



## Our Mission Statement

*Inspired by the Holy Spirit we are a Eucharistic community called by God*

"The Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them."

(Is 50:4)

Getty Images/hate\_sun

**March 24, 2024 | Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**

**Is 50:4-7 | Phil 2:6-11 | Mk 14:1-15:47**

Written by

THE

FAITHFUL

DISCIPLE

## GROW AS A DISCIPLE

**PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE**

"The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them." This sentence from our first reading is taken from one of the four "Songs of the Suffering Servant" in Isaiah. The New Testament identifies this Servant as Jesus, and we know that Jesus accepted the suffering that was foretold in the verses that follow this one: "I gave my back to those who beat me ... my face I did not hide from insults and spitting." As aspiring servants of God on this Palm Sunday, the most holy of days when we hear Mark's account of Jesus' passion, how does this sentence speak to us? What does it mean to have a well-trained tongue? To me it is a call to speak to the Lord in prayer as well as to speak the Good News of the Gospel whenever and wherever we can.

**PRAY** "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will." These words from today's passion narrative demonstrate Jesus' complete, obedient surrender of his will to his Father's divine will. As flawed human beings, we will never be able to perfectly emulate our Savior's actions, but what better way to begin Holy Week than to try? Through prayer, strive to surrender yourself to God this week by trusting him completely, and striving to do his will with humility and Christ-like obedience.

## GO EVANGELIZE

**PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

How can we gain the confidence to believe that our tongue is "well-trained"? We know we are all given the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and we must trust in that promise and invoke his presence often. Who knows? A kind word or gesture from us may just "speak" to a weary person who is struggling. Paul writes that in his passion, Jesus "emptied himself" in the hours before his death and "[became] obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Paul's next words give us the answer to our question above: "Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend ... and *every tongue confess* [emphasis added] that Jesus Christ is Lord." The fullness of the kingdom will be realized only when Jesus comes again. But in the meantime, we have the Eucharist that Jesus instituted at the Last Supper to sustain us and give us strength for our task to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and spread the kingdom of God one day at a time.

MARCH 24	MARCH 25	MARCH 26	MARCH 27	MARCH 28	MARCH 29	MARCH 30
<b>10a</b> Mass <b>12p</b> Mass <b>1-4p</b> Adoration <b>7p</b> Mass	<b>9a</b> CWL Quilters <b>6:30p</b> <i>The Search</i> Faith Study	<b>8:30a</b> Mass <b>4:30p</b> Altar Server Practice	<b>8:30a</b> Mass <b>5p</b> Altar Server Practice <b>7p</b> Adoration	<b>8:30a</b> Mass <b>1:30p</b> Senior Cards <b>5p</b> Altar Server Practice <b>7p</b> Mass of the Lord's Supper <i>Adoration</i> <b>11:30p</b> Night Prayer	<b>9a</b> Morning Prayer <b>3p</b> Passion <b>6p</b> Passion <b>11:30p</b> Night Prayer	<b>9:30a</b> Morning Prayer <b>11a-12p</b> Confession <b>8p</b> Easter Vigil
<b>EXTRA CONFESSION TIMES</b> <b>Monday-Wednesday 9-11am</b>						

**The Good Friday collection is for the needs of the Church in the Holy Land.**

<b>MARCH 28</b> <b>Holy Thursday</b> 7pm ( <i>livestream</i> ) Incense will be used <b>Adoration until midnight with night prayer at 11:30 pm</b>	<b>MARCH 29</b> <b>Good Friday</b> <b>Morning Prayer 9am</b> <b>The Lord's Passion 3pm (<i>livestreamed</i>)</b> 6pm <b>Night Prayer 11:30pm</b>	<b>MARCH 30</b> <b>Holy Saturday</b> <b>Morning Prayer 9:30am</b> <b>Easter Vigil 8pm (<i>livestream</i>)</b> Incense will be used	<b>MARCH 31</b> <b>Easter Sunday Mass</b> 10am 12 noon ( <i>livestream</i> ) Incense will be used <b>*no 7pm Mass</b>
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## WE PLEDGE 5%

Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Center is a non profit ministry that provides a safe and non judgmental environment for women and families facing untimely pregnancies. It is our goal to be able to help women by meeting their current needs. Our service include counseling, spiritual awareness and practical material support. We believe that God has a plan for every life and so we will not refer for abortion in any circumstance. We believe that if we can help women find value in themselves, they in turn will find value in their pre born child. [www.saskatoonpregnancy.com](http://www.saskatoonpregnancy.com)

## LET US PRAY

- ♦ For the sick and all those that care for them, today we pray for: Emily Kotyk, Miriam Yalbir, Gerald Loster, Father Marc Mireau, Betty Anne Tomney, Bob Kudel, Quinn Gorman, Trev Yager, Jeff Haugen, John Bohnke
- ♦ For all those who have died, today we remember: Cecile Jarrett, Rochelle Lemay, Isabelle Gress, Marty Peru
- ♦ And on the anniversary of death, Steve Grzybowski

***We pray to the Lord***

**The Good Friday collection is for the needs of the Church in the Holy Land.**



*"Here I am Lord, Send me!"* CWL is open to all women of the parish 16 years and older. Please join us for our next general meeting on **April 9, 2024.**

**Saskatoon Diocesan CWL Annual Convention:**

**Monday, April 22, 2024, Little Flower Catholic Church, Leader, Saskatchewan**

All members are invited to attend the annual convention of the Saskatoon diocesan council. There will be a bus taking delegates to Leader and leaving Holy Spirit Church parking lot at

5:45 am on the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Registration, meals and bus transportation is a total of \$90.00.

Guest speaker will be Colin Laroque, Department Head of the Soil Sciences Department at the University of Saskatchewan who will share with us, *The Gifts of the Forest*. A perfect way to celebrate Earth Day. Please consider joining us for this event.

Email for further information. President: Melina Palendat (306) 668-2520 [holyspiritcwl@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritcwl@gmail.com)



**Time for Spring Cleaning!!** The CWL will be holding a drive for the CWL Clothing Depot on the weekend of **April 13th and 14th**. All clothing and gently used household items will be appreciated. More information to follow. President: Melina Palendat (306) 668-2520 [holyspiritcwl@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritcwl@gmail.com)



**April 19, 2024—Roe Canada Film Documentary** Please plan to come to the film documentary, Roe Canada. It is an incredibly well done reflection on the impact that the pro-life community is having on protecting the sanctity of life in North America. The Roe Canada film is one of the best documentaries on the issue of abortion and other pro-life issues in contemporary Canadian and U.S. societies and their respective political systems. It is a film that is inspiring but realistic. It is also one of the most thoughtful meditations on what it means to be a heroic Christian that you will ever see as you share the experience of the two very brave young women interviewers and those they interview. **A showing of this film is being sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 5104 at St. Joseph's Parish Hall in Saskatoon on April 19, 2024 at 7 pm.** For those who RSVP please contact Harvey Hill at [harveyhill@sasktel.net](mailto:harveyhill@sasktel.net) or call him at his cell: 306-280-2646, the ticket cost for the film will be \$5 for an individual or \$15 for an entire family for tickets purchased by April 15th. There will also be a freewill offering for those who want to support the makers of the film further or for those who cannot afford the full ticket cost. For those who cannot afford the full ticket cost, please still RSVP as we need to know how many are attending to determine whether to host the film upstairs or in the basement of the St. Joseph Hall. For those paying at the door it will be \$10/individual and \$25/family. Please RSVP by April 15th.



**Tuesday, March 26 at 7pm—Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Family**

**Come and sing at the diocesan Chrism Mass!** All are welcome to join the choir **Tuesday, March 26** at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon SK. The choir will rehearse at 5 pm before the Mass starts at 7 pm.

### 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

**NO ADORATION MARCH 29, 31 OR APRIL 7**

### 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 CONTACTS

### Baptisms, RCIC

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### Facilities Manager

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### 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)

**2024 INFANT BAPTISM** 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

Melina Palendat 306-668-2520

[holyspiritcwl@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritcwl@gmail.com)



### 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**



Enjoy the latest and greatest Catholic video, audio, and reading material from **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)



