

# ST. CECILIA'S PARISH

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



Joy

“I will greatly rejoice  
in the Lord, my soul  
shall exult in my God”

ISAIAH 61:10

YOU ARE CALLED.  
YOU MATTER.  
**YOU**  
*belong*

[catholicyc.ca/RENEWAL](http://catholicyc.ca/RENEWAL)



THIRD SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

# December 14-15, 2024

# MASS TIMES & PARISH INFO

**Parish priest:**

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

**Administrative Assistant:**

Christine Thibeault  
office@stceciliacalgary.com

**Sacramental Coordinator:**

Kelly Sereda  
sacraments@stceciliacalgary.com

**Music Director:**

Ross N. Ferby  
ross@stceciliacalgary.com

**Weekend Masses | Weekday Masses**

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

**First Friday Mass**

7pm (no 9am Mass)

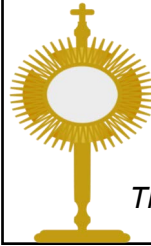
**Confessions**

Every Saturday 3 - 4pm  
or by appointment



**Adoration**

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



*There must be at least 2 people at all times sitting with our Lord.*

## 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.



Every First Friday beginning with the 7pm Mass. Meeting concludes by 9pm.

**Next meetings:**

**Jan 3, Feb 7, Mar 7**

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** last Tuesday of the month after the 9am Mass. New knitters welcome. Yarn is available.

**Next meet: January 28th**

*Prayer shawls can be picked up from the parish library or parish office. They are free for everyone and make a wonderful comfort gift to someone in the hospital, those grieving, shut-ins, etc.*



**Acts of the Apostles** | Every Tuesday after the 9am Mass in the boardroom. New members are always welcome! We will reconvene in January!



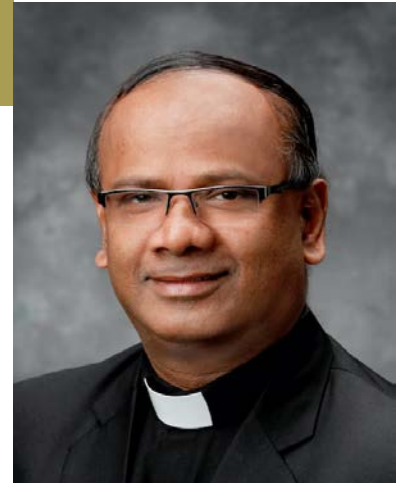
**BIBLE STUDY**

# FR. PAUL'S COLUMN

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

DEC 26<sup>TH</sup> 24



**St. Stephen** was one of the **first ordained deacons** of the Church and the **first Christian martyr**. We do not know much about St. Stephen's origin. He is first mentioned in Acts 6:5, when the apostles appoint seven deacons to minister to the physical needs of the faithful. St. Stephen is often **depicted with stones, a Gospel Book, a miniature church and a martyr's palm frond**.

**St. Stephen**, as a deacon, also **preached about Christ** as the fulfillment of the Old Testament law and prophets. In the Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke praises St. Stephen as **“a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit,”** who **“did great wonders and signs among the people”** during the earliest days of the Church.

**St. Stephen** was **so conformed to Jesus in his holy life** that his martyrdom was both a natural and supernatural sign of his love for the Lord. It also **inspired the early believers** as they faced the first round of brutal persecution.

As **St. Stephen** was **being brutally stoned** his last words before his martyrdom were, **“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”** Words which **echoed the very words of Jesus on the Cross**. After those words, he died.

