



Holy family Parish

Bulletin — December 24th & 31st, 2023

1021 McCarthy Blvd. N., Regina, SK S4X 3P9 Phone: 306-949-7678
 Website: www.holyfamilyregina.com Email: office@holyfamilyregina.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/holyfamilyregina/

Office Hours during the Christmas Season

December 25 - January 2
 Closed all day

Reopens on January 3
 Mon - Thurs 9am-12pm
 and 1pm-4pm,
 (closed during lunch hour)
 Fri 9am-12pm

for sacraments, funeral,
 Mass intentions,
 hall, meeting rooms, and
 parish items.

Parish Staff Team:

Fr. Wilfred Calinawan,
 Administrator
pastor@holyfamilyregina.com

Sr. Amelia B. Gorospe, SIHM
 Pastoral Assistant
pastoral@holyfamilyregina.com

Andrea Resler, Office Administrator
youth@holyfamilyregina.com

sacprep@holyfamilyregina.com

Mike Nijman, Building and Grounds
 Nonilo Mantuhac, Custodian

ALL Masses will be celebrated in the hall unless otherwise noted.

Weekend Mass Times:

Saturday 5:00 pm and Sunday 9:00 am & 11:00 am
 Dec. 24 - 7 pm Vigil , Dec. 25 - 10 am (both at Riffel)
 Dec. 31 - 7 pm Vigil , Jan. 1 - 9 am & 11 am

Weekday Mass Times:

Weekday Masses will not be held during the weeks of December 25th and January 1st.

Holy Family Parish is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today, our Advent liturgy takes on a new focus. In the past Sundays, the theme of the Saviour's 'coming' has made us aware of the unfolding of God's plan for creation. Luke's gospel of the Annunciation – emphasising the fact that the coming of the Saviour depended upon Mary's consent – reminds us of the mystery that is basic to our existence as persons, that we must all play our part in the realisation of God's final plan. Our life 'in Christ' is at once gift and task. All that we do, leading to eternal life, begins with the unmerited gifts of God's 'grace', but these gifts bring with them the tasks whereby we realise our true personhood, as followers of Christ.

Our first reading from 2 Samuel is chosen because it contains the prophecy that the sovereignty of the House of David will last forever. This prophecy, the angel tells Mary, will be fulfilled in the Son she is to conceive, who will be given 'the throne of his ancestor, David', and will exercise a 'reign that will never end'. This fascinating Old Testament text, however, reflects the ambiguities of the mystery of divine/human collaboration through which God's designs are realised. Though David became, in retrospect, a symbolic figure in the messianic expectations of old Israel, there was much in his life that does not bear close scrutiny. And many of the kings who were his descendents were oppressors of the people, for whom the Jerusalem temple was a symbol of their centralised political power. The prophecy of Nathan, in the tradition that has developed over the intervening centuries, subtly hints at these ambiguities. God will fulfil the messianic expectations that have come to be associated with David's name, but the prophecy distances itself from the selfish politics of the House of David - David will not build God's 'house'; he is reminded that he was only a shepherd boy when God made him great; when God builds up his house,

and gives it a reign that will never end, the whole world will know that it is all God's doing.

What a contrast between this history, marked by human inadequacies, and the consent of Mary, opening the way to the glorious fulfilment of old Israel's hopes. The gospel account of Mary's encounter with God's messenger, we should note, is not a visual description – as suggested by familiar paintings. Taking the form of a dialogue, it spells out the decision in which Mary – putting aside her puzzlement and the uncertainties associated with the future into which she was being invited – gave her wholehearted consent. This consent, it is clear, is possible through God's 'grace' and favour: 'Rejoice so highly favoured', is the greeting brought by God's messenger. The narrative makes it clear that this beginning owes nothing to human standing or achievement. By human standards, Mary is an insignificant slip of a girl – fourteen or fifteen was the usual age of betrothal. She comes from Nazareth, an obscure village of about 150 souls, not even mentioned in the Old Testament. But the passing of time will



bring to light how great were God's gifts, and how total was Mary's heroic response – making her the mother of the Saviour, the model of discipleship – indeed the Mother of the whole family of discipleship.

The reading from St Paul, the concluding passage of Romans, calls us back to awareness of the place of Mary's response - and our personal responses - in a total plan shaped by God's gifts, and our carrying out of the tasks these gifts have brought – a 'mystery kept secret for endless ages ... the way the eternal God wants things to be', revealed in Jesus Christ, and to be made known to the whole human family.

John Thornhill, sm
 TheEmmausSeries.com

From Today's Reading

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-16. In this passage, Samuel, is a prophet at the time of King David who has desires and expectations of building a great temple. However, God had different plans for David and He made a promise to David in the form of a covenant which assured David that a descendent of David's would remain on the throne of Judah (Jerusalem) forever. Thus, David's descendants became known as "the house of David."

Responsorial Hymn 89:2-29 is meditation on the promises God made to David and the blessings bestowed upon him for following God's will not his own. David, in spite of some weaknesses, led a good life in the service of God, and his reign as king became known as the "golden age of Judaism." The Responsorial Psalm (89:2-29) is meditation on the promises God made to David and the blessings bestowed upon him for following God's will not his own. David, in spite of some weaknesses, led a good life in the service of God and his reign as king became known as the "golden age of Judaism."

