



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

114 Kingsmere Place • Saskatoon • SK • S7J 3V7
(306)374-1425 • info@holyspiritsaskatoon.ca
holyspiritsaskatoon.ca

Our Mission Statement

*Inspired by the Holy Spirit we are a Eucharistic community called by God
To share the love of Jesus Christ and create a welcoming parish of renewal and mission.*



December 24, 2023 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 | Rom 16:25-27 | Lk 1:26-38

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." The angel Gabriel announces this in the Gospel today, and it is a phrase with which we are all familiar thanks to our recitation of the Hail Mary prayer. Although some may be comforted by such a message and its angelic messenger, it is troubling to Mary because the angel goes on to tell her she will conceive and bear the Son of God. Thinking practically, Mary is being told the impossible will happen – who wouldn't be troubled? And yet Mary offers herself: "I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Despite her fear and trepidation, Mary went on to answer God's call and do his will. Our Blessed Mother became a great example of fortitude at that moment, as she exemplified what it means to step outside of our own uncertainty and trust God completely. Although doing God's will can be difficult at times, St. Paul reminds us in his Letter to the Romans that we can ask God for the strength to say "yes" in spite of our fears.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Up until today, December has probably been a whirlwind. Trees and lights, ornaments, parties and presents – all these things help to kick off "the most wonderful time of year" beginning soon after Thanksgiving. Come Dec. 26, however, for many, the decorations become a nuisance and Christmas trees are out on the curb for pickup. Thank goodness for our Catholic faith because for us, Christmas is just beginning! Mary didn't say "may it be done to me" only to forget about it the next day. No, in the coming months, the Blessed Mother nurtured the baby Jesus in her womb, anticipating the arrival of her firstborn and the Son of God. And on that blessed Christmas night, her work as the Mother of God was only just beginning. So, as we anticipate the arrival of the Christ Child, we are joyful that our Christmas season continues until we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord on January 8. Let us use this time to draw closer to God and make every effort in the new year to do his will.

SING Angels, announce with shouts of mirth / Christ who brings new life to earth. / Set every peak and valley humming / With the word, the Lord is coming. / People, look east and sing today: / Love, the Lord, is on the way.

DECEMBER 24	DECEMBER 25	DECEMBER 26	DECEMBER 27	DECEMBER 28	DECEMBER 29	DECEMBER 30
10a Mass 5p Mass (livestream) 8p Mass 11p Mass (incense used)	10a Mass Office Closed	8:30a Mass Office Closed	8:30a Mass 7p Adoration	8:30a Mass	8:30a Mass 9a-12p Adoration	11a-12p Confession 5p Mass

THIS WEEK

PLEASE NOTE: There will not be Adoration on Sunday, December 24.



"GLORY to God in the highest, and on earth, PEACE to people of good will." LUKE 2:14

May the peace of Christ be with you this Christmas Season, and remain throughout the year.

It has been a blessing to serve Holy Spirit Parish this past year. We look forward to 2024 as we continue our mission together: *Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we are a Eucharistic community called by God to share the love of Jesus Christ, and create a welcoming parish of renewal and mission.* God bless you today and always.

WE PLEDGE 5%

Keewatin-Le Pas is a missionary diocese covering a land mass of 430,000 square kilometers in northern Saskatchewan, Manitoba and a small corner of North-West Ontario. The Métis, First Nations of Cree, Ojibwe, Dene and non-Natives make up the richness of a mixed culture. The territory west of James Bay was called "Keewatin" meaning "North Wind Blowing." The seat of the diocese is at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Cathedral in The Pas. The current Archbishop is Murray Chatlain. These funds help with educating the laity and enables parish leaders to provide religious and spiritual leadership in the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas. Thank you for your support.

LET US PRAY

- ◆ For the sick and all those that care for them, today we pray for: Father Marc Mireau, Father Bernard De Margerie, Leon Hartman, Betty Anne Tomney, Bob Kudel, Quinn Gorman, Roberta Marisi, Trev Yager, Jeff Haugen, John Bohnke
- ◆ For all those who have died, today we remember: Aldea Detillieux

We pray to the Lord.

Christmas Season Mass Times

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday December 23 at 5pm

Sunday December 24 at 10am (livestream)

Christmas Masses

Sunday, December 24 at 5pm (livestream),

8pm, 11pm (incense used)

Monday, December 25 at 10am

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30 at 5pm

Sunday, December 31 at 10am,
12 noon (livestream)

Solemnity of Holy Mary Mother of God

Sunday, December 31 at 7pm

Monday, Jan 1 at 10 am (livestream)



THANK YOU



For your kind and generous contributions of dry goods for St. Mary's Parish Christmas Hamper Ministry.

- * *Thank you* to the Knights of Columbus for helping hand out the request papers, for receiving, organizing and the transporting of the food.
- * *Thank you* to the Catholic Women's League for helping hand out the request papers.
- * *Thank you* for all the volunteers that helped to move all the food to St. Mary's Hall.
- * *Thank you* to all the parishioners that donated food. The response has been overwhelming.

This will provide assistance to many families at the time it is needed the most.

