



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

5020 - 7th Avenue, Regina, Saskatchewan S4T 0S1
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

E-mail: contact@stcecregina.com
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.

Third Sunday of Advent, December 12, 2021



*"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God."
(Philippians 4:6)*

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God – He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God's image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous with all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.

This Week's Masses

Monday	December 13	No Mass.
Tuesday	December 14	7 pm – RIP Marge Engdahl requested by Paulette Wendler.
Wednesday	December 15	10 am – RIP Pu Nah requested by Julia Nah.
Thursday	December 16	10 am – Intentions of Melita Stenhouse requested by Bernadette Gettis.
Friday	December 17	9 am – RIP Ken Cholodnuik requested by Shirley Cholodnuik.
Saturday	December 18	7 pm
Sunday	December 19	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](#).

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – Event at St. Cecilia



Sunday, December 12 is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and is also the National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples of Canada.

We will honour this day by hosting an event from 2 – 4 pm, where our parish is preparing a traditional nativity scene with Indigenous representation.

Come join us for a celebration that will include teachings on what the Tee Pee represents. There will be presentations on aspects of Indigenous culture, integrated with Our Lady of Guadalupe, including drumming, dancing, music, and prayer.

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.

Winter Clothing for Sacred Heart School Families

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

**Donation
Deadline
Dec. 15**

Gift Bags Needed

Sacred Heart School has a need for slightly used Christmas gift bags, all sizes, and colours. If you can help, please leave the bags in the Sacred Heart Winter Clothing box before or after Masses or drop them off at the office.

Donation deadline December 15.

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 that...a concentrated effort to establish Indian Residential Schools began between 1883 and 1930, federal government sponsored residential schools grew from 3 to 80 and at their height numbered 139. These schools were operated by Roman Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian, and United churches. The RC church ran 70% of these schools. The last school remained in operation until the late 1990's. The Truth and Reconciliation Committee estimated that 150,000 Indigenous children attended these schools.

Christmas Giving Tree – Last Weekend

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.



Christmas Season Masses

Friday, December 24	7 pm (Livestream) and 9 pm.
Saturday, December 25	10 am
Sunday, December 26, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph	10 am
Saturday, January 1, The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God	10 am
Sunday, January 2, Epiphany of the Lord	10 am

Please note that none of the pews will be blocked off on December 24 and 25.

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.

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.



The Pleasure of a New Skill – Spiritual Exercise

In times of stress or crisis, or long-term ill health, or poverty in any form, it is surprising how much learning a new skill can be healing. The size or importance of the new skill is not the main thing, after all who needs another big challenge on top of everything?

The important thing is to redirect all that emotion into thinking and learning for a bit.

Why not open a new interest, walk on the wild side with a new hobby, use your senses for small joys, or grow something in a new place? Such healing distractions really work. And the pleasure increases as we learn more and get better.

It is a private win in a landscape of loss. And it engages parts of ourselves that may have been forgotten, or rusty, or are even yet unknown.

God was fond of saying 'I am going to do something new for your life', I imagine it gives God great pleasure too.

And we can always ask that our new skill includes the associated gifts of wisdom, knowledge, insight, and joy.

[This exercise will help you to do just that.](#)

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.*



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.

Canadian Bishops, Assembly of First Nations, Métis National Council, and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Provide an Update on Delegation to Rome

December 7, 2021

After careful assessment of the uncertainty and potential health risks surrounding international travel amid the recent spread of the Omicron variant, the Canadian Bishops, Assembly of First Nations, Métis National Council, and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami have jointly decided to reschedule a delegation to the Vatican in December 2021 to the earliest opportunity in 2022.

The decision to postpone was a heartbreaking one, made after careful consultation with delegates, family members, community leaders, public health officials and the leadership of each of the three National Indigenous Organizations. Particularly for many elderly delegates as well as those who live in remote communities, the risk of infection and the fluid nature of the evolving global situation presents too great a threat at this time.

We take comfort in the desire, conveyed to us by the Holy See, that the safety of the delegation should inform any decision to move forward. It is also important to note that the delegation is postponed not cancelled.

Currently, the world's health experts are still learning about the transmissibility of the Omicron variant. As more information becomes available, we will continue to assess the feasibility of future travel plans, based on guidance from the Canadian government and relevant international authorities.

Our shared commitment to walking together towards healing and reconciliation remains strong. We understand that the Holy See is very much committed to rescheduling this visit in the new year and we look forward to the opportunity for Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers, residential school survivors, and youth to participate in private meetings with Pope Francis.

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

Homily of The Most Rev. Donald Bolen, Archbishop of Regina
Third Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021

Today's Readings:

1st Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18A.

