



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

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Office Phone: 306-545-4051
Office Hours: Monday to Friday: 9 am to 3 pm

Web Site: www.stcecregina.com
Pastor: Rev. Brad Fahlman
Office Coordinator: Amber Gabriel

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Associate Pastor: Rev. John Weckend
Caretaker: Merv Harrick

St. Cecilia parish is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nêhiyawak (neh HEY o wuk), Nahkawé (NUK ah way), and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.

Second Sunday of Advent, December 5, 2021



"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." (Philippians 1:9-10)

During the Christmas shopping season, it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But, is that "gift" truly an expression of your love for the other person. Or, are you just fulfilling your "obligation" to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them, learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less "stuff" and spend more time with those you love.

This Week's Masses

Monday	December 6	No Mass.
Tuesday	December 7	7 pm – RIP Mrs. Elizabeth Adefunke Oje requested by Chidinma Obidegwu.
Wednesday	December 8	10 am – RIP Murray Grant requested by St. Cecilia CWL.
Thursday	December 9	10 am – RIP Ed Linfoot requested by Pat Linfoot.
Friday	December 10	9 am – RIP Michael Schmidt requested by Betty, John, Kent, Lexi, Joe, and Theo.
Saturday	December 11	7 pm
Sunday	December 12	10 am

Livestream Masses

Sunday

If you are not able to join us for Mass in person, join us online at 10 am for our livestream Mass.

Use one of these ways:

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

Friday

Mass at 9 am is livestreamed as part of the Archdiocese Weekday Mass schedule.

If not attending, you can watch on the [Archdiocese YouTube Channel](#).

Masks Required

Masks must be worn in every indoor public space according to the Saskatchewan Public Health Order. This applies to all areas of the church building. Children under the age of two years are exempt. More information on the [Saskatchewan Government website](#).

Cookies and Muffins for Marian Centre

The Marian Centre is serving about 130 bag lunches daily for those in need and is very grateful for donations of muffins, cookies, snacks, and other items.

If you can help, package the baked goods in a container or bag that you do not need returned and bring them to the church during regular office hours by Friday 9:30 am.



Fall and Winter Clothing for Sacred Heart School Families

Students and families need jackets, socks, underwear, and mittens for Fall and Winter.

- Jackets (new or gently used) - children size 6 up to adult XL.
- Socks – children and adult all sizes.
- Underwear – all sizes including adult up to size XL.

There is a great need for mittens and jackets.

Sacred Heart School is very grateful for the many donations so far from the St. Cecilia parish community.

If you can help, please leave the items in the marked box in the entrance area before or after Masses or package the clothing in bags or boxes, tag them **Sacred Heart School**, and drop them off on the steps of the church during regular office hours, Monday to Friday, 9 am to 3 pm.



Coats for Kids

Father Burns Council Knights of Columbus are collecting gently used winter clothing items (parkas, ski pants, winter boots, toques, mitts, socks, etc.), specifically for needy students, but will also accept donations for adults. The items will be provided to Community Schools and the needy of our city.

If you can help, please leave the items in the box in the Welcoming Area before or after Masses or package the clothing in bags or boxes, tag them **Coats for Kids**, and drop them off on the steps of the church during regular office hours, Monday to Friday, 9 am to 3 pm.

2022 Donation Envelopes

Available for pickup in the Welcoming Area before or after Masses or during office hours, Monday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm.

We are updating our envelope list, so we do not order more envelopes than needed for 2023. Please email contact@stcecregina.com or call Amber in the office if any of these apply to you:

- Donating online and do not need envelopes.
- Donating other ways and do not need envelopes.
- Do not have envelopes and wish to have.

To keep our records up to date, please let us know if you have moved or have a different phone number.

itwewin Corner (itwewin is the Cree word which means ‘the word’ or ‘as it is said...’)

Fr. John, Archdiocese of Regina Truth and Reconciliation Healing Committee.

Did You Know.... Treaty 4 Land Acknowledgement.

“We (I) acknowledge that we are on Treaty 4 Territory, traditional lands of the Nêhiyawak (Cree), Nahkawé (Saulteaux) and Nakota and homeland of the Métis, Dakota and Lakota.”

When Canada (British Crown) wanted to access the land in what is now western Canada, they negotiated the Numbered Treaties 1 – 11 with First Nations who held their traditional lands on the prairies. The Nêhiyawak, Nahkawê, and Nakota Nations had traditional lands in what is now Treaty 4 Territory. Therefore, when Canada (British Crown) wanted to access the lands in this area, they had to make treaty with Nêhiyawak, Nahkawê, and Nakota Nations.

