

ST. CECILIA'S PARISH

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



Unless you *repent*
you will all perish
as they did.

† † †

Luke 13:5



YOU
ARE
called

YOU MATTER.
YOU BELONG.



GOOD FRIDAY MASS AT
ASCENSION CATHOLIC PARISH, AB



THIRD SUNDAY
OF LENT

March 22-23, 2025

MASS TIMES & PARISH INFO

Parish priest:

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

Administrative Assistant:

Christine Thibeault
office@stceceliacalgary.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.

YOUTH NEWS

Every First Friday beginning with the 7pm Mass which is now run by the Youth Group. Meeting concludes by 9pm.

Next meetings:
Apr 4, May 2, June 6

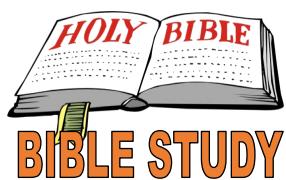
Prayer Shawl Ministry: last Tuesday of the month after the 9am Mass. New knitters welcome. Yarn is available. 



Next meet: March 25th

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.

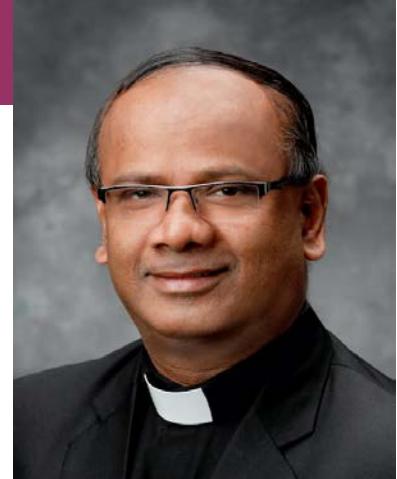


FR. PAUL'S COLUMN

SAINT OF THE WEEK

ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA

MARCH 17TH



St Joseph of Arimathea early years little is known except that he was the **son of wealthy of a noble parent** who were very pious **lived in Arimathea**, a city of the Jews. He was taught sacred scriptures and **knew the coming of the Savior and Redeemer** as foretold by the Holy Prophets.

St. Jospeh of Arimathea was a **counselor** and had the position of an **honorable and respected member of the Sanhedrin**, the Jewish Council in Jerusalem. He was a **good man, just, virtuous and righteous** and was himself awaiting the kingdom of God.

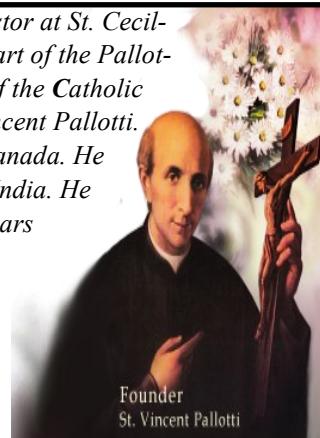
St. Jospeh of Arimathea was a **disciple of Jesus**, but he did not declare himself as such for fear of the Jews. On account of this secret allegiance to Jesus, he **did not consent to His condemnation** by the Sanhedrin, and was most likely absent from the meeting which sentenced Jesus to death.

St. Jospeh of Arimathea went boldly unto Pilate and begged from him the body of Jesus. He **along with St. Nicodemus, removed Christ's body from the Cross**, prepared it for burial, and **placed it in his own sepulcher**. When the Jewish spies found out about this told their authorities and they **imprisoned him**. Sometime later the Jews released St. Joseph from prison and **banished him from Jerusalem**. He then traveled throughout the whole world **preaching the Gospel**, eventually **sowing the seeds of salvation in Britain**, where he reposed peacefully in the Lord.

St. Jospeh of Arimathea is the **Patron saint of funeral directors**.