# Holy Week

March 28

**HOLY  
THURSDAY**

**7PM** *(livestream)*

Incense will be used

**Adoration until  
midnight with  
night prayer at  
11:30PM**

March 29

**GOOD  
FRIDAY**

**Morning Prayer**

**9AM**

**THE LORD'S  
PASSION  
3PM** *(livestream)*  
**6PM**

**Night Prayer  
11:30PM**

March 30

**HOLY  
SATURDAY**

**Morning Prayer**

**9:30AM**

**Easter Vigil  
8PM** *(livestream)*  
Incense will be used

March 31

**EASTER  
SUNDAY**

**MASS**

**10AM**

**12 NOON**  
*(livestream)*

**\*no 7PM Mass**





## ***Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon*** **OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

123 Nelson Rd  
Saskatoon SK S7S 1H1  
[www.rcdos.ca](http://www.rcdos.ca)

Phone: 306-242-1500  
Fax: 306-244-6010  
Toll free: 877-661-5005



March 22, 2024

### ***Greetings to you all as we approach another Holy Week and Easter Season!***

I always find that when I come to Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week, I am faced with a sense of tension and dichotomy. What unfolds is the great and loving gift of God, meeting the tragedy and complexity of human longing coupled with human failing.


In Viktor Frankl's famous work, "Man's Search for Meaning," one of his quotes about suffering and meaning is: "What is to give light, must endure burning."

We begin Holy Week – having experienced this past year the call to be light – but also to endure burning. Indeed, we have even been consumed. The challenges, the tensions and conflicts, the polarizations we have all experienced – in our world and country, our communities, and our families – have been very challenging and uncharacteristic of what we would call an acceptable normal.

And yet, the feature of tension has always been part of the Paschal Mystery. It is a key feature of the Gospel – and it comes to an apex in Holy Week when Our Lord Jesus Christ offers the unexpected, ultimate, and final confrontation between light and darkness, death and life – abundant life – to the full. What we recall and witness again in the way of Jesus Christ is utterly amazing, astonishing, unbelievable!

St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians sums up the unique response of Jesus Christ, who uniquely goes the wonderful, terrible path.

Firstly, He was in the form of God – *He was God*. Secondly, He did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, taken advantage of. Thirdly, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave. Who has ever done this? Especially when they had the unique ability to avoid or overcome? Fourthly, He was obedient to the Father's plan to heal, redeem, and save the world – all the way to the point of death, even death on a cross. No one with such status and ability has ever done this. *This* is why God exalted Him. This is why every knee should bend, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

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

Pope Francis has stated: *“There are many people who admire Jesus: He said beautiful things; He was filled with love and forgiveness; His example changed history, and so on. They admire Him, but their lives are not changed. To admire Jesus is not enough. We have to follow in His footsteps, to let ourselves be challenged by Him; to pass from admiration to amazement. What is most amazing about the Lord and his Passover? It is the fact that he achieves glory through humiliation. He triumphs by accepting suffering and death, things that we, in our quest for admiration and success, would rather avoid.... Jesus did it for us, to plumb the depths of our human experience, our entire existence, all our evil. To draw near to us and not abandon us in our suffering and our death. To redeem us, to save us.”*

The Pope concluded that the celebration of the Passion of Our Lord needs to move us from distant admiration of Jesus Christ, to amazement at Jesus, who demonstrates the greatest love the world has known – our salvation and new life passes through the wood of the Cross! Destruction meets new life; hell meets heaven; and death meets resurrection.

Let us ask ourselves: Why did Jesus die on the cross for us? Why did humanity crucify Christ? Do we still crucify Christ? If so, what does Christ show us as a new way?

These are questions that must be faced and asked. Don't rush the answer... sometimes that is the problem. Let us ask the questions, and stay in the eerie, mysterious silence of the response of Jesus Christ on the cross, before rejoicing in the unbelievably good news of Easter.

A blessed Holy Week and Easter season to you all!



✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen  
Bishop of Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon



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

***Divine Mercy Novena begins March 29, Good Friday  
Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7, 2024***



**1. *Make the Sign of the Cross***

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**2. *Optional Opening Prayers***

-You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

- O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You! (Repeat three times)

**3. *Our Father***

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.

**4. *Hail Mary***

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women,

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

**5. *The Apostles' Creed***

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

**6. *The Eternal Father***

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

**7. *On the 10 Small Beads of Each Decade***

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

**8. *Repeat for the remaining decades***

Saying the "Eternal Father" (6) on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.

