

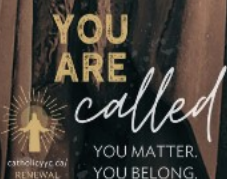
ST. CECILIA'S PARISH
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 6-7



Repent,

FOR THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN HAS COME NEAR.

MATTHEW 3:2



SECONDSUNDAY OF
Advent

MASS TIMES & PARISH INFO

321 90 Avenue SE Calgary, AB T2J 0A1 Phone: 403-252-2790
Website: www.stceciliacalgary.com Email: office@stceciliacalgary.com

Parish Priest:

Fr. Derek Remus
derek.remus@calgarydiocese.ca

Administrative Assistant:

TBD

Sacramental Coordinator:

Kelly Sereda
sacraments@stceciliacalgary.com

Music Director:

Ross N. Ferby
ross@stceciliacalgary.com

Weekend Masses | Weekday Masses

Saturday 5pm **Tues to Saturday 9 am**
Sun 9am & 11am

Confessions

Tues to Sat 8:15 - 8:45 am
Saturday 3 - 4:30 pm | Sunday 8 - 8:30 am
or by appointment



Adoration

Fridays 9:30am - 6pm
First Friday: 9am - 6pm

First Friday Mass

7pm (no 9am Mass)

PARISH OFFICE

Office is closed on Mondays
Open Tues to Fri 9am – 4pm
Lunch break 12 – 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.

MINISTRY WORKSHOPS THURSDAY DECEMBER 11

There are mandatory workshops for all ministers of the Word and extraordinary ministers of Communion.

Ministers of the Word - 6:30 PM Thursday, December 11th

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion - 7:30 PM Thursday, December 11th

BAPTISM CLASSES

Email: sacraments@stceciliacalgary.com to register or any inquiries

- Saturday January 03-26 at 9:30 AM
- Saturday February 07-26 at 9:30 AM
- Saturday March 07-26 at 9:30 AM
- Saturday April 11-26 at 9:30 AM

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 6th

9:00am: Bryant & Vera Laboret

5:00pm: †Yvette Armand Bonneau

Sunday, December 7th

9:00am: †Lee Spaetgens

11:00am: All parishioners, living & deceased

Monday, December 8th

7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 9th

9:00 am † Bryant & Vera Laboret

Wednesday, December 10th

9:00 am Edilberto Alfonso Birthday Blessings

Thursday, December 11th

9:00 am † Juanita Villaruel

Friday, December 12th

9:00am † June Walsh

7:00 pm

Saturday, December 13th

9:00am: Those with special needs

5:00pm: †Douglas, Vivian & Deepika Jay

Sunday, December 14th

9:00am: †Souls of the Camarillo family

11:00am: All parishioners, living & deceased

If you know of a parishioner who is homebound and in need of the Sacraments, please call the parish office: (403) 252-2790.



CWL

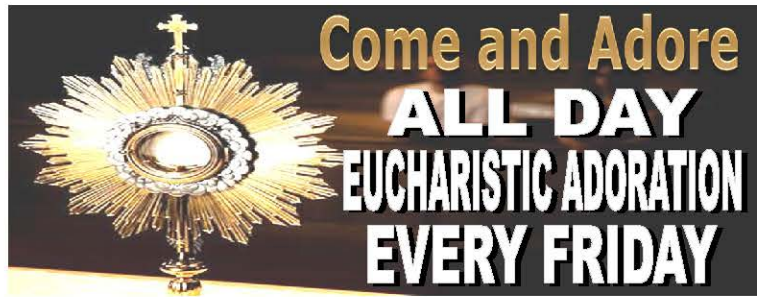


Pot Luck Tuesday

December 9 6PM Church Hall

MEMBERS

**PICK UP NOMINATION LIST AND
RETURN BY END OF DECEMBER**



Mass Readings

Saturday, Dec 6

Isaiah 30.19-21, 23-26

Matthew 9.35-10.1, 5-8

Sunday Dec 7

Isaiah 11.1-10

Romans 15.4-9

Matthew 3.1-12

Monday, Dec 8

Genesis 3.9—15, 20

Ephesians 1.3-6, 11-12

Luke 1.26-38

Tuesday, Dec 9

Isaiah 40.1-11

Matthew 18.12-14

Wednesday, Dec 10

Isaiah 40.25-31

Matthew 11.28-30

Thursday, Dec 11

Isaiah 41.13-20

Matthew 7.21, 24-27

Friday, Dec 12

Zechariah 2.14-17

Luke 1.26-38

Saturday, Dec 13

Sirach 48.1-4, 9-11

Matthew 17.10-13

Sunday Dec 14

Isaiah 35.1-6, 10

James 5.7-10

Matthew 11.2-11



CHINOOK
OPTOMETRIC CLINIC

Dr. Daniel Lowe

Quality Eyewear
Thorough Eye Health Exams
Contact Lenses
One Hour Lens Lab

Suite 601, Chinook Centre Professional Building
(403) 253-0234
www.chinookclinic.com

