

**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



**Easter 2014**  
**Saint  
Cecilia**  
Catholic Church

**Lenten Art (continued)**



**Helping Read at Sacred Heart and St. Francis Schools**

Every week, a number of parishioners help students improve their reading skills. The group of 12 offer their time in the morning or afternoon by reading or being read to by a student. Pictured here (clockwise from top left): Donna Gerlach, Linda Petryna, Shirley Hoffart and Pat Dergo.



If you are interested in sharing your talent and time in this ministry, contact Donna 306-545-1282 for Sacred Heart and Linda 306-543-1130 for St. Francis.

**A Message from our Pastor**

**Easter and the Joy of the Gospel**



**Two events** occurred on November 24, 2013 that brought joy to the hearts of many. One was of more local interest - the Roughriders won the Grey Cup at home in front of their own fans at Mosaic Stadium. The other was more universal - the proclamation of the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis - EVANGELII GAUDIUM [THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL]. It might seem unusual to see the words 'gospel' and 'joy' appearing in the same sentence. After all, we're living in a secular age which often derides or simply ignores anything that smacks of faith or religious expression. And yet, the

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

Holy Father, in this document, has instilled a new spirit and energy within the Church. How is he doing this? By simply refocusing on the basic message of Jesus Christ -- of witnessing to God's unconditional and non-exclusive love for all people.

Too often we, as Church, have gotten bogged down in specific issues whereby emotions have led to division, uncharitable behaviour and exclusion of those whose views differ from ours. This has often led to an image of Church as a defensive, fortress-like institution that is always at odds with the world and whose members [as Pope Francis stated] look more 'like someone who has just come back from a funeral.' In contrast to this, the pope is encouraging us to be re-introduced to Jesus Christ. Easter is our opportunity to go back to the 'starting line' of our Christian faith -- the Resurrection of Jesus and the new hope and joy which this brings us.

Easter presents to us not merely some wishful optimism, but the realization that the God we profess to believe in, was truly willing to go the distance for us. In order to reclaim his wayward children, He entered fully into our human condition in the person of Jesus Christ and made the ultimate sacrifice to prove His love for us. Jesus, in his humanity, demonstrated perfectly what it takes to live as a human being. What better way to teach and inspire than to actually live the message!

This is why it is so important to get to know Jesus in a much more personal way. Knowledge of a person is important, but having a close personal relationship takes everything to a whole different level. We may know things about Jesus, but do we know Him? Have we allowed Him to get to know us? A one-on-one relationship with the RISEN LORD truly brings us the kind of joy that becomes so embedded within our hearts that nothing can take it away.

The author Marcus Borg, once wrote a book curiously entitled, MEETING JESUS AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME. May this Easter be, for all of us, an opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with the Lord and get to know Him on a new and far deeper level.

Fr. John Weckend

## RCIA Candidates for Confirmation and First Eucharist

### Jennifer Gibson

Sponsor Amanda Moreau

I was born and raised in Regina, and attended the University of Regina. In 2009 I graduated with my B.A. in Psychology, then in 2012 with my B.A. in Elementary Education. My parents are Karen and Darrell, and I have a younger brother Kyle who lives in Calgary.

I have been teaching for 2 years, and I currently teach Kindergarten at St. Peter School. I absolutely love all the experiences we have while learning and playing.

I love traveling, and have visited Rome, Florence, Assisi, London, Wales, Ireland, and in July I will be heading to New York with a co-worker.

My faith journey started when I was offered a job in the Catholic School System, and since then I have always wanted to know more. This has been a journey full of learning and great conversation with Amanda. I have been able to take what I have learned and use it in my classroom and life.

**Amanda** I am truly grateful to Father John for having asked me to mentor Jennifer through this experience since last July. It has been very rewarding and I am very happy to have served as her guide. I feel like I have made a friend in Christ and I hope that we can continue our friendship beyond this. It brings me joy to see her excitement to become a part of our Church.

### Larissa Munchinsky

Sponsor Melissa Ratcliffe

I am a daughter, wife, mother, teacher and follower of Jesus Christ. I was born in Ames, Iowa USA. My Canadian father moved our family to Regina to be an evangelical pastor with the Christian Missionary Alliance church when I was 3 years old. It is in this city and at Hillsdale Alliance Church where I committed my life to walking a life following Jesus' teachings and biblical truth and was baptized. I credit Godly parents, a quality church youth group and church, working at Dallas Valley Ranch Camp and doing overseas missions to growing and strengthening my faith as a Christian youth and young adult. I am blessed to have married my best friend Brad Munchinsky and our last 8 years of marriage have been full of joy and sorrows and I can say he is still my most favourite person. We have the privilege of being the parents of 3 children -- our oldest Noah would be 3 this April but passed away at birth.



Our daughter Lydia was born almost a year after we lost our son. Our newest addition, Josh, was just born 3 weeks ago.

My call to journey into this RCIA process began when I was substitute teaching in the Catholic school system. The Catholic schools and church blend Christ teaching with quality education so well that I knew I wanted to make teaching in this school system more permanent. I wanted to be able to blend my faith with a job I love but I realized how much I did not know about the Catholic Church. Since meeting Father John and my sponsor Melissa the more I know I want to be a part of this special community of believers and to then go serve and share this with my students. My time meeting with Melissa and Father John has encouraged and strengthened me in my faith. I am honoured and excited to be able to partake in the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil with the St. Cecilia community.



**Melissa** I had the honour of being Larissa's sponsor for RCIA. Larissa and I discovered we had a lot in common, both in our professional careers as teachers and in our personal lives. We found it very comfortable to talk and share with each other. Besides learning a lot about Larissa and sharing many laughs and a few tears, I have experienced a deepening of my own faith along the way. This experience has challenged and enriched my life. Larissa is an amazing person and I feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to share this journey with her.

### Lenten Art

As part of our stewardship activities, we invited the students at Sacred Heart and St. Francis schools to participate in an art project related to the theme of the weekly Sunday gospels and the Story of Creation.

The art was included in the Lenten decor in the Welcoming Area and walls of the church. It was wonderful to see how the students interpreted the readings in the art they created. The originality was fabulous!!

The art from the 7 days of creation was used in the slide show which accompanied the Genesis reading at the Easter Vigil. Many of the projects will be displayed in the Welcoming Area during the Easter season.