**St. Stephen** is the **patron saint of Deacons, altar Servers, bricklayers, casket makers, & Stonemasons**.

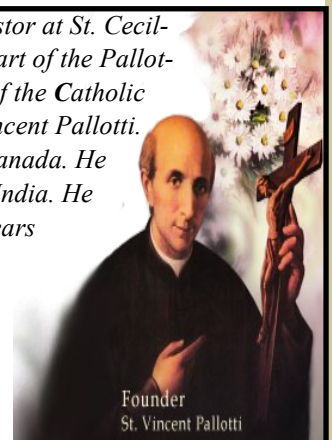
#### Sayings of the Saint

**“It is not enough to profess our faith, but we must live it out in our daily lives.” St. Stephen.**

**“True happiness can only be found in a life devoted to serving others.” St. Stephen.**

*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) whose 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](http://www.pallotti.org)



Founder  
St. Vincent Pallotti

## Mass Intentions

*Saturday, December 14*

9:00am: Int. All those with Special Needs

5:00pm: †Bobot Paleracio

*Sunday, December 15*

9:00am: Int. Elvie de la Paz—Thanksgiving

11:00am: All parishioners, living & deceased

*Monday, December 16*

No Mass

*Tuesday, December 17*

9:00am: †José Ferreira

*Wednesday, December 18*

9:00am: †Joanne Kaiser

*Thursday, December 19*

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

*Friday, December 20*

9:00am: Int. Olivia D'Souza—Birthday

*Saturday, December 21*

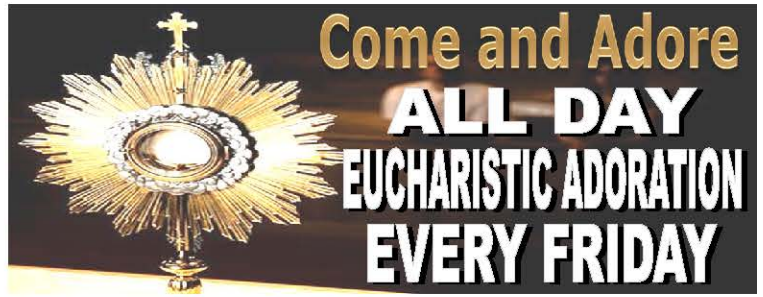
9:00am: Int. Rose and Lambert Risling

5:00pm: †Candida Reyes & †Tomasa Locso

*Sunday, December 22*

9:00am: †Maria Rajammal, 11th death anniversary

11:00am: All parishioners, living & deceased



## Mass Readings

*Saturday, Dec 14 (9am)*

Sirach 48.1-4, 9-11  
Matthew 17.9a, 10-13

*Sunday, Dec 15—3rd Sun-*

*day of Advent*  
Zephaniah 3.14-18a  
Philippians 4.4-7  
Luke 3.10-18

*Mon, Dec 16 (no Mass)*

Numbers 24.2-7, 15-17a  
Matthew 21.23-27

*Tuesday, Dec 17*

Genesis 49.2, 8-10  
Matthew 1.1-17

*Wednesday, Dec 18*

Jeremiah 23.5-8  
Matthew 1.18-25

*Thursday, Dec 19*

Judges 13.2-7, 24-25a  
Luke 1.5-25

*Friday, Dec 20*

Isaiah 7.10-14; 8.10d  
Luke 1.26-38

*Saturday, Dec 21 (9am)*

Zephaniah 3.14-18a  
Luke 1.39-45

*Sunday, Dec 22—4th Sunday of Advent*

Micah 5.2-5a  
Hebrews 10.5-10     Luke 1.39-45

## The Pope's Prayer Intention Dec 2024



**For pilgrims of hope** We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.



### Christmas Pageant Practices

will take place in the parish hall every Sunday after the 11am Mass.



**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.



**The 2025 Donation Envelopes are shipped and will be here shortly.**

**@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.



# Parish News Update

## THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Our parish is very happy to offer to you a free subscription to FORMED, commonly dubbed "Catholic Netflix". Sign up by searching our parish postal code, register your email and enjoy watching!



On behalf of the Augustine Institute, we are offering Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage to everyone this Advent and Christmas Season. In light of the separation we face as communities, this special documentary allows Catholics all around the world to unite and make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land to see the places associated with Christ's Birth.

**Office Hours over the holidays** The parish office will be open regular hours on Friday, December 20th and will be closed the following two weeks from Dec 23rd to January 3rd. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 7th at 9am. The final bulletin will be Dec 21/22 and will return Jan 11/12.