**9. *Conclude with Holy God* (Repeat three times)**

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

**10. *Optional Closing Prayer***

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

For the daily novena prayers, the chaplet and more information go to [divinemercy.life](http://divinemercy.life)

To receive prayer reminders in your inbox sign up with [Praymorenovenas](http://Praymorenovenas).

For information on the Divine Mercy Novena check out this website: [Mycatholic.life](http://Mycatholic.life)

**Jesus I Trust in You**





**Thank you for giving from the heart to Share Lent 2024!**

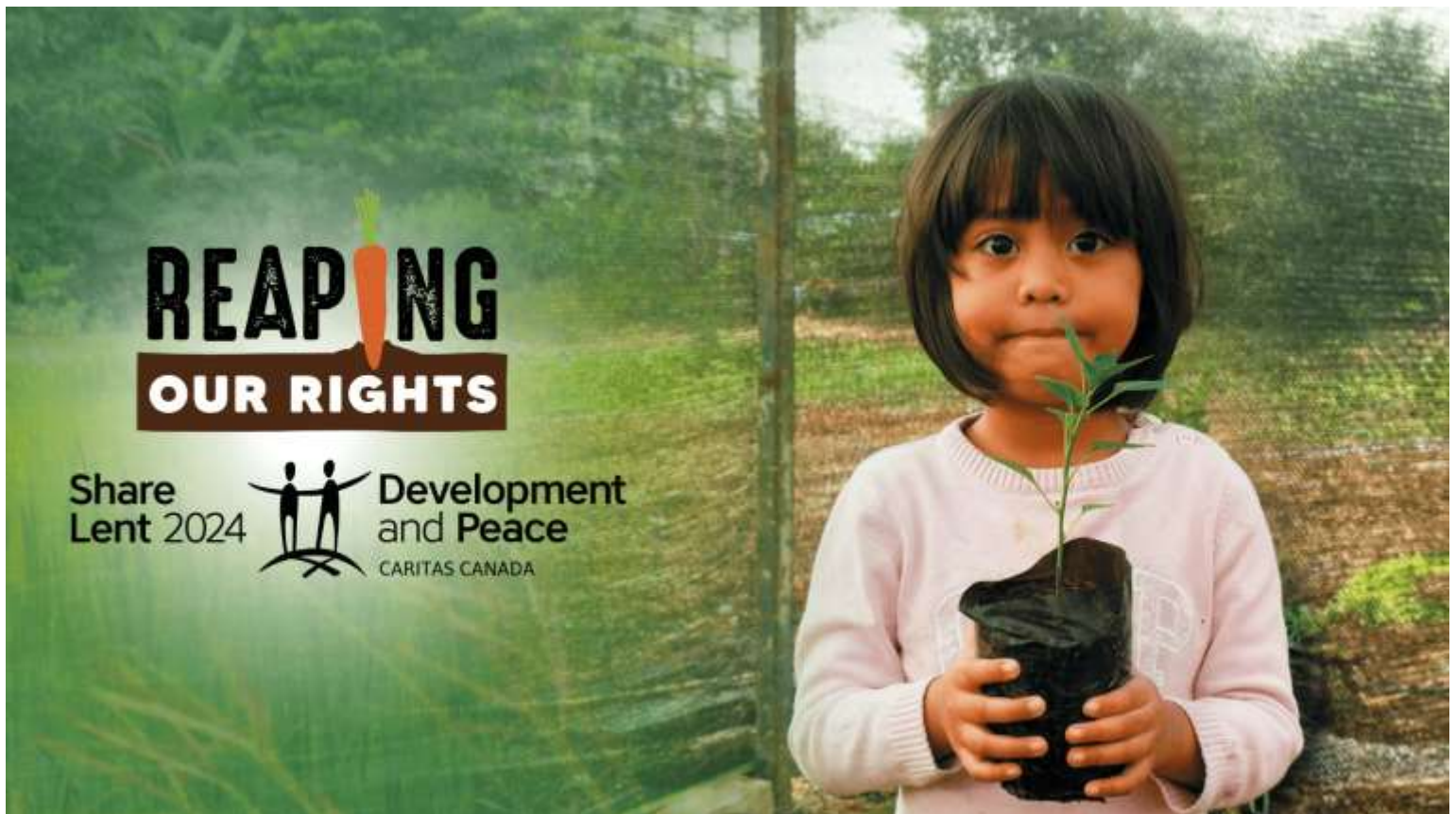
Development and Peace — Caritas Canada thanks you for supporting the ***Reaping our Rights*** campaign with your Share Lent donation. Thanks to your generosity, our parish collected [\$ amount]. This sum will help support our sisters and brothers in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

If you have not yet had a chance to give, you can still place your Share Lent envelope in the offertory or donate online at [devp.org/give](https://devp.org/give).