May God bless you and your loved ones with a blessed, joyful Christmas, and peace and good health in the year ahead.



Please join us at our **Parish Winter Social Dinner Party** on **Saturday, January 13, 2024!**

Adults \$30, Child/Youth \$10, Children under 5 free.

Tickets will be sold after Mass. Deadline to purchase is January 6.

Act fast, tickets are limited! *See the poster online or on the bulletin board for more information.*



Thank you to the Knights of Columbus who sponsored our outdoor Christmas Nativity and to those who set it up.



✦ **Mark A. Hagemoen**
Bishop of Saskatoon

"I take this opportunity to thank you all for your love and faithfulness to God and His people, and his salvific desire for all the world. I also thank you for all that you each do every day to respond to the needs of those you care for, with compassion and care. I wish you, your families, and communities, a blessed and joy-filled Christmas season! "

Watch a recording of the Bishop's Christmas message and read the full letter at www.rcdos.ca

2023 INFANT BAPTISM 2023 Baptism Schedule Sharon 306-374-1425 or spowell@rcdos.ca
CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF CHILDREN Sharon at spowell@rcdos.ca or 306-374-1425
CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS - RCIA Erin 306-374-1425 or email egratton@rcdos.ca.
MARRIAGE PREPARATION Nicole Gursky at 306 229-0384 or email ngursky@sasktel.net
Please visit holyspiritsaskatoon.ca for more information about faith formation.

PASTOR • Fr. Joseph Salihu jsalihu@rcdos.ca

ASSOCIATE PASTOR • Fr. Greg Smith-Windsor

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH STAFF

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Parish Life and Liturgy

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Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Erin Gratton egratton@rcdos.ca

Sacramental Preparation/Faith Formation

Erin Gratton egratton@rcdos.ca

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Lynn Eremondi leremondi@rcdos.ca



If you need prayer, support, a visit (with the Eucharist or otherwise), Anointing of the Sick, or assistance with funeral planning, Ministry of Care is just a phone call or email away.

Please contact **Kelly Wormsbecker** Pastoral Associate- Ministry of Care
kwormsbecker@rcdos.ca or call 306-374-1425



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE
Margaret Schwab 306-227-8930



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 8905

Eric Lautsch
SirKnightEric@outlook.com

WAYS TO DONATE TO HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

- 1. Sign up for Pre-Authorized Giving** Registration [forms](#) are available at the church office, online on our parish website, or via email. Donate using debit or credit card.
- 2. Interac e-Transfer using online banking:** send e-transfer to finance@holyspiritsaskatoon.ca (it is directly deposited, no password needed). Please put your full name and envelope number in the message box along with any special offering designation.
- 3. Parish Offertory:** <https://dscf.ca/parish-offertory/>
- 4. Mail envelopes to the church:** 114 Kingsmere Place, Saskatoon, SK, S7J 3V7
- 5. Drop envelopes off at church:** Put envelopes into the office door mail slot.
- 6. Place envelopes in the offertory basket at Mass**



Another option to
donating to your
parish online:

**PARISH OFFERTORY
QR CODE**



Enjoy the latest and greatest Catholic video, audio, and reading material from FORMED.org! Simply head over to holyspiritsaskatoon.formed.org and register your free account to access a tremendous wealth of Catholic content.

You may also download the FORMED app for iOS and Android devices.

The cost to you is absolutely free: our parish has a subscription for the entire year.

Are you new to the parish? Has your information changed?