## UPCOMING BAPTISM PREP

### CLASSES



Sat. Jan. 4 at 9:30am  
Sat. Feb. 1 at 9:30am

**Please sign up via  
the office.**

We are looking for Prayer Partners for all the children making their 1st Reconciliation, 1st Communion, and Confirmation.

**You would not be meeting with the child**, you will just be keeping the child in your personal prayers. If you would be interested in committing to praying for one of our children, please contact Sebastian Correa of the Renewal Team:

[sebastian\\_systems@yahoo.com](mailto:sebastian_systems@yahoo.com)  
or Kelly Sereda  
[sacraments@stceciliacalgary.com](mailto:sacraments@stceciliacalgary.com)



## St. Vincent de Paul Society

403-252-2790 ext. 223



*We begin our Advent journey by giving ourselves some time to reflect on how much God promises us by inviting our Lord to be in our lives. We want to get in touch with ourselves, our desires, our emptiness, anxieties or worries, but especially those parts of ourselves that are in need of a Saviour. "Come, Lord. I feel my longing for you grow, my hope grow. And, as I place my hope in your promises, Advent begins to come alive in me."*

## PANTRY NEEDS

Thank you to everyone who has donated. We are thrilled to have had an overflowing pantry to fill our Christmas Hampers!

## Overview of scheduled events:

Dec 20: **Advent Penitential Service**, 6pm-8pm

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 5pm & 11pm

Dec 25: Christmas Day Mass 9am & 11am

Dec 31: New Year's Eve Mass 5pm & 11pm

Jan 1: New Year's Day Mass 9am & 11am

Jan 2: *Fr. Paul flies to India*

Feb. 12: *Fr. Paul arrives back to Calgary*

Mar. 5: **Ash Wednesday**

## SACRAMENT CLASSES

Confirmation Class 3: Dec 19, 7pm

1st Rec Class 4: Dec 28, 10am

1st Rec Class 5: Jan 11, 10am

Confirmation Class 4: Jan 16, 7pm

1st Rec Class 6: Jan 25, 10am

1st Com. Parent Session: Jan 30, 7pm

1st Com. Class 1: Feb 8, 10am

Confirmation Class 5: Feb 13, 7pm

1st Rec Celebration: Feb 22, 10am

Confirmation Class 6: Mar 6, 7pm

1st Com Class 2: Mar 8, 10am

1st Com Class 3: Mar 22, 10am

1st Com Class 4: Apr 12, 10am

1st Com Class 5: Apr 26, 10am

1st Com Class 6: May 24, 10am

1st Com Retreat: May 31, 10am

1st Com Celebration: June 1, 9am Mass

## **PENITENTIAL SERVICE**



**Friday, December 20th**

**6pm to 8pm**

**Next weekend Dec 21/22 is the last bulletin** until January 11/12. Mass Intentions will be printed in that bulletin up to Dec 31 and in the Christmas Letter up to January 11/12.

*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**

**2024 TIA GOAL: 31,539**  
Raised: \$10,385



## Our schools:

*Fr. Paul visits all 3 of our schools monthly, offering class visits, Confession, Adoration, and liturgies, all as requested.*



**St. Matthew School**  
Monthly Newsletter

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



**St. Cecilia School**  
Weekly Newsletter

<https://secure.smore.com/n/emyb5>



**St. William School**  
Monthly Newsletter

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

## ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES FOR SOUTH CALGARY



St. Anthony: Dec 17 (Tues) 7:30pm - 8:30pm

St. Bonaventure: Dec 17 (Tues) 7:00pm

Holy Spirit: Dec 18 (Wed) 7:30pm



### THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

to everyone for their donations and support of our Christmas Hampers and Angel Tree gift cards. Because of your generosity we were able to pack and deliver **79** hampers, which served **155** adults and **77** children. A big thank you as well to our three schools for gathering food donations. And of course, we could not have done this without our incredible volunteers who prepared and delivered the hampers, and to our kitchen crew who kept us nourished.