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27. In this beautiful passage we have a doxology, a brief exclamation or blessing of God in recognition of some truth. Here, Paul is praising Almighty God for keeping His promise to David in the person of Jesus who is not only King of Jerusalem, but "King of kings and "Lord of lords." "

Credit: stclareroseville.org

THOSE IN NEED OF WELL-BEING

Jean & John Boyko	Daniel Riabchyk
Kim Toogood-Kyllo	Rita Legaarden
Roseann Melnyk	Can Pham
Ray & Lenore Geisbauer	Phong Le
Gerry & Sharon Bohay	Andrew Ziegler
Cec & Harvey Hartness	

OUR BELOVED DEPARTED

Lynn Greaves	Joe Novacosky
Maria Feroz Din	Chris Novacosky
Lucien Bussiere	Ava Novacosky
Fr. Pat Murphy	Sr. Patricia Orban

*May God's grace and blessings
comfort and console those who
we love and who are in need.*

STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN BITS: December 24, 2023 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.



Please let us know if you have any mobility challenges and would require assistance or accommodations during the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day masses at Riffel High school. Please contact the parish office at office@hollyfamilyregina.com or Wes Kotyk at wkotytk@sasktel.net to discuss so that we can do our best to accommodate your needs.

What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith

All are welcome to join us for the winter portion of the study. Each week will cover a different topic; see the schedule below. We meet on **Thursdays at 7 pm** in the upper meeting room. Feel free to drop-in when your schedule allows - there is no commitment. We'd love to see you there!

January 11 – The Church
January 18 – The Sacramental Life
January 25 – Union with God: The Life of Prayer
February 1 – Fasting: Becoming Christlike
February 8 – Almsgiving: Our Mission of Mercy



What a gift it was to receive a generous donation of \$325 from the families of St. Bernadette School! To our surprise, the students chose to raise money to help with the ceiling repairs by running a *Healthy Habits Café* at their school. The generosity shown to Holy Family means everything to us and we are so grateful for their support!

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! ~ 2 Corinthians 9:11-12, 15

CHILDREN'S LITURGY during the Christmas Season, Children's Liturgy **will not** be held on the weekends of December 23/24 or 30/31. It will resume gathering in the new year during the weekend of January 6/7.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING GUIDE

December 25th

Monday

Christmas Day
The Nativity of the Lord
Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-5,9-14

December 26th

Tuesday

St. Stephen, The First Martyr
Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59
Psalm 31
Matthew 10:17-22

December 27th

Wednesday

St. John, Apostle, Evangelist
1 John 1:1-4
Psalm 97
John 20:2-8

December 28th

Thursday

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
1 John 1:5-2:2
Psalm 124
Matthew 2:13-18

December 29th

Friday

1 John 2:3-11
Psalm 96
Luke 2:22-35

December 30th

Saturday

1 John 2:12-17
Psalm 96
Luke 2:36-40

December 31st

Sunday

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sirach 3:2-6,12-14
Psalm 128
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:22-40

DONATIONS: Holy Family Parish relies on the charity and self-sacrifice of our parishioners to maintain and operate the church. Thank you for your generosity and kindness!

The 2024 Sunday Offering Envelopes are now available for pickup in the foyer. Please do not use envelopes from previous years, thank you!

—**Envelope:** Holy Family has resumed passing collection baskets during mass. After hours, envelopes can be dropped in the mail slot at the front of the church.

—**Pre-authorized debit:** Contact the office if you would like to set this up.

—**E-transfer:** finance@holyfamilyregina.com

—**Online donations through Canada Helps:** <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/24871>

—**Mail to:** Holy Family Parish, 1021 McCarthy Blvd. N., Regina, SK, S4X 3P9

A FRIENDLY REMINDER If you donate a lump sum and would like the money to go towards different collections (i.e. General, Building Fund, Refugee Committee, Annual Appeal, etc.) please clearly note how much you would like allocated to each category.

This will ensure your donations are properly assigned. Thank you!

THANK YOU! Through your generosity, Holy Family Parish was able to bless 44 individuals from the St. Jerome School Community this Christmas season!

A heartfelt thank you to the Holy Family CWL council and its members their generous support of this fundraiser!

Thank you for making this Christmas a little brighter for these 10 families in need! **God Bless.**



SAVE YOUR EMPTIES! The Holy Family Refugee Committee is having a bottle drive. Save your empty pop cans, milk jugs, bottles, etc. & they will come pick them up from your home on **January 6, 2024.**

Empties must be in a bag or box and left on your doorstep. To have someone pick up your recycling either email patty.gianoli@sasktel.net or phone Patty at 306-535-8251 or Donna at 306-535-3618. A sign up sheet will also be available.

MADE FOR GREATNESS is a monthly drop-in event for Catholic men. Join us at **Our Lady of Peace Parish** on **Friday, January 12th from 6:00 - 8:30 pm.**



The evening will begin with a light supper, a presentation by Agnel George who will be sharing with us what God has done in his life, what God is currently doing, and where God is leading him, Adoration, Confession and fellowship to follow. Feel free to drop-in. Donations are welcome.



52 REASONS TO TALK ABOUT THE CWL Our core values of faith, service, social justice guide us as we follow Catholic teaching, provide service locally, nationally and internationally, and work to advocate for social justice. Let's start the conversation! This week's word to describe the CWL is:

FULLFILLMENT *If you only knew... joining the Catholic Women's League will help you find fulfillment. This one-stop women's organization focuses on faith, service and social justice. Become active and involved in your area of interest. Your place is among us.*

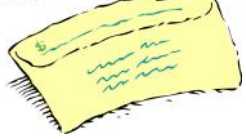
We gather on the second Tuesday of the month after the 7 pm Mass. All Catholic women are welcome to join us! We hope to see you next time.



Father Wilfred, Sister Amie and the staff of Holy Family Parish, wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with the joy Jesus' birth brings!

May God bless you richly in 2024!

Offering Envelopes



The 2024 Sunday Offering Envelopes are now available in the foyer. A few requests as we begin a new year:

Please do not use old envelopes from previous years. Your envelope number may have changed.

On the Initial Offering Envelope, kindly include your contact information. This will allow us to keep our records up-to-date.

