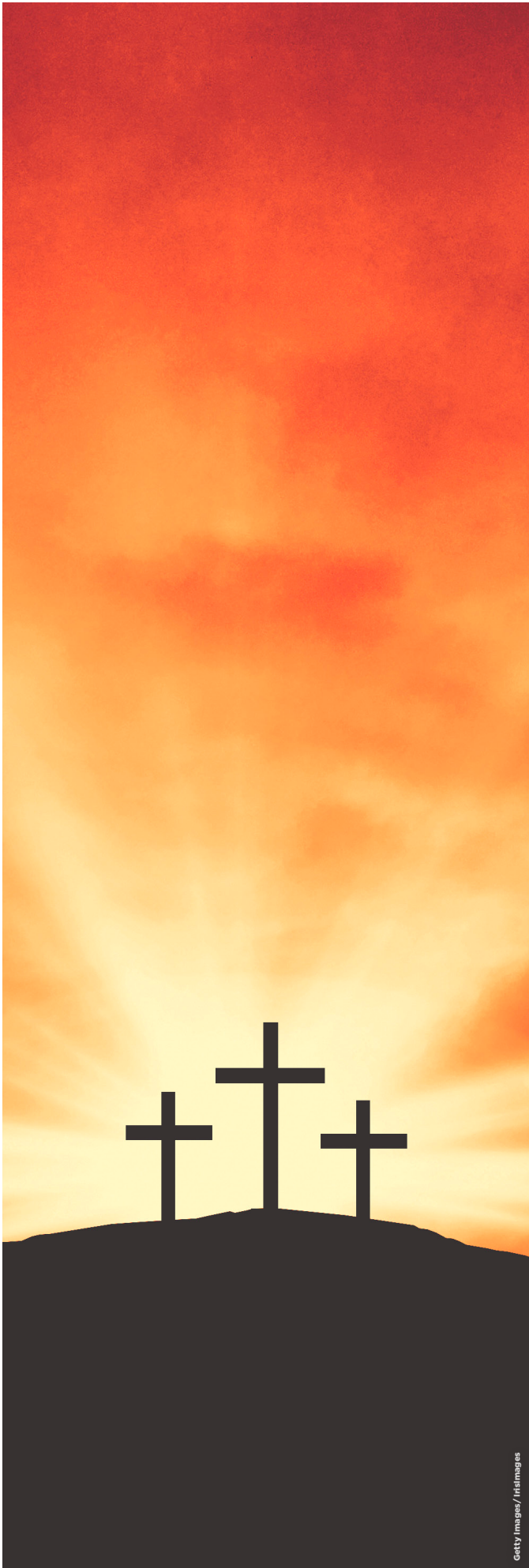




September 14, 2025

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

# Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Num 21:4b-9 | Phil 2:6-11 | Jn 3:13-17

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

Although God had freed our ancestors in faith from their slavery in Egypt, today we find them grumbling against the Lord as they wander in the desert. Even after we've glimpsed so much of God's goodness, we, too, can begin to grumble in challenging moments of our lives. It's precisely then that we need to cling to faith. After serpents appeared and began to bite those who had grumbled against God, those who had been bitten only had to look at the serpent mounted on a pole and put their faith in God once again to be healed. Similarly, when we find ourselves in the trials of life, we need only look at the cross of Jesus with faith. "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." Amid the storms of our lives, we are called to put our trust in his cross, for through it we are saved and set free.

## **GO EVANGELIZE**

### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

Paul tells us that God the Father "greatly exalted" Jesus for his humility in embracing the cross, and that ultimately, all creation will join the Father in glorifying Christ. We who know the gift of what Jesus did for us on the cross are called to praise him with our voices and our lives. We praise and glorify Christ first through our example. How might our day-to-day interactions give others a glimpse of the humble and self-emptying love of Jesus? Finally, think of the ways that knowing Christ's love has made a difference in your life. Has it made you more patient? Has it made you more hopeful? Think of ways that you could share this in conversation. Telling others about what God has done for you or the difference that he has made in your life is one way of exalting Christ.

## **PRAISE**

Today, spend some time thanking and praising God for the gift of the cross and our salvation in Christ. You might wish to use this traditional prayer frequently used during the stations of the cross in Lent: "We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. Because, by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world."



# HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

114 Kingsmere Place • Saskatoon • SK • S7J 3V7

(306)374-1425 • [info@holyspiritsaskatoon.ca](mailto:info@holyspiritsaskatoon.ca)

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

## OUR MISSION

‘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.’