Thank you for continuing to pray for all those who are working to build a world of peace and justice.

**March 24 — Palm Sunday**

For young people around the world, that their rights to mobilize peacefully and call for concrete action from international leaders to protect the environment and mitigate the impacts of climate change may be respected, we pray to the Lord.



**PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY!**  
**devp.org | 1-888-234-8533**





# CENTERING PRAYER

IN-PERSON AND ONLINE GATHERINGS  
EVERY MONDAY EVENING

7:00 - 8:15 P.M. CST



WITH ANA GHEYSSSEN AND DAVE HENDERSON

LEARN MORE BY VISITING THE  
QUEEN'S HOUSE WEBSITE

[WWW.QUEENSHOUSE.ORG/WP-](http://WWW.QUEENSHOUSE.ORG/WP-)

[CONTENT/UPLOADS/2023/05/CENTERING-](http://WWW.QUEENSHOUSE.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2023/05/CENTERING-)

[PRAYER-BROCHURE-UPDATED-MAY-20-](http://WWW.QUEENSHOUSE.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2023/05/CENTERING-PRAYER-BROCHURE-UPDATED-MAY-20-2023-1.PDF)

[2023-1.PDF](http://WWW.QUEENSHOUSE.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2023/05/CENTERING-PRAYER-BROCHURE-UPDATED-MAY-20-2023-1.PDF)

— 2024 —

SASKATCHEWAN



# AGM/Convention

**APRIL 6, 2024**

Holy Spirit Parish, 114 Kingsmere Place, Saskatoon, SK

## Featuring:

**Amanda Achtman**

*Dying to Meet You Project*

**Scott Hayward**

*Right Now*

**Jake Klassen**

*NCLN (National Campus  
Life Network)*

**Mike Schouten**

*We Need A Law*

Start Time: 9:00 am

Opening Remarks

Greetings

Presentation 1: 9:30 – 10:15

Refreshment Break: 10:15 – 10:30

Presentation 2: 10:30 – 11:15

Presentation 3: 11:20 – 12:05

Lunch: 12:05 – 1:30

Break-Out Sessions: 1:30 – 2:30

2:40 – 3:40

Refreshment Break: 3:40 – 3:50

AGM: 3:50 – 4:45

Banquet: 6:00 – 9:00

Register online at [saskprolife.com](https://saskprolife.com)



# The Spirituality of Childhood

**COME  
&  
SEE**

**... how adults and children journey in faith pondering scripture and liturgy in a peaceful environment specially prepared for them, called "the atrium". It is here, where together, they experience the love and joy of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.**

## ALL SAINTS ATRIUM

St. Philip Neri Parish  
1902 Munroe Ave. S.  
Saskatoon

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024  
1:00 – 2:00 P.M.**



**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
CONTACT**

Cynthia Foster  
[lc.foster@sasktel.net](mailto:lc.foster@sasktel.net)



Catechesis of  
the Good Shepherd  
Association of Canada

CHILD - ADOLESCENT - ADULT

MISCARRIAGE - STILLBIRTH - INFANT

DIOCESE OF SASKATOON  
PRESENTS

# Loving through Loss

## Couples Workshop

REGISTRATION \$50 PER COUPLE  
includes lunch

APRIL 20, 2024  
9 AM - 4:30 PM  
CATHOLIC PASTORAL  
CENTRE LIBRARY

123 Nelson Road  
Saskatoon, SK

### CHAPTER LEADER

Phone: 306-659-5836  
mjackson@rcdos.ca

A Parish Chapter of:

Red Bird  
MINISTRIES

WWW.REDBIRD.love



# The Spirituality of Childhood

## CATECHIST FORMATION Level 1, Part A

Level 1 formation in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd engages hand, head, and heart, immersing the adult in Scripture, Liturgy, Theology, and Prayer so as to support the needs and spiritual growth of the young child, ages 3 to 6.