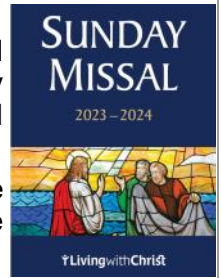
If you do not need your envelopes, please let the office know so they can be cancelled. This will reduce waste and unnecessary expense.

Thank you for your generosity & assistance!

NOW AVAILABLE! The 2024 Catholic Missions Calendars and Sunday Missals are now available at the hall entrance and from the parish office.

The calendars are just \$5 each and feature beautiful artwork, the daily Gospel readings, feast & memorial days, as well as the liturgical seasons.

Missals are \$6 each and feature the Sunday readings, weekly reflections, the order of the Mass, prayers, & hymns.



STAY IN THE KNOW! Scan the QR code with your smartphone and sign-up to receive the weekly bulletin in your email inbox.



MASS INTENTIONS

December 25th, 2023 - January 7th, 2024

Monday, December 25th

+John DeBruyne r/b Judy & Paul Boschman

December 26th - December 28th: No Masses

Friday, December 29th: Private Mass

+Dave Younghusband & Olive LaVallee r/b Marilyn Y.

Saturday, December 30th: Pro Populo

Sunday, December 31st

9 am: +John DeBruyne r/b Judy & Paul Boschman

11 am: +Diane Zolc r/b Betty Behm

7 pm: +Balbina H. Soriano r/b Carmelita Goorman

Monday, January 1st

9 am: +Balbina H. Soriano r/b Carmelita Goorman

11 am: Intentions of Rosemary Needham

January 2nd - 5th: No Masses

Saturday, January 6th

+Leilani Mangaliudan & +Anastacio Bernal Jr. r/b The Bernal Family

Sunday, January 7th

9 am: Pro Populo

11 am: For the health of Mitchell & Jihye Guinan's twin babies.

What is a Mass Intention? *The Church considers the Mass the greatest possible prayer of intercession. Following the long tradition of the Catholic Church, a priest may offer a Mass for a specific intention. There are three common types of intentions: for the repose of the soul of someone who has died; in thanksgiving (such as an anniversary, for graces received); or for the intentions of another person (on a birthday, for healing, etc.)*

There's also a temporal aspect to Mass Intentions, in that people offer a small, symbolic amount of \$10 with a request for the offering and prayers by the priest.

Please contact the church office if you would like to request a Mass Intention be offered.

PARISH UPCOMING ACTIVITES

Date	Time	Activities
Mon., Dec. 25th Christmas Day	10:00 am All day	Mass (in the Riffel Gym) Office Closed
Tues., Dec. 26th	All day	Church Closed
Wed., Dec. 27th	All day	Church Closed
Thurs., Dec. 28th	All day	Church Closed
Fri., Dec. 29th	All day	Church Closed Private Mass
Sat., Dec. 30th	5:00 pm	Mass
Sun., Dec. 31st	9:00 am 11:00 am 7:00 pm	Mass Mass Vigil Mass
Mon., Jan. 1st New Year's Day	9:00 am 11:00 am All day	Mass Mass Office Closed
Tues., Jan. 2nd	All day	Church Closed No Mass
Wed., Jan. 3rd	9:00 am	Office Reopens and resumes regular hours No Mass
Thurs., Jan. 4th		No Mass
Fri., Jan. 5th	12 - 4 pm	No Mass Office Closed
Sat., Jan. 6th	10:00 am 1 - 4 pm 5:00 pm	RCIA (UMR) Refugee Committee Bottle Drive Pick-up Mass (Children's Liturgy & Coffee Weekend)
Sun., Jan. 7th	9:00 am 11:00 am 1:30 pm	Mass (Children's Liturgy & Coffee Weekend) Mass (Children's Liturgy & Coffee Weekend) Blaze Girls Group



A sincere Thank You to those who made memorial contributions to honour their loved ones.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| + Rick Turchenek | + Lenius & Loire family members | + Metro & Helen Rewniak |
| + Louis Marceau | + John F. Voss | + Menrad & Ann Selinger |
| + Diane McAllister | + Paul & Marjorie Beitel | + Wayne Krieger |
| + Gerry Troy | + Micheal McCafferty | + Eugene & Barbara Dielschneider |
| + Herod & Kowal family members | + Alvin & Maurice Hartness | + Peter & Catherine Ell |
| + Family & Friends of Chris & Mary Giambattista | + Vern & Gwen York | + Charles Ell |

The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas

Despite the fact that many of the themes of Christian faith are fading, Luke's gospel account of the Saviour's birth resonates in the awareness of most Australians – the Child in the manger, the shepherds and the angels' song of "Peace on earth". We believers are challenged to own what the story has to tell a struggling world - beyond commercial trivialisation and the sentimental attractiveness of a new born babe.

The second readings of the liturgies of Christmas Day point beyond these superficialities, inviting us to share in the wonder and joy brought by the Saviour's birth: the dawn of salvation for the whole world! "God's grace (saving power) has been revealed" bringing "salvation for the whole human race"; "in these last days God has spoken through his Son".

For a renewed Christian faith, all things are moving towards the consummation of God's designs for creation. With the coming of this dawn, God's plan has reached its great climax. Blessed with faith in Christ, we rejoice as we hear Isaiah giving expression to the messianic expectations of old Israel, because we recognise their amazing fulfilment in the story of Jesus, the son of David, the "Prince of Peace", bringing to the human family the "good news" – "Your God is King!"

