



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

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Office Hours: Monday to Friday: 9 am to 3 pm

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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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19, 2021



"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." (Luke 1:44)

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading at Mass, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself.

What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Or, do you just show up and expect to be entertained?

As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

This Week's Masses

Monday	December 20	No Mass.
Tuesday	December 21	7 pm – RIP George Cels requested by Bernadette Warnke.
Wednesday	December 22	10 am – RIP Madeleine Holterhus requested by Loredana & Francesco Fochesato.
Thursday	December 23	10 am – Intentions of Jerry and Betty German requested by Marge Appell.
Friday	December 24	7 pm and 9 pm.
Saturday	December 25	10 am
Sunday	December 26	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 very grateful for all the donations this year. They are taking a break over Christmas.

The next pickup will be January 7.

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... when the original treaties were drawn up between the Canadian government and the First Nations people of the prairies, neither party negotiated and agreed that residential schools be established. Instead, The First Nations negotiated for schools on their reserves where their languages and cultures were the main components of the curriculum along with learning the English language and math so that their children could work alongside the newcomers and their children.

Christmas Giving Tree

The Social Justice Team is exceedingly grateful for your overwhelming generosity and support to help make this Christmas brighter for those in need especially in these challenging times.

Gift cards totaling \$1,520 were divided between Sacred Heart and St. Francis Community Schools and a few families.



Presenting gift cards at Sacred Heart



Presenting gift cards at St. Francis

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.

Archbishop's Appeal

Our parish goal is \$27,527. Current amount donated is \$18,500 – 68%.

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.

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 Tipi and the Nativity

By Fr. John

As you may have noticed, this year we have substituted a tipi for the traditional stable in our Christmas creche display. The tipi was more than just a shelter for the Indigenous people of the Plains. Its very construction involved ceremonies and contained many of the symbols which represented the values of the families who lived within. Each of the 15 poles forming the framework have special meaning which, when fastened together near the top, indicate what an integrated human being should strive for in life (see diagram on the next page). The canvas skirting [originally buffalo hide] represented a woman's dress and the maternal act of giving birth was symbolized by the tipi entrance which usually faced east towards the rising sun and the hope surrounding new life.

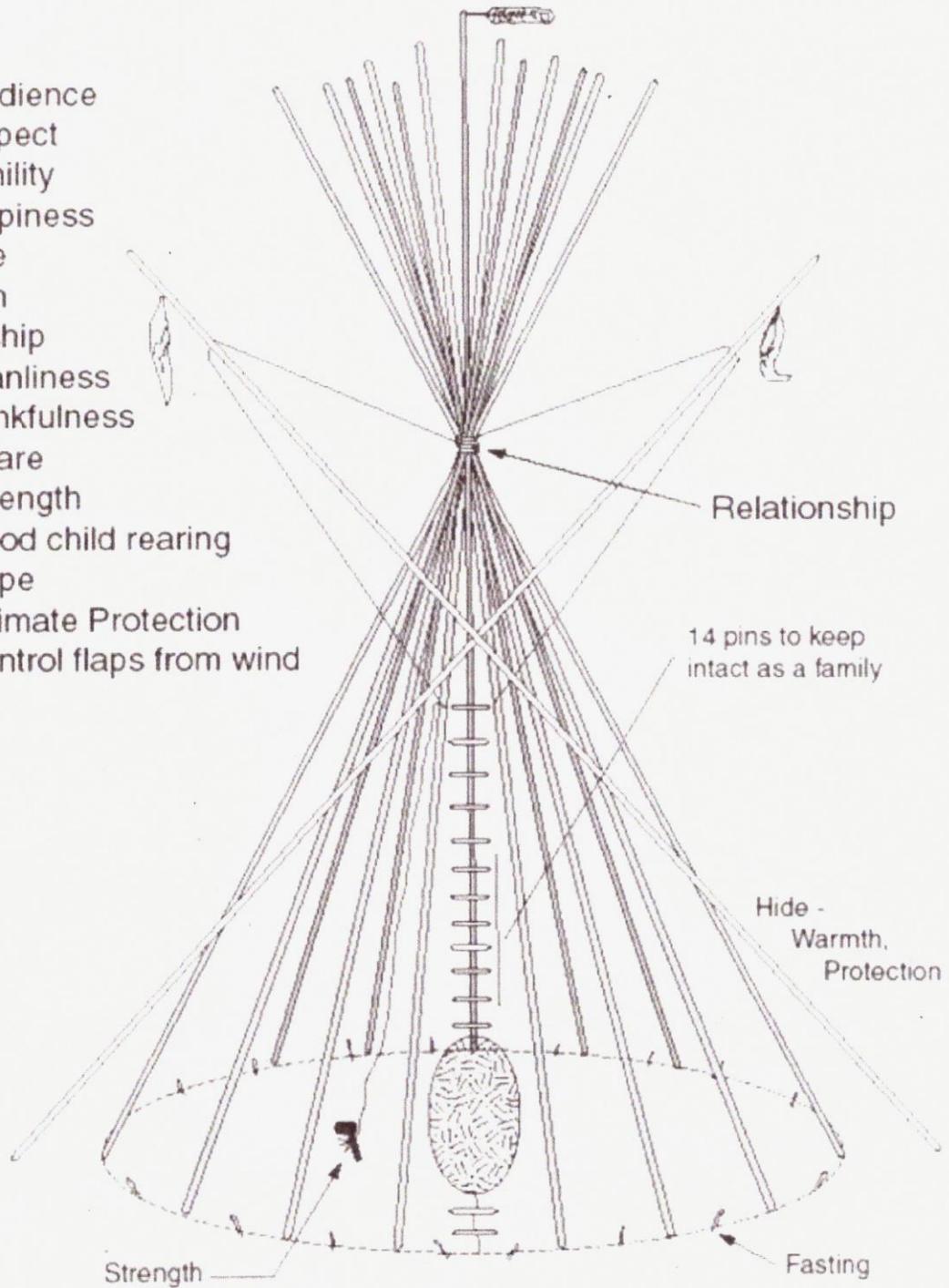
Tipis were usually set up by women. Men were seen as the providers, guardians, and protectors of the family. The flap at the top of the tipi was opened to allow the smoke from the fire pit inside to escape. However aside from this practical aspect, it opened to the sky and was a reminder of the work of the Creator of the whole universe.

