

# Sacred Heart Church

Founded in 1910



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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20, 2015

### Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00 pm (Vigil Mass)  
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm

### Weekday Schedule Monday to Friday

Rosary 11:40 am  
Angelus 12:00 noon  
Mass 12:05 pm  
Wednesday 10:30 am Mt. Royal Care Center

**Friday** Exposition follows the 12:05 pm Mass

Adoration for Vocations 1:30 pm

Benediction 2:45 pm

**Morning Prayer** Sunday, 8:30 am

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00 pm. (Confessions may also be arranged by request).

**Office Hours:** Monday to Friday: 9 am - 3 pm  
Closed 12 noon to 12:30 pm

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** *And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? (Luke 1:43)*



The Lord comes to Elizabeth through the person of her cousin Mary. She greets Mary with an embrace and marvels at the presence of the Lord in her midst. The Lord is born to us each day through many vessels. How do you receive Him in your midst?

### WHO IS JESUS?

Jesus is Emmanuel (God with-us), Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, God's grace revealed, the Holy Spirit shared, a baby borne among us by the Virgin Mary. He is the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed, God's chosen, the Savior foretold by the prophets. He is the creating word of God made flesh, dwelling among us. Because of Him, we are God's holy people, the Lord's redeemed, City of the Most High and Christ's body.

Now we celebrate his birth in mystery!



Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C. Illustration © 1998 S. Erspamer  
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*We are a welcoming and caring community dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
helping each other discover who God is calling us to be."*

**Pastor** Rev Edmund Vargas **Associate Pastor** Rev Colin O'Rourke **Deacon/Business Manager** Deacon Paul Kennedy **Parish Secretaries** Beata Banka / Cathy Munro **Pastoral Assistant** Karen Howells **Music Director** Barbara Orlowska **Pastoral Council** Claire Hagel **Finance Council** Michael Walsh **Arts & Environment Committee** Vacant **Children's Liturgy** Linda Mackie **Pastoral Health Care** Vacant **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** Lisa Gilead/Patricia Tsang **Lectors** Shirley Teasdale **Weekday Liturgy** Addie Dedio **Altar Servers** Sogna Stipanov **Hospitality Ministry** Vacant **Stewardship** Contact the Office **RCIA** Robert Perrin / Karen Howells **Liturgy Committee** Karen Howells **CD's, Booklets Ministry** Darlene Moriarty **Inn from the Cold** Mike Swanson / Red Armstrong **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** Red Armstrong **Annual Bishop's Appeal** Ed Marchand **CWL** Anna Marinelli / Janet MacPhee **Reception** Stephanie Hugo **Knights of Columbus** Lorne Gartner **Fire in the Rose** Jane Oxenbury **Marriage Preparation** Peter & Leah Lavoie **Building Committee** Terry Allen **In-residence** Rev Gilles Le Blanc.



### **The Joy of the Messiah's Presence**

As the season of Advent draws to a close, we reflect now on a slightly different aspect of this time in the liturgical year, one that has been subtly underlying some of the previous themes we have encountered throughout this season, but which has now come into full view. It is the theme of joy which ought to fill our souls as we venture ever closer to the ultimate moment of God's manifestation to us – the moment of the Incarnation, the presence of Emmanuel "God with us."

We have already encountered the themes of penance and preparation. We have heard the voice of the one in the wilderness calling us to repentance, asking us to prepare a way in the desert of our hearts for God. We have encountered the warnings of watchfulness and the admonition to be awake and ready. Now, as the day approaches, we are given an indication of the joy that can be ours, a joy that comes as a result of our preparation, our watchfulness, and our making a way for God in our lives. It is the joy that comes with the very presence of the Messiah himself.

In the gospel reading for this Sunday we are presented with Mary's visitation of Elizabeth. As Mary greets Elizabeth, two things happen almost at once. First, the babe, that is John the Baptist, leaps for joy in his mother's womb, and second, Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaims with a loud cry: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." The presence of our Lord, even in Mary's womb, has brought the gift of joy and the Holy Spirit. Mary gives to Elizabeth and her son the presence of the Messiah, and in the giving of this presence comes the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the gift of messianic joy—the joy of salvation that comes with the knowledge that the long awaited Messiah had arrived.