**YOU ARE called**  
 YOU MATTER.  
 YOU BELONG.

# Diocesan News

[NEWS.CalgaryDiocese.ca](http://NEWS.CalgaryDiocese.ca) | FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING in the DIOCESE.



*A message from*  
**BISHOP WILLIAM T. MCGRATTAN**

"As the People of God, let us join Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, as she continues her mission to help "remedy" the many "miserias, afflictions, and sorrows" of our brothers and sisters in Mexico.

In gratitude for what we have and are willing to share, I thank you for your generosity and in the sacrifices you make to support Mission Mexico."

**give now**  
**MISSION MEXICO.COM**



**Mission Mexico Day** | Join us in supporting **Mission Mexico Day on Dec 12**, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and **Mission Mexico Sunday on Dec 15 in the parishes**. These special days remind us of our call to walk in solidarity with marginalized communities in southern Mexico, providing vital support for education, healthcare, and sustainable development. Let us come together to share hope and transform lives through our generosity. **There will be a Second Collection on the Third Sunday of Advent (Dec. 14/15) for Mission Mexico.** Direct link to donate online - <https://www.catholicyyc.ca/donatemissionmexico.html>

## OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR



Celebrate the opening of the Jubilee Year with Bishop William T. McGrattan, rooted in the Church's tradition of spiritual renewal, forgiveness, and hope, as we journey together as "Pilgrims of Hope."



THE HOLY MASS *with*  
**BISHOP WILLIAM MCGRATTAN**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 AT NOON**

St. Mary's Cathedral  
 219 18 Ave SW  
 Calgary



**YOU ARE called**  
 YOU MATTER.  
 YOU BELONG.

Join us for the Opening Mass of the Jubilee Year on **Sunday, December 29, 2024, at Noon** at St. Mary's Cathedral. This special celebration, led by Bishop McGrattan, marks the beginning of the Holy Year 2025, themed "Pilgrims of Hope." All are welcome!



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DRIVING DOWN YOUR MAINTENANCE COSTS

**Diaconal Ordination of Peter An** | Join us as we celebrate with great joy the Ordination of Peter An to the Transitional Diaconate by the Most Reverend William T. McGrattan, Bishop of Calgary. **When:** Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, **Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024** at 5 pm, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Calgary.

**Fun Night with the Sisters** Inviting young women: Join us on **Fri, Jan 24, 2025, from 6–9 pm** at the FCJ Centre (219-19th Ave SW, Calgary) for an evening of pizza, games, conversations, and night prayer. Register by Jan 22 by email to [sisterdianne.turner@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:sisterdianne.turner@calgarydiocese.ca). Free-will offering. All are welcome!

**Prison Ministry** We are urgently seeking volunteers to lead the Liturgy of the Word and Rosary prayers at correctional facilities in the diocese. Serve with empathy and a heart for Jesus: "I was in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25:36). Please email [receptionist@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:receptionist@calgarydiocese.ca) or call 403-218-5500. [More info](#)

Check out new **career opportunities** in the Diocese:

- [Controller \(Full-time\)](#) (Pastoral Centre)
- [Bookkeeper \(Full-time\)](#) (Diocese)
- [Maintenance Worker \(Part-time\), Sacred Heart, Calgary](#)
- [Bookkeeper \(Part-time\), Holy Family, Medicine Hat](#)
- [Various Positions with Clear Water Academy](#)
- [Various Positions with Calgary Catholic School District](#)
- [Various Positions with Covenant Health](#)
- [Various Positions with Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools](#)
- [Various Positions with Conseil scolaire FrancoSud](#)

Visit [www.catholicyyc.ca/careers](http://www.catholicyyc.ca/careers) for more information and details.



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**WANTED:**

**K of C**

Men who would like to  
make a difference!