Luke's gospel narrative is so well remembered because it is a masterpiece. Christ's birth is set on the world stage, within the "Pax Romana" of a mighty empire; and the nation's messianic expectations are fulfilled in Bethlehem, "the town of David". But contrasts soon emerge with these grand settings that fill this dawn of our

salvation with gospel overtones, anticipating what is to take place as the Saviour's mission unfolds. The earthly pomp of the empire and the chequered history of the Davidic dynasty are far removed from this humble birth, amidst the overflow of a crowded inn – with a manger for a crib and a crowd of smelly shepherds as privileged witnesses. Rome's proud boast, that its legions have



brought peace to the world, pales into insignificance for those who recognise what this birth means for the whole of creation - as the angel hosts sing "Glory to God" and "peace to all those who enjoy God's favour". The chatter of the shepherds is a foil to the response of Mary, the first of all Christian believers, looking into the future and "treasuring all these things and pondering them in her heart".

We have another very different masterpiece, in the opening passage of John's gospel. This telling of the same story is the fruit of a long meditation upon the dawning of the world's salvation: "In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word was God ... The Word was the true light that enlightens all men and he was coming into the world ... The Word was made flesh, he lived among us and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of God".

John Thornhill, sm
TheEmmausSeries.com

Remember, God's gift to you is your life, your very being. Your gift to Him is what you do with it.

ARCHDIOCESAN UPDATES:

[View all updates at: archregina.sk.ca/archdiocesan-weekly](http://archregina.sk.ca/archdiocesan-weekly)

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

For the gift of diversity in the Church ~ We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

CHRISTMAS MASS LIVESTREAM

Midnight Mass (Holy Rosary Cathedral)

Christmas Day 10:00am

New Year's Day (Mary the Holy Mother of God): 10:00am

www.youtube.com/c/ArchdioceseofRegina

PASTORAL CENTRE CHRISTMAS HOURS

The Archdiocese of Regina Pastoral Centre will be closed to the public for Christmas beginning Monday, December 25. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd. Staff from

the Finance and Appeal Offices will be present occasionally between December 27th to 29th. Deliveries can be left in the mailbox at Blessed Sacrament parish, 2049 Scarth St. If you need to contact someone from the finance or appeal department, please find their contact info here archregina.sk.ca/grouppage/staff-contacts/. Merry Christmas from Archbishop Don and all of the staff at the Pastoral Centre!

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

Getting married? Want a weekend away to focus on your relationship? Catholic Engaged Encounter uses a method of marriage preparation that has been used in hundreds of dioceses throughout the world since 1976 and was Vatican approved by Pope John Paul II. A weekend will be held at Briercrest in Caronport on **January 12-14th**. For more info or to register visit www.ceewest.com, Contact Kim & Vance Weber at ereginacc@gmail.com if you have any questions.

December 31st - Feast of the Holy Family

Today much is at stake, when what the family stands for is under attack. It is through sharing in family love and responsibilities that we find ourselves as persons. It is normally in the love and support of the family that we find the resources to face the setbacks of life. And what family is there that does not know pain and suffering? Today's liturgy reminds us that, because 'he became in every way like us' (Phil 2:7), our Saviour has shared in the ups and downs of family life.

Our reading from Genesis reminds us of the strength we can find in family traditions. Taking part in the life of old Israel, the family of Jesus shared in the boundless hopes – as vast as 'the stars of the heavens' and 'the sands on the seashore' – that found expression in the stories of God's promises to Abraham. The second reading, from Hebrews shows the first Christians rejoicing in the fulfilment of these hopes. They saw the wanderings of Abraham as making him a model of God's people, as they come to terms with the fact that their true home is not any earthly city. And they saw, in Isaac, the son Abraham was ready to sacrifice - given back to him from the dead, as it were - a foreshadowing of the Son the Father gave up for our salvation.

The tableau sketched by Luke in today's gospel text, brings us insights into the life of the Holy Family. Joseph and Mary were faithful to the traditions of Israel. (This is significant, coming from Luke the Gentile convert – pointing to the essential continuity of the two covenants: salvation for old Israel, he implies, comes through fidelity to the authentic traditions of the old covenant.) Though Joseph's carpenter trade would have given this family some security, they did not find it easy to make ends meet. The offering they made, of doves and pigeons, is the more modest offering permitted to the poor (cf. Lev 121:8). Their home was probably a cave dug into the side



of a hill, with a small extension in front, and a floor that was simply clay beaten hard by the feet of the household (B. Vawter). This family belonged to the 'anawim', the simple people championed by the prophets who, in the struggle of life, kept alive the true spirit of Israel, through trust in their God.

To create his tableau, Luke has united two separate rituals. The firstborn of a Jewish family – who belonged to the Lord – was 'redeemed' through the ritual payment of five silver shekels. This ceremony did not necessarily take place in the temple. In a separate ritual, a Jewish mother, five weeks after the birth of a son, came for ceremonial purification. Luke intends his tableau to show the Lord's coming to his temple – a beloved theme of true believers in old Israel, and looked forward to as the fulfilment of the hopes of the nation. 'Suddenly the Lord whom you seek will come to his temple', the prophet Malachi foretold, 'Who will be able to withstand the day of his coming?' (3:1-2). Luke's narrative often uses the device of pairing a man and a woman, expressing their equal dignity under the Gospel. Here he sees Simeon and Anna, meeting with the parents of Jesus, as the fulfilment of the longings of the 'anawim', movingly expressed in the canticle of Simeon, 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace', and in Anna's praise and rejoicing.

The 'salvation' being inaugurated is universal, 'for all the nations', one of Luke's favourite themes. But it will come through the Cross. The family that returns to the hidden life of Nazareth is very close to the world's families in their ups and downs.

John Thornhill, sm
TheEmmausSeries.com

Jesus' obedience to Joseph and Mary was always connected to His perfect obedience to God. Likewise, our families are to be reflections of our relationship with God.