Fill out this [form](#) online

Or contact the office (306) 374-3190 or info@holyspiritsaskatoon.ca

Christmas Season Mass Times

Fourth Sunday of Advent

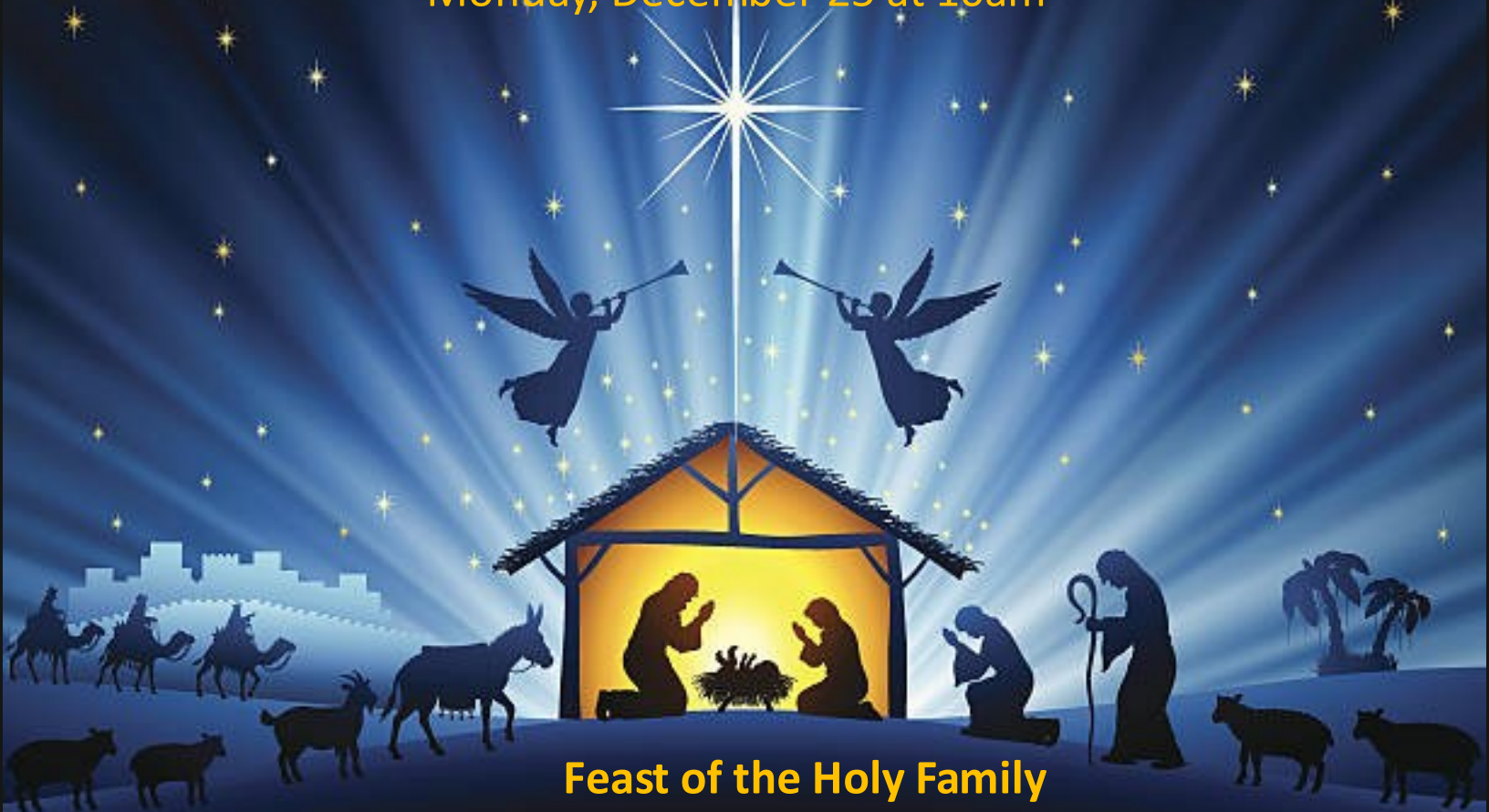
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11pm (*incense used*)

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The Christmas Crèche

Did you know that on December 24, 2023 we will be celebrating the 800th anniversary of the crèche? From the Latin *cripia* for crib or cradle, this beloved Christmas tradition was started in a small town in Italy.

In 1223 St. Francis of Assisi was visiting the mountainside town of Greccio in Italy for Christmas Eve Mass. He realized that the small chapel at the hermitage would not fit the number of people attending Midnight Mass so he found a small niche near the town square and set an altar. In order to help the people of Greccio celebrate the Nativity of the Lord with great devotion he decided to set the scene to resemble what it would have looked like at Jesus' birth.

St. Francis prepared a manger, placed a statue of a baby in it, and brought hay, an ox, and a donkey. It was to represent the poverty and plainness that was associated with Christ's birth. A great crowd from the town gathered for the Mass at this scene.

In St. Bonaventure's 1263 book The Life of St. Francis he says of this Mass, "The man of God [St. Francis] stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by Francis, the Levite of Christ. Then he preached to the people around the nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His name for the tenderness of His love, He called Him the Babe of Bethlehem."

As Francis preached he picked up the statue of the baby Jesus and cradled it. Many who gathered say that he was so passionate about what he spoke that the statue of Christ came alive in his arms.

This crèche that has had a prominent place in our homes at Christmas for 800 years still reminds us of the night Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem- who came to save us from our sins, was born.

May we be like St. Francis and embrace the Babe of Bethlehem with all our hearts.



THANK YOU!

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***May God bless you and your loved ones
with a blessed, joyful Christmas,
and peace and good health in the year ahead.***

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH
INVITES YOU TO

Winter Social

DINNER PARTY

JANUARY

SATURDAY **13** AT 630 PM

2024

TICKETS ARE LIMITED

YOUTH/
CHILD **\$10** | ADULT **\$30**

CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER ARE FREE

DOORS OPEN AT 530PM

DINNER • CASH BAR • DOOR PRIZES

GET YOUR TICKETS AFTER MASS
OR CONTACT LYNN:

☎(306 374 1425)

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH, 114 KINGSMERE PL, SK

Winter Social

January 13, 2024

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

(After Mass in the Place of Welcome)

OR

Contact Lynn: 306-374-1425 leremondi@rcdos.ca

DEADLINE FOR PURCHASE IS SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2024



Thank you to our KofC men who sponsored our Christmas Nativity and put it up yearly!



Diocesan Bulletin

Dec. 24, 2023 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dec. 24-25, 2023 - Nativity of the Lord

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*In all things we are rooted in Christ,
in His desire to bring God's love to all peoples.*

Upcoming Events

New Beginnings - The African Catholic community presents "Cross Over Night" starting 10:30 p.m. on **New Year's Eve Sunday, Dec 31** at Holy Spirit Church, 114 Kingsmere Place, Saskatoon; no cost, everyone is welcome!

