



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 31, 2023 | Feast of the Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Gen 15:1-6; 21:1-3 | Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 | Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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


St. Teresa of Calcutta once said, "If we love, naturally we will try to do something. First in our own home, our next door neighbor, in the country we live, in the whole world." In this quote we see a shift from the idyllic to a hard dose of reality: love means sacrifice and service. Perhaps it's worth asking ourselves: Does our family always get our best self? None of us is perfect, so the honest answer is probably no. If it's tempting to think, "well, the Holy Family was perfect, so what does this feast have to do with our family?" let's remember we are celebrating the Feast of the HOLY Family, not the feast of the perfect family. Yes, they were *holy*. They embodied this in their faith and devotion in those expanding circles of which St. Teresa spoke. They gave to God first - in today's Gospel we see the family travel to Jerusalem to present Jesus in the temple. They then returned to Nazareth where Jesus grew strong and was "filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

What does this feast mean for us today? It means that being a *holy* family is not unattainable. St. John Paul II once said: "The Redeemer of the world chose the family as the place for his birth and growth." (2001) In other words, God's will was fulfilled in the simplest and most ordinary of human circumstances when Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph in a stable. He sanctified what had been profaned by sin. Are our families perfect? No. But are we *holy*? That is our baptismal vocation and is within our reach each and every day. With the dawn of the new year, let's make an effort to place Christ at the center of our lives. Let's try to love our family members with all our heart, and bear witness in our actions and words. And finally, and most importantly, we must pray with and for one another.

PRAY Family prayer is powerful and transformative, uniting and equipping us to go out into the world each day and bear witness. Pray together: *Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer.*

DECEMBER 31	JANUARY 1	JANUARY 2	JANUARY 3	JANUARY 4	JANUARY 5	JANUARY 6
10a Mass 12p Mass (livestream) 1-4p Adoration 7p New Year's Mass	10a New Year's Mass (livestream) Office Closed	8:30a Mass 6:15p K of C Supper 7p K of C Meeting	8:30a Mass 7p Adoration	8:30a Mass 1:30p Senior Cards 	8:30a Mass 9a-12p Adoration	11a-12p Confession 5p Mass

THIS WEEK

Parish Winter Social Dinner Party Saturday, January 13, 2024

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

Deadline to purchase is January 6.

Tickets can be purchased after Mass
or contact Lynn

306-374-1425—leremondi@rcdos.ca

E-TRANSFER • CASH • CHEQUE



WE PLEDGE 5%

St. Mary's Parish is called upon six days a week to provide hampers to families. They provide approximately 20 hampers a week to families. These hampers contain canned goods and providing there are enough funds they also include fresh meat, potatoes, vegetables, fruit, eggs and milk. The money goes towards purchases of these foods for the hampers. St. Mary's Parish is looking for volunteers Monday, Wednesday and Fridays to help organize hampers. Please call 306-242-2983 to volunteer. 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, Riel Larocque, we pray to the Lord.
- ◆ For all those who have died, today we remember: Julie Gibb, David Coombes

We pray to the Lord.

Christmas Season Mass Times

Feast of the Holy Family (Sunday)

Saturday, December 30 at 5pm

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

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

(New Year's Day)

Sunday, December 31 at 7pm
Monday, January 1 at 10 am (livestream)



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

January 1—HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Way back in 431, there was a bitter controversy among theologians over the role of Mary in the Catholic Church. They debated the question: Who is Mary in God's plan?

In the end, the bishops declared that Mary is really the mother of Jesus and Jesus is really God. So it must be said that Mary is the Mother of God. The oldest Christian greeting of Mary was proclaimed when Mary's relative Elizabeth called her "Mother of my Lord." When Elizabeth welcomed Mary, she recognized both the great privilege God had given Mary and Mary's great faith in accepting it.

For centuries, Mary has been praised because she believed. She is Mother of God because of her faith in God. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, celebrates Mary's faith and trust in God alone. The Church wants us to imitate her faith. Visit loyolapress.com for more saints stories.



The knights of Columbus of Saskatoon and Campaign Life Coalition Saskatchewan will be hosting a screening of the documentary film called "Roe Canada", on January 22nd at 7 pm, at the Cathedral of the Holy Family hall. Admission is a free will offering. The film discusses how Canada can effect the change of hearts toward abortion, in a post Roe v Wade era, and how we can transfer some successes in the USA to Canada.

