



Holy Cross Parish

1st Week of Christmas

Bulletin #4

December 24, 2023

315 Douglas Avenue East, Regina, SK S4N 1H7; Phone: 306-757-1325
www.holycrossregina.ca Email: hc.office@holycrossregina.ca

Contact the office

@ 306-757-1325 for Baptism, 1st Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Marriage, Funerals, and other concerns.

We acknowledge that Holy Cross Parish is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional homeland of the Nêhiyawak (Cree), Nahkawé (Saulteaux) and Nakota and homeland of the Métis Nation, Dakota and Lakota.

Parish Staff Team:

Pastor
Fr. Carlos Jimenez
pastor@holycrossregina.ca
Martin Kondzielewski
Office & Pastoral Assistant
hc.office@holycrossregina.ca
Rita Gareau
bookkeeper.holycross@sasktel.net
Jacob Antony,
Caretaker

HC Office Hours:

Monday—Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Masses

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 9:00am
Tuesday 7:00pm
Wed. 9:00am
Thur. 9:00am
Friday 9:00am

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1st SUNDAY IN CHRISTMAS SEASON

Isaiah 62:1-5 / Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 / Matthew 1:1-25

Monday

December 25
Nativity of the Lord
Is 52:7-10
Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18 or
1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday

December 26
St. Stephen,
the First Martyr
Acts 6:8-10;
7:54-59
Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday

December 27
St. John,
Apostle and
Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1-4
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday

December 28
Holy Innocents,
Martyrs
1 Jn 1:5-2:2
Mt 2:13-18

Friday

December 29
Christmas
Weekday
1 Jn 2:3-11
Lk 2:22-35

Saturday

December 30
Christmas
Weekday
1 Jn 2:12-17
Lk 2:36-40

Sunday

December 31
Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary,
and Joseph
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14
Col 3:12-21 or
3:12-17
Lk 2:22-40 or
2:22, 39-40



The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph...and the virgin's name was Mary.

LUKE 1:26-27

Wondering Why

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The old axiom goes: if you want to make God laugh, tell God your plans. All too often the vision God has for us takes us in quite varying directions. The stories of King David and of Mary echo such realities. David, who wanted to build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant so God would not need to live in a tent, had his plans nixed, only to be reminded that it is God who does the building in life and not David. And Mary, who found herself confused over how she might conceive, was asked to simply trust and place her life in the hands of God. Both said "yes."

There are always times when the unfolding path of God for us may unsettle us: the complexities of immigrants at our doorstep, the changing demographics of our cities, the need to close or merge parishes, the upheavals of our personal lives. We find ourselves asking why without receiving any answers. Each time there is no answer, consider it an invitation to trust in a power greater than ourselves.

Not all rhythms of life are necessarily caused by the hand of God, but then one can never be sure. Who is to say where and how and through whom God works? Christmas comes as a reminder that God's love and presence still unfolds in varied and new ways, always giving birth again and again to the divine made flesh in our lives. The mystery of the Incarnation points to this truth: God is present in all of life. ●

Reflect

Have you ever had your plans unsettled in a way that turned out, in the end, to be a gift from God?

What's Happening at Holy Cross

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNER
Sunday, Dec. 17—Laurette Lisee
Victoria Park Personal Care

Welcome to any new parishioners. Please register with the Parish Office Mon.-Friday, 9am-12 noon
 Or call 306-757-1325

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEKS OF DEC. 23, 2023 - JAN. 7, 2024		
Sat.	Dec. 23	For the repose of the soul of Helen DeSouza, offered by Michelle & Family.
Sun.	Dec. 24	8:00 pm - CHRISTMAS EVE - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Mon.	Dec, 25	9:00 am - CHRISTMAS DAY - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
		----- Fr. Carlos will be away Tuesday thru Friday -----
Sat.	Dec. 30	5:00 PM—For the repose of the soul of Helen De Souza, offered by Michelle & Family.
Sun.	Dec. 31	9:00 am—For the repose of the soul of Cecile Halbgewachs, offered by Bob & Helen Herauf.
Mon.	Jan. 1	9:00 am - NEW YEAR'S DAY - MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
Tues.	Jan. 2	7:00 pm—For the intentions of Viola Hordos offered by Margaret & Andrew.
Wed.	Jan. 3	9:00 am—For the intentions of Martin, offered by Margaret & Andrew.
Thurs.	Jan. 4	9:00 am—For the repose of the soul of Frank Peter Vass, offered by Pauline Voss.
Fri.	Jan. 5	9:00 am—For the repose of the soul of Marion Biddel offered by Dolores & Leo.
Sat.	Jan. 6	PRO POPULO
Sun.	Jan. 7	For the intentions of Andrew & Margaret Preiner, offered by Dwayne Varga.