The Dakota, Lakota, and Métis did not have traditional lands in this area when Treaty 4 was made, however, a number of Dakota, Lakota, and Métis people were settled on these lands prior to and at the time Treaty 4 was made September 15, 1874, therefore, we acknowledge Treaty 4 as their homeland.

Prior to Treaty 4, anyone who wished to settle on a territory held by a First Nation, they were required to have the consent of that First Nation. This is the Natural Law of Respect given to First Nations by the Creator.

Christmas Giving Tree – Only One More Week

The Social Justice Team has made a change to this year's Giving Tree. The Giving Tree is in the Welcoming Area, however there are no tags on it. Due to the Covid situation, we are only asking for donations of gift cards. The cards will be given to Sacred Heart and St. Francis Community Schools and others in need in our parish community.

The School Support Specialists confirmed a need for \$10 gift cards.

If you can help, here are two ways to donate:

- Purchase President's Choice (No Frills, Superstore, Jackson's Independent) or Walmart Gift Cards. **At the time of purchase, please ensure the Gift Card is activated and you receive the activation receipt.**

Place the gift cards in the marked box by the tree before or after Masses or during office hours, Monday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm.

- **e-Transfer** your donation and the Social Justice Team will purchase the gift cards. The e-Transfer money is automatically deposited, and the parish is sent an email with the details. The parish is not charged a transaction fee. For the recipient email address, enter **etransfer@stcecregina.com**. For the Memo or Message, enter **Christmas Giving Tree-Social Justice**.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated and especially by those who need a little help during the Christmas Season.

All gift cards and e-Transfer funds must be received by Sunday, December 12.



Can Tabs, Used Stamps and Eyeglasses

The CWL encourages saving/collecting used stamps and eyeglasses, and tabs from aluminum cans. This also includes aluminum tabs on the lids of canned food items, like fish.

Drop off all items in the marked containers in the entrance area of the Church.

CWL members will distribute the items to the appropriate organizations.



Sunday Missals for 2021 - 2022

Includes weekend readings. Available before or after Masses or during office hours, Monday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm. Only \$5.

CWL Catholic Inspirations 2022 Calendars

Pick up a calendar before or after Masses or during office hours, Monday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm. Only \$5.

Catholic Women's League Annual Fees

The fees (\$35) for 2022 are due December 31, 2021. There are two ways to remit your payment. E-Transfer to **cwlstcecilia@gmail.com** (please note this is a different email address than the parish donation address).

The e-Transfer money is automatically deposited. If you prefer using the CWL yellow donation envelope, you can bring it to Mass or drop it off at the Church office Monday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm.

Gratitude Project 2021 ~ 2022 – Catholic Women's League

Do you know an essential worker that deserves our thanks and prayers?

- Healthcare Workers, Grocery/Retail Store Workers, Service Station Attendants, Letter Carriers, Workers that assist in making our daily lives continue.

Please take a postcard (or two) from the table in the Church Welcoming Area to personalize and send (or hand) to those in your life that have assisted you and/or our community to continue functioning through the pandemic. Pick up a postcard before or after Masses or during office hours, Monday to Friday: 9 am to 3 pm.

Thank you to everyone who has participated.

Sacrament Preparation for Children 2022

The Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist

- Students in Grade 2 and older are invited to attend with a parent/guardian.
- Classes will be held in St. Cecilia Church on these Thursdays in 2022: January 13, February 17, March 10, March 24, April 7, and May 5 at 7:00 pm.
- The date of the Confirmation/First Eucharist mass is to be determined.
- To register, email Betty at sacraments@stcecregina.com or if you do not have email, call Amber in the parish office 306-545-4051 by December 31.
- Please note that changes to in-person lessons may be made to meet SHA regulations.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation

- Students in Grade 4 and older are invited to attend with a parent/guardian.
- Classes will be held in St. Cecilia Church on these Thursdays in 2022: February 10 and February 24, at 7:00 pm.
- The First Reconciliation Celebration will be on Saturday, March 5, 2022, at 11:00 am.
- To register, email Betty at sacraments@stcecregina.com or if you do not have email, call Amber in the parish office 306-545-4051 by January 7, 2022.
- Please note that changes to in-person lessons may be made to meet SHA regulations.



Listening, Connecting, and Walking in Solidarity: Reconciliation in Our Archdiocese

Over the past months, we have been hearing about the recovery process of unmarked graves at Residential School sites in Canada, which has reached the consciousness of our church and the larger community in a new way. The pain and trauma caused by these schools has always been at the forefront for Indigenous Peoples, especially for Survivors who attended them. There is a renewed commitment in the church to support and walk with Indigenous Peoples on this path of truth and reconciliation.

