

**Saint Cecilia
Catholic Church**
5020 7th Avenue
Regina, SK
S4T 0S1
306-545-4051
www.stcecregina.com

Mass Schedule
Tuesday, 7 pm
Wednesday – Friday, 8:30 am
Saturday, 7 pm
Sunday, 10 am



Saint Cecilia

Catholic Church

Christmas 2012

Serving the Universal Church

Wherever Ana Lozoya goes, she is faithful to attend Mass and share her gifts with the local church. Ana, age 26, was born and raised in Mexico. She first came to Regina in 2008 when she was taking some U of R classes toward her Engineering degree. With her studies complete, she came back to Regina this summer and is now working at SaskPower as an Information Technology project coordinator.



Since Ana lives close to Saint Cecilia, she is able to walk over for Sunday morning Mass. After a few visits, she decided to get involved by offering to be a Mass server, which she had done in her home parish of Sacramented Jesus in Mexico City (in Spanish Jesús Sacramentado).

We had a need for Mass servers at Saturday evening Masses, so she agreed to be on one of our adult teams, along with Richard Mantyak and Bob Murray.

A little later this fall, Ana expressed an interest in helping take communion to parishioners who

are unable to attend Mass due to advanced age or illness. When we asked her what made her want to get involved in communion to the shut-ins, she said that her grandmother is her motivation because she used to take her to mass since Ana was a little girl. Now her grandmother is sick and cannot go to church; having the opportunity of giving communion to people in the same situation helps Ana feel closer to her grandmother.

We are delighted to have Ana in the ministries she has chosen. This Christmas, she has flown home to be with family and friends in Mexico City. She is looking forward to being with her loved ones, enjoying a few days of warm weather and eating some spicy tacos.

When she sees this story, it will likely be online, on our website at www.stcecregina.com. So we say "Feliz navidad, Ana! Have a great Christmas, and we look forward to seeing your photos when you get back."

Year of Faith Family Prayer

O God our Father,
In Jesus you call all Christian families and homes
To be signs of living faith.
By the light of the Holy Spirit,
Lead us to be thankful for the gift of faith,
And by that gift,
May we grow in our relationship with Jesus, your Son.
May we be confident witnesses to
Christian hope and joy
To all we meet.
In the name of Jesus Christ
Our Lord.

Amen

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Newsletter brought to you
by your Stewardship Team,
Heather and Ray Deis
Chaircouple

A Message from Our Pastor



As the celebration of Christ's birth dawns upon us, it gives us another opportunity to visit this event from yet another perspective. No matter how many Christmases we have been privileged to observe during our lifetime, there is always a further insight into the nativity story that reveals itself. Why is this? It is because God has given us another year of life in which to probe and contemplate the deeper meaning and mystery of this most precious gift of his divine son. It occurred to me that as a number of us in the parish have been exploring the message of stewardship this past year, I am realizing how Jesus himself modeled this perfectly in his life. Living each and every day with an attitude of total gratitude is to see everything as blessing. The problem is that we are often so blinded by our own expectations and agendas to the extent that we fail to recognize God's. Jesus was the perfect custodian of his earthly life insofar as his every moment was lived in compliance with his Father's will.

The story of Jesus' birth in impoverished circumstances, as earthly eyes would see it, is told through the eyes of faith - a faith which sees beyond a humble stable in an out-of-the-way village. It is a faith which experiences a guiding star, a choir of heavenly angels and the beautiful innocence of a new-born child.

As we celebrate Christmas and look forward to a new calendar year [a Year of Faith as declared by Pope Benedict] may we rediscover the beauty of the Catholic faith tradition entrusted to us. Hopefully we do not try to live our spirituality in isolation but seek to share and celebrate it with all who search for the Christ. The message given to the shepherds of Bethlehem is also entrusted to us as well. We are the stewards of the Good News. May we prove to be worthy messengers.

A Blessed Christmas and Peace-Filled New Year,

Fr. John Weckend

A Ministry of Compassion, Friendship and Caring

My name is Lyle Petryna, and my wife Linda and I have been married 44 years. We were married at Saint Cecilia and have belonged to this parish community since 1970. We have 3 wonderful sons and daughter-in-laws as well as 7 grandchildren who keep us young and always busy.

