



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

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Office Phone: 306-545-4051
Office Hours: Monday to Friday: 9:30 am to 3 pm.

Web Site: www.stcecregina.com
Parish Administrator: Father Oliver Inchody, CMI, Ph.D.
Office Coordinator: Amber Gabriel

E-mail: contact@stcecregina.com
Associate Pastor: Father 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.

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, December 25, 2022



"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..." John 1:14

God made us to be in relationship with Him. He loves each of us individually. Through sin, our relationship with God was broken. He gave us Jesus to restore our relationship. Being a disciple of Jesus, we are given the model to obtain eternal life in Heaven.

Christmas isn't about the material gifts we receive, it's about the love that God, Our Father, gave us by giving us His Son, Jesus – the best gift we could ever receive.

This Week's Masses

Monday	Dec 26	No Mass.
Tuesday	Dec 27	7 pm – RIP Ernestina Ripoli requested by Maureen and Adrien Dumonceaux.
Wednesday	Dec 28	10 am – RIP Hilda Streifel requested by Marge Appell.
Thursday	Dec 29	10 am – Intentions of Betty Charles requested by Emailda and Hilda Charles.
Friday	Dec 30	10 am – RIP Mary Jo Mitchell requested by "A Best Friend".
Saturday	Dec 31	7 pm - The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God.
Sunday	Jan 1	10 am - The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God.

Sunday Livestream Mass

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.

Office Hours

The office is closed December 26 to January 2. It will reopen on Tuesday, January 3 with new hours, Monday to Friday: 9:30 am to 3 pm.

Parish Donations for 2022

All donations for this year must be received by Saturday, December 31 for your 2022 tax receipt.

Archbishop's Appeal 2022

Our parish goal is \$29,310.
Current amount donated is
\$14,108 – 48%.

All donations for this year's Appeal must be received by December 31.

Gift cards can be mailed directly to the Archdiocesan office or placed in the collection basket. [More information about the appeal and how to donate.](#)

2023 Donation Envelopes

Available in the Welcoming Area or from the office during regular hours.

If you do not have envelopes and wish to have, please email contact@stcecregina.com or call Amber in the office.

CWL Catholic Inspirations 2023 Calendars



Only \$5.

Available in the Welcoming Area or
from the office during regular hours.

Message from St. Francis Community School

Shane Smith, School Support Specialist, St. Francis Community School

Merry Christmas and Season Greetings to our St. Cecilia family. As the School Support Specialist, with St. Francis School, I wanted to take a moment to say THANK YOU on behalf of myself, the students, their families, and our entire staff for the generosity, kindness, and overall support that the entire St. Cecilia parish community has given to us at St. Francis School.

Without your support, several of our students and their families would struggle to have some of their very basic needs met this school year and this holiday season. When these student needs go unmet, their learning and comfort at school can suffer tremendously. Thank you so much for helping us make school that safe, supportive, and welcoming place for them. We could not do it without you!

Ukrainians New to Canada - Items Needed

Recent arrivals to Regina would be grateful for the following items: single beds or bunk beds, futons or hide-a-beds, kitchenware (pots, pans, fry pans), glasses, etc., used/working vacuum cleaners, hangers, bedding, and size 13/14 shoes or boots. If you can help, call Clarence or Jan 306-545-0192.

Feeding the Needy

The Father Burns Council of the Knights of Columbus encourages your support to feed the needy of the community. A Regina Food Bank donation bin is in the entrance area of the church. **Non-perishable items only.** Most in need are canned meats, vegetables, fish, fruit, beans, and soup as well as healthy cereals and pasta.

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 entrance area of the church 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.



CWL Annual Fees

The fees (\$45) for 2023 are due December 31, 2022. Use one of these ways to remit your payment. E-Transfer to cwlstceccilia@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, place it in the collection container at Mass, drop it off at the Church office, or drop it off with your team leader.

Accompaniment - What It Is and What It Isn't - Part 1

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

In this part one of two, Deacon Eric and Dr. Brett discuss pastoral accompaniment; what it is, what it is not, and what it looks like in the messy reality of real life.

Show Snippet: "It seems to me that good accompaniment isn't necessarily even looking for an alleviation of that tension...the simplest way for us to erase whatever tension there might be." [Listen to the podcast.](#)

New Year's Day Levée

The faithful of the Archdiocese are cordially invited to the Archbishop's New Year's Levée at Holy Rosary Cathedral, 3125-13th Ave. on January 1, at 1 pm and to receive the Archbishop's blessing for the beginning of the New Year.

