

December 17, 2023

BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

www.blessedsacramentregina.ca

2049 Scarth Street, Regina, SK S4P 2H5



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S MUSIC

SATURDAY 5:10 PM • SUNDAY 10 AM

Processional: CBW III # 303
Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Responsorial Psalm: CBW III # 24
My soul rejoices in my God.

Presentation of Gifts: CBW III # 301
Come, O Long Expected Jesus.

Eucharistic Acclamations: JS 227-232

Communion Procession: CBW III # 319
Wait for the Lord

Recessional: CBW III # 545
Sing Out, Earth and Skies!

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION

December • For persons with disabilities: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

January • For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church: Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

CHRISTMAS SEASON

Christmas • Nativity of the Lord

5:10 PM Sunday, December 24th

10:00 AM Monday, December 25th

NEW YEAR'S DAY

10:00 AM Monday, January 1st

CHRISTMAS SEASON

- 12:05 PM Eucharist, Tuesday to Friday (December 26-29th & January 2-5th).
- Sunday, January 7th, 11:30 AM, Geez Liturgy (Eritrean Liturgy for Christmas celebration on Epiphany of the Lord).

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

- 5:30 PM, Tuesday, December 19th

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASSES

- 5:10 PM Saturday, December 23rd
- 10:00 AM Sunday, December 24th

Sacrament of Reconciliation (confessions): before the Eucharist each Monday to Saturday (no scheduled confessions on Sundays). Also, after the Eucharist, or anytime, by request.

Anointing of the Sick: January 5th, First Friday, after Eucharist or anytime by request.

Sacrament of Initiation / Baptism, Confirmation & Communion: Please contact the parish office.

Sacrament of Marriage: Please contact the parish office at least one year before proposed date of marriage.

PARISH OFFICE

Tuesday to Friday 11:00–2:00 PM

Tel: (306) 522-7422 • Email: blessed.sacrament@sasktel.net

Pastor: **The Rev. James Hentges:** pastor.bsacrament@sasktel.net

Parish Secretary **Nancy Diokno:** office.bsacrament@sasktel.net

Liturgical Ministry **Charmaine Elash:** celash@sasktel.net

Liturgical Music **Bernadette Kutarna:** music.bsacrament@sasktel.net

Caretaker **Teklesenbet Mebrahtu** (contact via parish office).

Blessed Sacrament Parish is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.

Christmas on Monday

WHEN CHRISTMAS falls on a Monday, it causes temptation. In the Catholic Church, we begin celebrating Sundays and holydays on the previous evening. This practice stems from a custom that reckoned the start of the day at sunset. Saturday night Mass provides a convenience for individuals and families making alternative plans for Sunday morning, but it more deeply alerts us to the holiness of the most important day of the week.

Many families find Christmas Eve Mass an ideal way to begin observing this holyday. They gather for the Eucharist at church, then perhaps go home for a meal and exchange gifts. The next morning, their Christmas becomes a day of rest.

But when Christmas falls on a Monday, things get confusing. Two eves and two days intersect. Your parish will probably offer Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent on Saturday evening December 23 and Sunday morning December 24. Then on Sunday evening December 24, it will begin celebrating Christmas. That's a lot of church in 48 hours.

You may be tempted to skip a Mass either for the Fourth Sunday of Advent or for Christmas. You may be tempted to go to one Mass on December 24 and count it for both events. Advent is very short in such years, barely over three weeks, and it deserves our full attention. Christmas, of course, is one of the primary celebrations of the Church Year. These two distinctive liturgies draw us into the mystery of the Word Made Flesh.

Yes, it is extra effort to go to church twice during a busy interval of time, but there is no better way to prepare for and celebrate the reason for the season—the birth of Jesus Christ!

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Liturgical Year © 2020

DONATIONS FOR 2023

Note: Tax receipts for the current year will be available in mid-January. If you wish to have your donation included for those receipts, donations **must be received by Dec 31st**.

- Donations to Blessed Sacrament Parish can be sent via e-transfer (*interac*) to: blessed.sacrament@sasktel.net
- Auto-Deposit Forms for regular (e.g. monthly or weekly) donating to Blessed Sacrament Parish are available at the entrance of the church, from parish office or at: <https://blessedsacramentregina.ca/donations/>

Liturgical Ministry

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Dec 23, 5:10 PM	Dec 24, 10 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Mary Wadsworth	KCs
Community Leader	Connie Barret	KCs
Lector 1	Larry Ongsu	KCs
Lector 2	Todd Pilon	KCs
Usher/Collection	Gordon Pilon	KCs
NATIVITY OF THE LORD	Christmas Eve Dec 24, 5:10 PM	Christmas Day Dec 25, 10 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Mary Wadsworth	Marie Alercon
Community Leader	Rosita Ongsu	Charmaine Elash
Lector 1	Debbie O'Malley	Jim Gallagher
Lector 2	Terry O'Malley	Jim Gallagher
Usher/Collection	Gordon Pilon	Ron Girard