January 1st - Mary, The Mother of God

WEEKLY BIBLE READING GUIDE

January 1st

Monday

Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm: 67

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:16-21

January 2nd

Tuesday

*St. Basil the Great &
St. Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops, Doctors*

1 John 2:22-28

Psalm: 98

John 1:19-28

January 3rd

Wednesday

1 John 2:29; 3:1-6

Psalm 98

John 1:29-34

January 4th

Thursday

1 John 3:7-10

Psalm 98

John 1:35-42

January 5th

Friday

1 John 3:11-21

Psalm 100

John 1:43-51

January 6th

Saturday

1 John 5:5-13

Psalm 147

Mark 1:4-5,7-11

January 7th

Sunday

The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72

Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

Today's liturgy invites us to reflect upon Mary's place in the beginnings of our salvation. Although she played a central part, hers is an unobtrusive presence. Her centrality is so subtly described in the New Testament that in the controversies of the past, Protestants claimed that Catholic tradition's veneration of Mary had not basis in the Scriptures. Today's scholarship makes it clear that Mary's unselfish commitment from the beginning to all that her Son stood for made her a model of discipleship for all Christians.

Today's gospel presents another of the remarkable scenes created by the genius of Luke. In this tableau, he emphasises the unassuming greatness of Mary by setting up a contrast, in the story of the Saviour's birth, between the boisterous shepherd messengers and the contemplative silence of the young mother of Jesus. Luke has a special interest, as we know, in 'the poor', the 'anawim', whose trust in God kept alive the true faith of God's people - though they were looked down upon by those who prided themselves in their ritual observances, because in their struggle to survive they did not have the time or the resources to take part in these many observances. The shepherds are representatives of this group - sometimes disreputable, unwashed strugglers who were the very opposite of the Pharisees with their ritual purity. Luke presents this group as the first human bearers of the Gospel in his narrative; and as the story of Jesus unfolds, he will preach the Good News of the Kingdom to simple folk like this, with all their shortcomings.

Very skilfully, Luke sets up a contrast between the bustle and chatter of the shepherds, as they burst in upon the nativity scene, and the contemplative silence of Mary, who 'treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart'. The role of the shepherds - as it is described by Luke - anticipates great themes of the Gospel. Mary's child is to bring to the world. Like God's messengers in the past, their commission is given in a meeting with 'the glory of the Lord' - the incomparable greatness of God, encountered as a source of blessings. They are made bearers of the good news of God - 'news of great joy to be shared by all the people' - 'in the town of David' is born 'Christ the Lord'. This is an astounding declaration: the messiah has finally come; and he is declared to be 'the Lord' himself - a title that for Old Testament faith belonged exclusively to God. They are given 'a sign'; in a manger - a feeding trough - they will find the one who is to call himself 'the bread come from heaven', as nourishment for the whole world. And finally, the message the shepherds announce is one of 'peace for all who enjoy God's favour' - it is God's 'grace' that will bring a final wholeness to the human family, because the Saviour will make himself 'our peace' (Eph 2:14)

The point of the contrast between the chattering shepherds, and the young mother who treasures all that she hears is now clear. It was impossible for the unlettered messengers to understand the full implications of their astounding announcement. Mary, on the other hand, was beginning the journey that - during her earthly life - would lead her into the fullness of faith in all that was being proclaimed. Through this journey, she is given to us all as the model of discipleship, as the Mother of the family of the Lord's disciples. .

John Thornhill, sm

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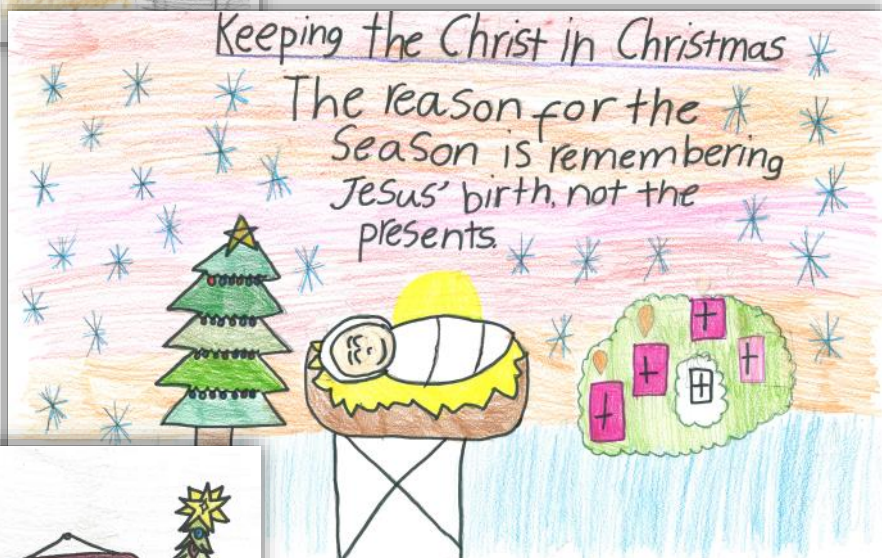
As we celebrate Mary, the Mother of God, take time today to be thankful for Mary's "yes" to God by praying the Rosary or doing another Marian devotion. Then, prayerfully consider in what areas of your life you need to say "yes" to God and, like the shepherds, take action.