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7.

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18.



Today, December 12th, is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Here in Canada, since 2002 at the initiative of the bishops' advisory group the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council, the Catholic Church in Canada chooses this feast to celebrate a National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron of the Americas, appeared in Mexico in 1531 as an Indigenous woman to Juan Diego, whose Indigenous name was Cuauhtlatoatzin ("Eagle Who Speaks"), and spoke to him in his Indigenous language of Nahuatl. Around her waist she is wearing an Aztec maternity sash that Mexican women would wear to indicate they were with child. At a time when colonizing powers in the Americas were showing little respect for Indigenous ways, language and culture, the mother of Jesus comes as an Indigenous woman to this land, affirming her special love, indeed her identification with and embrace of Indigenous Peoples and culture. God walks with Indigenous Peoples, has always walked with Indigenous Peoples.

In today's Gospel, chosen not for the feast but for the 3rd Sunday of Advent, we hear echoes of a dialogue between John the Baptist and those he has baptized in the wilderness. In his own words, John's was a baptism of repentance, signalling a decision to change, to a new way of living, hence they ask him what they should be doing, "what should we do now?" John's response begins by asking them to "bear fruits worthy of repentance." He points them to generosity and concern with others; "whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." He points them to honesty, to just dealings with others, and to integrity.

Today, as many people are gaining a new understanding of the history of this land, including the history of what Indigenous Peoples have suffered, and of systemic injustice that lives on to this day, many are asking that question: what to do. What should we then do? Arising out of conversation with Indigenous people, here are a few possibilities:

- learn about the history of this land. Most of us know too little, and what we think we know is what was told to us through a particular lens. It is time we start looking at that history from an Indigenous perspective;
- be alert to the ways in which racist attitudes are embedded in our culture, our communities, and our way of seeing things, and pray for the grace to listen to Indigenous people, and to their past and present experience, with an open heart;
- learn more about Indigenous culture and ways; there is a richness there that can help us become more human, more in touch with creation and better able to live well in a sustainable way on this land; and when invited, accept invitations to learn more about Indigenous spiritual traditions and sacred ways;
- get to know the TRC's Calls to Action addressed to the churches, and its principles of reconciliation, and discern what you might do to engage with those;
- learn more about where systemic change is needed in our society, in terms of education, access to health and to clean water, in restorative justice, in constructive response to those experiencing trauma and intergenerational trauma, in treaty rights and responsibilities, and in addressing the needs of Indigenous youth. Be an ally in the pursuit of justice and right relations;
- respond generously when the Church gives us the opportunity to make a financial contribution to healing and reconciliation in Indigenous-led ways;
- ponder and enter into conversation, wherever possible with Indigenous people, about what the Church and Indigenous Peoples walking together in a good way would look like; heed the words from Indigenous people, "nothing about us without us"; learn to walk not in front, not behind, but together.

The third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday – 'gaudete,' that is, rejoice. We hear St. Paul in today's reading from the letter to the Philippians tells us "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice." There is a word of encouragement here, that can help us from feeling overwhelmed, from get depressed when faced with enormous challenges. Paul assures us, the Lord is near. When you are in a tough place, or when you are being profoundly challenged, it is not easy to rejoice. But let us take heart in what God is doing in our midst; let us be encouraged at the attention long overdue that is being given to Indigenous people, their gifts, the challenges they face; and let us pray for those preparing to leave for Rome and a meeting with Pope Francis, that good and helpful things can flow from this visit, that a new depth of relationship come to birth.

Homily for the Third Sunday of Advent © Donald Bolen, 2021.
Licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0.
For all other usage, please contact permissions@cccb.ca.

[Watch the video: Third Sunday of Advent – What Can We Do \(6:30\).](#)

CCCB Journey Through Advent Table Grace

Creator God, we acknowledge the truth. We have not bothered to learn the whole story about the history of this land. Our Lady of Guadalupe chose to appear as an Indigenous woman to an Indigenous man, Juan Diego, and spoke to him in his Indigenous language. Help us to listen to the concerns of Indigenous peoples and to walk together with them in learning more about you and about the world. We thank you for our Indigenous brothers and sisters. We thank you for this food. 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](#).

Living Simply: Brett Salkeld and Peter Van Kampen - Part 1

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

As we head into Christmas, we've pre-empted the remainder of our series on Universal Basic Income to accommodate a very timely 2-part discussion with Youth Minister and Catholic speaker, Peter Van Kampen. Author of Living Simply: So That Others May Simply Live. [Listen to the podcast.](#)

Peter's Books: [Live Simply: So That Others Might Simply Live.](#) [The Fullness of Time.](#)

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



"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.