



*Sharing God's gifts,
Serving others,
In Christ's Love*

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Office: Melita Stenhouse Caretaker: Merv Harrick

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, December 27, 2020



It is through meditating on the Holy Family that we begin to learn how we are called to live in our own homes. The Holy Family had to work, cook meals, clean the house, and wash their clothes and every other regular activity that we too perform, yet they did all these ordinary things with extraordinary love. We too should look to be stewards in our own homes by using our time and gifts to serve our family members with great love and sacrifice.

New Year's Day Masses

With the current Covid-19 restrictions limiting gatherings for Mass to a maximum of 30 people, we cannot accommodate everyone who pre-registered wanting to attend Mass on New Year's Day. **Pre-registration is now closed.** If you are selected to attend, you will be contacted by Tuesday, December 29.

Join us on New Year's Day at 9 am for our livestreamed Mass. Use one of these ways:

- [St. Cecilia YouTube Channel](#).
- St. Cecilia Website stcecregina.com.
- On the YouTube App, search for St Cecilia Regina.

This Week's Masses

Monday December 28	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs 1 John 1.5 - 2.2; Matthew 2.13-18
Tuesday December 29, 7 pm	1 John 2.3-11; Luke 2.22-35 RIP Joan Kormos from Lucille and Merv Harrick.
Wednesday December 30, 10 am	1 John 2.12-17; Luke 2.36-40 RIP Dorris Krushen from her daughters.
Thursday December 31, 10 am	1 John 2.18-21; John 1.1-18 RIP William Labash from Carol and Bruce Sheldon.
Friday January 1 9 am and 11 am	The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Numbers 6.22-27; Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.16-21 Pre-registration only.
Saturday January 2, 7 pm	St. Basil The Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors 1 John 2.22-28; John 1.19-28 Pre-registration only.
Sunday January 3, 10 am and Noon	Epiphany of The Lord Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2.1-12 Pre-registration only.

Signing Up to Attend Saturday or Sunday Mass

Signing-up in advance is required if you wish to attend Saturday 7 pm or Sunday 10 am or Noon Mass, for the first time since the reopening in June, please register by Wednesday before the weekend you wish to attend.

We understand plans or situations change. If you are registered and not able to attend, please call the office. If a change happens after Friday at Noon, please call Ray at 306-545-0592 or call or text 306-536-8920. This will enable us to contact a replacement household.

After you attend once, you will be added to a recall list for your preferred Mass. People who are signing-up for the first time are assigned to the available spaces. If there are remaining spaces, people from the recall list are assigned. Melita will contact you to let you know about available openings for your preferred Mass.

[Read the guidelines and protocols for attending Mass including how to sign-up.](#)

Self-Assessment Questionnaire for Covid-19

If you wish to attend Mass, you are reminded to take the self-assessment. When you arrive, you will be asked if you did the assessment. If you did not, you will be asked the assessment questions.

The assessment is included with this bulletin and on [our website](#) and in the [guidelines and protocols for attending Mass](#).

Fr. Brad's and Fr. John's Christmas and New Year Message

Greetings and Blessings to you this Christmas season and for the New Year of 2021.

At this time last year, few if any of us would have had an inkling of being blindsided by a worldwide pandemic. The Covid-19 virus has changed so many things in our lives which we had perhaps previously taken for granted. It has forced many of us to alter our daily activities, our manner of work, and learning and certainly how we worship. For those of us of an older generation, it has dragged us [sometimes kicking and screaming] into learning new technologies before we were ready. Perhaps it underlines the fact that no matter how hard we work to control our lives, God's universe continually surprises us and is not as predictable as we would like it to be. However, we who place our ultimate trust in a Creator, believe that He knows what He's about and that all will be well in the end.

For us at St. Cecilia, we continue to make the adaptations that are required of us. We are grateful for the patience, understanding, and cooperation which so many of our people have shown. Among those who have shown that dedication are the volunteers that have looked after ensuring the health and safety of fellow parishioners as they enter the church building for Mass; those who have given the time and effort in cleaning and sanitizing our place of worship after each service; those who have spent hours on the phone confirming attendance at Mass.