Age category: Grades 1 & 2
Isabelle R. from St. Bernadette School



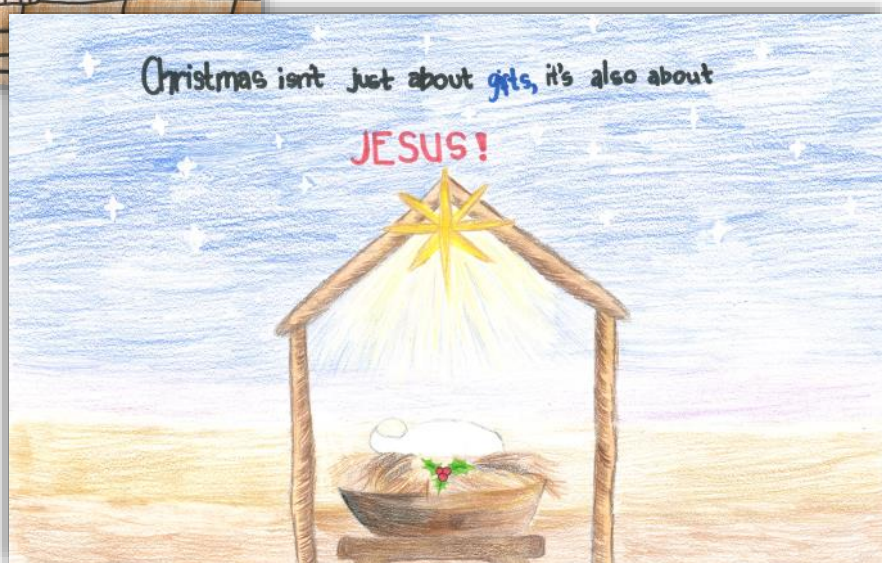
Congratulations to the Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ In Christmas" Colouring Contest Winners!
These posters will be entered at the District Level for further judging.



Age category: Grades 3 & 4
Shaelyn M. from St. Angela School



Age category: Grades 5 & 6
Emily L. from St. Jerome School



Age category: Grades 7 & 8
Julianna P. from St. Jerome School

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Archdiocese of Regina *Bulletin*

*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New
Year*

Christmas Greetings from Archbishop Don

We live in incredibly challenging times, when deep-founded hope is elusive. These days when we watch the news, with accounts of war and images of human suffering and brokenness, and when we see chaos in approaching solutions, it is so easy to ask where God is to be found in the midst of it all. By contrast, we go into stores or listen to the radio, and see bright shiny decorations and hear jingly and jolly Christmas songs which tell us that we should be happy, and that we should shop for beautiful gifts. There is nothing wrong with that per se, and some of it is outright good, joyful and beautiful. But it doesn't take us to the heart of what we are celebrating with the Incarnation, the birth of the Christ child.

Christmas isn't intended to be a happy but short-lived little escape from the difficulties of our lives. Nor is it meant to uproot us from the here and now and put us mystically into a place where God dwells in bliss untouched by human suffering. In the words of one Christian writer, "The incarnation does not provide us with a ladder by which to escape from the ambiguities of life and scale the heights of heaven. Rather, it enables us to burrow deep into the heart of planet earth and find it shimmering with divinity" (Avery Dulles).

Christmas has the possibility to fill us with a deep joy because it brings the assurance that God is with us, where we dwell. It promises, in a way that is more fully grasped with the Resurrection and Pentecost, that God desires to be with us in the here and now, in a life-giving relationship which informs every part of our lives. A relationship with God doesn't mean your life is going to be always happy and easy. The way that Jesus shows us passes through the cross, the complete giving of self in response to the brokenness of the world. But Christ's coming among us in the Incarnation, his rising from the dead, the sending of the Holy Spirit, all speak of God's commitment to be with us at every moment of our lives. Christ's embracing of humanity is God's promise of a relationship with us always. And it is an invitation for us to fully embrace our humanity and our place in the world with courage, perseverance, and trust.

During the Advent and Christmas seasons, we also ponder Mary, who courageously welcomes what God asks of her in carrying and giving birth to the Christ child. A few days ago a friend sent me an extraordinary poem that I had never read, called *The Annunciation*, by Denise Levertov. Speaking of what God asks of Mary, she writes:

to bear in her womb infinite weight and lightness;
to carry in hidden, finite inwardness, nine months of eternity;
to contain in slender vase of being, the sum of power
- in narrow flesh, the sum of light.

Then bring to birth, push out into air, a man-child needing, like any other, milk and love
- but who was God.

Friends, as you prepare for the celebration of the Lord's birth, and through this Christmas season, I encourage you to take some quiet time to feel God's presence, to ponder this mystery of God's desire to draw near to us, to take some time to speak with God in your heart, and to open yourself anew to the mystery of encountering a God who loves us and takes flesh to be where we are. May that prayer and encounter and celebration allow you to continue to live in this broken world of ours with a deep hope. For we are not alone, either as individuals or as human race, in this life. Emmanuel, God with us, is ever at our side, not as an idea, not as words on a page but as a relationship to be lived.

Merry Christmas to each and all of you!

Bishop Donald Bolen



New Year's Day Levée

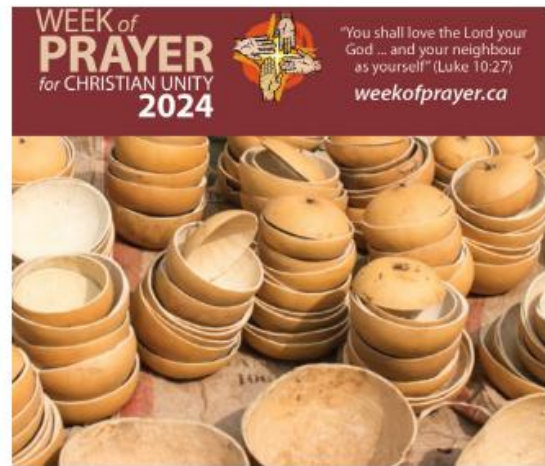
The faithful of the Archdiocese are cordially invited to the Archbishop's New Year's Levée to be held at Holy Rosary Cathedral 3125-13th Ave., Regina January 1, 2024 1:00 p.m.