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*



Founder
St. Vincent Pallotti

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 22

9:00am: Int. Betty Gregorash—Birthday
5:00pm: †Juanita Villaruel

Sunday, March 23

9:00am: †Rémi Maillot
11:00am: All parishioners, living & deceased

Monday, March 24

No Mass

Tuesday, March 25

9:00am: †Art Suderman

Wednesday, March 26

9:00am: †Tonia Gomes

Thursday, March 27

9:00am: †Nicola Pagliano

Friday, March 28

9:00am: †Luz Bernardo

Saturday, March 29

9:00am: †Leon Osino & deceased relatives

5:00pm: †Marcella Leung

Sunday, March 30

9:00am: †Herminio Cruz

11:00am: All parishioners, living & deceased



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.



Mass Readings

Saturday, Mar 22 (9am)

Micah 7.14-15, 18-20
Luke 15.1-3, 11-32

Sunday, Mar 23—Lent 3

Exodus 3.1-8a, 13-15
1 Corinthians 10.1-6, 10-12
Luke 13.1-9

Mon, Mar 24 (no Mass)

2 Kings 5.1-15a
Luke 4.24-30

Tuesday, Mar 25—

Anunciation
Isaiah 7.10-14; 8.10d
Hebrews 10.4-10
Luke 1.26-38

Wednesday, Mar 26

Deuteronomy 4.1, 5-9
Matthew 5.17-19

Thursday, Mar 27

Jeremiah 7.23-28
Luke 11.14-23

Friday, Mar 28

Hosea 14.1-9
Mark 12.28b-34

Saturday, Mar 29 (9am)

Hosea 5.15b—6.6
Luke 18.9-14

Sunday, Mar 30—4th Sunday of Lent

Joshua 5.9a, 10.-12
2 Corinthians 5.17-21
Luke 15.1-3, 11-32

The Pope's Prayer Intention March 2025



For families in crisis Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

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.



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!



Dr. Elizabeth Klein and Taylor Kemp discuss the historical life of St. Patrick. Captured multiple times by pirates, St. Patrick escaped slavery and returned to his land of captivity to preach the Gospel to a pagan people. Living during a time of great plagues, St. Patrick preached the good news of a God who embraces suffering. His feast day is March 17.

While the Gospel has not preserved any of his words, his actions have resounded through the ages. Joseph of Nazareth stands out as the model par excellence of Christian virtue, a brilliant example of obedience to God and trust in Divine Providence. His role as protector of families in the difficulties of life and Patron of the universal Church has never been more clearly needed.



Fr. Robert Spitzer, a Jesuit scientist and scholar on the Shroud of Turin, offers some amazing facts about the Shroud, including what we can learn about the Crucifixion from what we see on the cloth. He also talks about the infamous carbon dating claims (they've been scientifically debunked). If you've ever wondered how seriously we can take the Shroud of Turin, you have to see this episode!

BAPTISM PREP CLASSES

Sat. Apr 5 at 9:30am
Sat. May 3 at 9:30am

Please sign up via the office.



STATIONS of the CROSS

Every Friday during Lent at 7pm

Mar 21	Parish & Finance Council
Mar 28	Couples For Christ
Apr 4 7:30pm	Youth & Altar Servers
Apr 11	Pastoral Care, SSVP, Bible Study
Apr 18 10am	Good Friday Way of the Cross

Parish **RENEWAL**

A huge thank you to the families and the volunteers who attended our first Renewal Lunch. The next lunch on April 27th will be a gathering for the 2024 1st Reconciliation and 1st Communion children and their families.



St. Vincent de Paul Society

403-252-2790 ext. 223



PANTRY NEEDS

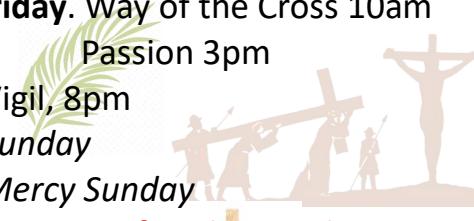
Jam

Mayo/Whipped Dressing

During Lent we can reflect upon who in our lives need us and whether we love them as we want to be loved. And we can look at the deeper things, like our anger or how we treat others, and our response to those who are our "enemies." What is most important, beyond a sharper examination of our consciences, is to see this as a time for God's grace to work in us and a time to ask God for the graces we need.