A Contemplative Mass led by Fr. Kevin McGee will be held at 5 p.m. **Friday, Jan. 5** at St. Mary Parish, 211 Ave. O S. Saskatoon. The rhythm of the Contemplative Mass is a gentle, steady flow, marked by 20 minutes of silence after communion to allow space for reflection and recognition of the intimate presence of Christ who comes to us through scripture and the Eucharist. Relax and rest in the abiding presence of God.

Knights of Columbus Brothers' Keeper Breakfast will be held 7 a.m. **Tuesday, Jan. 9** at Queen's House, 601 Taylor Street West, Saskatoon. Suggested donation: \$10. Call Brendan Bitz at Queen's House: (306) 242-1916.

Awaken adult faith program: "Praying as Catholics"
Registration is underway for this in-person series which will include experiences of different kinds of prayer, to be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on **four Tuesday evenings in January** at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon. Includes: **Jan. 9:** Centering Prayer with Fr. Kevin McGee; **Jan. 16:** Eucharistic Adoration with Fr. Gerard Cooper; **Jan. 23:** Praying With the Sacred Scripture with Verbum Dei sisters; **Jan. 30:** Marian Prayer with Fr. Daniel Yasinski. Cost: \$40 for the series. Register at: <https://form.jotform.com/231799051119257> or call Astrid Alas for more information: (306) 659-5858.

Palliative Care and End-of-life Issues - St. Philip Neri Parish in Saskatoon will host a two-part **Horizons of Hope** workshop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Saturday, Jan. 13** and **Saturday, Jan 20.** at St. Philip Neri Church, 1902 Munroe Ave. S. Saskatoon. To register please call the parish at (306) 343-0325 (lunch will be provided). When confronted with a life-limiting diagnosis, we can find ourselves in an unfamiliar and even frightening situation. As Catholics, our faith in Jesus Christ has much to teach us about living and dying well. Horizons of Hope is a resource created by the Canadian Catholic bishops as a toolkit for Catholic parishes about palliative care. The goal is for the workshop to be taught in every parish community across the diocese. To book a workshop in your parish, contact Jackie Saretsky at jsaretsky@rcdos.ca or (306) 659-5839.



*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen His glory, the glory of a Father's
only begotten Son, full of grace and truth. - JOHN 1:14*

**May the light of Christ's coming into
the world bring peace and joy to all!**

**Merry Christmas from Bishop Mark Hagemoen
and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon**
Please visit the diocesan website for a Christmas
message and video from Bishop Mark Hagemoen:
rcdos.ca

Find Christmas and New Year's Mass times at:
rcdos.ca/christmas

Find live-stream video of Mass from several parishes:
saskatoonmass.com

*The Catholic Pastoral Centre in Saskatoon will be
closed Dec. 25 and 26, 2023 as well as Jan. 1, 2024.*

"On Living Tradition: Catholic Culture and the Spiritual Discipline of Fine Art" - This is the topic of Rebuilding Catholic Culture's 7th Annual **Dessert Night and Talk** at 7 p.m. **Saturday, Jan. 13** at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 1235-12th Street East, Saskatoon (doors open at 6:30 pm). Dr. Peter Kwasniewski, a speaker, composer, and scholar who has written more than 20 books on beauty, music, and liturgy, will give an exciting lecture on the tradition of the fine arts in Catholic culture (free will donation). Space is limited: please RSVP your attendance by contacting Celene Sidloski at (306) 715-1541 or at csidloski@stmcollege.ca.

Message Board



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2024 Carol Festival on Video - With support from the Saskatoon Knights of Columbus, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools presents the annual Knights of Columbus Carol Festival on video, featuring choirs from 13 schools, available on the GSCS website at www.gscs.ca/_ci/p/18228 or at www.youtube.com/@greaterSaskatoonCatholicSC2032.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan. 18-25, 2024 - Mark your calendars and watch for details in the New Year about prayer services and breakfasts. Events include an ecumenical prayer service **Thursday, Jan. 18** at Queen's House in Saskatoon, followed by lunch, as well as the De Margerie Series for Christian Reconciliation and Unity, which this year includes public lectures at 7 p.m. **Jan. 24** at Campion College in Regina, and **Jan. 25** at St. Thomas More College in Saskatoon, as well as a public workshop.

Search Retreat 2024 - Registration is now open for students in Grades 10-12 to attend the next Search live-in weekend retreat presented by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, to be held **Feb. 23-25, 2024** at E.D. Feehan Catholic School in Saskatoon. Small groups, music, activities, prayer time, and talks given by other young people are just a few of the things that make the retreat great. Attending Search is a powerful way to deepen a close, personal relationship with God, make friends and forge lasting memories. Cost for the entire weekend is \$100. Find online registration and more information about this powerful retreat experience for youth at saskatoonsearch.ca

Bishop's Annual Appeal - Thanks to all who have made a gift or pledge to the Bishop's Annual Appeal! Learn more or give online at www.dscf.ca/baa — or your gift can be sent to the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation, BAA, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, SK S7S 1H1, or dropped at your parish. (Note: Donations must be received by Dec. 31 for a 2023 charitable receipt.) Every gift is needed and appreciated - and will make a difference.