We know that this will be a long journey, and we are prepared to do what is necessary to move towards right relationships with Indigenous Peoples. Listening, offering an apology, making amends, and walking together in solidarity with Indigenous communities will all play a part. The [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #61](#) will be a roadmap to draw upon. Those around us will be "watching our feet" to see how we fulfill our commitments to reconciliation.

Bishop Don and Sr. RéAnne Letourneau have been in conversation with Residential School Survivors, Elders and Indigenous community members, asking them about what solidarity and support is needed from their perspective. Here is some of what they have heard:

- That Indigenous spiritual leaders can assist in facilitating a way forward;
- That financial support should be prioritized for the needs of survivors;
- That a Regina-based initiative guided by survivors could help with healing and intergenerational trauma caused by Catholic-operated Residential Schools;
- That assistance would be welcome with work related to cemeteries connected with Catholic-operated Residential Schools;
- That building connections with parishioners of Catholic parishes, especially those near First Nations communities, are an important part of the reconciliation journey.

How can our archdiocese fulfill TRC responsibilities in a practical way?

- We have created an archdiocesan TRC Healing Fund to receive the resources that will be used to help take our reconciliation commitments from theory to reality:
 - We will be offering those who have already donated to the Rebuilding Our Church Campaign the opportunity or redirect (or top up) a portion of their donation to go to the TRC Healing Fund;
 - We will be offering all parishioners the opportunity to support the TRC Healing Response Fund either when they donate to the Archbishop's Appeal or via a pew collection in December;
 - The allocation of funds that have been designated for justice work; and
 - The collection of online funds from the Sask Bishops Healing Response Appeal.

We are working with Indigenous partners on both a plan and the structures to support the plan:

- Our intention is to invite Indigenous and non-Indigenous members to working groups for potential project initiatives for Regina and outside Regina;
- We are planning how to use TRC Healing Fund resources most effectively and transparently and with clear accountability.

As we create pathways and structures to build relationships and share resources in a good way, we are conscious of how important it is not to repeat the mistakes of the past. The main guidance on this journey must come from Indigenous survivors, Elders and spiritual leaders, with the church's role being to support, listen, connect, and walk in solidarity.

National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples: December 12

Never have we been... ..at this place: at the cusp of charting a new direction, full of possibilities and right relations with Indigenous Peoples. The time is here for us to walk together in a good way. As people of God, we know that new beginnings are possible when we acknowledge the past, seek truth, and actively move towards reconciliation.

Join the Journey

Archbishop Don Bolen and his team of staff and volunteers have been walking in solidarity with Indigenous people and building relationships. See what steps have been taken [here](#). With your financial support, they can do so much more, right here in our archdiocese.

Special Collection, December 12

On December 12, there will be a special collection for the TRC Healing Response in all parishes of the archdiocese, an opportunity to provide financial support.

If you can help, here are the ways to donate:

- If you received an Archbishop's Appeal package, use the included TRC form. If you have already provided your financial support towards the TRC Healing Response, thank you.
- When attending Mass, pick up a special card and envelope from a pew or drop by the office Monday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm.
- e-Transfer. The e-Transfer money is automatically deposited, and the parish is sent an email with the details. The parish is not charged a transaction fee. For the recipient email address, enter **etransfer@stcecregina.com**. For the Memo or Message, enter **TRC Healing Response**.
- e-Transfer, credit card, or preauthorized debit to the Archdiocese. All the information can be found [here](#) or call the Archdiocese at 306-352-1651.



*Our Lady of
Guadalupe,
pray for us.*



Indigenous Peoples and the Church: Walking Together Toward Healing and Reconciliation

From December 17 to 20, an Indigenous delegation will be going to meet Pope Francis in Rome. Its aim is to create meaningful encounters of dialogue and healing, and to prepare the Pope for his pastoral visit to Canada. As you know, in late September the Catholic Bishops of Canada offered an unequivocal apology to Indigenous Peoples, which provides a context for the forthcoming trip to Rome as a step towards reconciliation.

Like our own process of the sacrament of reconciliation, we begin by acknowledging the truths of where and how we as Catholics have been the source of deep pain and wounds; what we have done and what we have failed to do. Pope Francis will have an opportunity to hear about the effects of colonization, the signing and breaking of treaties, the legacy of residential schools, and intergenerational trauma. Many of the stories he will hear will touch these painful truths, and that is an essential step towards healing that will lead to a meaningful encounter and relationship building.

Let us be in solidarity with this Indigenous delegation and the efforts of the Canadian Church as it takes steps on this healing and reconciling journey. Truth, new beginnings and right relationships pave the way towards Reconciliation.