## THIS WEEK

| SEPTEMBER 14                                      | SEPTEMBER 15                          | SEPTEMBER 16 | SEPTEMBER 17               | SEPTEMBER 18                                | SEPTEMBER 19                                           | SEPTEMBER 20                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 10a Mass<br>12p Mass<br>1-4p Adoration<br>7p Mass | 6:30p<br>St. Monica<br>Prayer Evening | 8:30a Mass   | 8:30a Mass<br>7p Adoration | 8:30a Mass<br>7p Parish<br>Pastoral Council | 8:30a Mass<br>9a-12p Adoration<br>6:30p Youth<br>Group | 11a-12p<br>Confession<br>5p Mass<br>CWL Clothing<br>Drive |



## INVITATION TO ALL MOTHERS

**September 15@ 7pm in the Chapel**

Praying, with confidence, for our children.

1 hour of prayer together for our loved ones  
who have left the faith.



“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  
October 14. Mass at 6:30 pm, meeting to follow.



In spite of the lovely warm weather, it is time to start thinking about getting out those winter clothes. On the weekend of **September 20 and 21**, the CWL will be collecting items for the CWL Clothing Depot. The Depot is in great need of **towels, bed linens, and pots and pans as well as gently used winter clothing, especially warm coats and boots**. Please bring them to the church on the weekend of the 20 and 21 and they will be delivered to the Clothing Depot.

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



*“As we gather here today, we acknowledge we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.”*

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

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR • Michael Magaji** [mmagaji@rcdos.ca](mailto:mmagaji@rcdos.ca)

**THE POPE'S  
PRAYER  
INTENTIONS**

For our *relationship* with all creation.

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect. SEPTEMBER 2025

**WE PLEDGE 5%**

NASHI is an entirely volunteer non-profit organization who is addressing the issue of human trafficking locally and globally. They educate people about human trafficking by providing forums and workshops nationally and internationally. They also run a safe house for at risk young girls in Ukraine. The Maple Leaf House is a live-in facility that provides shelter, food and a home environment for up to 20 girls. Our commitment is to educate these girls until they can become productive members of their society.

NASHI'S MOTTO IS: DO SOMETHING

Thank you for your support. [www.nashi.ca](http://www.nashi.ca)



October 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

**FALL CONGRESS**  
*Series*

VISIT [RCDOS.CA/CONGRESS-2025](http://RCDOS.CA/CONGRESS-2025) FOR ALL THE EVENTS!

Campaign Life Coalition Saskatchewan will begin our 40 Hours for Life campaign in Saskatoon on Wednesday September 17<sup>th</sup>. The campaign will take place on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Ave and Queen Street. The campaign will be conducted Monday to Friday from 9 am to 12 noon, and will run until Friday October 24<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is encouraged to come out and witness for life; Signs will be available. If you can help with any one hour time slot during this campaign it is greatly appreciated. For more information contact us by email at [campaignlifesk@gmail.com](mailto:campaignlifesk@gmail.com), or call us at 306-249-2764.

**LET US PRAY**

- For the sick and all those who care for them, today we pray for: Callam Olver, Bob Kudel, Sandy Disanayake, Vera Wolkosky, Evangeline Manzon, Frederick Vizeacoumar, Vijaykumar Soupramaniam Modaliar, Helen Kemper, Nada Zora, Jocelyn Enriquez, Phil Klassen, Val Mercredi
- For all those who have died, today we remember: Elizabeth Fabian, Ron Muench, Maggie Nestmann, Clifford Price, Joe Kloeble
- And on the anniversary of death: Wayne Turner

*We pray to the Lord*

**formed**  
Forming Catholics for Life



**The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

The Seven Sorrows of Mary is a traditional Catholic devotion featuring meditations on sorrowful episodes in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Join us in prayer as we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you!  
Simply scan the QR code or visit [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup)  
to create your account and select our parish  
to get free access to this content and much more!



Saskatoon Pregnancy Options & Support Centre  
Fall Gala-SAVE THE DATE-September 26  
[contact@saskatoonpregnancyoptions.com](mailto:contact@saskatoonpregnancyoptions.com)

**MASS TIMES**

**Saturday** 5 pm

**Sunday** 10 am, 12 noon, 7 pm

**Weekdays** Tues. - Fri. 8:30 am

**ADORATION**

Wednesdays 7-8pm

Fridays, 9 am - 12 pm

Sundays, 1 - 4 pm

**CONFESSIONS**

Saturdays 11 am - 12 noon

*or by appointment.*



For more news and events in our diocese, see the Diocesan Bulletin at [rcdos.ca](http://rcdos.ca) under the News and Events tab.