Employment opportunities in the diocese can be found at rcdos.ca/employment, including postings for a Parish Life Director at Our Lady of Guadalupe Indigenous Parish, Saskatoon, and a Coordinator of Evangelization and Youth Ministry at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Martensville.

Breathe Catholic marriage conference in Saskatoon: Is it time to "Breathe" fresh air into your marriage? Make room on your calendar and recharge your relationship at the Breathe Catholic Marriage Conference, **March 8-9, 2024** at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. Find information and registration at: www.catholicmarriageandfamily.com. Early-bird registration for those registering before Dec. 31 is \$275 per couple (regular price \$375).



*Icon of the Sacred Heart 2017
written by Andre J. Prevost in
collaboration with Romeo
Crow Chief of Siksika Nation.*

Indigenous Pastoral & Lay Leader Ministry Education

Presented by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, the **Indigenous Pastoral & Lay Leader Ministry Education** program is led by teams of Indigenous and non-Indigenous instructors, modelling respectful and reconciling relationships.

Introduction to Colonization: Social Justice Jan. 9 to March 5, 2024

4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday afternoons
Offered online

Cost: \$200 per course (some funding assistance available)
No pre-requisite is necessary.

Information and Registration:

rcdos.ca/indigenous-ministry-education

Confirmation Retreats 2024 - The diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis is partnering with Face2Face Ministries to present confirmation retreats for parishes preparing young people for the sacrament of confirmation. Cost is \$20, which includes lunch. Parents from across the diocese are encouraged to select one of these retreats for children preparing to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation in 2024: choose from various retreat locations in Saskatoon, Kindersley, or Humboldt. Find more information and registration links at: rcdos.ca/confirmation-retreats.

Diocesan Prayer - We pray as a diocesan family for everyone who finds this Christmas season difficult or painful. Loving God, we ask you to be with those who are grieving, those suffering hardships, illness or depression, those who are in prison, and anyone who is isolated or alone. Help us all to reach out in love so that all may experience the blessed assurance of God's love and presence, even in dark times.

The Diocesan Bulletin is a publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

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E-mail: kyaworski@rcdos.ca

<https://rcdos.ca>

<https://news.rcdos.ca>

Supported by your gifts to the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2023 +Mark Hagemoen

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1: 1-5)



Brothers and Sisters in Christ – This New Testament passage from St. John continues to inspire and encourage me. It is the introduction of the Gospel of St. John, which is proclaimed on Christmas Day.



During these darker of colder days, in the midst of a world wracked with violence and strife, our hearts are again stirred by the meaning and metaphors of *darkness* and *light*. It is so good to appreciate that *the light* infuses all darkness, and that *darkness* can never overcome *light*. A similar message comes to us from the prophet Isaiah, who proclaims: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of great darkness – on them, light has shined.” (Isaiah 9:2)

In this time of war and conflict in so many places in our world – and in the face of the great daily challenges facing so many vulnerable people affected by confusion and hopelessness, and also poverty, homelessness, illness, and other ‘losses’ – we long more than ever for *great light*. Our hearts yearn for the fulfillment of the angel’s proclamation at the birth of our Saviour, the

Light of the World, Jesus Christ: “Peace on earth, goodwill to those upon whom His favour rests.” (Luke 2:14)

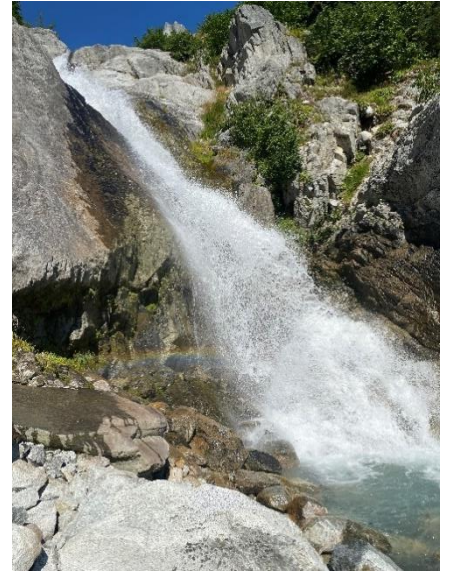


Jesus is the great light and hope that has come into the world. This is the reality that we celebrate joyfully at Christmas. It is the great *good news* that GOD IS WITH US. Emmanuel has indeed come! Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is loving us, suffering with us, caring for us, holding us.