And to receive the Archbishop's blessing for the beginning of the New Year

(Please note, the elevator is not functioning at this time, the only way to access the hall will be stairs)

Pastoral Centre Christmas Hours

The Archdiocese of Regina Pastoral Centre will be closed to the public for Christmas, beginning Monday, December 25. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd. Staff from the Finance and Appeal Offices will be present occasionally between December 28th and 29th. Deliveries can be left in the mailbox at Blessed Sacrament parish, 2049 Scarth St. If you need to contact someone from the finance or appeal department, please find their contact info here archregina.sk.ca/grouppage/staff-contacts/. Merry Christmas from Archbishop Don and all of the staff at the Pastoral Centre!



THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES / LE CONSEIL CANADIEN DES ÉGLISES

Public Centre for Ecumenism

Archdiocese of Regina

CHRISTMAS LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE

MIDNIGHT MASS
(FROM HOLY ROSARY CATHEDRAL)

CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY 10:00 AM

youtube.com/ArchdioceseRegina

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 weekofprayer.ca/2024-wpcu-resources

TODAY A SAVIOUR IS BORN FOR US

Merry Christmas from Archbishop Donald Bolen and all of the staff of the Archdiocese of Regina



Archdiocese of Regina

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communications@archregina.sk.ca

The Archdiocese of Regina is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.



Celebrating
Christmas
at **Holy Family Parish**

Weekday Masses

December 26 to 29 - No Masses

January 2 to 5 - No Masses

The regular weekday Adoration & Mass
schedule resumes Tuesday, January 9.

Office Hours

The church office will be closed
December 25 - January 2.

The office will re-open
Wednesday, January 3 at 9:00 am.

No Children's Liturgy December 23/24/25
and December 30/31/January 1.

4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23

5:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 24

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

Christmas Eve Vigil - Sunday December 24

7:00 pm Mass in the RIFFEL Gym

Christmas Day - Monday, December 25

10:00 am Mass in the RIFFEL Gym

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30

5:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 31

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

New Year's Eve Vigil - Sunday, December 31

7:00 pm mass

New Year's Day - Monday, January 1

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

Masses will be held in the hall unless noted otherwise.

1021 McCarthy Blvd. N., Regina - 306-949-7678

Roman Catholic Church - www.holyfamilyregina.com - office@holyfamilyregina.com

HOLY FAMILY FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

**Submitted to the Parish Pastoral Council
meeting on December 4, 2023**



October & November were very active months, with meetings with representatives from Stantec & PCL to set the scope of their work and then to discuss the findings of their inspections and to receive some of the initial ideas for how to replace the ceiling and to enlarge the altar.

Next was two or three meetings with the various “Raise the Roof” committees to continue to develop our plans on how to move forward with both the design of the project and the financing of the project. Holidays and illness have slowed this whole process down. We have further meetings planned for December to receive their final inspection report and discuss initial drawings and ideas for the renovation project. PCL is presently doing a costing and will present their cost estimates to us at that time.

We did complete an open house parish meeting on Thursday, November 30, 2023; with 75 parishioners in attendance. We presented outlines of how the process has moved forward from the collapse of the ceiling to this point. There were several comments and questions asked by parishioners; and I am sure we will have more once everyone goes home and has a chance to digest all the info that was presented. The parish team are going to put the complete presentation on the website this week, and we will be putting timely communication points in the bulletin on a regular basis. If you have suggestions for this, please email to me so that we can see how they might fit. Our plan is to have another open house meeting in early January 2024 when we have some of the cost estimates and drawings; so that people can see what we are planning.

Several questions about “How Much” & “How do we Pay”! David Cundall had an excellent presentation (*please see next page*) on how a funding pyramid is the best method to achieve our goal. He and his team are now developing the Pledge forms and a methodology for “Parishioners to bequeath funds to the parish in their wills!” This is something that HFP has not done in the past; but other parishes have used to generate substantial funds over the years.

On the financial side, our donations are up approximately \$16K from last year. Sunday envelopes, and loose collections show the largest increases. This is because of several new families coming into the parish and using these methods to donate. Our direct deposit method is up about 3%. Much of this is attributable to the large increase in donations to the building fund, I won’t have exact details until we close the books in the new year.

Our expenses are tracking very well, with most near or under budget. We just received invoices for the Priest Pension fund and Diocesan Assessment. These were only received last year at year end. Our Diocesan Assessment is up approximately \$7500 because of our larger collections.

Our Finance Team is developing some methods to segregate the “Raise the Roof” funds; so that we can track these independently and more easily. I also plan to remove these funds from our General Revenue account, so that we have a clearer picture of where we are with operations. As of October 31, 2023, we have a small surplus but there are some timing issues with staff salaries etc that will bring this to breakeven.

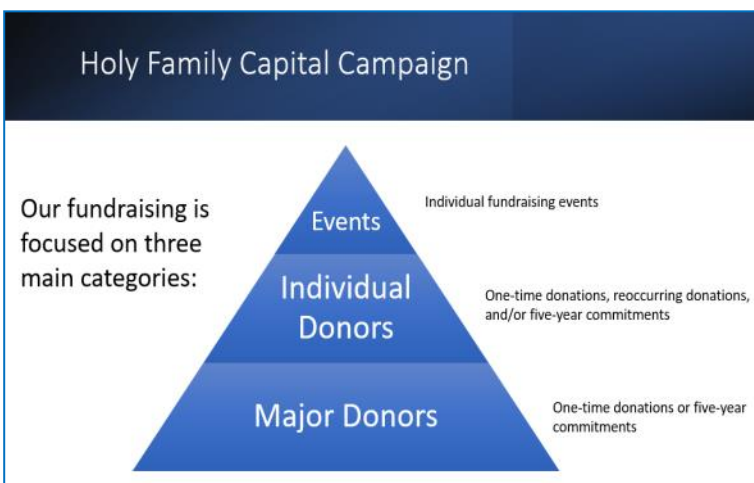
I anticipate that we will continue to see larger donations over the Advent and holiday season, as people make contributions prior to December 31/23 to receive receipts for income tax. We will be putting this into the bulletin and website over the next few weeks.