# *The Anointing of the Sick*

*the healing sacrament of the living*

Jesus calls each of us to bring compassion and healing to those who are sick. The care of the sick is the responsibility of us all.

The one who is sick may feel alienated and isolated. Through the celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church expresses its love and asks God's help for those who are sick.

**The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick  
will be celebrated at Holy Spirit Parish on  
Saturday September 13, 2025  
following the 5:00 pm Mass**



Stay  
in  
the  
know...



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 14-EXALTAION OF THE CROSS



# Diocesan Bulletin

# 1

Sept. 14, 2025 - Exultation of the Holy Cross



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

<https://rcdos.ca>

## Upcoming Events

### Jubilee Pilgrimage to the Millennium Pro-Life Cross

**Sunday, Sept. 14:** The Jubilee Pilgrimage to the 100-foot cross 10.8 km northeast of Aberdeen, SK. on Highway 41 will be held 3 p.m. **Sunday, Sept. 14**, including praying of the rosary and guest speakers. Bring rosary, lawn chairs, insect repellent, umbrellas, etc. Find updates on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/ProLifeMillenniumCross](http://www.facebook.com/ProLifeMillenniumCross).

**Forty Hours for Life Sept. 17 to Oct. 24** - Campaign Life Coalition Saskatchewan will begin the 40 Hours for Life campaign of prayer and witness in Saskatoon **Wednesday, Sept. 17**, held 9 a.m. to noon, Monday to Friday, on the corner of 7th Avenue and Queen Street until Friday Oct. 24. Come out and pray and witness for life; signs will be available. Drop by or commit to a one-hour time slot by contacting [campaignlifesk@gmail.com](mailto:campaignlifesk@gmail.com), or (306) 249-2764.

**St. Thomas More College Academic Mass** will be held at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Sept. 17** at St. Thomas More Chapel, College Drive, Saskatoon. Everyone is welcome.

**Priest Discernment Nights** will be held 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 1224-12th Street East, Saskatoon, with the next meeting **Thursday, Sept. 18** for any man open to the call of priesthood or who is simply interested in learning more about the priestly vocation. RSVP to Fr. Dan Yasinski by e-mailing [dyasinski@rcdos.ca](mailto:dyasinski@rcdos.ca).

**Pilgrims of Hope in the Core Neighbourhood** – Sandi Harper, parish catechist, and Ferdinand Gemoh, Parish Life Director, of Our Lady of Guadalupe Indigenous Parish will speak about the “4 Rs of Reconciliation” – respect, responsibility, relationship and reciprocity – from 9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. **Saturday, Sept. 20**, at St. Mary Parish lower hall, 201 Ave. O South, Saskatoon. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome to this event sponsored by the St. Mary Parish Truth and Reconciliation Committee.

**Theology on Tap: For Young Adults 19 to 35** will be held 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. **Monday, Sept. 22** at Louis' on campus, with STM student sacristan Brooke Toma, one of the young adults in the diocese to go on a Jubilee pilgrimage to Italy.

### What is Returning to Spirit?

Come and find out what this powerful program is all about at this information evening open to all, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

**Tuesday, Sept. 23** at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 2nd Floor, Holy Family Cathedral, 123 Nelson Rd, Saskatoon.

Past participants and staff will share how this program can offer renewed hope and powerful personal transformation, plus tools for effective dialogue, whether in your own family or the community that surrounds you. Everyone welcome! For more info, contact Myron Rogal, at [mrogal@rcdos.ca](mailto:mrogal@rcdos.ca) or call Justice and Peace at (306) 659-5841. Register at:

<https://form.jotform.com/252118291778262>

**Anew** is a diocesan ministry supporting those who are **separated or divorced** to help participants regain hope and restore peace in their lives. Anew will be held at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. every second Wednesday beginning **Sept. 24**. Register: <https://form.jotform.com/251874708802261> or for more information call Marilyn Jackson at (306) 659-5836. Cost: \$50. (*Marriage and Family Life is supported by the BAA.*)