Bring in this ad for a \$25 discount on glasses

PARISH NEWS UPDATE



St. Vincent de Paul Society

403-252-2790 ext. 223



There are many distractions at this time of year that keep us busy. But the heart of the Advent season is God's promise of hope. Let us take some quiet time to reflect on God's love and His promise of hope for us. How can we give hope to others in need?

PANTRY NEEDS: Pasta & Apple Juice

We would appreciate any donations of reusable grocery/shopping bags to use for packing hampers

Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - Monday, Dec. 8 @ 7 pm

Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe - Friday, Dec. 12 @ 9 am & **7 pm**

Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe - Mon @ 6:30 pm, Tues-Thu @ 9:30 am

Extra Advent Confession Times

In addition to our regular confession times (Tuesday - Saturday 8:15-8:45 am, Saturday 3:00-4:30 pm, Sunday 8:00-8:30 am), Fr. Derek will be in the confessional every Friday during Advent from 6 - 6:45 pm.

Advent Penitential Service - Thursday, Dec. 18 @ 7 pm

Five priests will be hearing confessions.

Yahoo Email Issues

We continue to have problems delivering emails to Yahoo.com. This affects emails to the bulletin, ministries, and sacramental preparation lists. If you are on one of these lists and have a yahoo.com email address, please call or visit the parish office to let us know. If you have a different email address with a different server, we could add it to our distribution lists to ensure that you receive our emails.

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.

Book Club

You are invited to join a book club starting up in January and meeting on Saturdays at 1 pm in the library. Our first meeting will be on **Saturday, Jan. 10th.** Meetings will be weekly or biweekly (TBD). We will read ***Introduction to the Devout Life* by St. Francis de Sales**, a spiritual classic written for laypeople. For more information or if you are interested in an evening time, please talk to Fr. Derek or Connie Claeys.

Pilgrim Virgin Statue

To have the Pilgrim Virgin statue come to your home, please call the parish office.



EVAN J. STRONG
FUNERAL SERVICES

South Calgary

5502 2 Street SW • 403-265-1199

Services and Prices Online

www.evanjstrong.com

Catholic Family Owned



**McInnis &
Holloway**
Funeral Homes

Proud to Serve the Catholic Community

***Family Owned in the
Heart of your Community***

www.mhfh.com

403-243-8200

ROOM BOOKINGS		
Mon	Dec 8	
Tues	Dec 9	10AM Bible Study (Boardroom) 7 PM RCIA (Upstairs Auditorium) 7 PM CWL (Church Hall)
Wed	Dec 10	
Thur	Dec 11	
Fri	Dec 12	3:00pm— Divine Mercy 5:30pm—Legion of Mary—(Boardroom)
Sat	Dec 13	10:0am Reconciliation Class (Upstairs Aud) 6:00 pm Couples for Christ (Upstairs Aud)
Sun	Dec 14	

Our schools:

Fr. Derek visits all 3 of our schools monthly.



St. Matthew School

Monthly Newsletter

<https://stmatthew.cssd.ab.ca/newsletters>



St. Cecilia School

Weekly Newsletter

<https://secure.smores.com/n/84rf1>

Playground Donation Link:

<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/>



St. William School

Monthly Newsletter

<https://stwilliam.cssd.ab.ca/newsletters>

WANTED:

KOFC

Men who would like to make a difference!

Len White: 403-271-6055
or fs4878@kofc.ab.ca

Knights of Columbus

Advent Mission

Local Catholic speaker Peter Thompson will offer an Advent mission at our parish on Monday, Dec. 15, Tuesday, Dec. 16, and Wednesday, Dec. 17. Talks will begin each evening at 7 pm (Monday and Tuesday in the church, Wednesday in the upstairs auditorium).