Please continue to pray hard, look to the future, and bring ideas to create and sustain our vision.

Respectfully Submitted;

David Carvell, Finance Chairperson

During the meeting with parishioners on November 30, 2023, David Cundall presented an outline of Holy Family's Capital Campaign. The following slides were shown during the meeting.



Holy Family Capital Campaign

Fundraising Current State

Focused on fundraising planning work:

- We have worked with the Archdiocesan Giving team to develop a capital campaign strategy
- We are coordinating internally (E.g. Knights of Columbus)
- We have developed a major donor list
- We are reaching out to potential major donors

Holy Family Capital Campaign

Fundraising Next Steps

1. Determine the fundraising scope
2. Develop the communications material
3. Begin the Public phase of fundraising

You will begin hearing much more about fundraising soon!

The slides presented by Dwayne Gelowitz at the meeting on November 30th, can be viewed on the Holy Family Parish website. Dwayne's presentation outlined how the process has moved forward from the collapse of the ceiling to this point.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU EVERYONE!!

Dave Beitel, Chairman of the Holy Family Parish Knights of Columbus council, presented a cheque to Fr. Wilfred at the November 30th meeting. With all the support and help received from 37 volunteers we were able to raise \$7161.00 for the Raise the Roof fund for the repair of the church's nave.

We would like to thank the following people that volunteered at Country Thunder Craven between July 12 to July 15: Emily Amor-Cole, Claudette & David Beitel, Travis Boehme, Corrine & Mike Bzdell, David & Leona Carvell, Ali & Blair Debruyne, Lorrie Frazz, Sheri Frohlick, Gordon & Loraine Garratt, Donna & Dwayne Gelowitz, Brooklynn Gyoerick, Colleen & Ed Haddock, Christina Hagel, Val Hanson, Brent Hebert, Neil & Shelley Holterman, Janet Jost, Sandy Jost, Jason Kaip, Murray Knoll & Melinda Toth, Jim Langen, Wilfred McLean, Mike & Penny Nijman, Kerri Storms, Barb Troy-Hebert, Lorna & Tim Zulkoski.

EDGE

We think we're on the edge
of something great here.

Grades 5 – 8 welcome

7:00 – 8:30pm at Holy Family Parish
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TENTATIVE DATES FOR 2024 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

WEDNESDAYS:

January 10th & 24th

April 10th & 24th

February 7th & 28th

May 8th & 22nd

March 13th & 27th

June 5th & 19th

Watch the website, Facebook page and bulletin for updates and info. We typically gather at the church but have been known to go skating, sledding and for hikes!

youth@holyfamilyregina.com www.holyfamilyregina.com

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Mobilizing the Community to End Human Trafficking & Child Exploitation



ZOOM Workgroup/January 6th/8:30 A.M. PST/PDT

Please Register Here:

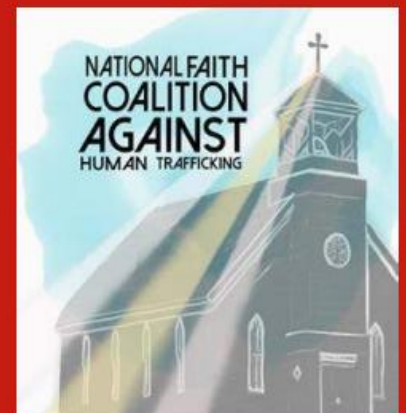
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mobilizing-the-community-to-end-human-trafficking-child-exploitation-tickets-770886952627?aff=oddtcreator>

Workgroup - We will start with a short presentation from the book "How You Can Fight Human Trafficking, Over 100 Ways to Make a Difference," which outlines what everyone, from a stay at home mom, to a health professional, a ride share driver, etc. to what entities like churches and schools can do. Then everyone on the call will be invited to share what they are doing that is working to mobilize their community. You will hear from people from all over the the U.S. and Canada, on what is making a difference.

Our Facilitator— Susan Patterson is a North American Leader in the fight against human trafficking and child exploitation. She is the author of the book "How You Can Fight Human Trafficking, Over 100 Ways to Make a Difference" and "The Role of the Church in Ending Human Trafficking, a Step by Step Guide on How to Take Effective Action." Susan was trained as a motivational speaker which taught her that unless you share with people specifically the "How" in order to take action, very little gets done. The focus will be on simple actions that take very little resources and time. This is what people need to get started.

History Has Shown Us That Social Justice Issues Have Been Resolved Once a Critical Mass of People Engage in Taking Action

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Source

2023-2024

Geared to those in Grades 9-12

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- **Oct 1 - Resurrection**
- **Nov 5 - St. Cecilia**
- **Dec 3 - Christ the King**
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- **May 5 - Christ the King**
- **June 2 - TBA**

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Presentation and Chat at 6:30

Devotions and Confession at 7:30

Conclusion and Fellowship at 8:30

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Door Prize

50/50

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***Pray for the Vocations of Family Members, Friends,
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Come spend time in adoration with the true presence of our Lord in the Eucharist. Ask Jesus your intentions, requests, and questions in the still of your heart, take time in silence, listen, and let Him in! Invite Him to help, guide, and direct you.

Jan. 23rd, Feb. 27th, Apr. 23rd, & May 28th, 2024

On the fourth Tuesday of the Month

Adoration ~ 6:00

Mass for Vocations ~ 7:00

All are welcome to join us at:

Holy Family Parish

1021 McCarthy Blvd. N., Regina, SK