



Holy Cross Parish

3rd Sunday of Advent

Bulletin #3

December 15, 2024

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

Fr. Carlos Jimenez
Pastor

pastor@holycrossregina.ca

Deacon 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

Page 2: Raffle Winners, Prayer Intentions, Parishioners' Corner, Calendar Raffle.

Page 3: Social Action Hamper, Financial Report, Christmas Flowers.

Page 4: CWL, KofC, Advent Novena

Page 5: Medjugorje Pilgrimage, Pro-Life Corner.

Page 5-6: Archdiocese Events

MONDAY

December 16
Advent Weekday
Nm 24:2-7,
15-17a
Mt 21:23-27

TUESDAY

December 17
Advent Weekday
Gn 49:2, 8-10
Mt 1:1-17

WEDNESDAY

December 18
Advent Weekday
Jer 23:5-8
Mt 1:18-25

THURSDAY

December 19
Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2-7,
24-25a
Lk 1:5-25

FRIDAY

December 20
Advent Weekday
Is 7:10-14
Lk 1:26-38

SATURDAY

December 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8-14 or Zep
3:14-18a
Lk 1:39-45

SUNDAY

December 22
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Mi 5:1-4a
Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39-45

The Light Side of the Dark

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

There's something to be said for kindness. Often when we say to ourselves that something is an act of godliness, it's when someone is kind, especially when it seems to come out of the blue. It's what John the Baptist seemed to be thinking when he said we would be baptized with the Holy Spirit and with the sort of passionate fire that warms and gives off light. Henry James, the British novelist, once said that three things were important in life—the first, be kind; the second, be kind; the third, be kind. Long before Henry James said it, St. Paul wrote to the Christian community in Philippi: "Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near" (Philippians 4:5). God's presence seems to be nearer when someone is kind.

It is curious how in the darkest moments of life, the light of kindness shines more brightly. Natural calamities seem to bring out kindness toward those who suffer. So too, at times of personal tragedies or disasters, when others are grieving the death of someone they love, as well as countless other times when people find themselves lost in the dark. Little wonder then how during this time of year when the days are shortest, and the nighttime dark is longest, that the days of Advent and Christmas seem to be laced with kindness for one another. Then the veil that hides God from our eyes grows thinner, and we catch glimpses of "God with us." ●

Reflect

Have you made kindness a regular practice?



The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:7

What's Happening at Holy Cross

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNER

The winners of the December 8, 2024 draw were **Leslie & Curtis Nagel**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF Dec. 14—22, 2024		
Sat	Dec. 14	PRO POPULO
Sun.	Dec. 15	For the repose of the souls of Alma and Ted Dizey, offered by the family.
Tues.	Dec. 17	For all Gerein Council Knights and their family members who are ill, in distress or deceased.
Wed.	Dec. 18	For the repose of the soul of Shirley Sebastian, offered by Dolores Deis.
Thurs.	Dec. 19	For the repose of the soul of Huntley O'Connor, offered by Judy Miazga.
Fri.	Dec. 20	PROP POPULO for Dec. 21 and 22.
Sat.	Dec. 21	For the souls of Judith Pagador and Cherry Llarena offered by Alvi Pagador.
Sun .	Dec. 22	For the repose of the soul of Helen DeSouza, offered by her children and their families.

GAUDETE SUNDAY— REJOICE!

Repent of your sins and experience the joy of a clean heart.

Peace
Hope
Joy



PARISHIONERS' CORNER

Happy birthday wishes to Peter Bresciani and Ursula Roesch on Monday, the 16th; Glenys Sylvestre on Tuesday, the 17th; and Emily Rieder on Thursday, the 19th.

May the Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His Face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace.

There was a full house for Terry Fink's funeral. Yvonne's choir Anthem, which provided the music with Teresa Bradel filling in for her on piano, was beautiful with its soft harmony. And their son Craig in the eulogy told the story of a loving husband and father who had his own set of funny family stories. Fr. Carlos was celebrant with our own Deacon Martin assisting.

2025 Calendar raffle tickets are available for sale at both entrances to the church each Sunday now until New Year's Eve. Or let us know and we can make ourselves available for you at another time.

A nine-day novena of masses begins on Monday, Dec. 16. Fr. Carlos is giving up part of his days off to give us another Advent opportunity in preparation for Christmas. The two additional masses are on the next two Monday at 9:00 am.

Please let us know about any parishioner news so we can pass it on to others for prayers in need or in celebration. Contact Martin at 306-347-0929 or pastoral.assistant@holycrossregina.ca or Joyce Murphy at 306-789-1983 or byapple@sasktel.net.