Overview of scheduled events:

Mar 21: Stations of the Cross, 7pm
Mar 28: Stations of the Cross, 7pm
Apr 4: Stations of the Cross, 7:30pm
Apr 10: LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE 6-8pm
Apr 11: Stations of the Cross, 7pm
Apr 13: Palm Sunday
Apr 17: **Holy Thursday**, 8pm Mass
Apr 18: **Good Friday**. Way of the Cross 10am
Passion 3pm



Apr 19: Easter Vigil, 8pm
Apr 20: *Easter Sunday*
Apr 27: Divine Mercy Sunday

May 3-4: GARAGE SALE if we have volunteers

Please let us know if you can help. We need people to receive, sort and put price stickers on items.

May 31: Fr. Paul's birthday

June 22: Corpus Christi Procession 12pm

July 6: Stampede Breakfast if we have volunteers

Please let us know if you can help. We need people to setup/takedown tables & chairs, prepare & serve various foods, collect refuse, etc

10-Minute Way of the Cross

Throughout Lent we do the 10-minute Way of the Cross after each Mass on the weekend. We encourage as many of you to stay as possible.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday (Apr 13): 9am & 11am
Holy Thursday (Apr 17): 8pm
Good Friday (Apr 18): 10am Outdoor Way of the Cross, Passion at 3pm
Easter Vigil (Apr 19): 8pm
Easter Sunday (Apr 20): 9am & 11am

SACRAMENT CLASSES

1st Com Class 3: Mar 22, 10am
1st Com Class 4: Apr 12, 10am
1st Com Class 5: Apr 26, 10am
Confirmation Celebration: May 21, 7pm
1st Com Class 6: May 24, 10am
1st Com Retreat: May 31, 10am
1st Com Celebration: June 1, 9am Mass

Our schools:

Fr. Paul visits all 3 of our schools monthly, offering class visits, Confession, Adoration, and liturgies, all as requested. As well, if your child has received an award or accomplishment, please let Father Paul know so he can recognize them to the parish!

 **St. Matthew School**
Monthly Newsletter
<https://stmatthew.cssd.ab.ca/newsletters>

 **St. Cecilia School**
Weekly Newsletter
<https://secure.smore.com/n/v2z7tk>

Playground Donation Link:
<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/ParksFoundationCalgary/schools.html>

BOTTLE DRIVE—Sunday, March 30th 10am—2pm
Save your empties to support our playground! The playground will be removed this summer. Currently enough funds have not been raised to begin the replacement. Please place bottles at the front of your home for pickup, or drop-off at the school. **We need your help!**

 **St. William School**
Monthly Newsletter
<https://stwilliam.cssd.ab.ca/newsletters>

Lenten Penitential Service

Thursday, April 10
6:00pm—8:00pm



YOU
ARE
called
YOU MATTER.
YOU BELONG.
catholicyc.ca/
RENEWAL

Diocesan News

NEWS.CalgaryDiocese.ca | FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING *in the DIOCESE.*

Bishops raise serious concerns about threats to charitable status designation

On Monday, 10 March 2025, the members of the Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) expressed their grave concern regarding two recommendations made by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance within [Report 21: Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2025 Budget](#). These recommendations (#429 and #430), if adopted, would be profoundly detrimental to Canada's charitable sector, because they would:

- Revoke the charitable status of "anti-abortion organizations" (#429);
- Amend the *Income Tax Act* such that "the advancement of religion" would no longer qualify as a legitimate purpose for granting charitable status. (#430)