I am a volunteer with Regina Palliative Care which I have been doing for the past 2 ½ years. I decided to become a volunteer when my own mother was dying of cancer. Mom and I talked about this as we both often saw patients who either had no family or no family close by.



I had always been somewhat afraid of death and never wanted to talk about it, so it came as a big surprise to my family when they found out I was going to become a palliative volunteer. The time I spent with my mom while she was dying made me see the importance of spending quality time not only with my own mother but spending time with others to visit. I saw my mother's own inner strength and how she never gave up, always wanting to keep on doing things on her own even though she was weak; the determination she showed was unbelievable.

Like my mother, the patients I have visited are not happy with what they are dealing with, but every one of them has something to fight for. One woman had one of her legs paralyzed from chemotherapy, but she was determined to drive her car again. I met a man who lost his hearing from chemo treatments, but he could talk, so we communicated by using his whiteboard. I would write the questions down and away we would go talking. This man always, had a bright outlook, loved his wife, children and

grandchildren, but most of all, shared his relationship with Jesus and how close he felt to Him. We spent many times talking and laughing and he often told me how thankful he was for all of the good things he had in his life.

As a palliative volunteer, visits and patients' names are highly confidential so I do not tell anyone who I visit or what was said, otherwise I can be asked to leave the volunteer service. Also, the friendships I have talked about are friendships within the hospital setting and I virtually do not remember any names of the people I have visited. The friendships develop because I get the opportunity to see certain patients on a regular basis due to their ongoing treatments.

It has been an honour and a privilege for me to spend time with those who are dying or actively fighting cancer. I have shared many laughs, stories and tears; it is through their sharing of their lives that has made my own faith grow deeper and appreciate my own family and all of the things that I have been blessed with. We often take family and friends for granted; volunteering has shown me that we do not know what is going to happen tomorrow and to be thankful for today.

I have seen death and dying, but I have seen much peace in the people who are going through this most difficult of times. Through this I have become closer to Jesus and more accepting. I see my family in a different light. When patience wears thin, we must look beyond and appreciate what we have. I pray that The Lord will give me the strength and inner peace when my time comes, that He has given not only to my own mother but to all of those I have had the privilege to visit.

Sharing the Harvest

For Garth Mang and his sister, Charmaine Baker, sharing the bounty of their community garden with Saint Cecilia parishioners this past summer was something they didn't have to consider long.



Both Charmaine and Garth are relatively new to Saint Cecilia. They participated in the RCIA program last year, and were initiated into the church at the Easter Vigil on April 7, 2012.

Charmaine and Garth began gardening 5 years ago when they obtained a community plot in the new Grow Regina community garden in south Regina on Queen Street.

They began with the intent of giving away everything they grew. One year was particularly rainy, and the yield not so high. Beneficiaries of their early efforts included Waterston House, a shelter for men, and Soul's Harbour Rescue Mission.

The summer of 2012 proved to be a "tremendous year" says Garth. "Exceptional. Our best year; the weather was perfect." The time they spent planting, watering and weeding green and yellow beans, cucumbers, beets and carrots yielded great results.

With a bountiful harvest at hand, Garth and Charmaine asked Father John about bringing vegetables to church for parishioners. Father enthusiastically welcomed the idea and arranged for a table in the entrance area. Garth and Charmaine didn't just pick their crop, they also cleaned and bagged the vegetables. Part of Garth's tradition is to purchase Taber corn to add to their offerings, which he also did this year.

After Garth and Charmaine set up their vegetables at church, someone suggested putting out a basket for donations toward the Refugee Sponsorship Fund. Over the 4 weeks of bringing vegetables, there were many parishioners happy to have locally grown vegetables and contribute a few dollars. The Refugee Fund benefitted by over \$200.

Garth and Charmaine also spend every second Saturday helping at the Marian Centre, a Catholic centre for men that provides a place for socializing and a hot noon meal. Garth will be spending 2 hours there on Christmas day to help serve dinner.



Garth was reluctant to have the spotlight on their efforts. He acknowledges "God has been so great and such a grace to us." We are thankful for parishioners like Garth and Charmaine who willingly share what God has given them.