**A parish Truth and Reconciliation Committee Gathering** will be held 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. **Thursday, Sept. 25**, at the Bishop Klein Room, Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon. These ongoing gatherings are for those who would like to connect with other parishes to advance TRC efforts. A meal will be provided for participants at no cost. To assist with planning, Please **register before Sept. 22** at: <https://form.jotform.com/252118673131249> or contact Myron Rogal at [mrogal@rcdos.ca](mailto:mrogal@rcdos.ca) or (306) 659-5841. (*Justice and Peace is supported by gifts to the BAA.*)

**For those who have experienced the death of a child at any age:** “From Mourning to Dawn” for Bereaved Parents is a diocesan grief support program of transformation and healing at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 123 Nelson Rd, Saskatoon, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays, **beginning Oct. 2**. Register: <https://form.jotform.com/251875823255262> or for more info, contact Marilyn Jackson, Director of Ministry Services, [mjackson@rcdos.ca](mailto:mjackson@rcdos.ca) or (306) 659-5836. (*Grief ministry is supported by gifts to the Bishop's Annual Appeal.*)

**Apostolate of the Precious Blood prayer group** at St. John Bosco Church, 1202 Ave. O S., Saskatoon will resume 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on **Tuesday, Sept. 30**.

# Message Board



# 2

**Diocesan Hospitality Committee:** Do you have a gift of hospitality and service, and a heart to support ministries offered under leadership of the bishop? The diocesan Catholic Pastoral Centre in Saskatoon is seeking a team of volunteers to assist with diocesan events, such as Fall and Spring Congress, Administration Day, Chrism Mass, ordinations, etc. Duties will include preparing, serving, and replenishing refreshments during an event and clean-up afterwards. For more information, including details about upcoming opportunities to help, please contact Marilyn Jackson, diocesan Director of Ministry Services, at (306) 659-5836 or e-mail her at: [mjackson@rcdos.ca](mailto:mjackson@rcdos.ca).

**Women's Prayer Event: "Millions of Monicas"** with mothers praying together for their children and others who have left the Catholic faith: held 7 p.m. **Monday, Sept. 15** at Holy Spirit Parish, 114 Kingsmere Place, Saskatoon.

**Hope in Health Care** offers support for health care professionals to explore the challenges and opportunities in living their vocations in a healthcare environment that includes practices such as medically-provided euthanasia (known as "MAiD"). The group meets at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 2nd floor, Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, with the next gathering 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. **Tuesday, Sept. 23**. For more information contact Jackie Saretsky at (306) 209-5531. (*Hospital Chaplaincy is supported by gifts to the Bishop's Annual Appeal.*)

**"Turn Debt into Hope" Development & Peace/ Caritas Canada Fall Workshop** will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. **Wednesday, Sept. 24** at St. Philip Neri Parish, 1902 Munroe Avenue South, Saskatoon. In this Jubilee year, Pope Francis called on us to "forgive the debts of countries that will never be able to repay them." (*Spes Non Confundit*, 16) Everyone is welcome, including D&P parish reps and anyone else interested in learning about this critical call to justice during this Year of Jubilee. For more information, contact Michelle Dinter-Lipinski, [mcdinter@devp.org](mailto:mcdinter@devp.org) or see: <https://devp.org/en/campaign/turn-debt-into-hope>.

**Horizons of Hope: A Catholic Toolkit on Palliative Care** will be offered **Saturday, Sept. 27** 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Patrick Parish, 3339 Centennial Dr., Saskatoon; cost \$25 (includes lunch). When confronted with a life-limiting diagnosis, we can find ourselves in an unfamiliar and even frightening situation. As Catholics, our faith in Jesus Christ has much to teach us about living and dying well! To register for the program Sept. 27 contact Jane Tabalbag at [spsaskatoon@rcdos.ca](mailto:spsaskatoon@rcdos.ca) or call (306) 384-1100. (*Hospital Chaplaincy is supported by gifts to the BAA.*)

## Diocesan Congress Series

*Three sessions - Open to all those interested!*

**"The Peace of the Risen Christ beckons us to be missionary disciples." - Pope Leo XIV**

- **Congress Day Oct. 9** with keynote speaker Jean-Paul de Fleuriot of Faith Room - 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon. Cost \$25 (includes lunch).
- **Congress Music Ministry Workshop "The Heart of Worship" Oct. 10** with Cameron Turner and Jean-Paul de Fleuriot - 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10 at Saint Anne Catholic Church, 217 Lenore Drive, Saskatoon. Free-will offering (refreshments served).
- **Congress Day Intro to Intentional Accompaniment "Activating Leaders to the Ends of the Earth" Oct. 16** with leaders from Catholic Christian Outreach - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16. Cost \$25 (includes lunch).