It is this joy of the presence of Christ, a joy reflected in the reactions of Elizabeth and John in their encounter, that we open ourselves up to as we prepare for Christmas, as we prepare for our own encounter with Christ. If we have been diligent in our preparations throughout this season of Advent, then we have prepared ourselves to receive the presence of Christ into our hearts and into our lives, and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in and through which we will be filled with true joy. This is what the joy of Christmas is really all about. May such a joy fill all of us to overflowing such that we too, with Elizabeth and John, may leap and shout in exaltation at the coming of our lord and Saviour.

**WELCOME!** Registration as well as volunteer forms are available at the Hospitality Desk or online. Have them completed and placed in the collection basket. Donation envelopes are also available at the Hospitality Desk.

**BAPTISMS** are celebrated outside of Mass every fourth Sunday at 12:15 pm and during Mass on other weekends, that, first Sunday at 9:00 am, second Sunday at 11:00 am and third weekend on Saturday at 5:00 pm, Baptisms are discouraged during the Lenten season. The next Baptism Preparation Class will be on January 16 2016 at 9:00 am. Please call the office to set up an appointment to register.

**WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS** are arranged only after an initial interview with a Priest or Deacon. Next Marriage Preparation Class is on March 4 and 5, 2016. Contact office for details.

**THE PASTORAL HEALTH CARE TEAM** welcomes the opportunity to visit and bring the Eucharist to our housebound parishioners. Please call the Parish office to schedule visits.

**SACRAMENTAL PREP DATES:** All classes held Sundays 12:00 noon, in Housey Hall. Confirmation 2016: Feb 14-Mar 13 Celebration Mar 20, First Holy Eucharist 2016: May 1-May 22 Celebration May 29. Register at office.

**OUR WEBSITE.** [www.sacredheartcalgary.ca](http://www.sacredheartcalgary.ca) is our domain name. Check it out and forward your comments. For more information, please call the Parish during office hours (9:00 am - 3:00 pm).

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY.** Program runs from September through May at the 9:00 & 11:00 am Mass. (11 am Summer Songs Program). Please call the office for details.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** is open to all Catholic men over age 18. We meet in the Columbus room the first Tuesday of the month.

**NEW LIFE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COMMUNITY** holds Worship & Praise Service every Sunday, 2-4 pm, in the church. For details, call Joseph Gingo at (403) 390-0724.

**CWL (Catholic Women's League)** invites all ladies of the parish over 16 years of age to join them. For details, contact Anna Marinelli at 403-245-1654.

**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)** is offered year-round for those thinking about becoming a Catholic or completing sacraments of initiation. Please call Karen at 244-2741 ex.234.

 **Christmas Hampers – A special Thank You to All who generously donated to this year Christmas Hampers Program.** The request for Christmas Hampers increase this year to 80 and about the same number of presents for the children were requested. At this busy time of year we are especially mindful and grateful for all the work our **amazing volunteers carry out with love and dedication** to make sure all the hampers are wrapped and deliver to all in need. ***We would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year. God Bless.***



### Fire in the Rose.

After Mary conceived Jesus, she was at risk of shame and ridicule being an unwed mother. God chose Joseph to take her as his wife and he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, taking her into his home.

As we await the arrival of Jesus, let us remember the obedience of Joseph with his love and caring for Mary. Men hold a special role in the prevention of violence against women and children. They can learn to handle their anger in a constructive manner, teach their children to develop healthy relationships and support violence prevention initiatives in our parish and communities.

*Merry Christmas from Fire in the Rose.*

*If you have interest in joining Fire in the Rose, or want more information, contact Jane Oxenbury at 403-255-7004/ jmoxenbury@shaw.ca.*



**Holy Days of Obligation:** In addition to Sundays, the days to be observed as holy days of obligation in the Canadian dioceses are as follows: **December 25**, the solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ and **January 1**, the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

**Christmas Office Hours:** The Office will be closed from Noon December 24th through December 28th. We will be open December 29th and 30th from 9 am to 3 pm. We will be closed from December 31st through January 1st. We will be open once again on Monday, January 4th.



**Christmas & New Year's Mass Times:** Christmas Masses Times December 24th will be at 7 pm & 10 pm on with carols beginning half hour before Mass and December 25th 7:30, 9:00, & 11:00 am. Dec 31 5:00 pm and January 1st 7:30, 9:00, & 11:00 am.