For more information contact Louis - 306-249-2764



✚ **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

MASS TIMES

Saturday 5 pm

Sunday 10 am, 12 noon, 7 pm

Weekdays, Tues. - Fri. 8:30 am

ADORATION

Wednesdays 7 pm

Fridays, 9 am - 12 pm

Sundays, 1 - 4 pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 11 am - 12 noon

or by appointment.

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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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



Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30 at 5pm

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

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Sunday, December 31 at 7pm

Monday, Jan 1 at 10 am (livestream)

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



Diocesan Bulletin

Dec. 31, 2023 - Feast of the Holy Family

Jan. 1, 2024 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
World Day of Peace

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

rcdos.ca

Upcoming Events

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 St. W., Saskatoon; register with Brendan Bitz: (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. (*Adult Faith formation is supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.*)

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.

Diocesan Prayer - We pray as a diocesan family for all families in our world, especially those who are divided, whether by distance or by circumstances. May God provide the grace, the resources and the strength for every family to reconnect and to experience unity and peace.

Happy New Year from Bishop 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

The Catholic Pastoral Centre in Saskatoon will be closed on New Year's Day Jan. 1, 2024. Regular hours resume on Tuesday, Jan.. 2

"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.

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 for the Week of Prayer. Events include an ecumenical prayer service **Thursday, Jan. 18** at Queen's House, 601 Taylor Street West, Saskatoon, followed by lunch. **The De Margerie Series for Christian Reconciliation and Unity** includes two different public lectures featuring guest speaker Rev. Dr. Karen Petersen Finch held during the Week of Prayer: 7 p.m. **Jan. 24** at Campion College, Regina, and 7 p.m. **Jan. 25** at St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon – attend in-person or view the live-stream video online at: www.youtube.com/@schmeisercentre. The De Margerie Series also includes an in-person-only public workshop entitled "The Eucharist - Where is Jesus?" held in Saskatoon from 10 a.m. to noon, **Friday, Jan. 26** (soup lunch to follow) at Holy Spirit Parish, 114 Kingsmere Pl., Saskatoon.

Message Board

Fridge needed for men's discernment house - A fridge is needed immediately for the Sts. Benedict and Scholastica men's discernment house at 1136 Temperance St., Saskatoon (33" wide, 66" high, 31" deep or smaller). Contact Sr. Marta Piano at mpiano@rcdos.ca or (306) 370-5951. (For more info about the diocesan Sts. Benedict and Scholastica Formation Program, please see: rcdos.ca/sts-benedict-and-scholastica.)

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** 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 info about this powerful experience for youth at saskatoonsearch.ca (Youth ministry is supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.)

Employment opportunity - A Parish Life Director (PLD) is needed for Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Saskatoon, to provide day-to-day management of the parish, which serves First Nations, Métis, Indigenous, and non-Indigenous parishioners. An Indigenous background and a firm understanding of Indigenous history, cultures, and spirituality is an asset. Find details about this full-time, permanent position at rcdos.ca/employment. To apply, submit a cover letter and resumé to Fr. Graham Hill, CSsR, at ghill@rcdos.ca.

Donations are requested for prison ministry's Storytime Program for Dads - The diocesan Office of Restorative Ministry is seeking donations of new children's pyjamas sizes newborn to size 8, as well as crayons, colouring books, and/or gently-used children's books and small backpacks, as part of a project to help fathers in prison improve parenting skills and stay connected to their families. Men approved for the program are video-taped reading bedtime stories, and the videos are sent to their children with the donated gifts of pyjamas/book in a back pack. Monetary donations for project supplies are also welcome. All donations can be dropped off or sent "Attention Dianne" to the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 2nd floor, Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, S7S 1H1 (hours are: 9 am to noon, 1 p.m. to 4:30 pm weekdays). Please make cheques out to "DSCF -Restorative Ministry". Monetary donations can also be made online at dscf.ca/designated-ministry-support (please select "Restorative Ministry Fund (Prison)" in the drop-down box.) **Donations of sturdy rosaries (metal chains)** are also requested for prison ministry: please drop-off / send to the Catholic Pastoral Centre or call Restorative Ministry at (306) 659-5845. (Prison Ministry is supported by gifts to the Bishop's Annual Appeal.)



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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

Movie Night - Saint Anne Truth and Reconciliation Committee will host a movie night featuring "Night Raiders," a science fiction action thriller about a Cree woman trying to save her daughter in a dystopian future at 7 p.m. **Saturday, Jan. 27**, held at Saint Anne Parish, 217 Lenore Dr., Saskatoon (moderate violence, strong language and intense scenes). Snacks will be available.