[rcdos.ca/congress-2025](https://rcdos.ca/congress-2025)

**What gifts has the Holy Spirit given you to build up the Kingdom of God?** Step One of the Called and Gifted discernment process will be offered from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. **Saturday, Oct. 4** at St. Patrick Parish, 3339 Centennial Dr., Saskatoon: <https://form.jotform.com/251317313056246> or contact [mtibayan@rcdos.ca](mailto:mtibayan@rcdos.ca) or (306) 659-5843.

**Catholic Youth Clubs: Friday, Oct. 3** Challenge for girls in Grades 3-12, and Conquest for boys in Grades 3 and up, will each begin another year of growing in knowledge of Catholic faith, in virtue and in service, while building friendship with Christ. **Challenge girls** meet most Fridays from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Holy Spirit Parish in Saskatoon. Register at <https://form.jotform.com/252383380271253> or for information contact [skchallengegirls@gmail.com](mailto:skchallengegirls@gmail.com) or (306) 715-7646. **Conquest boys** meet 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., usually at St. Matthew School in Saskatoon. Register online at <https://conquestsaskatoon.com> or for questions contact [conquest.saskatoon@gmail.com](mailto:conquest.saskatoon@gmail.com).

**Diocesan Prayer** - We pray as a diocesan family for farmers growing the food we eat: Creator God we ask for their safety, for good weather, and for a bountiful harvest.

**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>

*Communications is supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.*



# HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

114 Kingsmere Place • Saskatoon • SK • S7J 3V7  
(306)374-1425 • [info@holyspiritsaskatoon.ca](mailto:info@holyspiritsaskatoon.ca)  
[holyspiritsaskatoon.ca](http://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.*

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

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR • Michael Magaji** [mmagaji@rcdos.ca](mailto:mmagaji@rcdos.ca)

### HOLY SPIRIT PARISH STAFF

#### Baptisms, RCIC

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#### Sacramental Preparation/Faith Formation

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#### Youth Ministry Coordinator

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

#### CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS - RCIA

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

#### MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Nicole Gursky 306 229-0384 or [ngursky@sasktel.net](mailto:ngursky@sasktel.net)

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



#### CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Melina Palendat 306-668-2520

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



#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 8905

Mike Clancy [mclancy@sasktel.net](mailto:mclancy@sasktel.net)



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

### MASS TIMES

**Saturday** 5 pm

**Sunday** 10 am, 12 noon, 7 pm

**Weekdays** Tues. - Fri. 8:30 am

### ADORATION

Wednesdays 7pm

Fridays, 9 am - 12 pm

Sundays, 1 - 4 pm

### CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 11 am - 12 noon

or by appointment.

## 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**



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# Bringing Home the Word

*The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*  
September 14, 2025

## Embrace the Cross

Paige Byrne Shortal

One of my most privileged moments in the Church year is when I witness the embrace of the cross on Good Friday. Old and young, vigorous and lame, all come forward—young parents with their babies, elders, the successful, and the beaten down. And they kneel or genuflect or kiss or touch or bow to the cross presented to them.

Everyone suffers. Everyone dies. Everyone lives with loss and fear of loss. What makes suffering Christian? What makes it redemptive? What makes the

cross we embrace the cross of Jesus? There were three crosses on Calvary that dark day. There were crosses everywhere in the Roman Empire. It was how the state executed those who posed a threat.

I think the answer has something to do with “embrace.” When we finally say “yes” to our suffering—to the loss, no matter how great—there is room for God to heal and mend and bring back to life.

Our cross becomes one with the cross of Jesus when we can say with him, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). To join our cross with the cross of Jesus, we must forgive whoever it is we blame for our suffering—even if that blame is heaped upon ourselves or on God.

Such forgiveness doesn’t come easily. Perhaps that is why Jesus followed the Spirit out into the desert: to be ready—not for the ordeal of the cross, but for the ordeal of forgiveness. †



**When we finally say “yes” to our suffering, there is room for God to heal and mend and bring back to life.**

## A Word from Pope Leo XIV

I chose to take the name Leo XIV... mainly because Pope Leo XIII in his historic encyclical *Rerum Novarum* addressed the social question in the context of the first great industrial revolution. In our own day, the Church offers...the treasury of her social teaching in response to...challenges for the defense of human dignity, justice, and labor.