**GriefShare Program at St. Michael Catholic Community - Have you lost a loved one recently? Or do you know someone who does?** The grief support ministry invites individuals who have experienced loss of loved ones, and would like to participate in a GriefShare Program for 2 hours every Tuesday evening for 8 weeks. This program consists of a **video seminar** (Christian based with personal stories from Christian experts who had experienced grief); **group support discussions** with facilitators and **personal workbook**. This program will start on January 26, Tuesday 7 pm. For registration-contact Parish Office : [403-249.0423](tel:403-249.0423)

### How are we doing financially?

	YTD Budget	As of Nov. 30
Regular Collection	\$ 361,600	\$ 342,680
Building Fund	\$ 127,600	\$ 252,973
	<b>2015 Target</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>
Together In Action	\$ 62,254	\$ 65,145



**Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Rejoice in God's Mercy Wednesday, December 23 7:30-8:30 pm. In addition to the regular parish schedule.



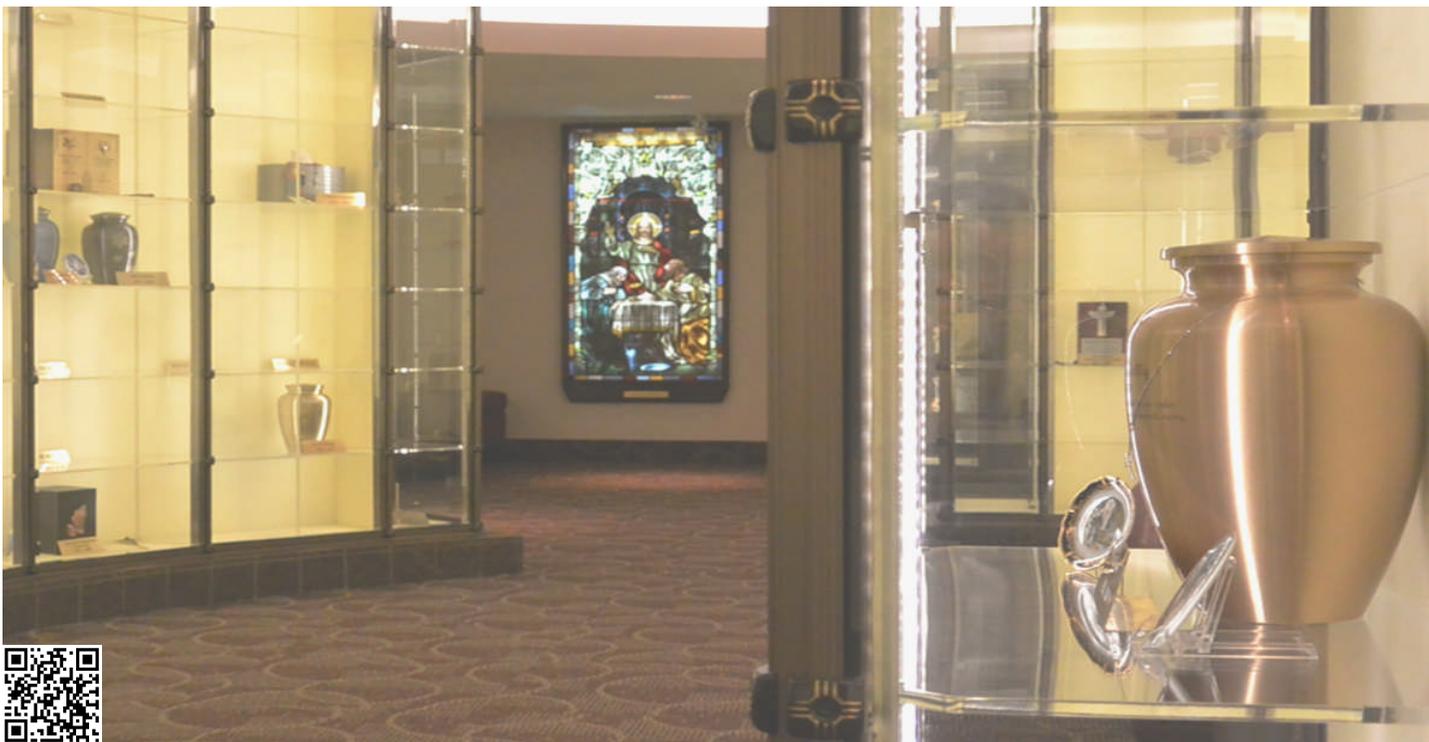
**Under a Starry Sky.** A New Christmas Musical - Take a Christmas Journey from Why to Bethlehem and everywhere in between. Dec 17-23, Symons Valley United Church Theater Tickets \$20.00 adults, \$10.00 children. Contact information: [chorusfoundation.ca](http://chorusfoundation.ca) events or 1-877-783-2372.