Our compassion and prayers are extended to our parishioners who have lost loved ones over these past months and were not able to fully express their proper farewells due to the restrictions placed upon our liturgical traditions. Others have suffered the inability to have in-person visits with elderly parents in care homes or family members confined to hospital beds. Many have been hurt financially because of a job loss or a severe pullback in working time.

Yet despite these and many other factors, our people have been most generous not only in supporting the parish but also extending that generosity to those in need in our larger community. Clothing and food as well as financial gifts have gone out to families, safety shelters, and places that tend to the needs of the marginalised and homeless in our city. Perhaps, in some ways, the pandemic has sensitised us to recognize and address those needs that were always there.

As Christians, we are called to live in hope, exhibit peace, celebrate in joy, and live in love. To the extent that we can practice these four great themes of Advent, we will be ready to truly celebrate the birth of the one who lived them perfectly - Jesus the Christ.

And in the words given by God to Moses in blessing the children of Israel:

'The Lord bless you and keep you;

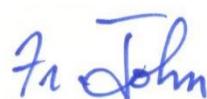
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you his peace' [Numbers 6:24-26]

Fr. Brad



Fr. John



Communion for Shut-ins

If you have a family member or someone in your extended household group who is not able to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, call Melita in the parish office 306-545-4051 for more information.

St. Cecilia Catholic Women's League News

Fees for 2021 are due December 31, 2020. The CWL is pleased to offer the option of e-Transfer method of payment to cwlstceilia@gmail.com. No security question is required, and the money is automatically deposited. If you prefer using the CWL yellow donation envelope, bring it to Mass or drop it off at the Church office. The fees are \$35.

Marian Centre Closed Between Christmas and New Years

Sandwiches, muffins, or granola bars are being given daily to those in need. Donations of muffins would be very helpful. The next delivery of donated muffins will be January 8, 2021.

Plastic Containers for Carmichael Lunch Program

Carmichael Outreach Centre has resumed providing hot meals for those in need. They are serving between 150 - 200 meals a day and are very much in need of clean margarine, yogurt, sour cream, Tupperware, etc. plastic containers in which to serve the meals.

Seasonal clothing and footwear (all ages, sizes, and genders) is also being accepted.

If you can help, package the containers or clothing in bags or boxes and drop them off on the steps by the front doors of the church during regular office hours.

Sacrament Preparation for Children



Preparation classes for the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist will begin in 2021 for children in **Grade 2 and older**.

Classes will be held at St. Cecilia Church (following social distancing regulations) on January 21, February 18, March 18, April 15 and May 13 at 7 pm.

Confirmation and First Eucharist will be celebrated at mass on May 22 and 23.

Please register by December 31. Email Betty DeWildt bettydewildt@gmail.com or call Melita in the parish office 306-545-4051 (see front page for hours).

Preparation classes for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held during Lent 2021 for children in **Grade 4 and older**.

Classes will be held at St. Cecilia Church (following social distancing regulations) on March 4 and 11 at 7 pm.

First Reconciliation will be celebrated on March 13.

Please register by December 31. Email Betty DeWildt bettydewildt@gmail.com or call Melita in the parish office 306-545-4051 (see front page for hours).

The above-mentioned dates are subject to change, pending the regulations of the Saskatchewan Health Authority on public gathering in view of Covid-19.



Archbishop Don's Christmas Message

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, dear friends,

Warm greetings in the Christ child. Christmas can be a difficult time of year for people at the best of times, and in this most unusual of years, a covid Christmas brings challenges for all of us. A parishioner in one of our city parishes recently posted that a lot of people seem to be trying to 'save Christmas,' and by 'saving Christmas,' she notes, trying to evoke or create the expected and desired seasonal feelings, relationships, and surroundings. She adds, 'Just want to point out that it's Christmas that saves YOU, no matter how you feel, whom you're with, where you are, or what you have.'