LAST CHANCE to get your calendar raffle ticket for 2024! The last day of sales is Sunday, Dec. 31st. Don't miss your chance for a Big Payout each week of the whole year, and then the first \$100 draw on New Year's Day.

The endurance of darkness is the preparation for great light.
 ... St. John of the Cross



Holy Cross

2024 Calendar Raffle

Tickets \$20
Includes a 2024 Catholic memo calendar



ENTER to Win

\$1,700 cash prizes

52 weekly winners of \$25
4 special draws of \$100 —

New Year's Day, Easter Sunday
Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Christmas Day

All draws open to every ticket holder

Lottery License No., SR23-2905

A SEASON OF FEAST DAYS

- Dec. 25 The Nativity of the Lord
- Dec. 26 St. Stephen, The First Martyr
- Dec. 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
- Dec. 31 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
- Jan. 7 The Epiphany of the Lord
- Jan. 8 The Baptism of the Lord

The next bulletin will be the weekend of January 06-07.

2024 DONATION ENVELOPES

Please remember **NOT** to use these envelopes until January 1st, 2024.

For the first two (2) weeks of donations, please write your name on the envelopes. That way we can be sure to associate your box number with our files to correctly record the amounts.
 Thank you.



PARISHIONERS' CORNER

Gene Lauman and Harvey Kennedy with birthdays on Christmas Eve are the last two to celebrate in 2023 at Holy Cross. We hope you've both received your due this year and lots of good wishes for a New Year of health and happiness.

January 2024 makes up for that as we have Edwin Pepper with his birthday on Wednesday, the 3rd, Loretta Jelinski on Thursday, the 4th, Huntley O'Connor on Friday, the 5th, and Jeanine Wild next Sunday, Jan. 7th. Another new year, another year to celebrate God's blessings of family and friends. We thank the Lord for His goodness.

It was noted that Gerry Beurivage, a parishioner from way back and former Senior Choir member, passed away in Regina on Dec. 18 at the age of 95. Many of you will probably remember him and his wife Vi who pre-deceased him.



We have a wonderful office staff at Holy Cross and want to thank them all for their service to Holy Cross and to us individually. Martin, always willing to help us out and go the extra mile even though, as a one-man office staff, he must feel sometimes like a one-armed paper hanger trying to keep it all working.

And Rita, as bookkeeper, has taken on extra duties to help our volunteers with their fundraising efforts. We're happy she is also a parishioner and a volunteer herself.

And Jacob – setting up and cleaning up for masses, and meetings, and more, always with a great big smile and something to say.

We're also so happy to have Fr. Carlos here with us. We couldn't have hoped for better, and we thank him for his leadership and pray for his good health in the coming months and year. *(Martin here. As editor, it is my privilege to thank Joyce, for all her work on these bulletins. It is a joy to work with her.)*



**We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!**



KNIGHTS KORNER

The Knights of Columbus, Monsignor Gerein Council, extends a special **thank you** to all parishioners and friends for your donations to our recent food drive resulting in **228 pounds** to Visitation House and 70 pounds to Marian Center. The K. of C. also wish to thank parishioners and friends for supporting our recent Regina K. of C. Carol Festival and our many other activities in the past year. We wish all A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Office Hours Christmas to New Years- Covering

Martin is away on Christmas Vacation. The office will be open while he is away.

Monday, Dec. 25 – Office is closed.

Tuesday, Dec. 26 – Office is closed.

Wednesday, Dec. 27- Office open.

Thursday, Dec. 28- Office open.