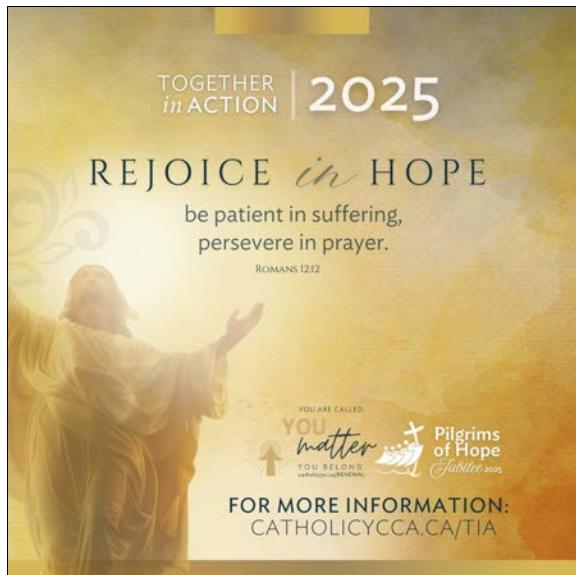
After consulting widely, including with experts in charity law, the members of the Permanent Council sent a letter to the Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Finance, defending the value and role of faith-based charities for Canadian society, as well as the unfairness of targeting pro-life organizations. They urged the government to abandon the two recommendations and to conduct comprehensive consultations within the charitable sector before embarking on any legislative changes that could threaten the viability of charitable organizations and adversely affect the millions of Canadians who depend on them for essential services and support.

Letters were sent to:

[Letter to The Hon. Dominic Leblanc, P.C, M.P., Minister of Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs](#)

[Letter to The Hon. Pierre Poilievre, P.C, M.P., Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, Leader of the Opposition](#)

[Letter to The Hon. Mark Holland, P.C., M.P., Minister of Health](#)



Thank you for your dedication and generosity in supporting **Together in Action 2024**! Your contributions have made a real difference, helping sustain vital ministries and outreach programs across the diocese. And now we are excited to launch *Together in Action 2025*, inspired by Romans 12:12: "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer."

2025 Outdoor Way of the Cross—Fri. April 18, 8:30am at St. Mary's

Join Bishop McGrattan and the faithful of the Diocese of Calgary for the Outdoor Way of the Cross, now returning to its Downtown route. This solemn pilgrimage invites us to walk together in prayer and reflection on the **Passion of Christ**, meditating on His suffering, sacrifice, and love for the world. The journey begins at **St. Mary's Cathedral** at 8:30 am. All are welcome to take part in this powerful witness of faith.

Pray for our RCIA Candidates

Faith overflowed at the Cathedral last Sunday as 371 elect - a 67% increase from last year - answered God's call. Hallelujah! Let us keep them all in our prayers. Here at St. Cecilia's we have two candidates entering the Church at the Easter Vigil.

Pastoral Care Ministry Training

If you are called to minister to the sick, elderly, dying, homebound, and bereaved - and approved by your pastor or Pastoral Care Coordinator, you can register for the Pastoral Care Ministry Training at catholicyyc.ca/pastoralcare or contact Mara at 403-218-5521.

Sat, May 24 & Jun 7, 9:30 am - 3 pm at Ascension Parish, Calgary. Register by May 21 at catholicyyc.ca/pastoralcare

The Diocese of Calgary is on a [journey of Renewal](#)—but Renewal isn't about programs or plans. Renewal begins with you. A personal Renewal draws us closer to Jesus, and when we grow in Him, we become better disciples. This Lent, we invite you to take up the challenge of personal Renewal. No pressure, no perfection—just a step toward Christ. Consider these simple ways to pray for renewal in our heart, our parish, and our diocese this Lenten season:

Pray daily the [Holy Spirit Prayer](#), asking for Renewal in your heart, parish, and diocese.

Pray the Rosary with the intention of Renewal.

Offer up a Mass—try attending a weekday Mass.

Spend time in [Adoration](#), resting in Christ's presence.

Pray the [Way of the Cross](#), reflecting on His sacrifice.

Practice [Friday abstinence or fasting](#) as an offering for Renewal.

Simply pray: "Holy Spirit, show me what I can do for Renewal."