Each week, beginning on Sunday, November 21, the Solemnity of Christ the King, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) will release a video recording of a Bishop in Canada reflecting on the Gospel Reading for each Sunday of Advent.

This year's reflections were developed in view of [the Indigenous Delegation which will be travelling to Rome to meet with Pope Francis](#). Each reflection is based one of the five essential stages of reconciliation: examen, confession, repentance, reparation (making amends), and reconciliation. Likewise, it is hoped these reflections will assist the faithful, Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike, in preparing for [Pope Francis' eventual apostolic journey to Canada](#).

Homily of The Most Rev. Donald Bolen, Archbishop of Regina

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021



Today's Readings:

1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9;

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11;

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, in today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." It is an Advent message that helps us to get ready to celebrate the Incarnation, as we seek to repent of our failings and to change our ways in preparation of God's coming into our world. Years ago I heard a Chinese saying: "if you do not change directions, you are likely to end up where you are heading."

Over the past few years, through the Truth and Reconciliation process, we have heard many stories that ask change of us, and indirectly at least, invite us to prepare the way for the healing of relations and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, which is a way of preparing to welcome the Lord into our lives.

In today's first reading from the prophet Baruch, we hear of the exile of Israel, and the return from exile. "Up, Jerusalem! ...look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west.... Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you." The psalm tells the same story: "Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing. Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, they shall come back rejoicing."

In the truth and reconciliation listening process, we heard of many who sowed in tears and went forth weeping, hurt in residential schools. Tears flowed from their eyes as parents had their little children forcibly taken from their arms. Tears flowed from the children's eyes when the clothes which had been specially bought for them by their parents or grandparents were stripped off them and replaced by a drab uniform. Tears flowed when these children had their precious and even sacred braids unceremoniously chopped from their heads and thrown into the garbage. Tears flowed when these very young children were punished for wetting their beds, or for speaking their Indigenous language, the only language they knew. Tears flowed when these children saw their classmates get very sick and die alone so far away from home. Tears flowed from their eyes when these children tried to fall asleep at night but could not, because the mush they were given to eat left them so hungry. Tears flowed at night when the lights went out and they were overwrought with a deep loneliness for home. Tears flowed when they or their classmates suffered physical, psychological, emotional, spiritual or sexual abuse. Tears flowed when out of desperation they ran away from that institution only to find themselves all alone, not knowing the way home to where they had longed and hoped to be hugged by their mothers, fathers and grandparents. As the psalmist says to us today, they went out weeping.

If we are to prepare the way for right relations with Indigenous Peoples, we need to hear those voices of suffering, and the voices of those experiencing intergenerational trauma. God has heard the suffering. And God wants us to hear that suffering too, and to open our hearts to it. Chief Cadmus Delorme of Cowessess First Nation here in Saskatchewan offered an important word to us earlier in the Summer that I invite you to take to heart. He said, "you know, in 2021, we all inherited this. Nobody today created residential schools. Nobody today created the Indian Act. Nobody today created the Sixties Scoop. But we all inherited this." And we all can do something about it. St. Paul says, when one member of the body suffers, we all suffer. And the prophet Joel says, rend your hearts. Let our hearts be broken open in listening to the waves of suffering. And let that move us communally to repent, to change, to action in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples, that we might walk together in building a future full of hope, where we carry each other's burdens, where they are lighter because we walk together.

Let us ask the Creator, to guide our present steps as the Indigenous delegation prepares to travel to Rome to meet Pope Francis. Let us ask the Spirit for the gift of healing, that those who went forth weeping, carrying seeds to be sown, might one day come back rejoicing. Let us ask Mohawk Saint Kateri Tekakwitha to accompany us in preparing the way of justice, the way of the Lord.

Homily for the Second Sunday of Advent © Donald Bolen, 2021.

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[Watch the video: Second Sunday of Advent – Residential Schools \(5:30\).](#)

Archbishop's Appeal

Our parish goal is \$27,527. Current amount donated is \$16,500 – 60%.

The Love of Mary on the Prairies (Video)

With struggles like Covid, anxiety, and loneliness on the rise, more people are turning to Mary for support. One title for Mary is 'untier of knots,' as she unbinds us from worldly challenges through her intercession and love.

Agnel George and Anitha Agnel of our parish have a lifelong devotion to Our Lady, instilled in them through each of their parents. They have a beautiful marriage strengthened they say through their daily devotion to the rosary. Mother Mary's unbinding love, humility, hope, courage, patience, and kindness have helped them throughout their entire lives, especially in moments of pain, health, and work struggles, undoing the knots in their lives, bringing them closer to God and each other.