Rorate Mass

Sat, Dec. 20 @ 7:30 am - Fr. Derek will celebrate a *Rorate Mass* - a votive Mass in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated by candlelight before dawn during Advent. This Mass will replace the regular 9 am Mass. The St. Francis Xavier Chaplaincy (the diocesan ministry for young adults) will be joining us and provid-

Simbang Gabi 2025

Sat, Dec. 20 @ 7 pm - The Filipino Catholic Society cordially invites you to a Simbang Gabi Mass at St. Cecilia's Church, preceded by caroling at 6:30 pm and followed by a potluck supper. A sign-up sheet for the potluck is on the Divine Mercy altar in the narthex. Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition consisting of a novena of Masses leading up to Christmas.

Christmas & New Year's Masses

Christmas Eve

5 pm - Children's Christmas Pageant
5:15 pm - Christmas Vigil Mass
11 pm - Mass during the Night

Christmas Day

9 am - Mass during the Day
11 am - Mass during the Day

New Year's Eve

5 pm & 11 pm - Mass
6 pm - 10:30 pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

New Year's Day

9 am - Mass
11 am - Mass



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 of its financial obligations for the year, every dollar contributed **to strengthen our repairs and maintenance fund** will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to our parish goal. The campaign lasts until the end of 2027.

Our goal for this matching program is \$158,425. This means that every contribution toward this goal has twice the impact.

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

Diocesan News

Mass with Apostolic Blessing: Solemnity of Immaculate Conception

Join Bishop McGrattan for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the feast that also honours the Cathedral's patron. This special Mass with Bishop McGrattan includes the final Apostolic Blessing for the Jubilee Year of Hope. **When:** Monday, Dec 8 at 7 pm - St. Mary's Cathedral

Loreto Crypt Blessing

You are invited to pray with Bishop William T. McGrattan at the blessing of the newly completed Loreto Crypt: Sanctuary for Little Souls at Queen's Park Cemetery. This sacred space has been created as a place of prayer, remembrance, and hope for families who have experienced the loss of miscarried babies. **When:** Wed, Dec 10, 2025 at 4 pm, at Queen's Park Cemetery, 3219 4 St. NW, Calgary

 e-bulletin



Email the parish office or scan the QR code 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.



PREVENT MECHANICAL

- HVAC
- HEATING
- PLUMBING
- ELECTRICAL
- HANDYMAN SERVICE
- PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

403-271-8821

DRIVING DOWN YOUR MAINTENANCE COSTS



4 December 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
Ottawa, ON
mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

Re: Proposed Restrictions on Religious Freedom – Bill C-9

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

On behalf of the Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCBC), we write to you today to express deep concern regarding recent reports that your government, in co-operation with the Bloc Québécois, plans to remove the long-standing religious exemption in Section 319(3)(b) of the *Criminal Code* as part of Bill C-9 amendments.¹

We recognize and unequivocally affirm the importance of condemning hatred, protecting vulnerable people and communities, and fostering a society in which every Canadian can live free from discrimination, intimidation, and violence. The Church has consistently supported appropriate measures to confront extremism and the promotion of hatred. We also understand the serious challenges that have emerged in recent years, including the increase in antisemitism and other forms of hateful speech and behaviours, many of which have targeted the Christian community. These actions leave a deep wound on the fabric of our country.

At the same time, the proposed elimination of the “good faith” religious-text defence raises significant concerns. This narrowly framed exemption has served for many years as an essential safeguard to ensure that Canadians are not criminally prosecuted for their sincere, truth-seeking expression of beliefs made without animus and grounded in long-standing religious traditions. Courts have made clear that only the most extreme forms of speech fall within the scope of hate-propaganda offences.

However, the removal of this provision risks creating uncertainty for faith communities, clergy, educators, and others who may fear that the expression of traditional moral or doctrinal teachings could be misinterpreted as hate speech and could subject the speaker to proceedings that threaten imprisonment of up to two years. As legal experts have noted, the public’s understanding of hate-speech and its legal implications are often far broader than what the *Criminal Code* actually captures. Eliminating a clear statutory safeguard will likely therefore have a chilling effect on religious expression, even if prosecutions remain unlikely in practice.

¹ *Criminal Code*, RSC 1985, c C-46, s 319(3)(b): “No person shall be convicted of an offence under subsection (2) [...] (b) if, in good faith, the person expressed or attempted to establish by an argument an opinion on a religious subject or an opinion based on a belief in a religious text”.