Len White: 403-271-6055

or [fs4878@kofc.ab.ca](mailto:fs4878@kofc.ab.ca)

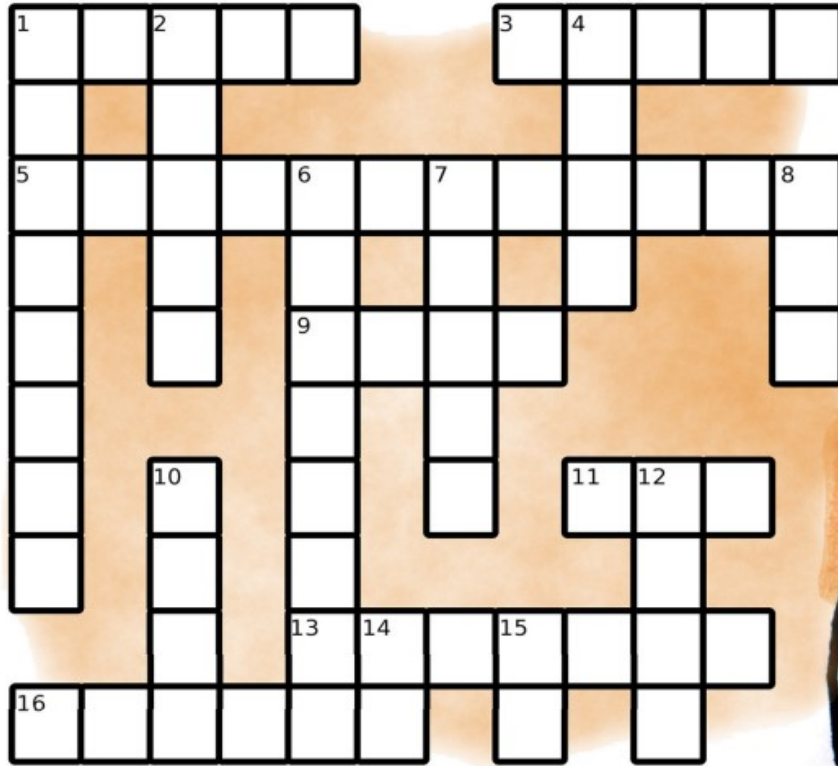
**Knights of Columbus**



Sunday, December 22nd <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	9:00am and 11:00am
Monday, December 23rd	<i>No Mass</i>
Tuesday, December 24th <i>Christmas Eve</i>	9:00am Daily Mass 5:00pm <i>Vigil Mass with Pageant</i> 11:00pm <i>Vigil Mass</i>
Wednesday, December 25th <i>Christmas Day</i>	9:00am and 11:00am
Thursday, December 26th	9:00am Daily Mass
Friday, December 27th	9:00am Daily Mass
Saturday, December 28th	9:00am Daily Mass 5:00pm Mass (Holy Family)
Sunday, December 29th <i>Holy Family</i>	9:00am and 11:00am
Monday, December 30th	<i>No Mass</i>
Tuesday, December 31st <i>New Year's Eve—Solemnity of the Mother of God</i>	9:00am Daily Mass 5:00pm <i>Vigil Mass</i> 11:00pm <i>Vigil Mass</i>
Wednesday, January 1st <i>New Year's Day—Solemnity of the Mother of God</i>	9:00am and 11:00am
Thursday, January 2nd	9:00am Daily Mass
Friday, January 3rd	9:00am Daily Mass
Saturday, January 4th	9:00am Daily Mass 5:00pm Mass (Epiphany)
Sunday, January 5th <i>Epiphany</i>	9:00am and 11:00am

# KIDS' PAGE

## Philippians 4 Cross-Word



Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom and fit them into the puzzle.  
a=across  
d=down



Brothers and \_\_\_\_\_ (13a): Rejoice in the \_\_\_\_\_  
 (12d) always. I \_\_\_\_\_ (3a) say \_\_\_\_\_ (14d)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (2d): rejoice! Your \_\_\_\_\_ (6d) should  
 be known \_\_\_\_\_ (15d) all. The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ (9a).  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (4d) no anxiety at \_\_\_\_\_ (11a), but in everything,  
 by prayer and \_\_\_\_\_ (1d), with  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (5a), make \_\_\_\_\_ (10d) requests  
 known to \_\_\_\_\_ (8d). Then the \_\_\_\_\_ (1a) of God that  
 surpasses all understanding will \_\_\_\_\_ (7d) your  
 hearts and minds in \_\_\_\_\_ (16a) Jesus.

