

# WELCOME TO BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

## First Sunday Advent

November 26 & 27, 2016

### Sunday Liturgy

Saturdays: 5:10 p.m.

Sundays: 10:00 a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration: 1 hr. prior to Mass

Reconciliation: Until 20 min. before Mass

### Weekday Liturgy

Monday to Friday: 12:05 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration: 11:00 a.m.

Reconciliation: 11:30 - 11:55 a.m.

### Office Hours

Tuesday to Friday

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Barry J. Anwender

Accountant: Lamont Stradeski

Office Manager (Pt): Valerie Perras

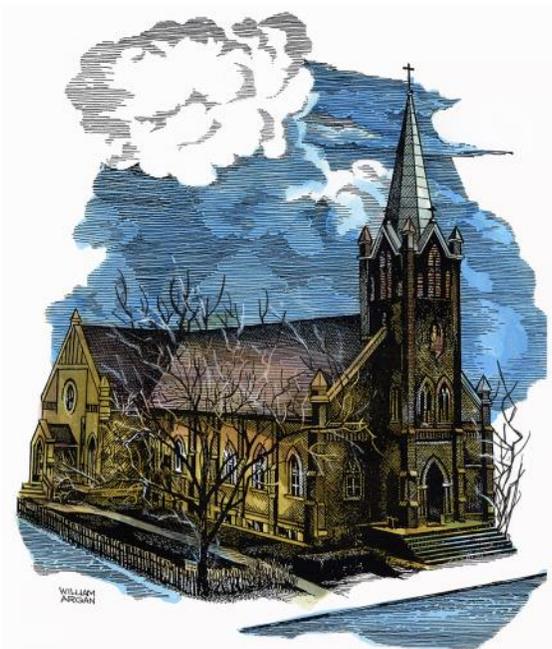
Music Director: Gaétan Hammond

Caretaker: Simon Hagos



assistive  
listening

**106.1 MHz**



***Our Parish Mission:*** We, the faith community of Blessed Sacrament Parish, seek to help those whom God has placed in our lives to experience the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. As Jesus' disciples, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, we strive to become living gospels of life through our daily loving choices to serve God, one another, our parish and our community.

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November 26 & 27, 2016

**Keep Awake.** The Advent season is upon us. It is time to prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. We are called to leave behind our anxieties, fears, discouragement and sinfulness. We are called to have hope in our hearts. In the Gospel reading, we are encouraged to keep awake for the Lord's coming. He urges us to be prepared to stand before him. Jesus asks us to prepare for the moment of our redemption. Advent awakens in all of us the yearning to be more faithful to the liberating way of living with our God. Let us mark our Advent path with signs of love for one another.

## Saturday, November 26, 2016: 5:10 p.m.

**Altar Servers:** Cristo Katas, Jovan Juancito

**Community Leader:** Rosie Ongsu

**Lectors:** Mary Gebhardt, Christn Katas

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Loretta Elford,  
Larry Ongsu, Marvella Lovely

**Hospitality:** Gail Runge, Ernesta Pagaduan

## Sunday, November 27, 2016: 10:00 a.m.

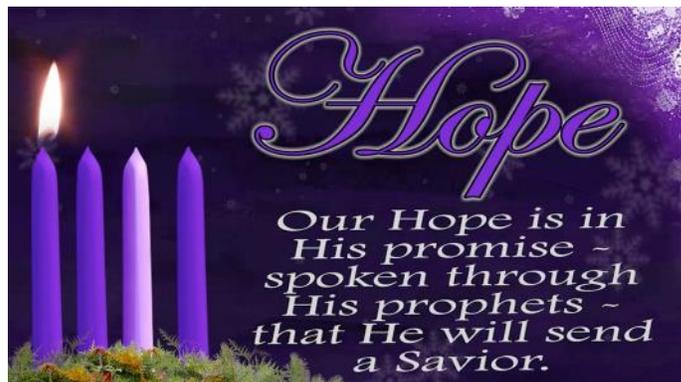
**Altar Servers:** Arnel Urbiztondo, Patrick Ravasco,  
Melchor Andes

**Community Leader:** Joseph Alejandria

**Lectors :** Richard Alejandria, Reuben Mercado

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Newton Miranda,  
Pete Escanlar, Urbis Urbistondo