Friday, Dec. 29- Office open.

Monday, Jan. 1- Office is closed.

Tuesday Jan. 2 – Office open.

Wednesday, Jan. 3- Office open.

Thursday Jan. 4 – Martin is back.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS 2023



Name of Donor	In Memory of:	In Honour of:
Rita Gareau	Larry & Jean Bissonnette; Yvonne Wagner	
Wendy Kraushaar		Evelyn Kraushaar
Lil Goudy	Myles Goudy	
Bob & Helen Herauf	Bernard & Olga Chomyn Simon & Agatha Herauf	
Shirley Sebastian	Rudy Sebastian	
Irene Wald	Maria & Ambrose Wald	
Charlotte Hendren & family	James Hendren	
Dan & Shirley Devers Joan Stulberg	Frank Stulberg, John Devers, John Garfield Devers, Jean & Alec Mclssac	
Ursula Roesch	Al Roesch	
James & Louella Butchko	Nick & Katie Butchko Frank & Katie Geres	James Butchko
Jack & Gladys Herzberger	Bob & Daisy Aquin	
Edwin & Magdaline Pepper	Henry Seitz	our children
Andrew & Margaret Preiner	Sisters Hedwig & Anzelma Preiner	
Geri Huber & family	Vern Huber	
Pam Richaud		my children & their families
Connie Todd	Leonard & Olga Woroneski Elmer & Susie Todd	
Joyce Murphy	Cal Murphy	

**From Pastor & Staff of Holy Cross Parish -
Father Carlos, Martin, Rita and Jacob -**

Merry Christmas

**May the blessings of the Holy Christ Child Jesus, Mary and
Joseph be with you now and in the New Year.**



Stewardship Bulletin Bit—Dec. 24

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

Catechism Lesson Thirty-six

What is Baptism?

Watch Videos: www.archregina.sk.ca/group/catechetical-support-parishes/

Catechism Text: CCC nos. 1213-1222

Sacred Scripture: Matthew 28.19, Mark 16.16, Acts 16.14-15, 32-33, 18.8 & John 3.5

St. Vincent Ferrer: *Every baptized person should consider that it is in the womb of the Church where he is transformed from a child of Adam to a child of God.*

FAQ: How is the Catechism an example of episcopal collegiality?

Because the *Catechism* was requested by the Synod of Bishops and affirmed by the Bishop of Rome; it was conceived, designed and written by Bishops primarily for Bishops; it was examined by the Catholic episcopate worldwide, and it was officially promulgated by the Bishop of Rome. When Cardinal Ratzinger presented it to Pope John Paul II, the cardinal said: "Thus, once again, the affective and effective collegiality of the Episcopate has been engaged in real and concrete terms, with abundant fruitful results."

Stewardship Bulletin Bits—Dec. 31

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive."

- **Colossians 3:13**

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

Archbishop Don's Christmas video is found at [Bishop Don's 2023 Christmas Message \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



NEW YEAR'S DAY LEVEE

The faithful of the Archdiocese are cordially invited to

the Archbishop's New Year's Levée to be held a

Holy Rosary Cathedral

January 1, 2024 at 1:00 p.m

And to receive the Archbishop's blessing for the beginning of the New Year

(Please note, the elevator is not functioning at this time. The only way to access the hall will be stairs)

Archbishop's Appeal

In order to ensure you receive the tax receipt for your donation to the Appeal please mail cheques to the Archdiocese by Dec. 23.

Other gifts made through your parish may be made up to Dec. 31; please note that these donations are for the Archbishop's Appeal.



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Association of Canada

Children have an attraction towards reality. Israel is real. Mary is real. She spends the first Advent on a long southbound road to Bethlehem. The children ... are spending their Advent thinking about Mary, about Gabriel's words to her, about Isaiah's prophecies concerning her and about the baby inside of her. «I wonder...if God is so big, why would he send a baby who is so small?» As we approach Christmas, wonder alongside us!

For more information, contact the Archdiocese's Good Shepherd Catechists at regina.cgs33@gmail.com or visit the catechesis webpage at <https://archregina.sk.ca/group/catechetical-support-parishes/> and click on the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd image icon.