Holy Cross CALENDAR RAFFLE 2025

Tickets \$20

Includes a 2025 Catholic memo calendar



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 #24- 2925

2025 DONATION ENVELOPES

There are still a few collection envelopes waiting to be picked up from the table in the Gerein Centre. If you haven't done so already, please pick yours up as soon as possible. With the weather the way it has been lately and people who happen to live near you haven't been able to be here and pick up their envelopes, it would be greatly appreciated if you would drop them off for them. Otherwise, with the Canada Post strike still ongoing we will have to drive around making deliveries in the New Year.

What's Happening at Holy Cross 2

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

ADOPT A FAMILY

Your Social Action Committee has decided to adopt a family this Christmas season. They are a single mother, Nadia, and sons, Aidan and Austin, ages 16 and 18.

We have decided to gather a food hamper and possibly buy each member a gift or two for Christmas.

A Christmas tree is set up in the Gerein Center and we have placed gift tags on it containing suggestions for hamper items or gifts. If you are interested in joining this endeavour, just grab a tag, buy the item you have selected and return it to the office by **December 18**.

Thanks for your help and have a very merry and blessed Christmas.

ATTENTION !

Proclaimers, Community Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers, Gift bearers and Greeters

There are sign up sheets in the sacristy for

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

New Year's Evev and

New Years' Day

Please sign up by **December 23**. You can call Dolores at 306-789-6434

DONATIONS/REVENUE

		October
October 2024	Offerings	9,602.00
October 2024	E-transfers	1,395.00
October 2024	Automatic Debit	3,264.00
Coffee		211.00
Donations	donation of Music Ministry	
St Mary's Offset		1,525.00
Miscellaneous		5.00
Total October		16,002.00
		November
November 2024	Offerings	8,535.90
November 2024	E-transfers	2,025.00
November 2024	Automatic Debit	3,304.00
Coffee		80.00
Donations	donation to Music Ministry	300.00
Votive Stand		258.55
St Mary's Offset		1,525.00
Miscellaneous		100.00
Funeral		200.00
Harvest Supper profit		6,995.49
Total November		23,323.94

True stories from real people around the world.

Each individual has experienced an event known as an *Illumination of Conscience*, a review of their life as God sees it.

\$3 a copy. Available in the Gerein Centre.



Christmas Flowers for Holy Cross Parish

Christmas flowers are purchased from donations by parishioners in honour of deceased or living members of their families. If you wish to make a contribution, please fill out the form below and place it in the collection baskets. Tributes will be published in the Christmas bulletin.

PARISHIONER'S NAME: _____ ENV. # _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone No. _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Paid by ___ cash, ___ cheque, or ___ e-Transfer (bookkeeper.holycross@sasktel.net)
(Christmas flowers)

Publish my gift in the Christmas Bulletin: ___ Yes ___ No

In Memory of: (Name of deceased loved one) In Honour of: (Name of living loved one)

Through the kindness of: _____



What's Happening at Holy Cross 3



CWL NEWS

Homemade bread buns to fancy cookies and cakes, the annual Christmas Bake Sale and Raffle was once again a big success, bringing in \$1205.50 for CWL charitable donations. \$600 of that amount is being donated to the Sisters of Our Lady's Mission Orphanage in Peru with the remaining monies donated locally.

The cabbage rolls, of course, were completely sold out ahead of time. A profit there of approximately \$1200. Aside from the goodies there was a good buzz at coffee after mass as raffle winners were awarded their prizes:

Helen McIntee—a large fruitcake

Robert Liska—a lap afghan

John Schneider—a basket of candles and hot drink mixes

Helen Herauf—a frozen turkey

Ray Fenrick—outdoor greenery arrangement

Janelle Herauf—Christmas greenery table arrangement

Laurie Luster—Christmas table cloth set

Thank you to all the raffle donors; the raffle earned \$232 of the Bake Sale total.

In November the CWL, with proceeds from its earlier fundraising activities, disbursed \$2,200 in its regular annual donations to such charities as Visitation House, Campion College, Santa Maria Foundation, Telemiracle, Sask Pro-Life and Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. Other donations are made throughout the year as needs arrive.

One of those special needs came from a request by Cathleen Devraj. She writes:

“A big thank you to the CWL who have made a donation for soap-making kits for women in Uganda. Prior to this the women had spent a weekend of instruction on how to make liquid and bar soap. With their new kits they can now make the soap, sell it, and provide financially for their families.”

Please consider joining our membership, as we continue our charitable ministry and service to our community. We meet the first Tuesday of the months of October – December and February – June.

