

**Saint Cecilia  
Catholic Church**  
5020 7th Avenue  
Regina, SK  
S4T 0S1  
306-545-4051  
www.stcecregina.com

**Mass Schedule**  
Tuesday, 7 pm  
Wednesday – Friday, 8:30 am  
Saturday, 7 pm  
Sunday, 10 am



October 2014

# Saint Cecilia Catholic Church

## Learning About Baptism

Last spring Father John came to St. Francis School and sat down with some of the primary school teachers to discuss how the school and church could work together. We noticed quite a few of our students had not received the sacraments and we wanted to make an effort with the church to create more opportunities to highlight the sacraments and their importance.

We decided to begin with Baptism. We thought if the students went to the church and witnessed some of the symbols as well as the importance of Baptism, it may lead to some discussion at home. This could then result in more students wanting to receive this sacrament.

The Grades 1-4 classes went to the church on September 18. Close to 200 students, teachers and parents attended. Father John showed and explained the symbols and their meanings. We have received some very positive feedback and we are so grateful to Father for taking the time out of his schedule to do this.

We are hoping to do something similar to this regarding Confirmation and First Communion.

Erin Hindle, Grade 2 Teacher



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Newsletter brought to you  
by your Stewardship Team,  
Heather and Ray Deis  
Team Leaders

## Message from our Pastor

### Rediscovering the Joy of the Gospel



Although our calendars may indicate that January 1 marks the beginning of a new year, I think for many of us, it is really September that makes the same claim. The summer break is over and it's time to get back into our regular routines. School commences, church and community organizations get back into full swing, meetings and a myriad of activities resume. Even some calendars are set up beginning with the school year since so much of our lives are directed by events and activities involving our children.

**This might give us an indication of our priorities as a Church.** Last year at this time, we celebrated a blessing and commissioning of the teachers and staff of our two parish elementary schools of Sacred Heart and St. Francis at one of our Sunday Masses. We repeated that event again this September in order to underline how important it is to see our schools as places of primary evangelization. Our teachers, through their daily interaction with their students, are on the front lines of this process. They may even be the initial contact with the Church for children whose families rarely if ever attend Mass on Sundays. In view of this, we are making a concerted effort this year to reach out to these families especially those who have younger children who are eligible to receive the sacraments of initiation [i.e. Baptism, Confirmation, First Eucharist].

While faith formation is rightly the role of parents first and foremost, our teachers can and should play a vital part in this process as well. We will be endeavouring to provide more preparation for these sacraments during school hours. In no way does this negate the role of home and parish involvement, but rather brings into balance a more community approach to initiating our children into the faith of the Church. The details of how we go about all this will have to be gradually worked out as we go. However, I am confident in the dedication of our parish staff, our teachers and the desire of many of our parents that we can develop an effective approach toward this end.

Pope Francis has challenged all of us not to fear about 'making a mess', for it is in the process that we learn and grow together as a faith community. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and direct us as we go forward in assisting our children as well as ourselves in discovering the **Joy of the Gospel**.

Fr. John Weckend

### Teacher Commissioning and Blessing



Father John commissioned and gave a special blessing to the teachers and staff from Sacred Heart and St. Francis schools during Mass on September 28.



**Sacred Heart School:**  
434 students  
52 teachers & staff

**St. Francis School:**  
390 students  
38 teachers & staff

**Remember** our teachers, staff & students in your prayers.

### Message From Starla Grebinski, Principal Sacred Heart School

Our relationship with St. Cecilia Parish is a blessing to our school. We have a wonderful relationship with Father John and all the staff and students know and respect him. He is a caring man and he understands the Sacred Heart School community.

The St. Cecilia Church building is so beautiful and clean. I am always in awe when I enter and I believe our students feel the same way. Thank you for sharing your beautiful church with the beautiful children of our school.

The parishioners of St. Cecilia are so kind. Our Golden Greeters greet the children when they visit our school, but they also greet the staff and me. Thank you for your beautiful, smiling faces. We also enjoy the parishioners who come to our monthly morning mass. Thank you so much for coming to our school to have mass with us.

Lastly, the Commissioning Service is so beautiful. Thank you so much for making us feel so special in your church. We are deeply touched by the respect and care you show us.

God bless you all and may you continue to keep us in your prayers.

### Message From James Wahl, Principal St. Francis School

Jesus said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 9:14) The St. Cecilia parish community lives these words. Being new to St. Francis I had heard about the strength of relationship between the school and parish. After one month of school I have seen how strong this connection is.

The St. Cecilia Parish community understands the need to reach out to the children. From Fr. John to the parish team, to parishioners volunteering, everyone works hard to support the school in its mandate to share the gospel teachings with the children of the neighbourhood. This relationship is truly a model for other communities to follow. We at St. Francis thank you, for it takes a community to raise a child and the St. Cecilia community understands this.

If any parishioners wish to become volunteers at St. Francis, please call 306-791-7335.



James Wahl

Starla Grebinski