Christmas Greetings from Archbishop Don

We live in incredibly challenging times, when deep-founded hope is elusive. These days when we watch the news, with accounts of war and images of human suffering and brokenness, and when we see chaos in approaching solutions, it is so easy to ask where God is to be found in the midst of it all. By contrast, we go into stores or listen to the radio, and see bright shiny decorations and hear jingly and jolly Christmas songs which tell us that we should be happy, and that we should shop for beautiful gifts. There is nothing wrong with that per se, and some of it is outright good, joyful and beautiful. But it doesn't take us to the heart of what we are celebrating with the Incarnation, the birth of the Christ child.

Christmas isn't intended to be a happy but short-lived little escape from the difficulties of our lives. Nor is it meant to uproot us from the here and now and put us mystically into a place where God dwells in bliss untouched by human suffering. In the words of one Christian writer, "The incarnation does not provide us with a ladder by which to escape from the ambiguities of life and scale the heights of heaven. Rather, it enables us to burrow deep into the heart of planet earth and find it shimmering with divinity" (Avery Dulles).

Christmas has the possibility to fill us with a deep joy because it brings the assurance that God is with us, where we dwell. It promises, in a way that is more fully grasped with the Resurrection and Pentecost, that God desires to be with us in the here and now, in a lifegiving relationship which informs every part of our lives. A relationship with God doesn't mean your life is going to be always happy and easy. The way that Jesus shows us passes through the cross, the complete giving of self in response to the brokenness of the world. But Christ's coming among us in the Incarnation, his rising from the dead, the sending of the Holy Spirit, all speak of God's commitment to be with us at every moment of our lives. Christ's embracing of humanity is God's promise of a relationship with us always. And it is an invitation for us to fully embrace our humanity and our place in the world with courage, perseverance, and trust. During the Advent and Christmas seasons, we also ponder Mary, who courageously welcomes what God asks of her in carrying and giving birth to the Christ child. A few days ago a friend sent me an extraordinary poem that I had never read, called *The Annunciation*, by Denise Levertov. Speaking of what God asks of Mary, she writes:

to bear in her womb infinite weight and lightness;
to carry in hidden, finite inwardness, nine months of eternity;
to contain in slender vase of being, the sum of power - in narrow flesh, the sum of light.
Then bring to birth, push out into air, a man-child needing, like any other, milk and love -
but who was God.

Friends, as you prepare for the celebration of the Lord's birth, and through this Christmas season, I encourage you to take some quiet time to feel God's presence, to ponder this mystery of God's desire to draw near to us, to take some time to speak with God in your heart, and to open yourself anew to the mystery of encountering a God who loves us and takes flesh to be where we are. May that prayer and encounter and celebration allow you to continue to live in this broken world of ours with a deep hope. For we are not alone, either as individuals or as human race, in this life. Emmanuel, God with us, is ever at our side, not as an idea, not as words on a page but as a relationship to be lived.

Merry Christmas to each and all of you!

Archbishop Donald Bolen

Monday

January 1
Mary, Holy
Mother of God
Nm 6:22-27
Gal 4:4-7
Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday

January 2
Sts. Basil the
Great and Gregory
Nazianzen, Bishops
and Doctors
of the Church
1 Jn 2:22-28
Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday

January 3
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:29-3:6
Jn 1:29-34

Thursday

January 4
St. Elizabeth Ann
Seton, Religious
1 Jn 3:7-10
Jn 1:35-42

Friday

January 5
St. John Neumann,
Bishop
1 Jn 3:11-21
Jn 1:43-51

Saturday

January 6
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:5-13
Mk 1:7-11 or
Lk 3:23-38 or
3:23, 31-34, 36,
38

Sunday

January 7
Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1-6
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12

Good News!

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 /
Romans 16:25-27 / Luke 1:26-38

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The old axiom goes: if you want to make God laugh, tell God your plans. All too often the vision God has for us takes us in quite varying directions. The stories of King David and of Mary echo such realities. David, who wanted to build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant so God would not need to live in a tent, had his plans nixed, only to be reminded that it is *God* who does the building in life and not David. And Mary, who found herself confused over how she might conceive, was asked to simply trust and place her life in the hands of God. Both said “yes.”

