

Ascension Catholic Parish

Sharing the Spirit Together in Christ

1100 Berkshire Boulevard NW, Calgary, AB T3K 3M3 | Phone: 403.275.2240 | Fax: 403.274.3969 | www.ascensionparish.ca

Salt of the earth. Light of the world.

Mass Times:

Weekday Masses:

Monday - Saturday:
9:00 AM

Tuesday - Friday:
6:30 PM

Wednesday: *Mother of Perpetual Help Novena*
at 6:15 PM

Weekend Masses:

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday:
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM,
12:00 PM & 4:00 PM

Reconciliation:

Tuesday - Saturday:
8:30 AM - 8:55 AM

Tuesday - Friday:
6:00 PM - 6:25 PM

Saturday:
4:00 PM - 4:45 PM

Sunday:
7:00 AM - 7:45 AM

By Appointment

Adoration & Benediction:

Monday - Friday:
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM

First Friday:
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
(*Sacred Heart Novena & Benediction*)

Today in the Gospel we receive an important instruction on the mission of the community. It should be the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Mt 5:13-16). Salt does not exist for itself, but to give flavor to the food. Light does not exist for itself, but for the service of people. At the time when Matthew wrote his Gospel, this mission was very difficult for the communities of converted Jews. Although they were living in faithful observance of the Law of Moses, they were expelled from the synagogues, cut away from their Jewish past. Regarding this, among the converted pagans, some said, "After the coming of Jesus, the Law of Moses has become obsolete." All this caused tension and uncertainty. The openness of some seemed to be criticism of the observance of others, and vice versa. This conflict brought about a crisis which led many to become adamant in their own position. Some wanted to advance, to go ahead, while others wanted to place the light under the table. Many asked themselves, "In the final analysis, what is our mission?" Recalling and updating the words of Jesus, Matthew tries to help them.

Salt of the earth. By using images of daily life, with simple and direct words, Jesus makes known what the mission is and the reason for being a Christian community: to be salt. At that time, when it was very hot, people and animals needed to consume much salt. The salt, which was delivered by merchants in great blocks in the public square, was consumed by the people. What remained fell to the ground and lost its savor. "It no longer serves for anything, but it is thrown out and trampled under people's feet." Jesus recalls this practice in order to clarify for the disciples the mission which they have to carry out.

Light of the world. The comparison is obvious. Nobody lights a candle and places it under the tub. A city built on the hill top cannot be hidden. The community should be light; it should enlighten. It should not be afraid to show the good that it does. It does not do it to make itself seen, but what it does can be seen. The salt does not exist for itself. The light does not exist for itself. This is how the community should be. It cannot remain enclosed in itself. "Your light must shine in people's sight, so that seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in Heaven."

Personal reflection:

- Those Jesus sent on the mission went out and did not sit at home or in an office waiting to be visited. How do we "go out" to meet others and other communities near and far on our mission, as individuals, as an individual local community, or as a larger community?



Matthew 5:13-16



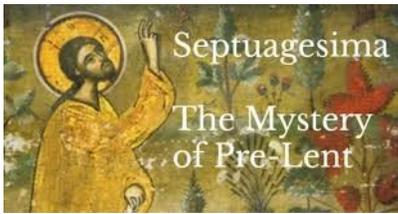
Stations of the Cross & Soup

Stations of the Cross or the Way of the Cross - is a Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day, we can imagine ourselves walking with Jesus on this journey.

Please join us every Friday, from February 28 to April 3 – Rosary at 6:00pm, Mass at 6:30pm, Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm, followed by Soup and Bread. Each week different Ministries in our Parish will host the Stations and provide the Soup and Bread.

Catechesis Corner

(For the week of February 8-14, 2020)



The Great Countdown

This Sunday begins the great countdown to lent traditionally called Septuagesima which means 70 days before Easter.

We often do not think of this, but the Church in her wisdom through the readings of scripture and her prayers does not want us all of a sudden to come to Lent. The Countdown to Lent which begins this Sunday is meant to get us ready for repentance and the penitential practises that we will do. This is so important because in order to change our lives we have to **get ready for it**. For example, if you were to take a long trip and all of a sudden you just woke up one morning and went--- you would not be prepared.

The same is with Lent. We should prepare before we repent.

It is wonderful because the Church in her wisdom this year has us reading the story of David and the great mistakes that he makes. But it shows how David's heart should be like ours in Lent: he reaches out to God to help him to change his life.

And it is his songs that are the ancient songs for this Sunday. The traditional entrance chant for this Sunday are David's song of sighing: *"The sorrows of death came about me; the pains of hell got hold of me, and in my tribulation I made my prayer unto the Lord, and he regarded my supplication out of his holy temple. I will love thee, O Lord, my strength; the Lord is my stony rock, my fortress and my savior,"* (Ps. 116).

Some good practices for this pre-Lent time is to ask God to help you see those areas you need to change in Lent. Reading the Psalms, Sirach, or Ecclesiastes prayerfully are also a great way to open our lives to the Lord.