CWL memberships of \$42 are still being collected for 2025. Please place your cash or cheque (made out to Holy Cross CWL) in an envelope marked CWL Fees. Include your name, any change of address or phone number. Place the envelope in the designated basket marked “CWL” in the church or drop it off at the office.

Belief and faith are proved by works, not by simply saying that one believes, but by real actions which are kept up and by a heart burning with love.

... St. John Chrysostom



KNIGHTS KORNER

36 Years of Service to Holy Cross
1988-2024

2024 CLOTHING DRIVE

A great big THANK YOU to all fellow Knights and Holy Cross parishioners who donated to this year's KofC clothing drive. Your generosity is very much appreciated. The men's winter coats were provided to St. Jean Baptist Church. The remainder of the winter clothing went to the Salvation Army. Also thanks to Don Harazny who coordinated the clothing drive as well as to Wayne Rutten, Mike Morris & Gerard Woynarski who assisted with its separation and delivery.

DECEMBER EVENTS

Sat. Dec. 14—Christmas Dinner & Social

Tues. Dec. 17—7:30 pm monthly Council meeting

Sat. Dec. 28—5:00 pm—5th Sunday Mass ministries

What does it take to become a Knight of Columbus?

Find out by filling out an information request ballot at the K of C information table located in the Gerein Centre of the Church. You will be contacted by a Knight from the Gerein Council.

Advent Novena of Masses

Every day December 16-24 at 9:00 am,
except Tues. at 6:00 pm
and Sat. at 5:00 pm

What is a Novena?

Succinctly, a novena is a nine-day period of private or public prayer to obtain special graces, to implore special favors, or make special petitions. (Novena is derived from the Latin *novem*, meaning nine.) As the definition suggests, the novena has always had more of a sense of urgency and neediness.

The origin of the novena in our Church's spiritual treasury is hard to pinpoint. The Old Testament does not indicate any nine-day celebration among the Jewish people. On the other hand, in the New Testament at the Ascension our Lord gives the Apostles the Great Commission and then tells them to return to Jerusalem and to await the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Acts of the Apostles recounts that nine days later, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles at Pentecost. Perhaps this “nine-day period of prayer” of the Apostles is the basis for the novena.

Source: [What is a Novena? What is Its Origin?](http://catholicexchange.com)
(catholicexchange.com)

What's Happening at Holy Cross 4

PRO-LIFE NEWS

In recent months, Canadian courts have struggled as family members seek a judicial halt on the deaths of their loved ones by MAiD. In some instances, courts have sided with the person seeking death; in others, courts have ordered injunctions preventing patients from dying via assisted suicide.

In November, Alberta's United Conservatives announced a round of consultations around Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD). While no policy proposals have been made, the government says possible changes could include a public agency to oversee the MAiD process; a dispute mechanism for families; a framework to share confidential MAiD-related medical information; provincial limits on MAiD eligibility that differ from those set by the federal government; and limitations on how and when health providers can share assisted suicide information with patients.

This follows concern about abuses of MAiD, and protection for the vulnerable—those who are disabled and those who have mental health challenges.

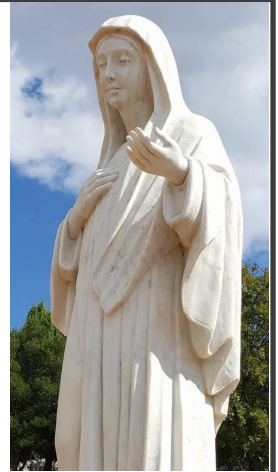
Source: *National Post*, Tyler Dawson, Dec. 7, 2024

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

**Thinking of one day going to Medjugorje?
Join us April 4-14 for a pilgrimage there.
Lower airfare presently.**

**Daily Mass at St. James Church
(St. James, patron saint of pilgrims)
Rosary on Apparition Hill
Stations of the Cross on Cross Mountain
Visit Cenacola—rehab for young men
Professional guide**

**For more information call Cathleen Devraj at 306-789-0705
or email cdevraj48@gmail.com.**



REMINDER:

Any vehicle parked in our “wheelchair” designated parking space **MUST** display a “handicap” sign. Please respect these reserved parking spots.

What's Happening in the Archdiocese

TF #431: Meet the Archivist with Rae Horseman - Part 2

This week on Thinking faith we dust off the stacks and pour through ancient tomes as we step into the fascinating world of history, records and storytelling with Rae Horseman, the Archivist for the Archdiocese of Regina. In this two-part series Rae shares captivating stories from the archives, explains how historical records shape our understanding of faith and community, and highlights the importance of preserving the legacy and stories of our local Church for future generations.