There are always times when the unfolding path of God for us may unsettle us: the complexities of immigrants at our doorstep, the changing demographics of our cities, the need to close or merge parishes, the upheavals of our personal lives. We find ourselves asking why without receiving any answers. Each time there is no answer, consider it an invitation to trust in a power greater than ourselves.

Not all rhythms of life are necessarily caused by the hand of God, but then one can never be sure. Who is to say where and how and through whom God works? Christmas comes as a reminder that God’s love and presence still unfolds in varied and new ways, always giving birth again and again to the divine made flesh in our lives. The mystery of the Incarnation points to this truth: God is present in all of life. ●

Dear Padre

December 24, 2023

The Bible talks about Jesus’ brothers and sisters. Is there scriptural proof that Jesus was Mary’s only child?

The Catholic Church’s position is that Mary had only one child; her son called Jesus. Yet there are at least ten scriptural references to “the brothers of Jesus” or to his “sisters” (see Matthew 13:55–56, Mark 6:3, and Luke 8:19–21).

The difficulty is that the meaning of the term “brothers” (translated from the Greek *adelphos*) isn’t restricted to the sharing of a parent. On the contrary, it may not only refer to other relatives, including cousins, but also to close relationships, such as disciples. This is not unlike how we might refer to “brothers in arms” as those who fought in a war together, or a religious order of brothers or sisters.

Recall, too, that Jesus and his disciples spoke Aramaic, and there is no equivalent for the meaning of “cousins” as we know it in that language. Instead, the word for brother or sister was used when referring to cousins. Thus, when St. Jerome (*circa* 340—420) translated the Bible from Hebrew into Church Latin, he considered “the brothers of Jesus” as cousins, not siblings. After all, it would have been the rightful responsibility of these male relatives of Jesus to take care of Mary when Jesus died. Yet Jesus entrusts his mother to the care of his beloved disciple John (John 19:26). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Good News!

December 31, 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (B)

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 / Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 / Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

I asked some folks what they carried with them as their most treasured gift from their parents. One spoke of the gift of freedom. As an adult he always felt loved and welcomed by his parents. Although he was not always able to visit them as frequently as his life would allow, he was never made to feel guilty about it. It was an atmosphere unpressured by any “have-tos” whether it concerned choices for marriage or profession or simply for occasional family visits.

Another spoke of being taught by example that love in a family always extends to welcoming the stranger, caring for the unfortunate, opening one’s home to those in pain. She learned to live that way because that was how her parents lived.

Yet another spoke of her father’s gentleness and faithfulness as treasured gifts. And in truth she herself had become gentle and faithful, both with life and with God. Yet another took note of his parents’ acceptance and openness to differing cultures and traditions and value systems. It was a way of living he now took to himself and his own family.

Not every family may seem as graced as these individuals remember their own families, and no doubt these families had flaws, too. Yet those qualities of a believer, enumerated by St. Paul in his Letter to the Colossians, make for good family life as well: “heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another. And over all these put on love” (Colossians 3:12–14). ●

January 2024

Revised Dec. 22 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																								
	1 9:00 AM New Year's Day Mass Office Closed Anthem	2 7:00 PM Mass 7:30 PM CWL Meeting Martin Christmas Break Office covered	3 9:00 AM Mass	4 9:00 AM Mass	5 9:00 AM Mass 10:00 AM Communion to Housebound Lay 6:00 PM -9:00 PM Challenge Girls Meeting	6 4:30 PM Confession 5:00 PM Mass Holy Cross Choir																																																																																																								
7 8:30 AM Confessions 9:00 AM Mass Anthem	8 7:30 PM K of C Executive Meeting	9 7:00 PM Mass 7:45 PM Parish Pastoral Council meeting	10 9:00 AM Mass	11 9:00 AM Mass 7:00 PM Finance Council	12 9:00 AM Mass 6:00 PM -9:00 PM Challenge Girls Meeting 6:45 PM -9:00 PM 4th Degree K of C Meeting	13 4:30 PM Confession 5:00 PM Mass Linda Selinger																																																																																																								
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