I invite you all to take time during this season of preparation and of celebration to renew your awareness that nothing can come between us and the great love of God in Jesus Christ. He brings a new way of peace and healing that fills us with the great rejoicing, that bursts forth in our songs and carols, that is reflected in our lights, decorations and gifts to others: *Joy to the World!* This awareness also means that we can live and act with a

renewed and bold **hope**. As Pope Benedict XVI states:

*“The Christian message is not only ‘informative’ but ‘performative.’ That means: the Gospel is not merely a communication of things that can be known—it is **one that makes things happen and is life-changing**. The dark door of time, of the future, has been thrown open. The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life.” (See Spe Salve, #2)*



These reflections about *hope* are a reminder that you and I are called to the *hope* that finds its source in the Saviour who comes to us at Christmas. The Incarnation – Jesus who is the Word of God made flesh among us – is the inspiration and source of all hope. This awareness has been the inspiration for many who have gone before us. For example, I cite Saint John Henry Newman, who reminds us that,

“The truth has been upheld in the world not as a system, not by books, not by argument, nor by temporal power, but by the personal influence of such men & women as have already been described, who are at once teachers and patterns of it...”



May we be teachers and patterns of *hope* as we are renewed by the celebration of the Christmas season. Let us ask ourselves:

- i) How is God calling me to be *more fully human, fully alive* in my life right now?
- ii) Do I give the Christ permission to take my *heart of stone* and make it a *heart of flesh* – one that receives and expresses *HOPE*?



- iii) In what way is *this Christmas* different for me, in terms of what God wants me to change, to heal and forgive, to live and do differently?

I take this opportunity to thank you all for your love and faithfulness to God and His people, and his salvific desire for all the world. I also thank you for all that you each do every day to respond to the needs of those you care for, with compassion and care.

I wish you, your families, and communities, a blessed and joy-filled Christmas season!



Sincerely in Christ,

+ *Mark A. Hagemoen*

✙ Mark A. Hagemoen
Bishop of Saskatoon



Bringing Home the Word

Third Sunday of Advent (B)
December 17, 2023

Who Are You?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

So far, the readings for Sundays in Advent have shown God leading the people into a new way of life—a way of righteousness and loyalty, of honesty and responsibility. Today the readings show the people beginning to see that the accomplishment of this transformation would come through the leadership of one individual. Who might that person be?

The passage from Isaiah describes a prophet, one anointed by God and bringing good news to the poor. When the Baptist appears on the scene in John's Gospel, people wonder if it might be him. He insists he is not the one, nor is he a prophet. Then, as we read in John 1:19, "Who are you?" Recalling the passage from Isaiah read on the First Sunday of

Advent, John tells them he is the one repairing the road, getting it ready for the long-awaited one to arrive. He adds that his baptism is a baptism of repentance. He is readying them to be what Paul describes as "perfectly holy...blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

We now see that these readings are preparing us for salvation. We are now told that such divine graciousness will be inaugurated by an individual, one who has not yet been identified. Will it be a powerful king? A mighty warrior? A spectacular prophet? Those in the time before Christ didn't know. We now know that it will be someone powerful enough to initiate a revolutionary change in the lives of the entire people. Now waiting gets exciting! †

A Word from Pope Francis

Jesus has come to bring joy to all people for all time. It is not just a hopeful joy or a joy postponed until paradise: as if here on earth we are sad but in paradise we will be filled with joy. No! It is not that, but a joy already real and tangible now, because *Jesus himself is our joy*.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 14, 2014



Sunday Readings

Isaiah 61:1–2a, 10–11

I will rejoice heartily in the LORD,
my being exults in my God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

John 1:6–8, 19–28

[John the Baptist said,] "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'"

*John is the one preparing
the road, getting it ready
for the long-awaited one
to arrive.*



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS
REFLECTION

- Can you imagine how surprising Jesus was to those who were waiting for the Messiah?
- What messages from the Gospel are surprising even today?

The Loneliest Children

*Editor's note: This article appeared in Liguorian in December 1955.
Today there are similar efforts, including Prison Fellowship Angel Tree.*

Several years ago, a salesman named Dan Vinson decided that the loneliest people at Christmas must be children whose fathers are in prison.

Since 1943, Mr. Vinson and some volunteer workers have sent out millions of Christmas toys each year which have been donated by businessmen everywhere. The children have never heard of Mr. Vinson, and that is the way he wants it to be. He believes that children want presents from someone they love, so wardens and convicts are contacted, and the imprisoned father is sent a list of toys. He checks the ones he wants, and volunteers package the selections and mail them to the prison, where the father



readdresses the package to his children. Dan Vinson often says, "A man never stands so straight as when he stoops to help a child." †

Better than a Sermon

When Frederick Ozanam, the founder of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, was eighteen, he endured many temptations. One day, in great agony of soul, he entered a church in Paris where he saw an old man devoutly reciting his rosary [and]...knelt behind him. The old man was the scientist André-Marie Ampere, [a founder of the science of classical electromagnetism]. The sight of such faith touched Ozanam deeply. Suddenly prayers and tears welled up in his heart. It was a complete victory over his temptations. "The rosary of Ampere," said Ozanam afterward, "did more for me than all books and sermons put together." †

From *Liguorian*, December 1956

Signs of the Season—Part III: Christmas Cards

Paige Byrne Shortal

Christmas cards are something of a ritual in our home, both the sending and the receiving. Somehow it became a "sin" to open a Christmas card alone. When the mail comes, the cards are set aside, to remain unopened until the next family meal. After dinner, the cards are gathered, and we take turns reading them aloud.