<https://thinkingfaith.libsyn.com/meet-the-archivist-with-rae-horseman-part-2>

Stewardship Bulletin Bit

“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.” (Philippians 4:6)

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God – He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God's image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous with all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.

The Eucharist, Christ's Real Presence

Jan 22 & 29, Feb 5 & 12

7 - 9 pm

Christ The King Parish

Parish Center, 3239 Garnet Street, Regina



In Part 2 of our Adult Formation Series on the Sacraments...

come explore the mystery of the Eucharist and its transformative power in our lives

we will deepen our understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith

REGISTER ON OUR
PARISH WEBSITE



What's Happening in the Archdiocese 2

ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL

Bulletin Reflection

When the crowds ask John the Baptist, "What should we do?" he advises them to share with those who have none and act justly. This guidance is timeless, urging us to respond to God's call through generosity and fairness.

Supporting the Archbishop's Appeal is a direct way to act on this advice. Our shared contributions fund vital ministries that provide for the less fortunate and promote social justice. In uniting our resources, we answer the question posed to John, actively participating in the joyful preparation for Christ's coming.

Prayer of Intercession

That we would grow in our understanding of what it means to be Many People united in the heart of Christ. That we would live out the call to unity, and open our hearts to the beauty of Christian generosity through this year's Archbishop's Appeal.

The Archbishop's Appeal Canada Post Strike

Because of the current Canada Post strike, the Archbishop's Office has asked that you drop off your donations to the Archbishop's Appeal in the regular collection at your parish. That will be forwarded to the Archdiocese so that you will be able to claim your donation for the 2024 tax year.

Alternatively, you can check with archre-ginask.ca/grouppage/donate-archbishops-appeal for other donation methods if you so desire.

Thank you to all who have already contributed to this year's Appeal and to those who are still prayerfully discerning their gift. Your support helps us continue the vital work of ministry and outreach in our Archdiocese.

Pope Francis' Monthly Intentions - December—For pilgrims of hope. We pray that the Jubilee Year 2025 strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope. popevideo.org

THE JESSE TREE

"A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, a branch shall grow out of his roots." (Isaiah 11:1).

Jesse was the father of King David. The Jesse tree is adorned with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophecies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across 4,000 years of history.

The practice of decorating the Jesse tree helps connect with our custom of decorating a Christmas tree to events leading to Jesus birth.

Loyolapress.com



SASKATCHEWAN PRO-LIFE 2025 MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW DUE

Due to the postal strike the SPLA membership renewal letter is being held at the printer's. At this time, it is very possible that, even with a resolution to the strike, our renewal notice will not reach our members before the end of the year. We ask that, if possible, members renew online at the website www.saskprolife.com or by e-transfer to: info@saskprolife.com. Also, due to the strike, we will not be mailing out our Christmas greeting and year-end donation request letter. If you would like to make a donation to SPLA for the 2024 tax year, please contact our office for instructions 306.992.6941 or 306.352.3480 or email info@saskprolife.com. Donations to Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association are not tax deductible. Donations to Saskatchewan Pro-Life Educational Trust are eligible for a tax deduction. We are eternally grateful for the support we receive – prayers, words of encouragement, letter writing, active participation in events and monetary. Your help is always needed as we seek to protect the most vulnerable among us and to build a culture that cherishes every life at all stages.

Blessings,
Frances Stang
Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association.

2025 HERITAGE PILGRIMAGE TOUR TO POLAND



JUNE 17th to JULY 1st 2025

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 15th, 2024 at 4:00 pm

In St. Anthony's church basement – 2275 Atkinson Street

Escorted by Society of Christ Fathers, Fr. Gerry Grupczynski of Las Vegas, Fr. Richard Philipposki of Saskatoon & Fr. Karol Twarowski from Regina.



BOLESLAWIEC • LEGNICA • WROCLAW • AUSCHWITZ • BIRKENAU • WADOWICE • ZAKOPANE
LUDZIMERZ • KRAKOW • LAGIEWNIKI • WIELCZKA • CZESTOCHOWA • WARSAW • GDANSK
NIEPOKALNOW • LICHEN • POZNAN • SWIEBODZIN • FRANKFURT

Price per person is approximately \$4,300 (double occupancy), and includes transportation, accommodations, daily breakfast and dinner, admissions to attractions, tour guide and local guides, driver and pastoral services of priest chaplains.



ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF REGINA
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP



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Tel: (306) 352-1651 Fax: +1(306) 403-5971 E-mail: bishopoffice@archregina.sk.ca

December 13, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On this third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, we are invited to rejoice at the coming of God into our midst, with the birth of a little child long ago. God's coming in the flesh leaves us with a profound gratitude for God's great mercy.

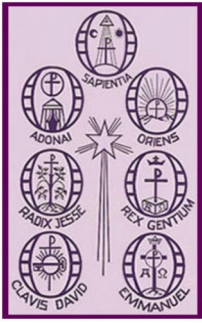
It is also with a heart full of gratitude that I want to express thanks to all who have contributed to this year's Archbishop's Annual Appeal. Of course the postal strike has made it very challenging to receive and process donations for the Appeal, but despite those challenges, I am happy to share that we are aware of having raised over \$750,000 in donations. And we know there are more gifts and contributions on the way. Those gifts, coming from your generosity, enable us to continue many vital aspects of work of the Archdiocese, which provide resources for our parishes and serve many in need. We still have a ways to go to reach our Appeal goal, and if you have not yet had a chance to contribute a gift, it is not too late.

As we prepare to bring this year and this Appeal to a close, and prepare for the joyous celebration of the birth of our Lord, may the hope and joy of this season grow in your hearts. Let us make room in our hearts to joyfully celebrate and proclaim the Lord's birth. The Gospel he proclaimed, at the heart of our lives as church, is not just a message to be heard, but a call to be lived. Let us continue to share His love and generosity with all those in need. God bless!

Yours in Christ,

✠ Donald J. Bolen
Archbishop of Regina

MORE CATHOLIC ADVENT /CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours (December 17–23)

The Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office, is the Church's daily prayer, marking the hours of the day with psalms, Scripture readings, and prayers. Vespers, the evening prayer, takes on special significance during the final week of Advent. This period, December 17–23, intensifies the Church's preparation for Christ's birth and includes the recitation of the O Antiphons, ancient titles of Christ drawn from Scripture that express the longing for the Messiah.

Each evening during this week, the O Antiphons are sung or prayed before the Magnificat in Vespers. These titles—such as “O Wisdom,” “O Root of Jesse,” and “O Emmanuel”—reveal the richness of Christ's identity and the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. This is a sacred time to reflect on the nearness of Christ's coming and to join the universal Church in prayerful anticipation.

Set aside time each evening during this week to pray as a family, either using the full Vespers from the Liturgy of the Hours or a simplified version. Light candles and read the day's O Antiphon, discussing its meaning and how it points to Christ. This can be a beautiful way to end each day, creating a moment of stillness and reflection amid the busyness of the season. For children, explain the titles of Christ in simple terms, connecting them to familiar parts of the Nativity story. Incorporating hymns, such as “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” can deepen the experience and help draw everyone into the rhythm of the Church's prayer.

O Antiphons (December 17–23)

The O Antiphons are an ancient and poetic part of the Church's liturgical tradition, recited or sung during Vespers from December 17th to 23rd. Each antiphon addresses Christ by a different biblical title and highlights one of His attributes as the Messiah foretold in the Old Testament. Titles like “O Wisdom,” “O Key of David,” and “O Emmanuel” express the longing of God's people for the Savior and reveal the richness of His identity.

Each antiphon begins with “O” and follows with a phrase drawn from Scripture, such as “O Root of Jesse” or “O Radiant Dawn,” emphasizing both Christ's divine majesty and His closeness to humanity. The O Antiphons culminate in “O Emmanuel,” meaning “God with us,” as Christmas approaches, and they are most familiar to many as the verses of the hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

Each evening from December 17th to 23rd, gather as a family to pray or sing the O Antiphons. Light candles or an Advent wreath to create a prayerful atmosphere. Read the day's antiphon aloud, followed by a Scripture passage that reflects its theme, such as Isaiah's prophecies or parts of the Gospel. Discuss the meaning of each title of Christ and how it points to His role as Savior.

Festive Christmas Candles Lit in Windows

The tradition of placing candles in windows during Christmas dates back centuries and carries rich symbolism. In Catholic homes, the candles represent a visible sign of welcoming Christ into the world and into our lives. Historically, during times of persecution, candles in windows often signaled safe havens for priests to say Mass or a home where the faithful gathered to worship.

Today, the glow of a candle in the window serves as a reminder that Christ is the Light of the World, dispelling the darkness of sin. The soft, warm light of the candles also reflects the joy and peace of the Christmas season, inviting passersby to reflect on the deeper meaning of the holiday. This simple act can transform a home into a beacon of faith and hope, reminding all who see it of the presence of Christ.