Synod Listening Session: "Enlarge the space of your tent" (Isaiah 54:2)

Over the past year and a half, people across the Archdiocese have gathered in parishes, Bible studies, and every imaginable group to explore the fundamental Synod question: "how are we walking together as a church community?" In May, many of us gathered for a day of reflection on the Archdiocesan Synod Report. Since then, reports have been compiled in a Western Canada synthesis, in a national synthesis, and finally in October, a text titled "Enlarge the space of your tent: Working Document for the Continental Stage" was released from the Synod office in Rome.

The document poses the following questions which we will explore together:

1. Which intuitions in the document resonate most strongly with the lived experiences and realities of the Church in North America? Which experiences are new, or illuminating to you?
2. What substantial tensions or divergences emerge as particularly important in a North American perspective? Consequently, what are the questions or issues that should be addressed and considered in the next steps of the Synod process?
3. What are the priorities, recurring themes and calls to action that can be shared with other local Churches around the world and discussed during the First Session of the Synodal Assembly in October 2023?

The Archdiocese has 5 delegates participating in the Continental Stage of the Synod, which will meet online during January. This will bring together delegates from each of the dioceses in Canada and the U.S., over 300 dioceses altogether. The delegates are asked to assess the Document for the Continental Stage and consider whether there are themes, questions, or concerns that should be emphasized in the next stages of the process. In order to do this, we must first listen to you. So, we are holding a Listening Session on Saturday, January 7, from 10 am to 12:30 pm.

We invite you to join this listening session to share your insights and perspectives.

[Register Here.](#) [Download and read the Document for Continental Stage.](#)

Archbishop Don's Christmas Message

Hi everybody. Greetings from our new temporary pastoral centre.

Each year in preparing to celebrate the Lord's birth, one of the greatest sources of inspiration comes from Advent and Christmas carols, so many of which have rich yet simple imagery to recount the extraordinary event of God, creator of all things, choosing to take flesh as one of us. Christmas carols are such a powerful way of wrapping our minds around the mystery of the Incarnation, often contrasting the creative and saving power of God with the humbleness of the nature, surroundings, and circumstances of Jesus' birth. The heart of the nativity is so beautifully expressed in carols such as In the Bleak MidWinter, which began not as a carol but as a poem by Christina Rossetti.



The second verse begins by acknowledging the glory of God:

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign.

But then it turns to the reality of the Incarnation:

In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty —
Jesus Christ.

In the third verse, that contrast between the all-powerful and the poverty of his birth is beautifully set forth:

Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breast full of milk
And a manger full of hay;
Enough for Him, whom Angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

The carol goes on to draw us in, just as the Incarnation does. We are part of the story, and are invited in, in an intimate way, to ask what we can bring the Christ child:

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am? —
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part, —
Yet what I can I give Him, —
Give my heart.

This is what we celebrate at Christmas. A Creator who chooses the most extraordinary way to reveal a boundless love to his creation. The poet Gerard Manley Hopkins uses a beautiful expression to speak of the Incarnation. He speaks of "God's infinity dwindled to infancy," who Mary welcomes "in womb and breast, birth, milk, and all the rest." Infinity dwindled to infancy is what the Gospels speak of when they tell us of the Incarnate Word "wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12).

And this is God's way of engaging with a wounded and struggling world. On his recent visit to Kazakhstan, Pope Francis reminded his hearers of God's "response to the spread of evil in the world: he gave us Jesus, who drew near to us in a way we could never have imagined."

In this Christmas season, we are invited to immerse ourselves in the joy and life that come from God's drawing near, from God's way of drawing near to us. We are invited to enter into the story, too. When God takes on human flesh, it is to our human home that God comes. The Incarnation tells us that God's entry point into the world is not fundamentally through an exercise of power, though that is there - it is there in Creation, it is there at the Resurrection, it is there at Pentecost; but most fundamentally God's entry point is revealed in the way he chose to come among us in the flesh, in the way he lived, in the way he died: in complete vulnerability, in poverty, entrusted to the Father, entrusted to us human beings.

And of course the challenge that comes with all of this is expressed concisely by Jesus when he says to his disciples, and to us, "go and do likewise." During his visit to Canada, Pope Francis commented, "One cannot proclaim God in a way contrary to God himself. And yet, how many times has this happened in history! While God presents himself simply and quietly, we always have the temptation to impose him, and to impose ourselves in his name. It is the worldly temptation to make him come down from the cross and show himself with power.... Brothers and sisters, in the name of Jesus, may this never happen again in the Church."

This Christmas let us allow the tenderness and mercy of God to soften our hearts, to touch our souls, so that we might dare to walk a little more as Jesus walked, to come into the lives of others as he came into ours. In humility, in vulnerability, exercising authority by placing ourselves at the service of others, honouring the dignity of each and every person we meet, knowing how deeply loved by God each one of us is. For God has made a home with us, and walks with us in the tangle and turbulence of our lives. Christ is born, Christ dwells among us. Come let us adore him!

Merry Christmas! [Watch the Archbishop's video.](#)