ADDRESS TO THE COLLEGE OF CARDINALS, ROME, MAY 10, 2025



## Sunday Readings

### Numbers 21:4b–9

The LORD said to Moses: Make a seraph and mount it on a pole, and everyone who has been bitten will look at it and recover.

### Philippians 2:6–11

[Christ Jesus] humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.

### John 3:13–17

“So must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- What cross am I bearing today?
- Can I pray for the grace to accept my cross and offer my suffering as prayer?



# Mary Magdalene: The Shout of Faith

Sergio Stevan

**F**inally, the dawn of Sunday came. Mary, dragged down by the events of Friday, aimlessly wanders to the tomb. She is a woman walking ever so slowly. Depressed, she goes toward the dullness of the day with death in her heart and wrapped in a profound sadness. Mary cannot help but go. She cannot do anything less. Love pushes her to the tomb. She goes to repay the Lord for what she has received—liberation from seven demons. She goes looking for a dead body to give it a fitting gesture of attention and to honor her teacher and

her Lord. For Mary Magdalene, who loves Jesus more than any other, it is still night. Night! It is the test of faith. In the Gospel of John, we read that when Judas left the room of the Last Supper, it was still night. (See John 13:30.) Mary goes to the tomb while it is still night, not knowing she is heading toward the light of dawn. Having arrived at the tomb, she sees with horror that the stone blocking the tomb has been rolled away, and the body of Jesus is gone. Mary feels faint. She sits on a rock and cries.

The angels ask her, “Why are you crying?” And Jesus asks, “Who are you seeking?” Jesus wants what really is in the heart of this woman to emerge. Jesus invites her to escape from the slavery of her past, and he calls her by name: “Mary!” She feels again recognized and loved. Mary’s joy is full. An unforeseen peace, after so much suffering, descends into her soul. The weight that oppressed her heart rolls away like the stone of the tomb. The man who has called her by name approaches her. She, at first not believing her own ears, suddenly falls to her knees and, sobbing with joy, shouts, “Rabbouni!” †

***The weight that  
oppressed her heart  
rolls away like the  
stone of the tomb.***

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## Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “The Way of the Cross” by Jack Wintz, OFM

We come to walk with you, Jesus, confident that you will lead us into the presence of God. We choose you as the model for our life journey. Your journey to the cross dramatizes what your whole life has been: an offering of praise to God and of loving service to humanity. This is what we want for our lives, too. Like the rest of your life, your passion and death were acts of praise—a response to God’s infinite love for you. We, too, want to praise God in sharing your cross.... Christ Jesus, open our hearts to your amazing love. As we walk with you on this way of the cross, help us respond with praise and grieve over our failure to return your love.

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Merciful God, give us the grace to carry our crosses and unite them with the cross of your Son, Jesus, so that we may offer our suffering as prayer for the world. Amen.

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

September 15–20

**Monday**, Our Lady of Sorrows:

1 Tm 2:1–8 / Jn 19:25–27 or Lk 2:33–35

**Tuesday**, Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian:

1 Tm 3:1–13 / Lk 7:11–17

**Wednesday**, Weekday: 1 Tm 3:14–16 / Lk 7:31–35

**Thursday**, Weekday: 1 Tm 4:12–16 / Lk 7:36–50

**Friday**, Weekday:

1 Tm 6:2c–12 / Lk 8:1–3

**Saturday**, Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang and

Companions:

1 Tm 6:13–16 / Lk 8:4–15

Bringing Home  
the **Word** 

September 14, 2025

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**Sunday, Sep 14, 2025**

### **Understanding cross culture**

It's not always easy to face the things that hurt us or our loved ones. So why would we lift up the cross, honoring that which symbolizes pain and the death of Jesus? As Christians we choose to face the cross. In doing so we confront not only the reality of suffering and death but also the hope and belief in new life, in that "something more" of salvation. And somehow in facing our pain, instead of pretending it isn't there or whitewashing the reality, there is acknowledgement of our vulnerability. We become open to healing. The exaltation of the cross is not only a reminder of Jesus' death but of his Resurrection. It is an invitation to lift up our own pain and find in it a path to healing and wholeness.