Each course is a minimum commitment of 90 hours, with readings and written work required.

REGINA, SK  
Holy Rosary Cathedral,  
3125-13th Avenue

July 2-7, 2024



### CONTACT

Farrah Semegen  
[f.semegen@hotmail.ca](mailto:f.semegen@hotmail.ca)  
(306) 551-4194

### REGISTER

[cgsac.ca/courses-1](http://cgsac.ca/courses-1)



Catechesis of  
the Good Shepherd  
Association of Canada



# Bringing Home the Word

*Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (B)*

**March 24, 2024**

## Empty Praise? No!

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

**H**ow could anyone think that the joyous cry “Hosanna!” would be viewed as empty praise? Though the word has come down to us from the Greek Gospels, it probably has Hebrew roots as a form of the verb “to save” (see Psalm 118:25). Thus, it is more than an exuberant cry; it is a plea for salvation. How could this possibly be empty praise? The answer to that question is found in human fickleness. So often, we—not simply the people of Jerusalem, but all of humanity—wholeheartedly offer someone our support, only to turn

our backs on that person when the going gets tough. We know from experience how this works.

This is precisely what today’s readings describe. The Gospel reading for the procession with palms describes an enthusiastic group of people showing Jesus great respect and crying out, “Hosanna!” Later we hear, “Crucify him!” Were these the same people? Does it matter? Presumably these were people who were in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, the feast of their deliverance from Egyptian bondage. Now they are caught in another oppressive political system—Roman occupation. Are these heartless people? Or are they like us, often afraid to take an unpopular stand, lest we lose face or, even worse, suffer serious consequences? And so, Jesus stands alone before those who have planned to silence him. Might he have considered the earlier “Hosanna” empty praise? Probably not. Jesus does not hold our fickleness against us. †

***Hosanna is more than  
an exuberant cry;  
it is a plea for salvation.***



## Sunday Readings

**Mark 11:1–10 or John 12:12–16**

Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Isaiah 50:4–7; Philippians 2:6–11**

Rather, he emptied himself... becoming obedient to...death, even death on a cross.

**Mark 14:1—15:47 or 15:1–39**

[Jesus prayed,] “Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will.”

## A Word from Pope Francis

Jesus, in his abandonment, asks us to open our eyes and hearts to all who find themselves abandoned.... Let us ask for the grace to see and acknowledge the Lord who continues to cry out in them. May we not allow his voice to go unheard amid the deafening silence of indifference.

HOMILY, ROME, APRIL 2, 2023



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- If you have failed to support someone, can you ask them to forgive you?
- Can you forgive someone who has betrayed you?

# Hosanna!

Rev. Paul Turner

Our parish maintenance man can fix anything. He analyzes problems and finds creative, inexpensive solutions. The church building is more than ninety years old, so a lot of things need repair. Over the decades, in a parish that has always struggled to pay its bills, our guy has plenty to do. From time to time, I remember to tell him that he does good work. I hope it's helpful feedback, but it's also a cry for help.

The word *Hosanna* works just that way. It's a word we sing at every Mass during the Sanctus. The words "in the highest" come right after it. Many think that "Hosanna" is another way of saying "Praise God," as in "Praise God in the highest." But "Hosanna" doesn't mean that. Alleluia means "Praise God." Hosanna means something like "save us."



It comes from the same Aramaic word that gives us the word Jesus, a name that means "Savior."

When the crowds gathered in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to greet Jesus upon his entry, they shouted

out this word. They weren't merely communicating how wonderful they thought Jesus was. They were also telling him how needy they were. They needed a savior.

We all do. Sometimes the savior is the guy who can repair the plumbing and install new lights. But we also need someone who can repair what's broken inside us. We carry sin and shame, sadness and misbehavior, faults and flaws. So we cry out to God, who can offer us forgiveness and a new start.

The people who shouted "Hosanna" turned against Jesus a few days later. He surely remembered the real meaning of that word as he hung upon the cross. He did not abandon them. He saved them. We praise him. We need him. He is our Savior. †

Source: *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter, 2015*

## Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From "Agony in the Garden: Understanding the Passion of Jesus"  
by Ronald Rolheiser.