We send a lot of cards. Each year I wonder if we should keep sending a card to a woman who was in my choir twenty years ago, or the high school

classmate, or the teacher who made such a difference. But it's so easy to lose people and I don't want to be the first to let go.

Good news isn't complete until we've shared it with someone. Christmas cards are a cozy, civilized way of telling the story again. We need to tell it. We need to hear it. That God is. That God loves us. That God cares. That God is involved in our world. That the Incarnation Story is really true. And in the midst of the loss and sin and pettiness and fear and all the things that distract us from our one most important task of creating on this earth small colonies of heaven—that nothing is

powerful enough to make the story less true. I need to hear it again. And I need to share it. †



Lord Jesus, so that believers everywhere may embrace the truth you came to reveal, we pray—Be born in us, be born in our world.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

December 18–23

Monday, Advent Weekday:
Jer 23:5–8 / Mt 1:18–25

Tuesday, Advent Weekday:
Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a / Lk 1:5–25

Wednesday, Advent Weekday:
Is 7:10–14 / Lk 1:26–38

Thursday, Advent Weekday:


Sg 2:8–14 or Zep 3:14–18a / Lk 1:39–45

Friday, Advent Weekday:

1 Sm 1:24–28 / Lk 1:46–56

Saturday, Advent Weekday:

Mal 3:1–4, 23–24 / Lk 1:57–66

Bringing Home
the Word 

December 17, 2023

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Sunday, Dec 17, 2023

Oh, Antiphons!

At evening prayer tonight, the church begins to invoke seven names for Jesus traditionally called the O Antiphons. These names—Wisdom, Sacred Lord, Flower of Jesse's Stem, Key of David, Radiant Dawn, King of All Nations, Emmanuel—suggest to us how the stories of the Old Testament foreshadow the arrival of God-With-Us. As Mary Winifred observes in *Hasten the Kingdom: Praying the O Antiphons of Advent*: "The Word, which joyfully shouted all the galaxies into being, left All Power and came silently into the womb of a young girl." Seek to encounter Jesus today in wise people, books, and practices.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (O WISDOM)

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28 (8). "[John] came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him."

Monday, Dec 18, 2023

Pray for safe passage

Today's O Antiphon of Advent, the second of seven leading up to Christmas Eve, is "O Sacred Lord and Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!" Today is also International Migrants Day, which recognizes the contributions of migrants, their challenges, and their human rights. Migrants number in the hundreds of millions the world over—some by choice but many forcibly displaced. Jesus and his family became migrants fleeing for their lives soon after the birth that we are preparing to celebrate. Make safe migration and the humane treatment of migrants everywhere your prayer intention with this O Antiphon.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O SACRED LORD AND LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL)

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25 (194). "When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home."

Tuesday, Dec 19, 2023

Grafted onto Jesus' family tree

Near Bethlehem stands an olive tree scientists say is 5,000 years old. It's not uncommon for olive trees to reach the ripe old age of 900+ years in Mediterranean countries. Once they grow so old that they stop bearing fruit, olive trees are cut down to mere stumps. But that stump? Leave it alone for a couple of years, then suddenly new shoots spring forth. A shoot or root in this context does not symbolize fragility but rather hardiness and promise. Such are the descendants of the House of David, a spiritual family tree that includes Jesus and us. If you don't mark Advent with a Jesse tree, review the tradition—and pray the Jesse Tree Litany, a version of the Litany of the Saints.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O FLOWER OF JESSE'S STEM)

TODAY'S READINGS: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 (195). "Though you are barren and have had no children, yet you will conceive and bear a son."

Wednesday, Dec 20, 2023

Stand together

On this International Human Solidarity Day, enacted by the U.N. in 2005, we remember Blessed Michael Piaszczyński, who in the early 1900s taught at the diocesan seminary of Łomża, Poland. Modest and compassionate, Father Piaszczyński had a deep respect for Judaism and even invited rabbis to speak at his school.

During World War II he was imprisoned by the Nazis and often shared his bread with elderly Jewish inmates. Piaszczyński died in the camp in 1940. He was beatified by his compatriot, Pope John Paul II, in 1999. What are small ways you can show solidarity with your fellow humans, especially those who seem different from you?

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KEY OF DAVID)

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38 (196). "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."

Thursday, Dec 21, 2023

Radiant reminders

Monks, nuns, and others who take part in evening prayer are now chanting the O Antiphons, a rich series of references to the coming Christ recited from December 17-23. Today's antiphon proclaims: "O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death." Look around you today and seek out the many lights associated with Christmas: Advent candles, strings of light, Posadas candles, fires for holiday gatherings. Let each one remind you of the light of Christ coming into the world.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O RADIANT DAWN)

TODAY'S READINGS: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 (197). "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Friday, Dec 22, 2023

The "O Hail No" antiphon

Few have direct experience of royalty, and so the words "queen" and "king" might do little other than remind us of some TV or streaming series. For some though, the terms hit hard because within their culture, people experienced oppression and violence from ruling classes. Singing the O Antiphon, "O King of All Nations," then, might not evoke a hopeful experience of God. How might we tap into the deeper meaning of the antiphon? What words and images can help us experience the longing for God who brings peace and right relationship, who removes barriers that divide, and who breathes life into our tired bodies?

