in 1531. The Canadian Catholic Aboriginal Council celebrates this day for prayer, solidarity and reconciliation, by issuing an annual message honouring Aboriginal people who were inspired by their Catholic faith.



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Transitions | Transitions provides a God-centered group environment that encourages discussion through an 18-week program. In this supportive setting, individuals can share and discuss their personal journey with others going through separation and divorce.

- **When/Where:** Every **Tuesday, from Feb 13, 2023, 7 pm to 9 pm** at the **Catholic Pastoral Centre** (120 – 17th Avenue SW, Calgary)

- No fee registration | Limited spots available

Register now at catholiccycc.ca/transitions

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES FOR SOUTH CALGARY

Holy Name: December 13 (Wed) 7:00pm

St. Gerard: December 14 (Thurs) 7:00pm

St. Anthony's: December 19 (Tues) 7:30pm

St. Bonaventure: December 20 (Wed) 7:00pm—9:00pm



Thank you to those who helped decorate our church so beautifully this week. It looks wonderful!

Office Hours over the holidays

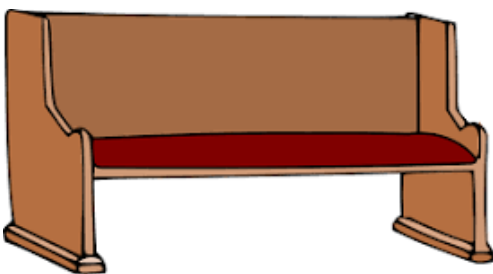
The parish office will be open regular hours on Friday, December 22nd and will be closed the following week from Dec 25th to January 1st. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd at 9am.



SIMBANG GABI FILIPINO MASS

Sunday, Dec 17th at 7pm. Caroling at 6:30pm

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 12 Calgary Catholic Churches have committed to celebrate the Simbang Gabi.



Due to pew restoration this week there will be no Adoration or Divine Mercy this Friday, December 15th. *There will still be the 9am Mass as per usual.*

KIDS' PAGE

ISAIAH 40 WORD-FIND

A Z I O N B O S O M T H
R T E S O E L M L O R D
M I G H T H A E R U S J
S D R E C O M P E N S E
S I S P I L B S W T F R
T N A H H D S A A A L U
R G G E N T L Y R I O S
E S A R I F E E D N C A
N S T D C C A R R Y K L
G O H M J U D A H I N E
T B E F O R E H I G H M
H G R U L E S Y O U N G



*Find the words in
CAPITALS in
today's first
reading in the
puzzle.
Then use the
letters that are
left over to fill in
the blanks
at the end!*

Get you up to a HIGH MOUNTAIN, O ZION, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with STRENGTH, O JERUSALEM, herald of good TIDINGS, lift it up, fear NOT; SAY to the cities of JUDAH, "BEHOLD your God!" Behold, the LORD GOD comes with MIGHT, and his arm RULES for him; behold, his REWARD is with him, and his RECOMPENSE BEFORE him. He will FEED his FLOCK like a SHEPHERD, he will GATHER the LAMBS in his ARMS, he will CARRY them in his BOSOM, and GENTLY LEAD those that are with YOUNG.

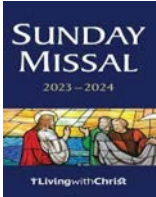
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Directory

Pastor	Fr. V. Irudaya <u>Paul Raj</u> , SAC	403-700-9345	RCIA	Kelly Sereda sacraments@stceciliacalgary.com
Parish Office	Christine Thibeault-Kurylenka office@stceciliacalgary.com	403-252-2790	Knights of Columbus	Danny Barth 403-278-4347
Choir Director/ Organist	Ross N. Ferby ross@stceciliacalgary.com	403-253-6757	St. Vincent de Paul Couples for Christ	Heather Sereda 403-252-2790 ext. 223 (voicemail) George Fournier 403-804-8446
5pm Choir	Marie Hill	403-252-3456	Library	Orly Alcantara 403-263-3510 Connie Claeys 403-931-4840
Campus Flowers	Sandra Dawson	403-259-3829	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Donna Suderman 403-252-2718
Finance Council	George Fournier	403-271-4628	Francis Klein Ctr Natural Family Planning	Lisa Van Gent 403-255-4480 Pavla D'Souza 403-278-9677
Parish Council	Joy Obah		St. Matthew Sch St. Cecilia's Sch St. William Sch	Annie Desrochers (Principal) 403-500-2030 Christine Hooley (Principal) 403-500-2040 Candice Olsen (Principal) 403-500-2055
Maintenance	Christian Amizola st.cecilia.maintenance.coord@gmail.com	403-831-1483	Bible Study	Gabriella Hernandez 403-258-1558
Pastoral Care	Connie Claeys	403-931-4840	CWL	Ester Butler 403-992-0515
Altar Servers	Cecilia McLaughlin ceciliamarymcl@gmail.com		Youth Coordinator	Veronica Planicka st.cecilaparish.youth@gmail.com
Ministry	Kelly Sereda			
Scheduling	sacraments@stceciliacalgary.com			
Sacrament Coordinator	Kelly Sereda sacraments@stceciliacalgary.com			

ROOM BOOKINGS		
Monday	Dec 11	
Tuesday	Dec 12	9:00am— MASS (rosary at 8:30am) 10:00am—Bible Study (Boardroom) 7:00pm—RCIA (Boardroom)
Wednesday	Dec 13	9:00am— MASS (rosary at 8:30am) 7:00pm—Sunday Choir Practice
Thursday	Dec 14	9:00am— MASS (rosary at 8:30am) 7:00pm—Parish Council (Boardroom)
Friday	Dec 15	9:00am— MASS (rosary at 8:30am) 5:00pm—Wedding Rehearsal
Saturday	Dec 16	9:00am— MASS (rosary at 8:30am) 12:00pm—Wedding 3:00pm-4:00pm—CONFESSION 5:00pm— MASS
Sunday	Dec 17	9:00am— MASS 11:00am— MASS 7:00pm—SIMBANG GABI FLIPINO MASS (Caroling at 6:30pm)

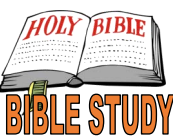
SSVP CHRISTMAS HAMPER PACKING



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Every First Friday beginning with the 7pm Mass. Night concludes by 9pm. **Next meeting: Jan 5**



Tuesdays after the 9am Mass. New members welcome!



Prayer Shawl Ministry: last Tuesday of the month after the 9am Mass. New knitters welcome. Yarn available. **Next meet: Tues. January 30th**