

**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



**Saint
Cecilia**
Catholic Church

Easter 2015

Offering a Gift for the Gifts



For the past 3 years, Grace Lekivetz arrives 30 minutes before Sunday mass. She stands in the Welcoming Area asking people if they will carry up the gifts of bread, wine and water. Her dedication to this ministry is wonderful. Grace is always watching for different people each week and likes to ask people she doesn't know.

Everyone can carry the gifts, individuals, couples, families, adults and children.

When you arrive for Sunday mass, make Grace's day and offer your gift of helping with the gifts before she asks.

Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord

This special event about food, culture and tradition was held on three Saturday mornings in March. Attendees learned how to prepare ethnic food: Indian samosas, Karen (Burmese) spring rolls, and Mexican Sopas de frijol from members of our parish community. Participants enjoyed preparing new and tasty food and were also fed spiritually with a special reflection break and their time together.

The success of this event has prompted the Stewardship Team to look into arranging more food related happenings.



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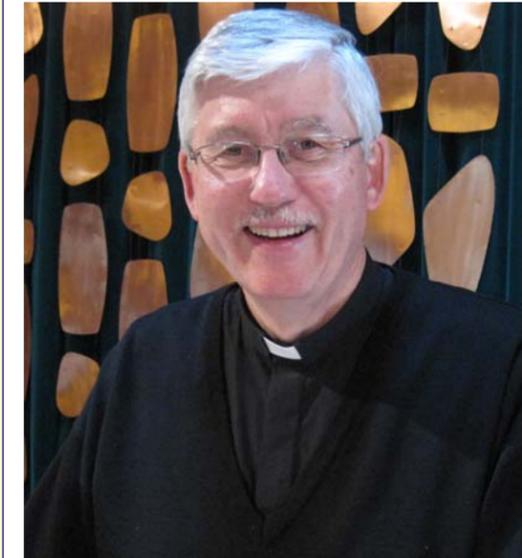
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Newsletter brought to you by your Stewardship Team.

Melita Stenhouse
Team Leader

A Message from our Pastor

Easter: A Message of Mercy



Recently, Pope Francis called for a special 'Holy Year' extending from November 2015 to November 2016. The focus of the year will be on God's divine mercy. The gospel relates how Jesus forgave his executioners even as he was suffering an agonizing death on the cross. This action epitomized the many acts of mercy which he carried out in his public ministry. Jesus' assurances of God's unconditional love in the

face of human ingratitude and ignorance ought to inspire us to exhibit that same generosity to others, especially to those who do not share or even respect our Christian beliefs and values.

Cardinal Walter Casper, whom Pope Francis named to be a member of the Bishops Synod on the Family, has been given the task of seeking out ways of reconciling divorced and civilly remarried Catholics to the Church. He stated, "Mercy is... the inner nature of God. God cannot be other than merciful if He is true to His own essence."

If Easter brings us to a new 'spiritual springtime', it surely must include re-examining our attitudes towards our brothers and sisters who feel excluded from the Church because of family, marital or gender-related issues. Keeping a balance between Church teaching and the need for compassion is not easy. Mercy is not easy. Yet it is the very thing that we celebrate at Easter - knowing that we are totally undeserving of God's mercy and forgiveness. Yet God's mercy [as a popular saying goes] is 'to die for' - which Christ did and now 'lives for' in each and every one of us.

A blessed Easter to all of you!
Fr. John Weckend

RCIA Candidates for Confirmation and First Eucharist

Heather Chobot

Sponsor Ana Lozoya

I grew up in a very loving Christian home. Church and Christ were a large part of my life growing up. In 2011, I moved to Regina to attend school. It was there that I met my husband Michael. We married in 2013 and I got a job teaching in the Catholic school system. Through working in the Catholic School Division and having a husband who is Catholic, it led me to want to know more about the faith. Knowing that in the future we would want to start a family made me realize I needed to join RCIA so that we could raise our future children in a Catholic household.



Through working with Father John and my sponsor Ana, I have learned a great deal and have grown tremendously in my faith. Attending St. Cecilia has given me a sense of comfort and home. Through RCIA I have made new friends in Christ and look forward to what God has in store for me and my family.

Ana

It was on Palm Sunday of 2014 when Father John asked me if I would like to sponsor an RCIA candidate. I felt really happy with the opportunity of sharing my faith, and nervous at the same time for the big responsibility that this implied.



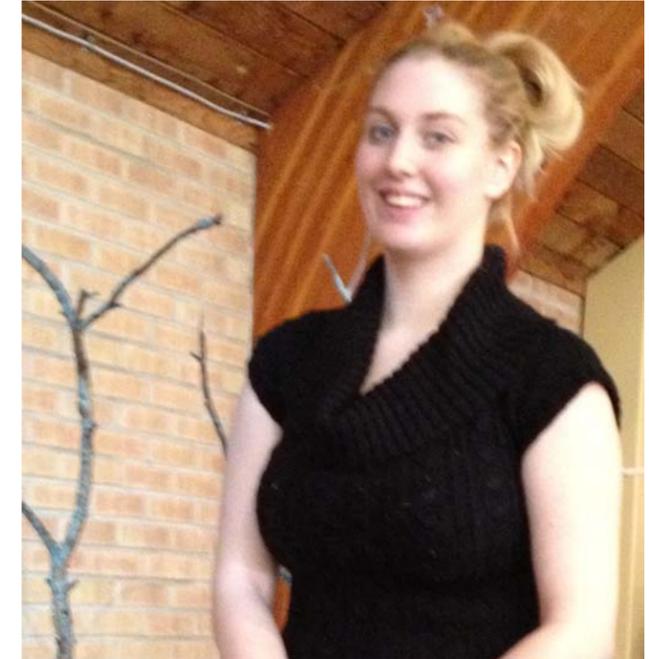
On Holy Thursday 2014, I saw Heather walking into the Church, and without being introduced yet, I knew that was her! In my heart that was the confirmation from the Holy Spirit that a great journey of Faith was about to start and the nervousness went away.

Throughout this year, Heather and I have shared many stories and we have learned so much from each other and from the Body of Christ. I am thankful with God and Father John for this growth opportunity and for helping me find in Heather a friend for life.

Faith Peter

Sponsor Michael Peter

I was born and raised in Regina. I was lucky enough to be raised not only by my father (Allen Peter) but also by my grandfather (Michael Peter). My journey with God started when I was young and attended Sacred Heart Church with my grandfather. I first started by attending Children's Liturgy and then progressed into helping with Children's Liturgy. As I grew older, I wanted to get in RCIA but could never commit fully to God and the Church. I strayed away from my family, the Church and God.



On November 29, 2013 God blessed me with my daughter Isabelle Marie Louise Peter. This experience brought me the closest I've ever been to God.

As I've started my process of RCIA, I have learned about the Church, religion and practices. God knew this was the right time for me to come back to him.

Each and every day I know that God has a plan, even if we stray, get mixed up, and question him. He will forgive us and not only lead us back but bring us closer to him.

I thank God for everyone I've met through RCIA. Not only have I learned from them and the great reflection questions, but they have become friends of mine for life.

Michael

I have the privilege of accompanying Faith, my granddaughter, in her journey in the RCIA program. I have watched her progress in life from a little baby to adulthood. Now she is growing in her faith and becoming a mature Christian.



Together we will travel through life following the teachings of Jesus Christ as members of the Catholic Church and parishioners of St. Cecilia parish.