That insightful facebook post helps frame a set of questions worth pondering. In what is for many the most difficult and lonely Christmas in living memory, how do we find our way to the joy and hope that the season brings? When our usual ways of gathering and celebrating are largely taken away or seriously diminished, how do we attend to what God is doing for us, so that we can receive this good news at the depths of our being and live this moment as well as possible? There are no universal answers, but here are a few thoughts.

What the deepest theology reflects upon, and the simplest carols proclaim, is this: God comes to us as and where we are. We tend to think of Christian life as a long walk towards God, but the real story that our faith relates is that on this road of human history, God comes to find and meet us - in many ways, but in the Incarnation, does so by embracing the human condition and this earthly life in the most tender and vulnerable way imaginable.

Last week someone sent me a quote from St Augustine's Confessions (book 10, chapter 8), where he writes, "Human beings go abroad to admire the heights of mountains, the mighty waves of the seas, the broad tide of rivers, the vast compass of the oceans, the circular motions of the stars; and yet they pass over the mystery of themselves without a thought." What was true 1,600 years ago is true today.

The Incarnation points us back to our most fundamental human experience, because it tells us that God meets us precisely there.

This past Summer, with the generous help of many people, I was able to have an old farmhouse renovated, and in October, was able to move out of Regina and onto the wide open spaces of Canadian prairie, though only 10 minutes from the city. If you love prairie walking, dramatic skies, and putting our lives and their problems in perspective by pondering the vastness of things, this is a great place to be.

I have a nephew who visited with a very good camera that was able to produce time lapse videos, which gave an extraordinary view of the sheltering sky at dawn, the winter winds of the day, the shifting landscape at dusk, and the moon rising at night. Breathtaking beauty is all around us, every day.

One thing that covid has done for some of us, and a covid Christmas in particular, is that it has slowed life down. I really like the time lapse videos; but even better, though requiring a little more patience, is the sunrise, moonrise, clouds in the sky, as they happen. Not sped up. But as God gives them to us each moment of each day.

Into the rhythms of our days and our lives, God enters, enters into time, and into the wondrous, amazing, at time appalling frustrating, beautiful experience of being alive. The creation account in Genesis tells us that God breathed life and wills us, whole and entire, to live this human life. And Jesus' birth tells us more. At the Second Vatican Council, the Church put it this way: "by His incarnation the Son of God has united Himself in some fashion with every person. He worked with human hands, thought with a human mind, acted by human choice and loved with a human heart."

We struggle in so many ways with being human. But as we ponder the angel Gabriel coming to Mary and telling her of God's extraordinary plan, as we kneel before a creche and look at the Christ child wrapped in swaddling cloths, as we sing our most loved Christmas carols (even if only to ourselves), let us remember this: this human condition that we experience in all its complexity and brokenness is dearly loved by God. And we ourselves, in all the chaos and contradictions of our lives, are loved by a boundless love, a relentless and transforming love, a redeeming love. See it in the sheltering sky, and in the face of the baby Jesus, and in the face of each human being in our lives.

Friends, whatever discouragement you carry within you this Christmas, whatever darkness has beset the lives of your family or loved ones, take courage. God's plan is bigger and more wondrous than all the obstacles we face today. The Word has taken flesh. Christ is born. Rejoice, and find rest for your souls there.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

[Watch video message.](#)

Archbishop's Appeal

On Behalf of Archbishop Donald Bolen, the Archdiocese of Regina and all the ministries and organizations we fund and support, we would like to thank everyone for their prayers and for their help in the various ministries of the Archdiocese. Thank you for your financial support to this year's Archbishop's Appeal. If you have not already done so, there is still time to contribute, as donations will be accepted until the end of December. Your contributions, regardless of size, will ensure that the mission of Christ will continue and that the Church of Christ will grow to touch the lives of others, making the peace and grace of Christ known throughout the Archdiocese of Regina.

All our individual gifts and talents are meant to be shared for the benefit of everyone. We Christians are expected to be living witnesses to the way Jesus loves and serves. Let us make a stronger commitment to respond with care and compassion to those around us and work for a more just world.