Together in Action

The Together in Action campaign supports many important Diocesan programs and ministries, along with over 40 southern Alberta charities. It is one of the main ways in which we as a Parish, can offer financial assistance to educational and pastoral programs throughout our Diocese and beyond. TIA, as supported by Bishop McGrattan, gives us an opportunity to work together in an organized expression of care. Our 2019 TIA Parish target was \$57,093.00. The Diocese has extended our collection date to enable us to raise the remaining **\$1,968.00** needed to fulfill our goal. Donation envelopes are available in the pews. Thank you for your continued support.

Mass Intentions

February 8-14, 2020



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Share Sunday collection is next weekend. Thank you for your continued generosity.



The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a coffee and cookie reception after morning Mass & Adoration on Friday, February 14th. Everyone is invited.

Store Cards are available in the narthex every weekend. Your participation helps to support Parish Ministries and the needy. A portion of the proceeds goes towards our Building Fund.

| Day | Date | Time | Intentions |
|-----------|-------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Saturday | February 8 | 9:00 AM | SI of Natily H |
| Saturday | February 8 | 5:00 PM | Felecia Tuba (+) |
| Sunday | February 9 | 8:00 AM | Albert Tysowski (+) |
| Sunday | February 9 | 10:00 AM | Mass for Parishioners |
| Sunday | February 9 | 12:00 PM | SI of Tonino Vergate |
| Sunday | February 9 | 4:00 PM | Emilio Alvarez Sr. (+) |
| Monday | February 10 | 9:00 AM | Joseph Teves (+) |
| Tuesday | February 11 | 9:00 AM | Verna Bill (+) |
| Tuesday | February 11 | 6:30 PM | SI of Mr. & Mrs. Fabian Ogonna |
| Wednesday | February 12 | 9:00 AM | Carmine Giacichetto (+) |
| Wednesday | February 12 | 6:30 PM | Stephen Francis (+) |
| Thursday | February 13 | 9:00 AM | Fr. Dennis McDonald (+) |
| Thursday | February 13 | 6:30 PM | Luciano Favolassa (+) |
| Friday | February 14 | 9:00 AM | Rafael De Jesus Jr. (+) |
| Friday | February 14 | 6:30 PM | Domenico Vergate (+) |



Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020 - Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the Priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Repent and believe in the Gospel." Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass.



Ash Wednesday Masses, February 26th: 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 5:00 PM & 7:00 PM.

Collection of Palms - We will be collecting Palms from previous years, from now until Ash Wednesday, in the container in the Narthex. Please treat the palms with utmost reverence, as they are blessed objects. To dispose of your palms from previous years they can be burned, buried, or brought back to the Church.



Altar Server training will take place on February 15th and 22nd; this is for all servers at each Mass. Please sign up using the Google Form sent to your email. If you would like to sign up to be an Altar Server you are most welcome to fill out a ministry sign-up sheet in the Narthex. We will email you further information regarding training and scheduling.

Finance Report - at a glance...

| Gifts to the Parish | 2020 | |
|--|-----------|----------|
| | Week | 5 |
| Offerings for the Week: | 28-Jan-20 | 3-Feb-20 |
| | Last Week | YTD |
| <u>General Collections:</u> | | |
| Collections | 14,718 | 64,166 |
| Operating Cost | 18,000 | 90,000 |
| Over / (Shortfall) YTD Operating Cost | (3,282) | (25,834) |
| <u>Central Fund Loan (Mortgage):</u> | | |
| Building Fund Collections | 8,892 | 30,698 |
| 2019 Pledges | 6,243 | 21,060 |
| Donor Wall | 0 | 7,500 |
| Toonie Collection | 0 | 2,337 |
| Weekly Loan Payment | 12,180 | 60,900 |
| Over / (Shortfall) YTD Loan Payment | 2,955 | 695 |
| <u>Diocesan Annual Campaign:</u> | | |
| Together In Action | | |
| 2020 Collections | 1,461 | 3,313 |
| 2019 Collections | | 51,812 |
| 2019 Target | | 57,093 |
| Remaining towards 2019 Goal | | 1,968 |
| <u>Other:</u> | | |
| Holy Childhood | 284 | 1,054 |



CALGARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

New Catholic School in Evanston

The Calgary Catholic School District has started construction of a new Catholic K – 6 school in the community of Evanston, with a planned opening date of Fall 2021. A large part of the district's school opening process includes public engagement and consultation at Help Plan Our Future sessions. These sessions ensure opportunities to provide input and feedback on attendance area development. In order to obtain input and feedback from the community, the district will host a Help Plan Our Future session on February 11, 2020 from 7 PM until 8:30 PM at Our Lady of Grace School. Interested parents of students who reside in Evanston are invited to join us as we consider the options and opportunities presented by the opening of a new Catholic school in Evanston. Should you wish to attend, please register by clicking the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/Feb11RegisterMe>. You will receive a confirmation email once you have registered.

THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS / February



Listen to the Migrants' Cries

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

Parish Staff

- Pastor: **Fr. Avinash Colaco**
- Associates:
Fr. Rodel Abanto
Fr. Adrian Martens
- Deacon: **Patrick Woo**
- Secretary: **Nancy Mitchell**
- Receptionist: **Angelina Ling**
- Sacraments: **Monica Purnama**
- Baptisms: **Jenn Pashula**
- Youth: **Vicki Hayles**
- Bookkeeper: **Nora Alzamora Torres**
- Custodian: **Jose Gil**
- Evening Staff: **David Cadegan**
- Resource Coordinator: **Sharron Robinson (Volunteer Position)**
- Office Assist (**Volunteer Position**)

Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Lunch: 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

Sacraments

Baptism for Infants: Baptisms are celebrated on the **2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays** of each month after the 12:00 PM Mass at 1:30 PM. Please call Jenn at 403.275.2240 or email baptism@ascensionparish.ca to register.

Baptism Preparation Class: Preparation classes take place on the **1st Saturday** of each month at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary. Parents are to attend the class at least 3 weeks prior to the Baptism Celebration. Please call Jenn at 403.275.2240 or email baptism@ascensionparish.ca to register.

First Holy Communion (Gr. 2 & up): Please register your child in September 2020.

First Reconciliation (Gr. 2 & up): Please register your child in September 2020.

Confirmation (Gr. 6 & up): Please register your child in October 2020.

Marriage: By appointment, 6 months in advance. Call the Church office.

Marriage Preparation Class: 3rd Friday & Saturday of each month (some exceptions apply). Registration fee is \$100 per couple and includes course materials, snacks and lunch. To register please email William: marriageprepatascension@gmail.com

RCIA: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

For more information contact the Church office.

RCIA SPONSORS: We are seeking sponsors to assist RCIA catechumens as they become familiar with the Christian way of life. Contact Rob at robkehrig@gmail.com for information.

Anointing of the Sick & Dying: Call the Parish office at 403.275.2240

Outside of the office hours, please call 403.275.2240.

When prompted, press 2 for Fr. Avinash, press 3 for Fr. Rodel, press 4 for Fr. Adrian (Thursdays & Fridays).

Please leave a detailed message. The priest will return your call.

Ministry Contacts

Sacraments

Baptism Preparation: Jenn Pashula | baptism@ascensionparish.ca

Marriage Preparation: William Abenes | marriageprepatascension@gmail.com

RCIA: Rob Kehrig | robkehrig@gmail.com

Sacramental Preparation: Monica Purnama | sacraments@ascensionparish.ca

Parish Ministries

Building Fund Committee: Mark Holland | markholland@shaw.ca

Collection Counters: DeeDee Hedley | ddhedley@shaw.ca

Finance Council: Christina Dao | c_dc_d@hotmail.com

Funeral Mass Coordinator: Jocelyn Mugleston | jmugle92@shaw.ca

Funeral Lunch Committee: Irene Woytas | office@ascensionparish.ca

Kitchen Ministry Coordinator: Twila Tayfel | tmtayfel@yahoo.com

Parish Pastoral Council: Sandra Will-Krile | samandrafo@shaw.ca

Pastoral Care: Virginia Rappel | virginia.rappel@gmail.com

R.S.V.P.: Lucy Reyes | lucy.reyes@me.com

Social Justice: Pat Brown | patricia.brown@shaw.ca

Youth Ministry: Vicki Hayles | youth@ascensionparish.ca

Volunteer Resource: Sharron Robinson | resource@ascensionparish.ca

Liturgy

Altar Servers: Isabel & Charlotte Woo | server@ascensionparish.ca

Art & Environment: Maria San Miguel | let@shaw.ca

Ex-ord. Ministers of Holy Communion: Nadia Oliverio | nadia.oliverio@shaw.ca

Greeters: Eneyo Eyo | enevo_eyo@yahoo.com

Lectors: Andrew Harich | harich0307@gmail.com

Liturgy Committee: Holly Davidson | hollyd@telus.net

Liturgical Mentor: Casey Plettell | cke13@hotmail.ca

Music Ministry: Hoa Nguyen | music@ascensionparish.ca

Sacristans: Holly Davidson | hollyd@telus.net

Sacristy Care: James Chuah | jameschuah10248@gmail.com

Ushers: Jonathan Dixon | jonathandixon1@mac.com

Weekday Masses: Connie Raz | connieraz@gmail.com

Lay Ministries

Bible Study: Murray Britt | britmur127@gmail.com

Catholic Women's League: Sheena Koett | cwl.ascension@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus : Phil Fitzgerald | gk10065@kofc.ab.ca

Legion of Mary: Garry Bahen | gbahen03@shaw.ca

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Hamper Request | 587.755.3855

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Davina Janssens | ssvp.ascension@gmail.com