They have fully experienced her presence in their lives and want to bring more people closer to Mary, inviting them to include her in their prayers so they can feel her maternal love and receive through her God's graces and blessings. They encourage others to let God unbind their hearts just as Mother Mary did and share the gifts and treasures God has given them.

"Come, see and taste how good is God." [Watch the Love of Mary on the Prairies \(5:17\).](#)

Archdiocese Journey Through Advent

[Sign up](#) for this year's Journey Through Advent weekly Advent reflection email. You will receive an email each Wednesday during Advent.

These weekly emails will include videos from Bishop Don from the CCCB's Journey Through Advent 2021, additional materials relating to the TRC Rome Delegation, along with other Advent themed prayers and content to enhance your spiritual journey this Advent.

Please note: If you are already signed up to receive our Weekly Report, you do not need to up, as you will automatically receive these Advent reflection emails.

CCCB Journey Through Advent Table Grace

Creator God, we acknowledge the truth. The system of Indian Residential schools separated children from the affection of their families and from their Indigenous ways. Many Indigenous people still hurt today. Creator God, send your Son to heal and to make us more compassionate. Help Pope Francis to receive the Indigenous delegates with gentleness, understanding, and a desire to help in the healing of Indigenous peoples. Remembering that many Indigenous children often went to bed hungry, we thank you for this food. Give us a desire to share. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

[Visit CCCB Journey Through Advent 2021.](#)

Advent and Christmas Books and DVDs

Looking for a fruitful and meaningful Advent and Christmas Celebration with your family? Advent and Christmas Books and DVDs are available at the Archdiocesan Resource Centre, 445 Broad Street North.

The centre is open Monday to Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Contact Melissa Gurash at 306-352-1651 ext. 237 or email mgurash@archregina.sk.ca. You can also search and reserve library materials [online](#).

Dr. Brett Salkeld and Brendan Steven on Universal Basic Income - Part 1

Thinking Faith Podcast with Deacon Eric Gurash and Dr. Brett Salkeld

Dr. Brett Salkeld and guest Brendan Steven begin a four-part series of discussions on the idea of a Universal Basic Income.

Show Snippet: "A good stance, I think, for a Catholic going into a policy debate is to know that a) there will be no silver bullets, and b) there will be unintended consequences of almost any policy." [Listen to the podcast.](#)

Climate Action Alert from KAIROS Regina

Support a courageous 1.5°C target for Regina's Energy & Sustainability Framework (expected January, 2022). Be a voice for justice, calling for an ambitious plan that does our fair share to address historic emissions from North America and the severe impacts of climate change on those least responsible for it.

Please email your councillor as soon as possible using the [City of Regina Councillor Contact page](#).

You can find your [council ward on this map](#).

You can also use a pre-drafted template from the citizens' group, [Regina Energy Transition](#), that addresses the 1.5°C target as well as promoting four quick policy actions.



Advent Retreat – St. Anne Parish



JOIN US FOR AN
Advent retreat

lead by Most Rev. Albert Thevenot
(Former Bishop of Prince Albert)

Theme: "The Blessed Virgin Mary in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ"

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14
Time: 7 PM
Venue: St. Annes Parish,
1701 Cowan Crescent, Regina
ALL ARE WELCOME

rsvp:
office@stannesregina.com



The Myriam Family of the Prairies Children, Teen, and Adult Events

Children and teens from age 5 to 17 are invited to join in Bible activities on Saturday, December 11 from 10 to 11:30 am. Songs, talk, sharing, skits, prayers, crafts, and fun.

Adults are invited to an afternoon retreat with the theme, "Journeying with the heart of the poor enriched by God's Providence" on Saturday, December 11 from 1:30 pm to 4:30. The retreat includes a time of talk and sharing, a time of deepening the Gospel of the Baptism of Jesus followed by a Lectio Divina and Eucharistic Adoration.

Both events are at their house of prayer in McLean, Sk. For registration, please email pss.prairies@famillemyriam.org or phone 306-761-0528

"Give Love" Christmas Concert

Friday, December 17 at 7:30 pm at Holy Rosary Cathedral. Enjoy great Christmas music by some of the choirs of the Cathedral, Couples for Christ music ministry, and amazing local talents.

Tickets: Adult (\$15), Youth 10 – 17 (\$10) Children 9 and under (Free).

This is a fundraising event for Cathedral renovations and ANCOP Regina for Covid Humanitarian relief program of [ANCOP Canada](#).

Face mask and proof of full vaccination are required to attend this concert.

For tickets, contact Anna at the Cathedral office 306-565-0909 or Don and Asvet Morales at 306-999-1449.