**Hospitality:** Allan Ngui, Art Vanderzalm



## Weekday Mass Intentions Celebrated at 12:05 p.m.

**Monday, Nov 28:** Isabelle Fisher — Repose of the Soul,  
Requested by Ron Girard & Family

**Tuesday, Nov 29:** Gail Vanthuynne — Repose of the Soul,  
Requested by Helen Grimm

**Wednesday, Nov 30:** Purity of mind and heart,  
Requested by A Parishioner

**Thursday, Dec 1:** Consolacion Ravasco — Repose of the Soul,  
Requested by Oliva Zatylny

**Friday, Dec 2:** Fr. Francisco Cancio — Repose of the Soul,  
Requested by the Ongsu Family

## Weekend Mass Intentions Celebrated at 5:10 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec 3:** Intentions of Family & Friends,  
Requested by Marvella

## Christmas & New Year Masses:

Christmas Eve	Saturday	December 24	7:00 p.m.
Christmas Day	Sunday	December 25	10:00 a.m.
New Year's Eve	Saturday	December 31	5:00 p.m.
New Year's Day	Sunday	January 1	10:00 a.m.

# Advent Reflections

## Characters of the Nativity & Their Lessons for Living

*Reflection by Katie Warner*

As Christians, we are very familiar with Advent as a season of waiting, but really, our whole life is, essentially, a long season of waiting. Particularly, we wait for the last Advent—the last coming of Christ at the end of time. Every Advent gives us the opportunity to pause, and very intentionally focus on what we should be doing every day of our lives—preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ. How are we spending our time in waiting?

Let’s talk about the characters of the nativity, since there is really a lifetime’s worth of study and beauty that we can glean from diving deeper into the mystery of the great Christmas narrative through the experiences of the dynamic characters in play – Joseph and Mary, the Infant Jesus, the shepherds, the angels, the magi, and, as a whole, the Holy Family. The characters of the nativity can each teach us lessons for living our own lives in preparation for Christ’s coming this December, as well as for our own death and Christ’s coming at the end of time. Let’s explore some of the lessons for living from the shepherds (Part 1) and the angels (Part 2).

In Jesus’ day, shepherds were viewed as the low people of the earth. Shepherds were viewed as a poor, filthy group of people whom most others disliked. And yet the angel came to them, a band of lowly shepherds whom the world preferred to ignore and consider “unsaved”. They are the ones to receive the Good News that Christ the King has been born. Even from the moment of His birth, Jesus shows us how he comes among the lowest people of the earth—the poor, the sinners, those whom people like Caesar and others would never give a second thought to.

And so we come to the first lesson for living of these characters of the nativity, the shepherds: come as you are. How often do feel totally inadequate to be a follower of Jesus’ Christ, to receive the immense amount of love he pours out for you, knowing how little you sometimes return to Him? At least for me, I feel this quite often.

So often I’m prideful in the face of a perfectly humble Savior, ungenerous in the face of an all-giving Lord, lazy and un-prayerful in the face of an ardent and pious Christ-child, unloving in the face of an unconditionally loving God. And yet, Jesus looks on me—on you—as he looked on the shepherds, with acceptance and embrace, telling us to come as we are into His presence, knowing we are sinful, but loving us too much to keep us that way.

All who encounter Christ—as they are—can’t help but come away transformed, both the shepherds in Jesus’ day and us today. It’s the encounter with the presence of Jesus Christ that changes us. This Advent, make a commitment to come as you are into Jesus presence so that He can be afforded the chance to transform you, to make you a more humble, a more generous, a more prayerful, loving, and all-around more virtuous person than you are. Think of one habit or vice or sin that you have right now, as you are, that you desire God’s grace to help you improve. This Advent, come into His Presence—in the Sacrament of Confession, in receiving the Holy Eucharist, or in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, and allow this encounter to set in motion a transformation in you, readying yourself to come to Him as you are—which hopefully is a better person than you are right now—this Christmas.

Now, the second lesson for living from the shepherds: wonder. Imagine being approached and sung to by a literal host of angels. This is what the shepherds experienced! A herd of heavenly beings come to tell the shepherds, the colleagues of the great shepherd David from the Old Testament, that the Good Shepherd who has been foreshadowed throughout the Scriptures has come, and so the shepherds stand in wonder of this news, before turning that wonder into action—acting upon and sharing the Good News they have been told.

Has Christmas lost its wonder on you? When the Church sings the song the angels sang to the shepherds, “Glory to God in the highest,” listen to the words. Sing the words and wonder at their meaning. Then, share that wonder and the Good News of Christ’s birth with others. Don’t allow a discussion about Christ’s birth to go un-had in your family gatherings this Advent and Christmas season. That’s the whole reason that brings us together in celebration, in wonder.