GOD SHALL TO LORD YOUR  
 CHRIST ALL KINDNESS SISTERS  
 THANKSGIVING PEACE IT PETITION  
 NEAR AGAIN GUARD HAVE

DIRECTORY		
Pastor	Fr. V. Irudaya Paul Raj, SAC	403-700-9345
Parish Office	Christine Thibeault <a href="mailto:office@stceciliacalgary.com">office@stceciliacalgary.com</a>	403-252-2790
Choir Director/ Organist	Ross N. Ferby <a href="mailto:rossnferby@shaw.ca">rossnferby@shaw.ca</a>	403-253-6757
5pm Choir	Marie Hill	403-252-3456
Bookkeeper	David Mu	
Finance Council	George Fournier	403-271-4628
Parish Council	Joy Obah	403-975-4855
Maintenance	Christian Amizola <a href="mailto:st.cecilia.maintenance.coord@gmail.com">st.cecilia.maintenance.coord@gmail.com</a>	
Pastoral Care	Connie Claeys	403-931-4840
Altar Servers	Martin Elifoh	
Ministry	Kelly Sereda	
Scheduling	<a href="mailto:sacraments@stceciliacalgary.com">sacraments@stceciliacalgary.com</a>	
Sacrament Coordinator	Kelly Sereda <a href="mailto:sacraments@stceciliacalgary.com">sacraments@stceciliacalgary.com</a>	
Campus Flowers	Sandra Dawson	403 259-3829
Knights of Columbus	Danny Barth	403-278-4347
CWL	Pauline Michaniuk	403-899-0118
St. Vincent de Paul	Heather Sereda	403-252-2790 ext. 223 (voicemail)
Couples for Christ	George Fournier	403-804-8446
Library	Orly Alcantara	403-263-3510
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Lucia Graham Donna Suderman	403-710-7995 403-252-2718
Francis Klein Ctr		403-255-4480
Nat. Family Planning	Pavla D'Souza	403-278-9677
St. Matthew Sch	Josie Caruana (Principal)	403-500-2030
St. Cecilia's Sch	Denis Fortier (Principal)	403-500-2040
St. William Sch	Erin MacLachlan (Principal)	403-500-2055
Bible Study	Parish Office	403-252-2790
Youth Coordinator	Veronica Planicka	<a href="mailto:st.cecilaparish.youth@gmail.com">st.cecilaparish.youth@gmail.com</a>

ROOM BOOKINGS		
Mon	Dec 16	7:00pm—KofC (Auditorium)
Tues	Dec 17	9:00am— <b>MASS (rosary at 8:30am)</b> 7:00pm—RCIA (Auditorium) 7:00pm—CWL Potluck (Hall)
Wed	Dec 18	9:00am— <b>MASS (rosary at 8:30am)</b> 7:00pm—Sunday Choir Practice
Thur	Dec 19	9:00am— <b>MASS (rosary at 8:30am)</b> 11:00am—Funeral †Juanita Villaruel 7:00pm—Confirmation Class
Fri	Dec 20	9:00am— <b>MASS (rosary at 8:30am)</b> 9:30am—Adoration All Day 3:00pm— <b>Divine Mercy</b> 5:00pm—Legion of Mary—(Board) <b>6pm-8pm—PENITENTIAL SERVICE</b>
Sat	Dec 21	9:00am— <b>MASS (rosary at 8:30am)</b> 3:00pm-4:00pm— <b>CONFESSION</b> 5:00pm— <b>MASS</b>
Sun	Dec 22	9:00am— <b>MASS</b> 11:00am— <b>MASS</b> 12:00pm—Pageant Practice (Hall)



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**TAX TIME** 2024 donations must be in by December 31st. All cheques dated after December 31, 2024 will not be included in your 2024 Tax Receipt.