At the time of Jesus, *agonia* was a technical term for what athletes did when warming up for the Olympic Games. During that warm-up, the Greek athletes would produce a sweat that would warm up their muscles and ready them for combat. That sweat, that lather, was called their *agonia*. Luke tells us that Jesus does an *agonia* to get ready for his passion. In essence, Luke is saying, we don't move from day-to-day life to dying on a cross without some preparation. The Agony in the Garden is the warm-up, the readying, the *agonia* for the passion that follows. †

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*So that this Holy Week we  
may love those who hurt us,  
make peace, and do our part  
in the building of the Kingdom,  
we pray—  
Lord, let us be like you.*

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

March 25–30

**Monday** of Holy Week:

Is 42:1–7 / Jn 12:1–11

**Tuesday** of Holy Week:

Is 49:1–6 / Jn 13:21–33, 36–38

**Wednesday** of Holy Week:

Is 50:4–9a / Mt 26:14–25

**Holy Thursday:** Ex 12:1–8, 11–14 / 1 Cor 11:23–26 / Jn 13:1–15

**Good Friday:** Is 52:13–53:12 / Heb 4:14–16; 5:7–9 / Jn 18:1–19:42

**Holy Saturday:** Gn 1:1–2:2 or 1:1, 26–31a / Gn 22:1–18 or 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18 / Ex 14:15–15:1 / Is 54:5–14 / Is 55:1–11 / Bar 3:9–15, 32–4:4 / Ez 36:16–17a, 18–28 / Rom 6:3–11 / Mk 16:1–7

Bringing Home  
the Word 

March 24, 2024

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24 March 2024

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Prostration \pră-'strā-shən\

Lying face down in a ritual expressing humility, reverence, and submission. Used in the liturgy of ordination, it is also the posture assumed during the entrance ritual on Good Friday when priests and ministers proceed in silence and then reverence the altar before all assembled with a full **prostration**.

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

### CONTEXT

**Prostration** can carry the symbolism of death—the death to self that comes before the candidate's rebirth into priestly service. —*Beafriar.org website*

[The Magi] saw the child with Mary his mother. They **prostrated** themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts.  
—*Matthew 2:11*

In Hebrew the root of the word for “dismayed” can also mean “**prostrate**.” That’s what dismay and fear do. They take the legs from under us.  
—*Saint Mary’s College of Oscott Seminary*

### WHY IT MATTERS

Postures are powerful. We say much without saying a word. Genuflection and kneeling demonstrate respect. The Asian kowtow—kneeling while touching forehead to the ground—is a deeper display of reverence. The rare full **prostration** symbolizes total submission to God alone. The ultimate **prostration** of Jesus on the cross brings about our salvation.

From the *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts*: This act of **prostration** [on Good Friday], signifies both the abasement of “earthly man” and also the grief and sorrow of the Church.

### RELATED WORDS

Reverence | Humility | Kneel | Bow | Genuflect

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### What is humility?

Humility is just about the exact opposite of everything you see in the world nowadays! To discover the essentials of humility, you have to experiment with self-emptying. Humility recognizes that everything comes from God and belongs to God. Therefore, to God alone go all praise, honor, and glory. When you begin with God and not with yourself, your perspective on reality does a dramatic shift. God's will comes first. “Not my will, but yours be done,” as Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane.

When you choose the perspective of a humble heart, you become aware that your proper orientation as creatures should be one of obedience—that is, attentive listening—to God's call. It's precisely the attitude of obedience that led to the salvation of the world, as Saint Paul tells us: “[Jesus] humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.” Paul explains that humility means putting other people ahead of yourself, thinking of their needs rather than yours. That is so countercultural, jaws will drop whenever you attempt it.

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

## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION (GOOD FRIDAY) (MARCH 29)

### The path of redemption

It is easy to look around and conclude that one of the things human beings do best is inflict suffering on one another. In ways big and small, people look to their own interests at the expense of others. Yet Christ, in obedient love, gathers up all suffering in his Passion and death, and offers us redemption through his ultimate sacrifice and Resurrection.

READINGS: Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Hebrews 4:14–16, 5:7–9; John 18:1–19:42 (40 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/032924.cm>). “*Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*”

### FAITH IN ACTION

You can participate in Christ's redeeming sacrifice by abandoning yourself to God.