NET Ministries of Canada – a national Catholic youth ministry organization that sends out teams of young adults to re-engage young people in their Catholic faith through dynamic retreats and youth discipleship – will hold a Mission Discernment Night at 7 p.m. **Friday, Jan. 20** at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1235-12th Street E., Saskatoon for young adults (from Grade 11 to 30 years) who may be interested in a year of mission.

Warm-up location at St. Mary Parish Hall is now open 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. seven nights a week. Find an update about the project – including ways to help – at the diocesan Catholic Saskatoon News site at: <https://news.rcdos.ca>.

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

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<https://rcdos.ca>

<https://news.rcdos.ca>

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



Bringing Home the Word

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (B)

December 31, 2023

Family Values

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Some of the most popular television programs depict family interactions. Unfortunately, many of these families are dysfunctional, and those that are not often appear to be vapid, boring, even unrealistic. Today's readings offer examples of genuine family values and the kind of relationships for which most people yearn.

Sirach describes the tender care that bonds parents and children. First it is the parents who care for the children. Over the years the roles reverse, and adult children care for elderly parents.

Sunday Readings

**Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14 or
Genesis 15:1–6; 21:1–3**

Those who honor their father will have joy in their own children, / and when they pray they are heard.

**Colossians 3:12–21 or
Colossians 3:12–17 or
Hebrews 11:8, 11–12, 17–19**

And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

**Luke 2:22–40 or
Luke 2:22, 39–40**

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.

The family is the basic community, where one first learns the hard lessons of unselfishness and forgiveness. The psalm response also describes a model family. The husband will experience success in his work and enjoy the blessings of family life with his wife and their children. Paul provides a list of values to which family members should commit themselves: “compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another” (Colossians 3:12–13). Finally, the Gospel reading provides a glimpse into the lives of the Holy Family. Here they are—a refugee family with Joseph as the protector.

In a way, these are all “holy families.” Prayer is important in the first reading; fear of the Lord is rewarded in the psalm; Paul calls the people “God’s chosen ones” (Colossians 3:12). This feast is not meant to be only a look into the past at the Holy Family. It is an opportunity for us to look into the present and do our part to make our own families holy. †

***These are family values:
compassion, kindness,
humility, gentleness,
and patience, bearing
with one another and
forgiving one another.***

A Word from Pope Francis

All parents are guardians of their children’s lives, not the owners, and they must help them to grow, to mature.... This is the mission to which the family is directed: to create conditions favorable to the harmonious and full growth of its children, so they may live a good life, worthy of God and constructive for the world.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 27, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What already makes your family holy?
- What might make it holier?

Born into the Ordinary

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

After the birth of Christ, we need not look to the extraordinary, the spectacular or the miraculous to find God. God is now found where we live—in our kitchens, at our tables, in our wounds, and in each other's faces.

That is hard to believe and always has been. When Jesus was on earth, virtually no one believed he was the Messiah, precisely because he was so ordinary, so unlike what they imagined God to be. They had expected a superstar, a king, someone who would turn the world rightfully upside down. Preaching meekness and gentleness, Jesus didn't live up to those expectations. In terms of his appearance, Jesus apparently wasn't worth describing. He looked like everyone else. Even after the resurrection, he is mistaken for a gardener, a cook, a traveler.

Things haven't changed much in two thousand years. Seldom does Christ meet expectations. We, like his contemporaries,



are constantly looking beyond the ordinary, beyond the gardener, the cook, and the traveling stranger, to try to find a miraculous Christ. It is for this reason that we fly off to Fatima or Lourdes to see a spot where the Blessed Virgin might have cried but fail to see the significance of the tears shed at our own breakfast table. We are intrigued by a Padre Pio who had the wounds of Christ on his hands but fail to see the wounds of Christ in those suffering around us or in our

own emotional and moral wounds. We pray for visions, but seldom watch a sunset. We marvel at the gift of tongues but are bored listening to babies. We look for Christ everywhere, except in the place where the incarnation took place: our flesh. Love is a thing that happens in ordinary places—in kitchens, at tables, in bedrooms, in workplaces, in families, in the flesh. God abides in us when we abide there. Through the Incarnation, God crawls into ordinary life and invites us to meet him there. †

From *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas*, 2005



*Lord Jesus, so that all families,
and the family of humankind,
may grow in the ways of holiness,
we pray—Be born in us,
be born in our world.*

The Redemptorists

A New Year's Resolution

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

I am a two-time cancer survivor. After the second diagnosis, I was stunned and went home, sat down in prayer, and then wrote my own creed.

*I am going to strive to be productive
for as long as I can.*

*I am going to make every day and every
activity as precious and enjoyable as
possible.*

*I am going to strive to be as gracious,
warm, and charitable as possible.*

*I am going to strive to be healthy as long
as I can.*

*I am going to strive to accept others' love
in a deeper way than I have up to now.*

*I am going to strive to live a more fully
"reconciled" life. No room for past hurts
anymore.*

*I am going to strive to keep my sense of
humor intact.*

*I am going to strive to be as courageous
and brave as I can.*

*I am going to strive, always, to never
look on what I am losing but rather to
look at how wonderful and full my life
has been and is.*

*And I am going to, daily, lay all of this
at God's feet through prayer. Amen.*

Life has never been more precious,
nor more enjoyable. Happy New Year. †

From *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for
Advent and Christmas*, 2019

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 1–6, 2024

Monday, Mary the Holy Mother of God:
Nm 6:22–27 / Gal 4:4–7 / Lk 2:16–21

Tuesday, Sts. Basil the Great and
Gregory Nazianzen:
1 Jn 2:22–28 / Jn 1:19–28

Wednesday, Christmas Weekday:
1 Jn 2:29–3:6 / Jn 1:29–34

Thursday, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:
1 Jn 3:7–10 / Jn 1:35–42

Friday, St. John Neumann:
1 Jn 3:11–21 / Jn 1:43–51

Saturday, Christmas Weekday:
1 Jn 5:5–13 / Mk 1:7–11 or
Lk 3:23–38 or 3:23, 31–34, 36, 38



Invest time each week to
expand your vocabulary and
deepen your faith.

31 December 2023

WORD OF THE WEEK

Vocation \vō-ˈkā-shən\

A summons or strong drive to a particular course of action, career, or occupation; a divine call to consecrated life or diocesan holy orders.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-vocation>

CONTEXT

Many people mistake our work for our **vocation**. Our **vocation** is the love of Jesus.

—Mother Teresa

No **vocation** is born of itself or lives for itself. A **vocation** flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people.

—Pope Francis

Everybody, no matter what **vocation** they're looking at, should add music as an essential to their curriculum. Music can be a very important part of your soul and your growth as a human being. It's so powerful.

—Quincy Jones

WHY IT MATTERS

Each of us, through our Baptism, is called by God to follow the path of love. Our unique and particular response is our **vocation**. The church generally refers to four types of **vocations**: marriage, single life, holy orders, and religious life. It is up to each of us to discern the **vocation** that will give us the greatest sense of fulfillment and joy and lead us to holiness.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church: The Beatitudes express the **vocation** of the faithful and shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life (1717).

From *Vita Consecrata*: In the unity of the Christian life, the various **vocations** are like so many rays of the one light of Christ, whose radiance brightens the countenance of the Church.

RELATED WORDS

Discipleship | Charism | Consecrated Life

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Vocation: Does everyone have one?

Vocation is one of those words that tends to elicit a host of questions. What does it mean that God “calls” us? Does God plan our lives? Is free will a polite fiction, when God has our destiny all worked out in advance? The short answers are: Our freedom is real, human history has no blueprint, and God is prepared to greet any choice we might make with a constellation of grace and possibility. So feel—really and seriously—free.

Yet we say God calls us. To what, if not to particular things? God calls us to fullness of life. God wants you to be everything you can be, to the height and breadth and depth of your being. God wants you to be fully alive, which means loving, giving, expressing, and radiant—just as God is. We're made in the image and likeness of God. So answer that call, and you have stepped into your vocation for sure.

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <https://tinyurl.com/QCA-vocation>

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD (JANUARY 1)

Bring Christ to bear

We begin the new year in the glow of the Christmas season of new life. Our focus today, however, is not so much on the child Jesus in the manger but on his mother, Mary. We bring to mind and heart the woman who said yes: Yes to being the Mother of God. Yes to becoming a vehicle for God to become incarnate in the world. It is fitting to honor Mary and walk with her as we enter resolutely into the new year.

READINGS: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (18 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/010124.cfm>). "The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!"

FAITH IN ACTION

How does God call us to be bearers of Christ? We can start with offering Christ and all others the fullness of our love.

“On Living Tradition: Catholic Culture and the Spiritual Discipline of Fine Art”



DESSERT NIGHT AND LECTURE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024
AT 7 PM AT OUR LADY OF
LOURDES

Please come to Rebuilding Catholic Culture’s 7th Annual Dessert Night and Talk on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 7 pm at Our Lady of Lourdes (doors open at 6:30pm). 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. This will be followed by our famous cheesecake and brownie bar. This event is free of charge, but we do ask that you consider a free will donation. Space is limited: **please RSVP** your attendance. Contact Celene Sidloski at (306) 715-1541 or at csidloski@stmcollege.ca.

St. Anne's Parish

*Truth and Reconciliation
Committee*

MOVIE NIGHT: NIGHT RAIDERS

Saturday
Jan 27th
7:00 PM



Sci-fi action thriller (PG 14)

Popcorn, snacks, and drinks available

**Advisory: moderate violence, strong
language, and intense scenes**

*A message from Myron Rogal, diocesan Coordinator of Justice and Peace
and Fr. Kevin McGee, Pastor at St. Mary Parish, Saskatoon*

[A night-time warm-up site at St. Mary Parish Hall in Saskatoon has now been in operation since Dec. 4th 2023.](#) There has certainly been some learning and adapting in these early days, yet expectations have been exceeded, and overall, the site has been operating smoothly while serving its purpose: providing a safe and warm place for those without shelter on winter nights. Your prayers have certainly been a factor in this success, so thank you!

The early numbers and demographics have already presented some interesting realities. Firstly, the numbers are higher than predicted; this points to a lack of options and wider opportunities, with our neighbours facing immediate housing challenges. An analogy I've been using for this site is that of an ambulance in that the site serves as an emergency measure at the start of a wider continuum of care.

Another interesting piece is that a high number of women have been visiting the site as a refuge. This is significant as there is a feeling of safety and, at the same time, points to a vulnerable state that many women find themselves in. Communication has been another highlight from the staff and leadership of the Salvation Army, with regular reporting and sharing of concerns as well as successes. Support for maintaining the quality of the site and the experience of the guests has been another blessing from the leadership of the police service, the fire service, and respective city departments, as well as collaborating neighbourhood agencies. The desire of individuals, parishes and recently from another Christian denomination to support the initiative remains strong, and we are suggesting several ways to pour out that generosity.

Ways to help:

1. **Pray.** Be deliberate in taking a moment each day to pray for the guests of the site and everyone involved.
2. **Advocate.** St. Mary's is one small, albeit important piece in affirming the human dignity of the poor and vulnerable. As these are unprecedented times in the city, province and beyond, take time to meet, inform and work with elected officials as well as agencies and people of other faiths to take collective steps that will reduce poverty.

3. **Donate:**

Option #1: monetary donations:

The Community of St. Mary Parish has partnered with the Salvation Army to provide the overnight warm-up location in its upper hall for the winter months.

As the needs of those who are the most vulnerable in our city will continue beyond this time frame, St. Mary Parish will be discerning how it can continue to provide outreach and support for those in our neighbourhood who, for a variety of reasons, live without access to many basic needs. The parish hopes to eventually have the financial resources to hire or contract someone to coordinate an outreach ministry that will work with other parishes and volunteers in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon and partners like the Salvation Army. To this end, any financial support would be greatly appreciated. Donations to this project can be made in the following ways:

- a. Cheques can be made out to St. Mary's Parish, with "Warm up shelter" written in the memo line. Cheques can either be dropped off or mailed to St. Mary Parish, 211 Avenue O South, Saskatoon, SK S7M 2R6.
- b. Debit or credit card (Visa or MasterCard only). Debit or credit card donations can be made in person at the parish office, or credit card donations can be called in to the parish office.
- c. Pre-Authorized donation, if you are wanting to set up longer-term donations, please call the parish office or e-mail Ryan Baker at rnbaker@rcdos.ca to receive a pre-authorized giving form.
- d. E-transfers can be sent to rnbaker@rcdos.ca. Please include your name and mailing address along with "Warm-Up Shelter" in the memo line
- e. All donations over \$20.00 will be issued a tax receipt.

Option #2 – donation of needed items

Suggestions for donations include blankets, mitts, gloves, toques, and jackets. Donated items can be dropped off at St. Mary Parish Office, 211 Avenue O South during office hours, or at the Salvation Army location at 339 Ave C South.

Several have also expressed a desire to volunteer. Thank you for your generous hearts! As this project is new, we are still discerning and discussing with those serving on the front lines where volunteers might be able to serve most effectively. We have not forgotten or lost track of you and will reach out when this opportunity becomes a reality.

Thank you again for your interest, your prayers, and your support!