The traditional creche, as we know it today, was inaugurated by St. Francis of Assisi back in the 13th century using the scenario which medieval people envisioned in the cultural setting of their time. The universal Christ is able to reveal himself in the guise of all people in the surroundings that they know and understand. It is with that in mind, we present one that represents the First Nations of this land - the land of the Living Skies -- the land of the Plains.



The Tipi Teachings

1. Obedience
2. Respect
3. Humility
4. Happiness
5. Love
6. Faith
7. Kinship
8. Cleanliness
9. Thankfulness
10. Share
11. Strength
12. Good child rearing
13. Hope
14. Ultimate Protection
15. Control flaps from wind



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.

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

**Homily of The Most Rev. Donald Bolen, Archbishop of Regina
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2021**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, it is the 4th Sunday of Advent, the darkest Sunday of the year in terms of hours of daylight, but a day full of expectation. We hold in our imaginations Mary and Joseph, on the way to Bethlehem, Mary days away from giving birth, carrying within her the little one who created all things and who indeed carries us. Today's Gospel moves us back a few months earlier, as we hear of Mary travelling to visit her older cousin Elizabeth, who is also with child. St. Luke says Mary travelled with haste. Something extraordinary is happening, and Elizabeth is in some way sharing the mystery of this moment.



Through this Advent season, we have also turned our attention to another journey, that of the Indigenous delegation to Rome to meet with Pope Francis. The First Nations, Métis and Inuit survivors, elders, knowledge keepers, leaders, and youth were scheduled to be in Rome right now, with meetings with Pope Francis already under way. The encounter had been in the planning for three years, but the pandemic has caused one delay after another – and we find ourselves yet again in the waiting mode. But this waiting, just as in the season of Advent, needn't and shouldn't be a passive waiting; it can be a time of expectation, preparation, and transformation. We trust that God can turn all things to the good, and the delay itself can serve as a reminder that the path to reconciliation and right relationships is long, with forks on the road, bumps, and detours. The walking together is more important than any particular destination along the way, and living this particular moment as faithfully and generously as possible is the task the Lord has given us.

The preparation for the trip to Rome has included the experience of listening circles held in different parts of the country, where bishops have been able to hear firsthand of varied and at times brutally painful Indigenous experiences of church, and where we have seen anew the honesty and resilience, strength, and wisdom of Indigenous people and Indigenous ways. When the delegates and Pope Francis will eventually have the opportunity to meet, each delegate will have stories to tell, stories carrying a lifetime of experiences, sufferings, and joys. We pray that their encounter will point us to renewing ways for all of us to walk together on this land.

There have been many meaningful encounters between Indigenous Peoples and Popes before, and they can provide some context for the forthcoming visit. In 1987, St. Pope John Paul II visited Fort Simpson, in the Northwest Territories, 3 years after an earlier attempt to visit there which was postponed because his plane couldn't land as a result of poor weather conditions. There he acknowledged that for untold generations, Indigenous Peoples "have lived in a relationship of trust with the Creator." He encouraged them in addressing the challenge of promoting, I quote, "the religious, cultural and social values that will uphold your human dignity and ensure your future well-being. Your sense of sharing, your understanding of human community rooted in the family, the highly valued relationships between your elders and your young people, your spiritual view of creation which calls for responsible care and protection of the environment - all of these traditional aspects of your way of life need to be preserved and cherished."

The Indigenous delegation to Rome in 2009 led by then AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine to meet with Pope Benedict, and Pope Francis's address to the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas in Bolivia in 2015, were also important moments of encounter. These encounters acknowledged the suffering and injustice experienced by Indigenous Peoples. Today, further steps are needed to come to terms with the past and to move forward in a good way.