**Sacred Heart CWL Scholarship Presentation:** On December 20 at the 11:00 mass, the Sacred Heart CWL will be presenting its annual scholarship to Salena Maxwell. Join us after the mass for a reception to be held in the narthex. All are welcome to offer congratulations to **Salena**.

### Celebrations & Intentions

Sun, December 20	7:30 am	Vergel Magtalas	RIP
	9:00 am	Paul Mettler	RIP
	11:00 am	Parishioners	SI
	5:00 pm	Special Intention	SI
Mon, December 21	12:05 pm	Marion Tyo	RIP
Tues, December 22	12:05 pm	Carlos Aguilera	RIP
Wed, December 23	10:30 am	Jozeph Vu	RIP
	12:05 pm	Irene Denis Brown	RIP
Thurs, December 24	12:05 pm	Emmanuel & Rose Marie Allonce	RIP
	7:00 pm	Holy Family	SI
	10:00 pm	Special Intention	SI
Fri, December 25	7:30 am	Special Intention	SI
	9:00 am	Valerie Schilling	RIP
	11:00 am	Parishioners	SI
Sat, December 26	5:00 pm	Joyce and James McCone	RIP
Sun, December 27	7:30 am	Evelyne McLashrip	RIP
	9:00 am	Special Intention	SI
	11:00 am	Parishioners	SI
	5:00 pm	Special Intention	SI



**Sacred Heart Columbarium: Holy See and Holy Land Columbaria.**

Open daily: 11 am to 6 pm - Holidays 11 am to 1 pm.

A reminder the next Columbarium Memorial Mass will be on **Saturday, Jan 9, at 9:00 a.m.**

**Sacred Heart Columbarium Update:** Purchases to date total 301 niches valued at \$1,525,786. We have placed 160 urns of family members to date in the Columbaria. We have only 1 double niche remaining available in the centre section of Holy Land Columbarium. Hours are 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM Monday to Sunday **except December 25 - open 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Holiday Hours & December 26 – closed.**

Planning Ahead? – Think about it! Do you decide where your remains will be placed or will that decision be made by others based strictly on the cost. It is your choice. Planning ahead works better.

For more information, or you would like to book a tour of our beautiful and peaceful facility, please call Deacon Paul Kennedy (403) 244 – 2741 extension 231; email: [busmgr@sacredheartcalgary.ca](mailto:busmgr@sacredheartcalgary.ca) or website: [www.columbariumcalgary.ca](http://www.columbariumcalgary.ca)

**Door replacements.** With the upcoming Jubilee of Mercy, we are looking at replacing the wood panel door of the Reconciliation Room on the North side with a 10mm all-glass door with the rendering of Rembrandt's Prodigal Son drawing quoted at \$2,535.75 (door) plus \$1000 (artwork).



We also need sponsorship for a replacement door in the front north entrance (old wood door to be replaced with the more efficient glass/aluminum door) quoted at \$4,991.02

**"Chance 2 Enhance" car raffle for Catholic Education.**

After all masses on Jan 16th and 17th, please consider buying a ticket (\$20 each or 3 for \$50 – cash only) and help support the Catholic Education Foundation. Your assistance to ensure the continued support of learning opportunities for students in academics, art and sport programs would be appreciated. Please contact Anna Marinelli for more information at 403-245-1654



**Inn From The Cold Ministry.** We will host Inn from the Cold on Monday, Jan. 4, 2016. We are in need of volunteers as well as donations of personal hygiene products and underwear. As always thank you very much to everyone for your ongoing support. We wish you a Very Merry Christmas. To learn more or to volunteer contact Mike Swanson at [mikeswansonQC@gmail.com](mailto:mikeswansonQC@gmail.com).

In and around the Parish 2015		
December 19	Christmas Hampers	7:00 AM - 4:00 PM
December 24	Christmas Eve Mass	7:00 PM 10:00 PM
December 25	Christmas Day Mass	7:30 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM