



# 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.*

January 7, 2024 | The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

It's interesting how an event can be interpreted by different people. God's revelation of himself in the birth of the child Jesus is clearly one such event. The Magi, Gentiles from the east, had heard of this "newborn king of the Jews" and undertook a long and arduous journey to see him and offer him homage. They were edified and eager in their search. Herod, himself a king – of the Jews – did not have the same reaction. The very thought of this "newborn king" threatened him and filled him with rage and suspicion. In this moment in human history, the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles (i.e., the Epiphany) unveils the truth of God's redemptive work for all of creation to be reconciled to himself. This truth has been accepted and rejected throughout time, and our celebration of this feast gives us an opportunity to give thanks in a focused and particular way for our acceptance of it – to give thanks for the gift of our faith. Perhaps it is even a moment for us to have our own, colloquial epiphany: an "aha moment," where we once again truly understand the depth of God's love for us.

### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The Magi, the Gentiles from the east, were changed after their encounter with the Christ Child; they were warned not to return to Herod and they obeyed and took a different route home. In today's second reading, St. Paul says it has been revealed that Gentiles are "coheirs, members of the same body" – the body of Christ. Just as the magi were forever changed by their journey, so must we be. Their journey is a model for us, but we do not have to seek Christ in the world as they did; he is here with us, in Word and in the Eucharist. The Incarnation of Jesus is pure gift to our weary, troubled world. As we heard in Isaiah, "rise up! ... [our] light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon [us]." As the Magi followed the light of the star, let us rise to the occasion and respond to God's light in our world by recognizing the good gifts God gives us each day. And then thank him for his enduring presence in our lives.

**PRAY** Lord God of heaven and earth, | you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star ... | Fill us with the light of Christ, | that our concern for others may reflect your love. | We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(from USCCB Epiphany prayer for blessing of home)

JANUARY 7	JANUARY 8	JANUARY 9	JANUARY 10	JANUARY 11	JANUARY 12	JANUARY 13
10a Mass 12p Mass 1-4p Adoration 7p Mass <i>Postcard Campaign!</i> See inside bulletin	9a-3p CWL Quilters 7p RCIA	8:30a Mass 7p CWL	8:30a Mass 7p Adoration	8:30a Mass	8:30a Mass 9a-12p Adoration	11a-12p Confession 5p Mass 6p Winter Social

## 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%

Holy Spirit parish contributes 5% of the Sunday collection to charities within our community. One of these charities is Care and Share. Care and Share is an outreach program that coordinates support for children in Saskatoon's 17 community elementary schools. The program assists St. John's Ambulance in offering a babysitting course to 12 year old youths in the community schools to help them gain first aid skills. Care and Share also supports a dignity fund. If a child does not have the dignity of underwear or socks, shoes or weather appropriate clothing to wear, this fund is used to purchase what they need. This is offered to any children in the city that need assistance. Personal hygiene supplies like soap, shampoo and toothbrushes are also provided. Thank you for your support. [www.careandsharesaskatoon.com](http://www.careandsharesaskatoon.com)



**Urgently Needed Items of Furniture and Household Goods** Holy Spirit's newest refugee arrival Asefaw, Merhawit and their children, Nobel (14 yrs.) and Yonatan (1 yrs.) are moving into an apartment and they need new or gently used items of furniture and household goods. If you have items you would like to donate, please use the sign-up sheet that will be available at all Masses this weekend in the Place of Welcome. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and generosity toward our refugee arrivals.

## 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: Anna Schlosser,
- And on the anniversary of death, Methiyas Pereira, Dona Charlette, Vijaydasa Pereira, Paul Sokorokoff, Jaime Aligabo, we pray to the Lord.



*'Wise men still seek Him'*



**Tuesday January 9th, The CWL** will be holding their next meeting beginning with Mass at 7 pm in the church. Following mass, the Provincial President, Connie Crichton will present the Unity Outreach Project. This is a program being presented to each CWL council across the country to hear the thoughts and ideas of members on their own council for moving ahead. Whether you are a brand new member or have been a member for many years, we hope that every member of the council will take this opportunity to be heard.



**Monday, January 22nd at 7 pm The Knights of Columbus of Saskatoon and Campaign Life Coalition Saskatchewan** will be hosting a screening of the documentary film called "Roe Canada" at the Cathedral of the Holy Family hall. Admission is by free will offering. The film discusses how Canada can effect the change of hearts away from 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

Fill out a card in the Place of Welcome! We'll make sure it gets in the mail on time!

**GIVE CARE, NOT MAiD**

**FILL OUT NAME & ADDRESS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City + Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**WRITE BRIEF MESSAGE**

Please increase safeguards to MAiD eligibility. People should have better access to supports that help them live, not die.

Sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_

The Honourable Mark Holland  
Minister of Health  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A8

**DROP IN MAIL**

Normalizing MAiD reduces the level of care, support, and resources available to vulnerable people, increasing the pressure for them to choose it.

Life Culture

## This weekend, Jan. 7/8 - Give Care, not MAiD

On March 9, 2023, Bill C-39 received Royal Assent and immediately came into effect, temporarily postponing the eligibility date for persons suffering solely from a mental illness until March 17, 2024. A special joint committee is making decisions on the implementation of MAiD for Mental Illness at the end of January.

**Please consider participating in a simple postcard campaign, giving you a tangible way to encourage the government to support care, not MAiD. Our goal is to complete and send every card we have!**

Postcards are available to fill out in the Place of Welcome,

Thank you!

## 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.

**PASTOR • Fr. Joseph Salihu** [jsalihu@rcdos.ca](mailto:jsalihu@rcdos.ca)

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR • Fr. Greg Smith-Windsor**

### HOLY SPIRIT PARISH STAFF

#### Building Maintenance

Ed Yuzyk [info@holyspiritsaskatoon.ca](mailto:info@holyspiritsaskatoon.ca)

#### Baptisms, RCIC

Sharon Powell [spowell@rcdos.ca](mailto:spowell@rcdos.ca)

#### Financial Administrator

Shannon Granger [finance@holyspiritsaskatoon.ca](mailto:finance@holyspiritsaskatoon.ca)

#### Ministry of Care

Kelly Wormsbecker [kwormsbecker@rcdos.ca](mailto:kwormsbecker@rcdos.ca)

#### Office Manager

Karen Klein [kklein@rcdos.ca](mailto:kklein@rcdos.ca)

#### Parish Life and Liturgy

Lynn Eremondi [leremondi@rcdos.ca](mailto:leremondi@rcdos.ca)

#### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Erin Gratton [egratton@rcdos.ca](mailto:egratton@rcdos.ca)

#### Sacramental Preparation/Faith Formation

Erin Gratton [egratton@rcdos.ca](mailto:egratton@rcdos.ca)

#### Youth Ministry Coordinator

Lynn Eremondi [leremondi@rcdos.ca](mailto:leremondi@rcdos.ca)

**2023 INFANT BAPTISM 2023 Baptism Schedule** Sharon 306-374-1425 or [spowell@rcdos.ca](mailto:spowell@rcdos.ca)

**CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF CHILDREN** Sharon at [spowell@rcdos.ca](mailto:spowell@rcdos.ca) or 306-374-1425

**CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS - RCIA** Erin 306-374-1425 or email [egratton@rcdos.ca](mailto:egratton@rcdos.ca).

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION** Nicole Gursky at 306 229-0384 or email [ngursky@sasktel.net](mailto:ngursky@sasktel.net)

Please visit [holyspiritsaskatoon.ca](http://holyspiritsaskatoon.ca) for more information about faith formation.



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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://FORMED.org)! Simply head over to [holyspiritsaskatoon.formed.org](http://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](mailto:info@holyspiritsaskatoon.ca)



# 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](mailto:leremondi@rcdos.ca)

**DEADLINE FOR PURCHASE IS SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2024**

E-TRANSFER • CASH • CHEQUE

**Give Care, not MAiD.** On March 9, 2023, Bill C-39 received Royal Assent and immediately came into effect, temporarily postponing the eligibility date for persons suffering solely from a mental illness until March 17, 2024. A special joint committee is making decisions on the implementation of MAiD for Mental Illness at the end of January. **Please consider participating** in a simple postcard campaign, see below, giving you a tangible way to encourage the government to support care, not MAiD.

**Fill out a card in the Place of Welcome! We'll make sure it gets in the mail on time!**

GIVE CARE, NOT MAiD



MAiD targets the vulnerable in our society,  
the very ones we should be providing care for.

SUPPORT A CULTURE OF LIFE

WRITE BRIEF  
MESSAGE

**Life Culture**

FILL OUT  
NAME & ADDRESS

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City + Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please increase safeguards  
to MAiD eligibility. People  
should have better access  
to supports that help them  
live, not die.

Sincerely,

No  
postage  
required

The Honourable Mark Holland  
Minister of Health  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Normalizing MAiD reduces the level of  
care, support, and resources available  
to vulnerable people, increasing the  
pressure for them to choose it.

DROP  
IN  
MAIL

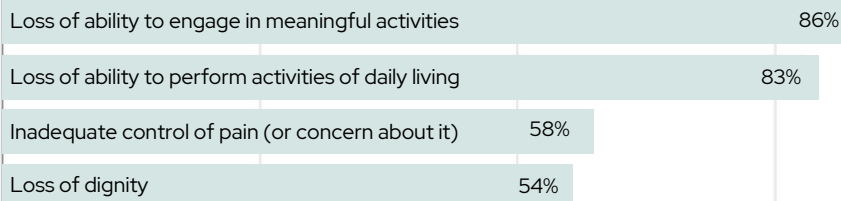


## What is Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)?

MAiD is the Canadian legislation that allows physicians, nurse practitioners, and pharmacists to carry out euthanasia and assisted suicide.

## Reasons for Choosing MAiD:

\*According to the Third Annual Report on MAiD in Canada 2021



MAiD removes the ethical and moral responsibility society has to take care of the aging and vulnerable.

## What is Assisted Suicide?

Assisted suicide is the provision or prescription of a drug that the eligible person **takes themselves**, in order to bring about their own death.

## What is Euthanasia?

Euthanasia is the direct administration of a substance that causes death, such as an injection of a drug. This substance is **administered by a physician or nurse practitioner**.

In 2021, MAiD was the sixth leading cause of death in Canada with 10,064 Canadians choosing to die by euthanasia or assisted suicide.

## What are Canadians Choosing?

**Total number of MAiD cases in Ontario: 13011**

(The number of MAiD cases in Ontario from 2016 when MAiD was legalized in Canada till October 2022)

### Type:

- **Clinician-administered (Euthanasia): 13008**
- **Patient-administered (Assisted Suicide): 3**

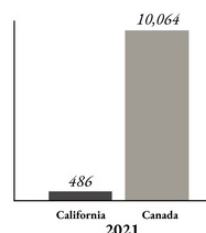
Statistics show that people do not want to take part in the action to end their own life. When a healthcare professional administers the action, they are able to go through with it.

**31,500** Canadians died by Medical Assistance in Dying between 2016 and 2021

## MAiD in Canada Compared to California:

To put into perspective how unrestrained MAiD is in Canada, the state of California legalized MAiD in 2016, the same year as Canada. California and Canada have approximately the same population, 39 million and 38 million respectively. Yet in 2021, 486 Californians died by MAiD compared to 10,064 Canadians.

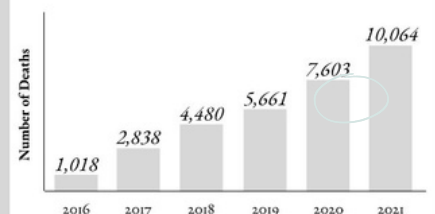
### MAiD in California vs Canada



## MAiD by the Numbers:

MAiD deaths are increasing steadily every year in Canada since Medical Assistance in Dying was legalized in 2016.

### MAiD Deaths in Canada by Year



\*Third annual report on Medical Assistance in Dying in Canada 2021

# **"Aging is not a problem to be solved, but a meaning to be lived out."**

**End-of-life can be a difficult topic to discuss, but it's an important discussion to have. When you're healthy, it's natural not to think about what might happen if you experienced a serious illness or injury. But this is actually the best time to talk about it.**

**Begin by talking to your loved ones and your doctor about your care should disease or injury happen. By planning ahead, you'll have peace of mind that you'll receive the medical care you want and your family will be able to focus on making sure your wishes are respected.**

## **Questions to discuss with your children or family members include:**

What are my concerns and fears about dying?

What do I want to be able to do in the time I have left?

Who would I like to see again?

Are there people I need to reconcile with?

Will I want to pursue all possible treatments or are there some I would prefer to forego because of the potential impact they could have on my quality of life?

Who would I like to make health decisions on my behalf if I can't?

## **Questions to discuss with your doctors should you fall ill:**

What is my prognosis?

What is the likelihood that I could be cured?

What is your projection for how much longer I will live?

If I decide to undergo treatment, what effect may it have on prolonging my life and how will it impact my quality of life?

What types of risks and side effects does the treatment have and how severe are they?

If I decide not to undergo treatment, how much longer may I live?

Do I want to spend my remaining time in the hospital or do I want to be at home?

**By thinking about your goals, priorities and the types of care and interventions you do and do not wish to undergo before you face a serious illness or injury, you and your loved ones will have a better experience at the end.**

*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. 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:rnbaker@rcdos.ca) to receive a pre-authorized giving form.
- d. E-transfers can be sent to [rnbaker@rcdos.ca](mailto: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!



The 2024 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is on the theme "You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself" based on Luke 10:25-37. This year's theme was prepared by an ecumenical team in Burkina Faso.

Resources include an Order of Service, a Bible study, and various reflections on the theme. There are also hymn suggestions and resources for children, high schools, and university campuses. Download these free materials at <https://www.weekofprayer.ca/2024-wpcu-resources>

Local neighbourhood services and other observances are encouraged at any time of the year. The traditional dates are Jan. 18 to 25. Services are planned at the following times:

- Sun. Jan. 21, 3pm at Lakeview United Church, 3200 McCallum Ave., Regina
  - Sun. Jan. 21, 3pm at First Mennonite Church, 418 Queen St., Saskatoon
- and in your local community. Please send us details about your local service.

**Watch for further details about:**

- Jan. 18-25, 7am WPCU services and breakfast, Saskatoon
- Thurs., Jan. 18, Prayer service and lunch at Queen's House, Saskatoon
- Ecumenical Youth event at Zion Lutheran Church, 323 4th Avenue, Saskatoon
- Thurs., Jan. 25, Ecumenical Campus Worship at St. Andrew's College chapel, Saskatoon

Ecumenical Bible study - later in 2024

**De Margerie Lectures on Christian Reconciliation and Unity (Karen Petersen Finch)**

- Wed. Jan. 24, 7pm, Re-imagining Lay People as Stewards of Doctrine (Campion College, Regina)
- Thurs. Jan. 25, 7pm, Doctrine as the Fuel of Renewal (STM College, Saskatoon)
- Fri., Jan. 26, 10am, The Eucharist - Where is Jesus? (Holy Spirit Parish, Saskatoon)

Sat., Jan. 27, 10am, The Eucharist - Where is Jesus? (Christ the King Parish, Regina)

*NOTE: in many communities, an offering is collected during ecumenical services for a local project, food bank, or other shared concern. Please consider sending your offering to the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, 2617 Clarence Avenue South, Saskatoon, SK, S7J 1M5 or by e-transfer to [admin@pcecumenism.ca](mailto:admin@pcecumenism.ca)*

WEEK of  
**PRAYER**  
for CHRISTIAN UNITY  
**2024**



"You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself" (Luke 10:27)

[weekofprayer.ca](http://weekofprayer.ca)



THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES  
LE CONSEIL CANADIEN DES ÉGLISES



Prairie Centre for  
**Ecumenism**




Centre canadien  
d'œcuménisme  
Canadian Centre  
for Ecumenism  
INFORMATION • DIALOGUE • RECONCILIATION



# Diocesan Bulletin

Jan. 7, 2024 - The Epiphany of Our Lord

# 1

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

[rcdos.ca](http://rcdos.ca)

## Upcoming Events

### **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.

**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. Register at (306) 343-0325 (lunch is provided). As Catholics, our faith in Jesus Christ has much to teach us about living and dying well. Horizons of Hope is a resource about palliative care created by the Canadian Catholic bishops. To book a workshop in your parish, contact Jackie Saretsky at [jsaretsky@rcdos.ca](mailto:jsaretsky@rcdos.ca) or (306) 659-5839. (*Hospital chaplaincy is supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.*)

**"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; free-will donation). Speaker is Dr. Peter Kwasniewski, a speaker, composer, and scholar who has written more than 20 books on beauty, music, and liturgy. Space is limited: RSVP to Celene Sidloski at (306) 715-1541 or at [csidloski@stmcollege.ca](mailto: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 at 11 a.m. **Thursday, Jan. 18** at Queen's House, 601 Taylor Street West, Saskatoon, followed by an optional lunch (register at: [www.queenshouse.org/programs](http://www.queenshouse.org/programs)). This year's **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 at: [www.youtube.com/@schmeisercentre](http://www.youtube.com/@schmeisercentre). The De Margerie Series also includes an in-person-only public workshop entitled "The Eucharist - Where is Jesus?" to be held in Saskatoon from 10 a.m. to noon, **Friday, Jan. 26** (soup lunch to follow) at Holy Spirit Parish, 114 Kingsmere Pl., Saskatoon. (*Ecumenism is supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.*)



### **Epiphany of the Lord'**

Please visit the diocesan website for a Christmas message and video from Bishop Mark Hagemoen: [rcdos.ca](http://rcdos.ca)

**Theology on Tap for young adults 19 to 35** begins a New Year with the theme "Let's Talk Philosophy!" from 5 to 7 p.m. **Monday, Jan. 15** at Louis' on Campus (93 Campus Dr., Saskatoon), with special guests from the St. Thomas More College Philosophy Department. All are welcome! Theology on Tap is on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/saskatoonTonT](http://www.facebook.com/saskatoonTonT).

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

**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](http://saskatoonsearch.ca) (*Youth ministry is supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.*)

**Diocesan Prayer** - We pray as a diocesan family for a spirit of humble worship, that we may all bring everything that we are to adore Jesus Christ in the Eucharist with the devotion of the Magi who came to adore Him bringing gifts.

# Message Board



# 2

**An overnight 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 – on the diocese's Catholic Saskatoon News site at: <https://news.rcdos.ca>.

**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). Please contact Sr. Marta Piano at [mpiano@rcdos.ca](mailto:mpiano@rcdos.ca) or (306) 370-5951.

**New IPL course** - The diocesan Indigenous Pastoral & Lay Leader (IPL) Ministry Education program presents a new course "Contemporary Effects of Colonization: Social Justice," Tuesday afternoons 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. **Jan. 9 to March 5**; cost is \$200 (some funding assistance available). No pre-requisite is necessary (those completing eight courses receive a diploma). See: [rcdos.ca/indigenous-ministry-education](https://rcdos.ca/indigenous-ministry-education).

**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) 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." **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.*)

**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](https://rcdos.ca/employment). To apply, submit a cover letter and resumé to Fr. Graham Hill, CSsR, at [ghill@rcdos.ca](mailto:ghill@rcdos.ca).

**Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation** offers an 11-month leadership program integrating faith and life that begins in June, open to all Canadian Catholic women, from all walks of life, who want to make a difference. Sessions are online with a final face-to-face component held in June 2025 in Ottawa. Deadline to apply is **Jan. 15**: [www.cwlfcanada.ca](https://www.cwlfcanada.ca).

## Awaken presents: "Praying as Catholics"

**7 pm to 9 pm on Tuesdays in January**  
**Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Rd, Saskatoon**

Prayer for Catholics is a way of living out our entire life communicating with God. Prayer can be formal or informal, verbal or non-verbal, active or contemplative. In this Year of Prayer in preparation for Jubilee 2025, join a four-part series to explore four ways to pray as Catholics – sessions will include some time for prayer!

**Jan. 9: Centering Prayer** - Fr. Kevin McGee

**Jan. 16: Eucharistic Adoration** - Fr. Gerard Cooper

**Jan. 23: Praying with Scripture** - Verbum Dei Sisters

**Jan. 30: Marian Prayer** - Fr. Daniel Yasinski

Cost: \$40 for the series. Register online at:

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

or call Astrid Alas for more information: (306) 659-5858.

*The diocesan Adult Faith Awaken program  
is supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.*

**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, 217 Lenore Dr., Saskatoon (14+ with moderate violence, strong language, and intense scenes). Snacks will be available.

**Triumph Freedom Through Healing Retreat** is designed to produce life-long, lasting transformation, based on the teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Therese of Lisieux, scripture and tradition. The live-in retreat will be held **March 1 - 9** at Queen's House, 601 Taylor Street West, Saskatoon. See: [www.triumphretreat.com/marchregistration](https://www.triumphretreat.com/marchregistration).

**Breathe Catholic marriage conference:** Breathe fresh air into your marriage **March 8-9** at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. Find more information and online registration at: [www.catholicmarriageandfamily.com](https://www.catholicmarriageandfamily.com).

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

Catholic Pastoral Centre, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon SK S7S 1H1

Phone: (306) 242-1500 or Toll free: 1-877-661-5005

E-mail: [kyaworski@rcdos.ca](mailto:kyaworski@rcdos.ca)

<https://rcdos.ca>

<https://news.rcdos.ca>

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





# Bringing Home the Word

*The Epiphany of the Lord (B)*

January 7, 2024

## Do You See What I See?

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

Today's Gospel answers this question quite definitively: No! Not everyone saw the guiding star in the sky. Not even those who, presumably, knew the prophecy found in the reading from Isaiah. That ancient prophet announced to the people of Jerusalem: "Your light has come" (Isaiah 60:1). In fact, he promised them they would be so embraced by that light, they themselves would shine brightly with its radiance. But when the time came, not everyone saw it. Or, having seen it, they did not recognize it.

The people of Jesus' time were not ignorant of these prophecies. They

knew what they meant and to whom they referred. Consequently, when the stargazers who saw the light inquired about it, those to whom they inquired knew where to send them. So what was the problem? Why were those men in Jerusalem not excited about the star? A new king meant a rival king, and those who had power weren't eager to relinquish it.

We know that not everyone in Israel rejected Jesus. Shepherds had already thrilled at this birth. Someone in Bethlehem had opened his stable to this Child and his parents. Now we add the stargazers from another country. It seems the invitation to come to him is extended to all: political and religious leaders, the unsophisticated and marginalized, the established homeowner, the foreigners in our midst. They are all asked: "Did you see what I saw? What do you think of him?" †

***The invitation to come to him  
is extended to all:  
political and religious leaders,  
the unsophisticated,  
everyone in our midst.***



## Sunday Readings

### **Isaiah 60:1-6**

Arise! Shine, for your light has come, the glory of the LORD has dawned upon you.

### **Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**

The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus.

### **Matthew 2:1-12**

They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

## ***A Word from Pope Francis***

The Magi humbled themselves before the unheard-of logic of God. They welcomed the Lord not the way they had imagined him to be, but as he was, small and poor. Their prostration is the sign of those who place their own ideas aside and make room for God. It takes humility to do this.

ANGELUS, JANUARY 6, 2022



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How open are you to new thinking?
- God's invitation is offered to all. Have you marginalized any group of people?



# Beneath the Whitewash

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

There is a story told in Holland about an old church. For many years, upon entering it, everyone would stop and bow in the direction of a whitewashed wall. Nobody knew exactly why anybody did that, but everyone had been doing it for such a long time that nobody questioned it. It was tradition. It felt right.

One day, the parish decided to renovate the church. They began to strip the paint and whitewash off the old walls. They discovered traces of a painting on the wall that everyone bowed to. They gently peeled off the whitewash so as not to damage what was beneath it. Slowly, a very beautiful, centuries-old painting of Christ emerged. Nobody alive was old enough to have actually seen it before. It had been hidden for at least a century. Yet everyone had been bowing to it, not knowing why, but sensing that there was a good reason for the reverence.



There is a Christmas lesson in that. Western culture still bows toward the crib of Bethlehem. Like the people in that church in Holland, many are unclear why we are doing what we are doing. There is not much conscious faith left in secular Christmas celebrations, just a habitual response to a tradition.

But—as the story of the recovered painting can teach us—that’s not all bad. It’s better than not bowing to the wall at all. At least we still have the sense that there is something special beneath the whitewash. If we are among the ones who know that there is a painting of Christ behind the whitewash, our response should not be one of cynicism. Our task is not to stop the bowing or the celebration. Our task is to help peel off the whitewash, to help restore the painting beneath it, and to tell the story of who did the painting and why.

The best way to help our culture to celebrate Christmas properly is not by criticizing how it celebrates, but by celebrating in a better way. Let our joy exceed that of the commercial world! Let our bow be deeper and more aware of the marvelous gift that’s behind the whitewash: the gift of the Incarnation of our God! †

From *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas* by Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, available at [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org). *Daybreaks* authors include Fr. Daniel Horan, Sr. Dianne Bergant, and John Shea.

## Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From “Commit Fully” by Patricia Livingston

When my granddaughter was four, she wasn’t completely over the flu when her preschool Christmas pageant came around. Though no longer contagious, she was still pretty weak. “I have to go,” she said. “They need me. I’m the star.” I assumed she meant she had the lead role. But later, I discovered she was literally the star that led the Wise Men to Bethlehem. Sick or well, we each have a part to play in the pageant of life. All parts make a difference. We have to go. The world needs us. We shine to light the path to God. †

*Catholic Update*—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church teaching and tradition on contemporary topics. [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org) • 800-325-9526

## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, so that all believers  
may dwell in the light,  
walk in the light, and  
be witnesses to the light,  
we pray—Be born in us,  
be born in our world.

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

January 8–13

**Monday**, Baptism of the Lord:  
Is 55:1–11 or 1 Jn 5:1–9 / Mk 1:7–11


**Tuesday**, Weekday:  
1 Sm 1:9–20 / Mk 1:21–28

**Wednesday**, Weekday:  
1 Sm 3:1–10, 19–20 / Mk 1:29–39

**Thursday**, Weekday:  
1 Sm 4:1–11 / Mk 1:40–45

**Friday**, Weekday:  
1 Sm 8:4–7, 10–22a / Mk 2:1–12

**Saturday**, Weekday:  
1 Sm 9:1–4, 17–19; 10:1a / Mk 2:13–17

Bringing Home  
the Word 

January 7, 2024

© 2024 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057. Scripture quotations in this publication are from the *New American Bible*, revised edition, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2023 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).



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

07 January 2024

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Preparation of the Gifts

\pre-pə-'rā-shən |  
'gifts\

The set of ceremonial actions at Mass preceding the Eucharistic Prayer and Holy Communion. Includes dressing of the altar; bringing forward the bread and wine; and the community's personal sacrifices taken up in the collection. Formerly called the Offertory. The community offers a song of praise for all these gifts as the priest washes his hands in a purification rite.

**Pronunciation:** <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-preparation-gifts>

## CONTEXT

The **Preparation of the Gifts** allows time for the preparation of our hearts. Like the Magi bearing gifts and doing homage to Majesty, we bring our gifts and our praise to the Table.  
—Father Paul Boudreau

God has first blessed us with the gift of creation. Humans take those gifts given, wheat and grapes, and, using our creativity, make bread and wine. Then, we bring those gifts we have received and labored over to present them at the Altar/Table that they might be transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. Finally, we receive them back in Communion. The procession of the **Gifts** says, in essence, "Behold the gifts God has given us!"  
—Father Roc O'Connor, S.J.

## WHY IT MATTERS

We take great care preparing other festive tables for our most cherished gatherings. Could we do less for the table where the Real Presence of Christ will be made tangible for us?

From the General Instructions of the Roman Missal: The altar or Lord's table, which is the center of the whole Liturgy of the Eucharist, is made ready. . . . The offerings are then brought forward. It is a praiseworthy practice for the bread and wine to be presented by the faithful (73).

## RELATED WORDS

Corporal | purificator | Missal | Chalice

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### Is Epiphany about giving or getting gifts?

"We three kings of Orient are/ bearing gifts we traverse afar." Nowhere in the gospels does it claim there are three kings. They are magi, hereditary priests of the ancient Medes and Persians. At least the carol gets one thing right: this wise group does bear gifts. Gold symbolizes wealth and power. Frankincense, used in prayer, represents the divine Presence. Myrrh prepares bodies for burial. It's an ominous sign that would make a startling gift. . . . But they were appropriate honors for the King of the Universe, the Divine Son, and the crucified Lord.

We also bear Jesus gifts at every Eucharist: bread, wine, and our financial sacrifice. "Made by human hands," these gifts are transformed and returned to us as the Body and Blood of Christ, and then redistributed for those in need.

More gifts come to us by way of this shared Table. Grace pours out on the assembly. Grace forgives sin, and rescues us from every evil. This is one gift you don't want to put at the bottom of a closet.

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

## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (JANUARY 7)

### Remember our migrant roots

America was once renowned as the land where people could come to breathe freely. Scripture reminds us of the considerable gifts that migrant people bring with them. Whether king or commoner, each person offers what they have to make the community more dynamic.

READINGS: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12 (20 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/010724.cfm>). "Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you."

## FAITH IN ACTION

Let's welcome the newcomer and remember that the infant Jesus was once a migrant, too.

# “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](mailto:csidloski@stmcollege.ca).



2024 DE MARGERIE ECUMENICAL LECTURES ON CHRISTIAN RECONCILIATION AND UNITY

# Grassroots Ecumenism

## *Re-imagining Lay People as Stewards of Doctrine*

**Wed., Jan. 24**

7 p.m., Riffel Auditorium (CMAUD),  
Campion College  
University of Regina

**Respondent: Dr. Gertrude Rompré, EdD**

## *Doctrine as the Fuel of Renewal*

**Thurs., Jan. 25**

7 p.m., Fr. O'Donnell Auditorium,  
St. Thomas More College  
University of Saskatchewan

**Respondent: Dr. Brett Salkeld, PhD**



### **Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Karen Petersen Finch**

The Rev. Dr. Karen Petersen Finch is an ecumenical theologian in the Reformed tradition who specializes in dialogue with Roman Catholic theology at the local, national, and international levels. Her book, *Grassroots Ecumenism: The Way of Local Christian Reunion*, is currently inspiring

multilateral dialogue among lay people in the West Island of Montreal.

**Presented by:** Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, The Leslie & Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies at STM College, Campion College at the University of Regina, Saskatoon Theological Union, Archdiocese of Regina, Diocese of Saskatoon

**Livestream Link:**



[bit.ly/DeMargerie2024](https://bit.ly/DeMargerie2024)



St. Anne's Parish

*Truth and Reconciliation  
Committee*

# MOVIE NIGHT: NIGHT RAIDERS



Sci-fi action thriller (PG 14)

Popcorn, snacks, and drinks available

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

# Dates & Locations

More dates to be announced!

Mar 1 - Mar 9, 2024

\$ 1,300

Saskatoon, SK  
Queen's House

Last Triumph Retreat  
at this location!

Apr 14 - Apr 20, 2024

(Priests Only)

*\*Details differ. Please call to register\**

Jul 26 - Aug 3, 2024

\$ 1,100 - 1,400\*

Calgary, AB

FCJ Christian Life Centre

*\*\$1,100 - small room with shared bathroom  
\$1,400 - large room with ensuite*

Check-in at 6pm on the first night and retreat ends after lunch on the last day. Fees include registration, meals, facility, bedroom and retreat materials.

A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required at the time of registration with the full balance payable 2 weeks before the start of the Retreat.

## Register Today!

1

**By Phone:**

Bergit Pulvermacher  
1-639-206-7676



2

**Online:**

[www.triumphretreat.com](http://www.triumphretreat.com)

Freedom through Healing  
**Triumph**

## Freedom Through Healing



This 9 day retreat will send you equipped and grounded in God.

# 2024

Dates and Locations

### CONNECT TO GOD

An opportunity to allow yourself to encounter God through a daily experience of:

Mass  
Confession  
Rosary  
Adoration  
Teachings  
Prayerful Solitude

### ONE-ON-ONE GUIDANCE

One of the most unique and valuable aspects of this retreat is the regular access to spiritual direction with our team of experienced leaders

### SKILLS TO TAKE HOME

Improved relationships and confidence in navigating life's challenges.

The simple methods of prayer and discernment learned at 'triumph' will become life-long habits that help you maintain your new-found peace.



## Triumph will:

- Help you rediscover the joy of living
- Encourage you in making life giving choices.
- Guide you in recognizing and healing personal woundedness and understanding the need for God's healing work in your life, and in the healing work of forgiveness.
- Help identify and break generational patterns and begin to restore family.
- Encourage and support personal conversion and the freedom for deeper personal relationship with God, self and others.
- Bring feelings and emotions into balance and order, that they may serve as sign-posts in discernment and recognizing God's guidance in your life.
- Satisfy the ache and hunger within with what you are truly longing for.
- Equip you with tools to continually discover the power of God's healing in day to day living.
- Help you to love yourself. As a result, you'll experience better effectiveness at work, better marital relationships and a more fruitful family life.
- Reveal more profoundly the TRUTH of who God is and who you are!

## Retreat Leaders

Our founders, Jerry and Donna Kristian, have worked on the implementation and facilitation of the Triumph Program since 2008.



In 1978, Jerry experienced a renewed relationship with God and a call to service in the intercessory prayer and healing ministry. In 2006, Jerry accepted the invitation to join the founding Board of Directors of St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission in Bruno, SK. where he served as board chair and executive director. Jerry is committed to the principle that healing is essential to authentic faith formation.



Donna's love of the church has led her to 45 years of ministerial experience which includes parish and diocesan ministry, as well as teaching post secondary courses in Old & New Testament studies and Ignatian Discernment. Donna served as the Director of Healing & Growth Center at St. Therese Institute. Donna has a BA in Christianity and Culture from St. Michael's College, University of Toronto and a Masters Degree in Ministry and Spirituality from Regis College; Toronto School of Theology; University of Toronto.

At each Triumph retreat, Jerry & Donna are joined by an in-house priest and a qualified team.

A gentle and powerful program that produces life-long, lasting transformation

based on the teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Therese of Lisieux, Sacred Scripture and Catholic Tradition.

### We can come to you!

For more information call Jerry  
1-306-221-3092  
or contact us at  
[www.triumphretreat.com](http://www.triumphretreat.com).

— “ —

*"I have been looking for healing for years - everywhere - and I finally found it through 'triumph'... I am a different person today; I know how to deal with things in my life and where to turn for help."*

Veronica J.

(From a written letter, condensed)

— ” —

Triumph is a facilitated nine-day program designed to bring healing and spiritual growth to the wounded places of our being.

We invite you to come and encounter God on this gentle, powerful and life changing journey of inner healing and transformation ... a journey leading more deeply into a fulfilled, peaceful, Christ-centered life filled with joy.





## Run for Reconciliation - Final leg of the race

**Do you have a team? August 3 & 4 2024**

**Contact the Foundation for details**

Here we meet the last runner, outside of the executive director from the Catholic Foundation, on the TRC team. It's a pleasure to bring this story all together at Christmas, a time of giving and reflection. We have found forgiveness, hope, and now unity in this story, characteristics that are part of what reconciliation is about and what all of us may need to focus on as we reflect on our own journeys and how we can help others to ultimately help ourselves.



The fourth runner Hiroshige Watanabe (pro. wha-ton-a-bay) born Sakura, Chiba prefecture, Japan pop. 170,601, currently lives in Edmonton, Alberta. He emigrated to Canada after travelling and decided he wanted to stay upon visiting. He says he started running at a young age, around 6 years old, and that was part of his family. Even though he ran many marathons, he didn't start running ultras until he was 30. His first ultra marathon was 125km, 'so my thought was that I can do a marathon in 3 hours and that race is basically 3 marathons and so they give you 24 hours just to go slow'. 'But I was wrong', he says. The second ultra he attempted was the Blackfoot race of 100 km and finishing it but yet wanting to try the Death Race again. Prior to his second attempt more preparation was needed so he attended their training camp whereby you run/walk through the entire course which was extremely helpful, so much so that he finished the race at 22 hours. He has completed the Death Race 14 times, you read correctly, 14. Not without incredible amounts of training and preparation, disappointment and upset. He ran several without finishing, one with only a few minutes past the cut off. He ran legs 4 and 5 of this race, 53 kms, all through the night, and was awe inspiring as I saw him come in at about 1:30 in the morning for the final checkpoint. His partner Angie Zee was there with his supply kit, and he trots in like he went for a run in the park, 'everything is ok, legs good, feet good, I feel good, not too hungry, just some meatballs' he tells me. As I walked over to get the meatballs I thought to myself how easy and calm he made it look, but that's Hiro and that calmness was with him everywhere he went, and he gave that to everyone around him without

expectation. He did find this type of race to be the most difficult simply because he wasn't aware of how everyone would run, their total time before he could start, the team environment etc. But he was so thankful that they asked him, he wondered what they would think, and was so honoured and happy to be asked, that was the beauty of this, he was asked. A great underlying tone here is that he emigrated here by himself, without any family, none at all. Japan is 7830 km from Edmonton, anywhere from 18-30 hours by plane depending on the price so not an easy place to get to, especially for a family emergency. His mom is still alive and is 78, and even though he misses home at times has no regrets about moving and living in Canada, and found it very welcoming. That says a lot about our country, and often even though we have many policy issues that are painful to recall, including the WWII Japanese internment camps whereby Canada forcibly relocated and incarcerated over 22,000 Japanese Canadians that didn't deter him or his decision. These moments in history, although we don't think of them this way, are teaching moments. Oversimplified, possibly, most definitely painful and require a cautious and careful discernment regarding what happens next. If you choose to hang onto anger or transgressions and how people have wronged you, nothing good can come from that. Eventually an inner peace will be required to move forward, let go and let God as they say, and try to experience the newness, the rebirth of where you are headed. This is more prevalent than ever as we approach Christmas and being part of the birth of Jesus Christ, reconciliation and reflection unified as one.





A few things to ponder after meeting these runners, spending a weekend in a tent for the first time again, and being around so many spiritual people. How do I know they are spiritual? As you mill about in the arena during the introduction to the race, and the 'shocking' news about the trail, water hazards, poorly marked areas, excessive mud bogs, etc, etc. You realize that no one is shocked, leaving, throwing their arms up in disappointment or dismay, and or trying to accost race volunteers or staff about a refund because things might not go as planned and this race may not be finishable. There was a certain calmness and ease at which everyone filed out and knew the task at hand. I don't know if everyone was religious and or even had an opinion about religion, however they had to ask themselves deeply if this was possible, and who would they ask if they needed help. The team organizer Raissa Bugyi had to ask when she needed team members. If they failed and possibly didn't finish, could they forgive themselves? Was there hope at times when all there was was despair? Would they find unity in a team that was unbeknownst to each other and from such different backgrounds? We can decide for ourselves, and we have to daily.

As we find ourselves in situations where we wonder how we got through that? Was it supposed to be part of my life journey, faith journey, healing journey? What does it mean to live a life that has purpose, how do we define that? I believe we don't get the answer until we are through. Maybe we have a few bucks in our pocket and think as we walk by the homeless person that they have made their choices so it's not my responsibility and that so and so is only going to waste it. So then don't give at all? Only focus on ourselves?

When we are reading the current 'self help' bestseller, subscribing to social media for answers, fad diets, personality trait directives and character defect solutions we often miss what we were able to achieve simply by surrounding ourselves with the right people and having faith. As the readers reflect on this they may want to give themselves some credit for the things they have achieved, albeit small, even when they had little to no faith. Someone else did, Someone you can look up to.

To learn more or to make a donation online, visit the Diocese of Saskatoon Catholic Foundation website:

**[dscf.ca/trc](https://dscf.ca/trc)**

We accept electronic transfers: [e-transfer@dscf.ca](mailto:e-transfer@dscf.ca)

We accept [Gift of Shares](#)

Please make cheques **payable to:**

*"Catholic Foundation TRC fund"*

**Mail to:**

123 Nelson Road  
Saskatoon, Sk  
S7S1H1