Thank you very much for contributing to the Archbishop's Appeal. God who owns everything needs our generosity to make it possible for the pastoral ministries to work for the growth of the Kingdom in the Archdiocese of Regina. [Source: Adapted from Catholic Stewardship Consultants. www.catholicsteward.com]

A Time for Envisioning: Future Full of Hope

God promises us a future full of hope. That same Spirit calls us anew each day to do our part to dream and to build that future. [Watch the video.](#)

Revive Parishes

The Archdiocese of Regina is pleased to provide free, online faith formation and leadership training through a partnership with Revive Parishes. Revive is a free online platform with a variety of resources to help parish leaders learn, grow, and renew their parishes. Featuring courses lead by renowned Catholic speakers like Mark Hart, Pat Lencioni, Fr. Mike Schmitz, and Chris Stefanick, Revive offers leadership training in areas of parish renewal, evangelization, stewardship and giving, parish communications, and more. For more information and free access to online courses, visit [Revive Parishes](#).



Emmaus Family Support

One in five families in our parishes and neighbourhoods are affected by mental health challenges. Emmaus Family Support offers peer-led support for mental health caregivers. We are a gathering of individuals who are the primary caregivers of loved ones experiencing mental health challenges that meet on the fourth Thursday of each month to share prayer, mental health resources, and life experience. Our focus is on shared learning, building resiliency, walking together, and moving toward healthier lives for ourselves and those we care for. If you would like more information on how to take part, please [email Deacon Eric Gurash](#).

Small Group Ministry for Young Adults – Leaders Needed

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is launching a small group ministry for young adults!! Registration for joining the groups will open in mid December and groups will start gathering in mid January. All groups will have 6-8 people, have both a social and a faith-building component, will gather based around a common interest and will gather once a week for 8-10 weeks. But first...we need leaders!! If you have a hobby or interest you are willing to share with others and are interested in building community and growing in faith, this is for you! We will provide all needed training and support. We just need willing hearts. [More information here](#) or email [Michelle Braden](#).

Call for Directors: Santa Maria Senior Citizen's Home Foundation

Do you enjoy

- Supporting Quality of Life experiences for Seniors.
- Living your faith through creativity and zest for life.
- Working on fundraising campaigns.
- Engaging with people that share your enthusiasm.

Consider joining our Foundation Board.

For more information, or to register your interest, please contact: Kelly Chessie (Executive Director) kelly.chessie@saskhealthauthority.ca or Joan Pratchler (Foundation Chair) jpratchler@gmail.com.

Helping the Cuernavaca Project With Recyclables

The project can benefit from your donation of Sarcen recyclables at any Sarcen location in Regina. Use the keyword **project** when you use the Drop and Go option.

Archdiocese of Regina Weekly Report

[Sign up](#) for the Archdiocese of Regina Weekly Report and stay up to date on Covid-19 Updates and other news, delivered to your inbox every Friday morning.

Latin Mass at St. Mary Parish

The Latin Mass is every Sunday at 1 pm. If you wish to attend, please confirm your request. [Email](#) or call and leave a message at 306-789-2903.

A Spiritual Act of Communion for those Self Isolating

Jesus, you who are present to us in so many ways, help me to experience your presence at this moment. May your words inspire me and your Holy Spirit instill within me the desire to recognize you in others. Awaken within me now the deep sense of your love and compassion which will transform my heart to be more like yours. Amen.



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Covid-19 Screening Questionnaire

For the protection and health of all in our St. Cecilia community, each person wanting to come to the church must take this self-assessment.

1.	Do you have any of the following symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feeling unwell including fever, cough, sore throat.• Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea.• Unexplained loss of appetite.• Loss of sense of taste or smell.
2.	Have you travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?
3.	Have you had close contact without a mask or other appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) with someone who has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?
4.	Have you had close contact without a mask or other appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) in the last 14 days with someone who is ill with Covid-19 symptoms?
5.	Have you or anyone in your household had close contact without a mask or other appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) in the last 14 days with someone who is being investigated or confirmed to be a case of Covid-19?

If you answered "Yes" to any of the above questions, you are encouraged to stay home and DO NOT come to the Church at this time.

If you answered "No" to all the above questions, you may come to the Church.