We are also mindful that the existing defence has been supported not only by Christian organizations, but also by civil liberties advocates who view it as an important component of Canada's constitutional commitment to freedom of religion, freedom of expression, and pluralism. Respect for these freedoms is not only a constitutional requirement but a foundational element of our national identity. The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* declares Canada to be "a free and democratic society".

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Government of Canada:

- To ensure Bill C-9 does not remove the religious-text defence from the *Criminal Code*.

Or alternatively:

- To provide clear assurance through a public statement – including in any legislative record or parliamentary debate – that good-faith religious expression, teaching, and preaching will not be subject to criminal prosecution under the hate-propaganda provisions; and
- To commit to broad consultation with religious leaders, legal experts, and civil-liberties organizations before any amendments are made to Bill C-9 that would affect religious freedom.

We believe it is possible to achieve the shared objective of promoting a society free from genuine hatred while also upholding the constitutional rights of millions of Canadians who draw moral and spiritual guidance from their faith traditions.

We share these concerns in a spirit of dialogue and mutual respect, and we remain committed to working constructively with the government to ensure that legislation aimed at reducing hate does not inadvertently undermine the freedoms that sustain a healthy, diverse, and democratic Canada.

Sincerely,



The Most Rev. Pierre Goudreault
Bishop of Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière and
President of the Canadian Conference
of Catholic Bishops

- cc. - Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada (mcu@justice.gc.ca / sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca)
- Patricia Lattanzio, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice (Patricia.Lattanzio@parl.gc.ca)
 - Larry Brock, Conservative Shadow Minister for Justice (larry.brock@parl.gc.ca)
 - Lori Idlout, NDP Critic for Justice (lori.idlout@parl.gc.ca)
 - Rhéal Éloi Fortin, Bloc critic for Justice (rheal.fortin@parl.gc.ca)
 - Elizabeth May, Green Party leader (elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca)
 - Pierre Poilievre, Conservative Party leader (pierre.poilievre@parl.gc.ca)
 - Don Davies, interim NDP leader (don.davies@parl.gc.ca)
 - Yves-François Blanchet, Bloc leader (Yves-Francois.Blanchet@parl.gc.ca)

Confession Guide for Adults

Examination of Conscience based on the 10 Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.

Do I give God time every day in prayer? Have I been involved with superstitious practices or have I been involved with the occult (tarot cards, séances, psychics, fortune telling, New Age practices)? Do I seek to surrender myself to God's word as taught by the Church? Have I ever received Communion in the state of mortal sin? Have I ever deliberately told a lie in Confession or have I withheld a mortal sin from the priest in Confession? Are there other "gods" in my life? Money, Security, Power, People, etc.?

2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Have I used God's name in vain: lightly or carelessly? Have I been angry with God? Have I wished evil upon any other person? Have I insulted a sacred person or abused a sacred object?

3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.

Have I deliberately missed Mass on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation (in Canada: Christmas and New Year's)? Have I tried to observe Sunday as a family day and a day of rest? Do I do needless work on Sunday?

4. Honor your father and your mother.

Do I honor my parents? Have I neglected my duties to my spouse and children? Have I taught my children the Catholic faith? Do I try to bring peace into my home life? Do I care for my aged and infirm relatives?

5. You shall not kill.

Have I had an abortion or encouraged or helped anyone to have an abortion? Have I physically harmed anyone? Have I abused alcohol or drugs? Did I give scandal to anyone, thereby leading him or her into sin? Have I been angry or resentful? Have I harbored hatred in my heart? Have I mutilated myself through any form of sterilization? Have I encouraged or condoned sterilization? Have I engaged, in any way, in sins against human life such as artificial insemination or in vitro fertilization? Have I participated in or approved of euthanasia?

6. You shall not commit adultery.

Have I been faithful to my marriage vows in thought and action? Have I engaged in sexual activity outside of marriage? Have I used any method of contraception or artificial birth control in my marriage? Has each sexual act in my marriage been open to the transmission of new life? Have I been guilty of masturbation? Have I respected all members of the opposite sex, or have I thought of other people as mere objects? Have I been guilty of any homosexual activity? Do I seek to be chaste in my thoughts, words, actions? Do I dress modestly?

7. You shall not steal.

Have I stolen what is not mine? Have I returned or made restitution for what I have stolen? Do I waste time at work, school, and home? Do I gamble excessively, thereby denying my family of their needs? Do I pay my debts promptly? Do I seek to share what I have with the poor? Have I cheated anyone out of what is justly theirs, for example creditors, insurance companies, big corporations?