All of this we bring into today's celebration of the 4th Sunday of Advent. It is timely to ponder the long journey of truth and reconciliation as we as Church prepare to celebrate the extraordinary decision and act of God to come into the world, to take flesh, to embrace the human condition. The Incarnation, God's way of healing and redeeming a wounded humanity by walking with us, accompanying us with mercy in our pain and in our joy, this has everything to do with how the Church is being called to walk with Indigenous Peoples today in this land. God walks with us. The Risen Lord is neither afraid nor reluctant to come walk with us in the messiness and brokenness of our lives, the pain and complexity of this moment in time. Indeed because of the Incarnation we believe that Jesus is at home in all of that, and asks us to be at home in it as well. And God asks us to walk with each other in the same spirit, immersing ourselves in the challenges, struggles and complexities of our histories and our lives.

Giving birth to something new is not easy. It is messy and traumatic. But with every birth, God is doing something new. So let us ask God to allow something new to be born out of our efforts to deal honestly with the past, to adopt a deep posture of listening, to learn from the wisdom of Indigenous ways, and to learn how to walk in a deep and committed solidarity with Indigenous Peoples as the Creator guides them, guides us all, to a future full of hope.

"Rich blessings on these last days of Advent!"

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

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[Watch the video: Fourth Sunday of Advent – Reconciliation \(6:38\).](#)

Living Simply: Brett Salkeld and Peter Van Kampen - Part 2

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

With a timely Christmas-theme, Dr. Brett Salkeld and guest Peter Van Kampen continue their discussion on the impact simplifying our own living expenses can have on the lives of others. [Listen to the podcast.](#)

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

[World Bicycle Relief](#) mobilizes people through The Power of Bicycles. We are committed to helping people conquer the challenge of distance, achieve independence, and thrive.

Accompaniment Series: Walking With Those Who Are Bruised Or Broken: They Don't Need To Be Alone

By Pamela Walsh

Over the course of most of the last two years, the world has witnessed great pain and suffering from Covid. The pandemic thrust people into something that most have never experienced before. There were no gradual steps taken; it was sudden, immediate, and turned peoples lives upside down. Although isolation was needed to stop a deadly disease that was spreading at a pace that science struggled to keep up with, the human sacrifice came in many forms. Suddenly, we were not able to celebrate major holidays with family and friends or attend the faith gatherings that were important to many of us. The need to isolate, often only having contact via a phone or computer, resulted in loneliness and chaos for many. All of this was something that we had to try to come to terms with and that was not always easy.



Photo Credit Jon Tyson - Unsplash

Undoubtedly, some suffered more than others. Families lost loved ones, yet were not able to adequately grieve. Children had to suddenly be away from their friends, leading to a new norm that they had very little ability to understand or embrace. Healthcare workers who worked tirelessly were often the only people to attend to the emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of the sick and dying, dealing with the trauma and grief day after day after day.

Over and over again, we have heard people taking their own lives and the far reaching impact those deaths have had. We have heard, too, how people are turning to drugs and alcohol to cope, leading to skyrocketing overdose deaths. And who can forget the stories of seniors in long-term care often having to stay in their rooms alone for a very long period of time, not being able to have visitors or only through a window. These are the real faces of the hardships caused by the pandemic; they are graphic images of people lost in many different ways, physically, emotionally, spiritually; wounded on many different levels.

As we slowly inch out of the pandemic, we need to rebuild our lives and our relationships, but how can that be done? How do we rekindle the art of being together? Allowing people once again into our inner circle. How do we begin the art of interpersonal face-to-face communication? How does that now one-year-old child suddenly relate to a person who is a stranger only seen on a video screen? How do we sit with those who have lost someone a year ago, but have not been able to have a funeral, or a parent that no longer knows anyone because, not only were they in isolation, but the dementia has taken their memory? How do we reach out when some now are so scared and afraid to touch? The art of communication, through touch and closeness, has in many ways been a casualty of the pandemic.

How do we reach out? How do we journey with someone who is struggling with whatever losses the pandemic has brought into their lives?

Over the past year, there have been accompaniment workshops, which have explored different aspects of how to walk with deeply wounded people who were the victims of clergy sexual abuse. In that time, it became apparent that there was a need for people to accompany other broken and bruised people. The original workshops led to the idea of a two-year accompaniment program on several different topics. That program is still being explored and developed. The need for people to be able to accompany, walk with or just listen is not natural for everyone. We heard the calls from people who wanted more education to be able to help those who are hurting, without causing further wounds. The Archdiocese, through the victim service and advocacy position, is excited to bring a series of zoom workshops on the topic of accompaniment. They will be hosted by and looked at from the differing perspectives of a professional counsellor, a victim of clergy sexual abuse and other traumas, and a spiritual director. Each workshop will be a stand-alone presentation, but will also have common threads throughout. People can attend one or all of the presentations. The topics of compassionate communication, mental health issues, woundedness and grief and loss will be examined and discussed from the perspective of accompaniment from a trauma informed perspective.

Each workshop is free of charge and presented in a zoom format; no one will need to leave the comfort of his or her home. The first workshop will be January 16, 2022, from 1 - 5 pm. The remaining three workshops will be held on April 24, September 11, and November 19. If you want to learn more or would like to register, please contact Pamela at victimserviceadvocacy@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you on January 16, 2022.