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KING OF ALL NATIONS)

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198). "My spirit rejoices in God my savior."

Saturday, Dec 23, 2023

We stand corrected

John Kanty (1390-1473) was a Polish priest, philosopher, physicist, and theologian. He helped develop early scientific theories of inertia that Newton would later use to formulate his laws of motion. Kanty's theories also helped Galileo figure out the orbital motions of the planets around the sun. During Kanty's time, the Catholic Church taught the geocentric model that the planets and the sun orbited around the Earth. In 1632 Galileo's work was condemned by Pope Urban VIII, and he was placed under house arrest for the rest of his life. Kanty was canonized in 1767, around the same time Rome finally capitulated to Galileo's heliocentric model of the solar system. Give thanks for the church that corrects its faults.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF KANTY, PRIEST (O EMMANUEL)

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 (199). "Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed."

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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This will be a sign for you...

**... you will find a
child wrapped in
bands of cloth and
lying in a manger**

Luke 2:12

Merry Christmas!

**From Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools'
Board of Education**

**Diane Boyko (chair), Ron Boechler (vice-chair), Hudson Byblow,
Dana A. Case, Bonita Elliott, Tim Jelinski, Wayne Stus,
Sharon Zakreski-Werbicki**

Art by Piper at Georges Vanier Catholic Fine Arts School



THE FILIPINO CATHOLIC COMMUNITY, SASKATOON

SIMBANG GABI 2023

PRE-CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASS
December 15-23, 2023

MASS SCHEDULE

	CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY FAMILY	ST. PATRICK PARISH	ST. PETER THE APOSTLE PARISH
DEC 15 FRI	7PM	7PM	6PM
DEC 16 SAT	7PM	5PM	630PM
DEC 17 SUN	630PM	7PM	11AM
DEC 18 MON	7PM	7PM	6PM
DEC 19 TUE	7PM	7PM	6PM
DEC 20 WED	7PM	7PM	6PM
DEC 21 THUR	7PM	7PM	6PM
DEC 22 FRI	7PM	7PM	6PM
DEC 23 SAT	7PM	5PM	630PM

**You are invited to spend time with fellow parishioners
for refreshments after Mass.**

Volunteer opportunities still available.
For more information please contact your parish.



St. Patrick Parish, SK



Holy Family Cathedral, SK



St. Peter the Apostle, SK

THE AFRICAN CANADIAN
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
PRESENTS

CROSS OVER NIGHT

THEME

New Beginnings

DECEMBER 31 | 2023

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

1114 KINGSMERE PLACE

SASKATOON, SK

10:30PM – 1:30AM

"Behold I am about to do a new thing. - IS 43:19"

2024

WINTER 2024

AWAKEN

PRAYING AS CATHOLICS

-CENTERING PRAYER- FR. KEVIN MCGEE

JAN
09

-ADORATION- FR. GERARD COOPER

JAN
16

-PRAYING WITH THE SACRED SCRIPTURE -
VERBUM DEI

JAN
23

-MARIAN PRAYER- FR. DANIEL YASINSKI

JAN
30

7:00 PM

@ HOLY FAMILY CATHEDRAL
123 NELSON ROAD



Scan the QR code to register:

<https://form.jotform.com/231799051119257>



SAVE THE DATE! Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024!
More details for come in early January!

SAVE THE DATE

Prairie Centre for Ecumenism

January Events

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Watch for more information coming in early January!

January 18-25 - Week of Prayer Ecumenical
Prayer Services and Breakfasts

Thursday, January 18 - Queen's House Retreat and Renewal Centre
Prayer Service and Lunch

Sunday, January 21, 3pm - Ecumenical Worship Service,
First Mennonite Church, 418 Queen Street

Ecumenical Youth Event, Zion Lutheran Church, 323 4th Avenue South

Thursday, January 25 - Ecumenical Campus Worship, St. Andrew's College Building

2024 De Margerie Lectures on Christian Reconciliation and Unity

Grassroots Ecumenism, Guest Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Karen Petersen Finch

Wednesday, January 24 - Re-imagining Lay People as Stewards of Doctrine - 7pm,
Riffel Auditorium (CMAUD), Campion College, University of Regina

Thursday, January 25 - Doctrine as the Fuel of Renewal - 7pm, Fr. O'Donnell
Auditorium, St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan

De Margerie Lecture Public Workshops

Friday, January 26 - 10am-1pm

Public Workshop, 10-12pm; Soup lunch to follow from 12-1pm (freewill offering)
Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church, 114 Kingsmere Place, Saskatoon

Saturday, January 27 - Workshop, Regina



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
CHRISTIAN UNITY - 2024

**"You shall love the
Lord your God
...and your neighbor
as yourself"**

(Luke 10:27)

Find out more about these upcoming events at
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<http://eepurl.com/hpkyWL>



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admin@pcecumenism.ca
(306)653-1633

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Saskatoon, SK
S7J 1M5**



Prairie Centre for
Ecumenism