8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Have I lied? Have I gossiped? Do I speak badly of others behind their back? Am I sincere in my dealings with others? Am I critical, negative or uncharitable in my thoughts of others? Do I keep secret what should be kept confidential? Have I injured the reputation of others by slanders?

9. You shall not desire your neighbor's wife.

Have I consented to impure thoughts? Have I caused them by impure reading, movies, television, conversation or curiosity? Do I pray at once to banish impure thoughts and temptations? Have I behaved in an inappropriate way with members of the opposite sex: flirting, being superficial, etc.?

10. You shall not desire your neighbor's goods.

Am I jealous of what other people have? Do I envy the families or possessions of others? Am I greedy or selfish? Are material possessions the purpose of my life?

Prayer before Confession

O most merciful God! Prostrate at your feet, I implore your forgiveness. I sincerely desire to leave all my evil ways and to confess my sins with all sincerity to you and to your priest. I am a sinner. Have mercy on me, O Lord. Give me a lively faith and a firm hope in the Passion of my Redeemer. Give me, for your mercy's sake, a sorrow for having offended so good a God. Mary, my Mother, refuge of sinners, pray for me that I may make a good confession.

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

Pastor's Message

In the midst of our Advent preparations, we celebrate this week two great Marian feasts. Monday, Dec. 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother St. Anne (not the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary). Mary's conception was immaculate because she was conceived without the stain of original sin.

Friday, Dec. 12 is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared in Mexico to St. Juan Diego, an Aztec man who had recently been baptized, and impressed her miraculous image on his tilma (cloak). (The year 2031 will mark the 500th anniversary of this apparition.) Within less than ten years, nine million native Mexicans had become Catholic—the largest conversion to the Catholic faith in history. For this reason, Pope Pius XII called Our Lady of Guadalupe “Empress of the Americas,” and St. John Paul II called her “star of the first and new evangelization.”

When Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego, she wore the black Aztec maternity belt, signifying that she was with child. This is the only Marian apparition where the Mother of God has appeared pregnant. Therefore, Our Lady of Guadalupe is also the patroness of the unborn. The Spanish title Guadalupe, by which Mary identified herself when appearing to Juan Diego's uncle, sounds phonetically the Nahuatl word Coatlxopeuh, which means one who crushes the serpent. In Genesis 3:15, God tells the serpent (the devil) that the seed of the woman will crush his head.

The battle between the woman and the serpent continues today. Please read the letter from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops to Prime Minister Mark Carney regarding the federal government's proposed restrictions on religious freedom.

Finally, the season of Advent is a good time to go to Confession. In this bulletin, you will find a Confession guide with an examination of conscience. The Sacrament of Confession is the Sacrament of God's mercy. St. John Vianney said, “How great is the love of our God that leads him even to voluntarily forget the future in order to forgive us!”

St. Cecilia's is now on social media. Follow “St. Cecilia's Parish, Calgary” on Facebook and Instagram.



Owned and
operated by
St. Cecilia
parishioners
Ken & Hazel Moen

<http://www.certifiedalarms.ca/>

CERTIFIED
ALARMS & SURVEILLANCE
Protecting People, Property and Profits

Phone: 403-253-7820 x 224 ken@certifiedalarms.ca

ROYAL LEPAGE
Benchmark



Justyna Jakimowicz

Your Local Realtor®

C.C.S., RENE

(Certified Condominium Specialist)
(Real Estate Negotiate Expert)

403-909-2337



justynajakimowicz@royallepage.ca

[justynajakimowicz.royallepage.ca](https://www.justynajakimowicz.royallepage.ca)

[justyna_jakimowicz_real_estate](https://www.instagram.com/justyna_jakimowicz_real_estate)

[justyna.jakimowicz real estate](https://www.facebook.com/justyna.jakimowicz.realestate)

Your trusted resource for real estate —
and for any questions you may have



Our Lady of Guadalupe

and the True Meaning of Christmas

Couples for Christ invites you to an evening **Advent retreat on Saturday, Dec. 13 starting 6:30 pm.** At 7 pm, Fr. Derek will give a talk about staying focused on the true meaning of Christmas. He will also talk about the history of Our Lady of Guadalupe and her importance today. Refreshments will be served afterward.

A recording of Fr. Derek's presentation on “medical assistance in dying” will soon be available on the parish website.