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS  
Numbers 21:4b-9; Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17 (638). *"So must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."*

**Monday, Sep 15, 2025**

### **Seven ways to know Mary**

Pop quiz on Catholic tradition: Name the "seven sorrows" in the life of the Virgin Mary. OK, time's up! While all seven may not have come to mind quickly, here's a tip: They're all found in gospel passages. Today is a good day to read and ponder them: the Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34); the Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13); the Boy Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:43); the Way of the Cross (Luke 23:27); the Crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:26); the Descent from the Cross (John 19:39); the Burial of Jesus (Luke 23:55).

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS  
1 Timothy 2:1-8; John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35 (443/639). *"He said to his mother, 'Woman, behold, your son.'"*

**Tuesday, Sep 16, 2025**

### **United in welcome**

Cornelius and Cyprian are remembered and celebrated together because of their united efforts to welcome people back into the church. At the time (ca. 250) there was rancorous and strident debate over how and even whether to allow "sinners" to rejoin the Christian community. One group advocated severe punishment and often permanent excommunication. Cornelius and Cyprian, on the other hand, pushed for leniency grounded in the forgiveness modeled by Jesus. Ostracism can never lead to oneness and wholeness. In honor of Cornelius and Cyprian we might ask ourselves, "In what ways have I excluded others, even briefly, and how can I make amends?"

MEMORIAL OF CORNELIUS, POPE, AND CYPRIAN, BISHOP, MARTYRS  
1 Timothy 3:1-13; Luke 7:11-17 (444). *"God has visited his people."*

**Wednesday, Sep 17, 2025**

### **Allow wisdom in**

When the wisdom of God comes calling at your door, it's always a good idea to receive her—and, oh yes, Hebrew scripture compares holy wisdom to a woman. The smart person allows wisdom to enter their life because she comes from God, has always been with God, and embodies God's creative power and teaching (Torah), three pretty important things. Saint Paul called Christ the wisdom of God, as have Christian saints and scholars ever since.

"When we speak about wisdom, we are speaking of Christ," said Saint Ambrose, the fourth-century bishop of Milan. How can you entertain wisdom today?

1 Timothy 3:14-16; Luke 7:31-35 (445). *"Wisdom is vindicated by all her children."*

**Thursday, Sep 18, 2025**

### **Take bold steps to break barriers**

As much as society creates and perpetuates divisions and privileges based on gender, color, orientation, ability, income, religion, Christians must be equally persistent in breaking those barriers, just as Jesus did. Jesus' actions were often condemned as audacious and rebellious. But he was actually modeling reciprocity and inclusivity. In a 2022 speech on welcoming people with disabilities, Pope Francis explained that Christ's gaze on the people he met was "a gaze of tenderness and mercy above all for those who were excluded. For this reason, every time the Christian community transforms indifference into proximity, and exclusion into belonging, it fulfills its prophetic mission." What part will you play in advancing this audacious mission of universal welcome?

1 Timothy 4:12-16; Luke 7:36-50 (446). *"If this man were a prophet, he would know who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him."*

**Friday, Sep 19, 2025**

### **What will you leave behind?**

We've all heard the adage, "You can't take it with you." Although it's a true statement, it's not a very inspiring one. Another way to say the same thing is to ask, "What will you leave behind?" Consider the wisdom of the ancient Greek statesman Pericles: "What you leave behind is not what is engraved on stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others." What stories and witness will you bequeath to your heirs? Saint Paul urges us to "compete well for the faith" and pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. That would be quite a legacy for the next generation.

1 Timothy 6:2c-12; Luke 8:1-3 (447). *"For we brought nothing into the world, just as we shall not be able to take anything out of it."*

**Saturday, Sep 20, 2025**

### **Cultivate a death-defying faith**

While an underground and prohibited faith in Korea, Catholicism had taken root among laypeople 12 years before a priest arrived in 1836. Some 4,000 Catholics had learned the faith from pamphlets smuggled in from China. Catholics in Korea faced many hardships in those years, including the martyrdom of today's saints, but they kept their faith alive until finally gaining religious freedom in 1883. When the desire is there, faith is possible under all kinds of circumstances. Stay strong in your faith as you deal with hardship in your own life. For inspiration, remember the words of Saint Paul Chông Ha-sang when he was asked to renounce his faith: "I have told you that I am a Christian, and will be one until my death."

MEMORIAL OF ANDREW KIM TAE-GŎN, PRIEST, AND PAUL CHÔNG HA-SANG, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

1 Timothy 6:13-16; Luke 8:4-15 (448). *"Some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold."*

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



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