### Financial Update:

	Collection Nov 19 & 20	Target Nov 19 & 20	Nov 19 & 20 Over (Short) from Target	Jan 1– Dec 31 Over (Short) from Target
Regular Collection	\$2,471.15	\$2,013.00	\$458.15	(\$63,680.93)
Building Fund	\$1,642.00	\$4,389.00	(\$2,747.00)	(\$268,305.78)
Annual Fall Appeal	\$160.00	\$28,466.00		\$11,524.25

**Thank you for your donation!**

## **Blessed Sacrament Parish**

**Sacrament of the Sick** will be offered at the 3rd Sunday, December 10 & 11, 2016 of Advent Masses. This anointing with the Oil of the Sick blessed by Archbishop Daniel Bolen at the annual Chrism Mass is provided to individuals who are suffering with an infirmity, long term illness or are experiencing a need for healing and strength: be it physical, spiritual, emotional or psychological.

**No Saturday Noon Mass** at 12:05 p.m. only a 5:10 p.m. Mass.

**Ministry Schedules** for November are available for pick-up at the entrance of the Church or download from our Parish Website.

**Volunteer Ministry** positions are available at Blessed Sacrament: Greeters, Communion Ministers, Rosary Leaders. Training will be provided to help you feel comfortable.

**Prayer of Petition** for the formation of the diaconates and for the seminarians, that God would bless them as they prepare to serve the people of God in our Archdiocese, we pray to the Lord.

**Side Entrance and Ramp** for cane, walker or wheelchair accessibility.

**Lost and Found** items have been placed in a box under the side pew near the confessional.

**Blessed Sacrament Parish Office** will be closed between Christmas December 24, 2016 and the new Year until Tuesday, January 3, 2016. For emergencies, please leave a message on answering machine.

### **Real meaning of Christmas**

The Archdiocesan Resource Centre has a number of wonderful new Christmas DVDs that your whole family can watch together. To borrow these resources, please feel free to drop by the Archdiocesan Resource Centre at 445 Broad St. N or call Sr. Rufina B. Dubao, sihm at 352-1651 ext. 238 or email [rdubao@archregina.sk.ca](mailto:rdubao@archregina.sk.ca). You can also book on-line at [www.archregina.sk.ca](http://www.archregina.sk.ca)

### **Children helping Children is an Advent Project**

No one is too little to care about others. The Holy Childhood Association (HCA) is designed for Catholic Children so they can help other children around the world. <http://www.missionsocieties.ca/about-us/history/holy-childhood-association-hca/#>

## **This Week In the Archdiocese**

Monday – Free Drop-In Program for Refugee Women and Children; Bereavement Sessions

Tuesday – CARES

Wednesday – Congress Day on Boundaries

Thursday – Acts: the Spread of the Kingdom; Learning to Work Together: Indigenous Peoples & the Catholic Church

Friday – “Variety Night”; The Christmas Edition; First Friday, First Saturday Vigil - St. Mary's

Saturday – “Variety Night”; The Christmas Edition; Diaconate Program - Campion College

Sunday – Installation Mass for Fr. Francis Plaparampil; Acts; Spread of the Kingdom

For more information on any of these events, please go to [www.archregina.sk.ca/calendar](http://www.archregina.sk.ca/calendar)

### **Thinking Faith!**

#### **TF10: Taking Your Kids To Mass**

This week on Thinking Faith! Eric and Brett discuss the particular challenges we encounter as parents when taking our children to Mass and share some tips and tricks to help make it a positive, faith-filled experience for everyone. Is this even possible or is this meant to be mom and dad's experience of purgatory in the here and now?

### **New Bible Study**

In our busy lives we are faced with obstacles that aggravate us, discourage us, and can even hinder our relationship with Christ. Finding the time to address them is often lost by the business of life. How do we overcome these obstacles, and hear God's voice in our lives? Loneliness? Anger? Shame? Overcome your struggles with Walking Toward Eternity: Engaging the Struggles of Your Heart Bible Study by Jeff & Emily Cavins. Through prayer, reflection, guidance and the aid of the Holy Spirit, we begin to engage these difficulties in a positive way as we continue toward our goal of union with Christ. Mondays, January 9 to Feb. 27 — 9:15 to 11 am, Holy Trinity Church, 5020 Sherwood Drive, Regina. For more information or to register for the study, call Brenda 306-530-1412

### **3D tour of Holy Rosary Cathedral**

by Photographer Michal Lasko, click here <https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=VkVPPspGN3R>