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

NEW! [Payroll & Benefits Coordinator \(Full-time\)](#)

NEW! [Accounts Receivable Clerk \(Full-time\)](#)

NEW! [Administrative Assistant \(Part-time\) - St. James, Okotoks](#)

[Administrative Assistant \(Part-time, Temporary\) - St. Ambrose/St. Catherine's, Coaldale/Picture Butte](#)

[Sacrament Preparation Coordinator \(Part-time\) - St. James, Okotoks](#)

[Various Positions with St. Mary's University | Calgary Catholic School District | Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools | Holy Spirit Catholic School Division | Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education | Conseil scolaire FrancoSud | Clear Water Academy | Covenant Health](#)

Visit www.catholicyyc.ca/careers for more information and details.



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Knights of Columbus

KIDS' PAGE

The Burning Bush Word-Find

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

*See if you can find
all the words
in CAPITALS
in this story.*



*The left over letters
tell what the
Israelites in Egypt
wanted:*

A _____

MOSES was looking after the sheep of his father-in-law, JETHRO, on Mount HOREB. Suddenly he noticed a BUSH that was BLAZING like FIRE, but it wasn't burning up! He came FORWARD to look closer, but GOD spoke from the FLAME, saying "Come no nearer. TAKE your SHOES OFF, for this is HOLY GROUND. I am the God of your fathers-of ABRAHAM, ISAAC and JACOB." Moses was AFRAID to LOOK at God, and covered his FACE. The LORD said, "I HAVE seen the MISERABLE state of my people in EGYPT and heard their cry to be FREE. I will DELIVER them from their SUFFERING and bring them to a new LAND."

DIK E C T O R Y

Pastor	Fr. V. Irudaya Paul Raj, SAC	403-700-9345
Parish Office	Christine Thibeault office@stceceliacalgary.com	403-252-2790
Choir Director/ Organist	Ross N. Ferby rossnferby@shaw.ca	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 st.cecilia.maintenance.coord@gmail.com	
Pastoral Care	Connie Claeys	403-931-4840
Altar Servers	Martin Elifoh	
Ministry Scheduling	Kelly Sereda sacraments@stceceliacalgary.com	
Sacrament Coordinator	Kelly Sereda sacraments@stceceliacalgary.com	
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	403-710-7995
	Donna Suderman	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	Teresa Cusano (Principal)	403-500-2040
St. William Sch	Erin MacLachlan (Principal)	403-500-2055
Bible Study	Parish Office	403-252-2790
Youth Coordinator	Veronica Planicka	st.cecilaparish.youth@gmail.com

ROOM BOOKINGS

Mon	Mar 24	
Tues	Mar 25	9:00am— MASS (rosary at 8:30am) 9:30am—Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00am—Bible Study (Boardroom) 7:00pm—RCIA (Auditorium) 7:00pm—SSVP (Library)
Wed	Mar 26	9:00am— MASS (rosary at 8:30am)
Thur	Mar 27	9:00am— MASS (rosary at 8:30am) 7:00pm—Parish Council (Boardroom) 7:00pm—Couples For Christ (Auditorium)
Fri	Mar 28	9:00am— MASS (rosary at 8:30am) 3:00pm—Divine Mercy 5:30pm—Legion of Mary—(Boardroom) 7:00pm— STATIONS OF THE CROSS 
Sat	Mar 29	9:00am— MASS (rosary at 8:30am) 3:00pm-4:00pm—CONFESION 5:00pm— MASS 6:00pm—Couples For Christ (Auditorium)
Sun	Mar 30	9:00am— MASS 11:00am— MASS



St. Cecilia's CWL will be having continuous ticket sales after all masses for a 50/50 draw, starting next Sunday, March 30th. They are raising funds for a new dishwasher in the parish kitchen. The first draw will be on Mother's Day after the 11:00 AM mass. We kindly ask for your support. Any donations are welcome and if given to the church, marked CWL, you will get a tax receipt.



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