FINANCIAL UPDATE	December 9/10
<i>Envelopes</i>	\$2,985.00
<i>Building Fund</i>	\$165.00
<i>Loose Collection</i>	\$416.50
<i>Archbishop's Appeal (this week)</i>	\$300.00
<i>Direct desposit</i>	\$350.00
<i>other</i>	\$150.00

MASS INTENTIONS

DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, MASS INTENTIONS ARE POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS

Monday, Dec 18	<i>All souls in purgatory by Fe Paderanga</i>
Tuesday, Dec 19	<i>For the repose of the soul of the soul of deceased family by a Parishioner</i>
Wednesday, Dec 20	<i>For peace in the world and for all persecuted Christians by a Parishioner</i>
Thursday, Dec 21	<i>For peace in the world and for all persecuted Christians by a Parishioner</i>
Friday, Dec 22	<i>For peace in the world and for all persecuted Christians by a Parishioner</i>
Saturday, Dec 23	<i>For peace in the world and for all persecuted Christians by a Parishioner</i>
Sunday, Dec 24	<i>For parishioners</i>

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL

The official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales (CAFOD) has reiterated its appeal for an urgent ceasefire and help for the people of Gaza.

"We need medicines, and fuel, food and water are really desperately needed", says Elizabeth Funnell, CAFOD's Country Programmes Representative for the Middle East, speaking to Vatican News.

CAFOD's emergency Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal comes as the humanitarian situation facing people in Gaza has become increasingly desperate, and as supplies that entered into Gaza during a seven-day pause in fighting are running out.

Since the 1 December, when the hostilities have started again "the situation really has deteriorated very quickly", says Funnell: "People are just exhausted and starving and it's increasingly difficult to get information about how people are and where they are."

People who are sheltering in the church compound in Gaza City are "desperately in need of basic items like food and water", she notes, explaining that "Because the intensity of the fighting is so fierce around them, they're afraid to go out to get those basic essentials."

The supplies that are able to enter Gaza are "just a drop in the ocean", says Funnell and adds that an increase in aid getting to the ground is necessary. Displaced Palestinian children in Rafah seek warmth under plastic sheets

Food, water and fuel are in increasingly short supply.

Fuel is essentially needed for the power generators in the hospitals, to keep the vital services going, including saving the lives of premature babies in the incubators. It is also necessary for running the machines for water purification.

In Gaza, CAFOD is working closely with its local partners to reach those who are affected by the conflict. Despite the danger, aid operators are on the ground, struggling to respond to the needs of the people since this crisis started.

It is getting colder

Funnell points out that it's getting colder and wetter in Gaza: "I've been in Gaza at this time of year and it does flood, so people really need those items for shelter - tents and sheeting - to kind of cover damaged buildings."

CAFOD'S partners on the ground have been able to buy and distribute those things, she continues, "But is becoming more difficult because the items that were available inside Gaza are running out."

HOLY FATHER ON TODAY'S READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Receiving baptism was an outward and visible sign of the conversion of those who had listened to his preaching and decided to repent. That baptism occurred with immersion in the Jordan, in water, but it proved useless; it was only a sign and it was useless if there was no willingness to repent and change one's life.

Conversion involves suffering for sins committed, the desire to be free from them, the intention to exclude them from one's own life forever. To exclude sin it is also

GAZA HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY

Thanks to the fund matching offer, **Canadians** wishing to help provide food, water, shelter, hygiene kits, essential goods, healthcare and psychosocial support to families affected by the conflict in Gaza can do so twice as effectively by donating:

- Online at www.dev.org/give
- By calling **1-888-234-8533** toll-free
- By mailing a cheque (marked Gaza Humanitarian Emergency) payable to:

Development and Peace
555 René-Lévesque Blvd. West, 8th Floor
Montreal, Quebec H2Z 1B1

Risk of infectious diseases

As the war entered its third month, over 18,000 Palestinians and 1,400 Israelis have been killed, thousands more injured, and over 1.9 million people in Gaza are displaced.

People have been displaced many times. "They have to leave the areas they have been displaced to when they get informed it's going to come under attack, so they are forced to leave with nothing," Funnell explains.

"Almost half of Gaza's population is now thought to be living in just one area (Rafah) in the south, and it was already one of the most densely populated areas in the world," she says. "Almost half of Gaza's population is living in just one area." In such overcrowded conditions, without essentials, it is hard to keep the hygiene standards.

"Organizations like the World Health Organization are increasingly worried that the disease is going to kill more people than fighting will", stresses Funnell.

Christmas gifts for the people of Gaza

In the light of the upcoming Christmas holidays, she says, there are ways to help those who seek peace the most, to help people who suffer in Gaza, be it with prayers, appeals or donations. CAFOD's partners in Gaza are "fearful about the future and desperate to see a peaceful future for their children", stresses Funnell and encourages people to pray for them.

"When I've been speaking to our church partners in the region, they feel very isolated and sometimes they feel forgotten," says Funnell. "And just when I tell them that people are praying for them, it really encourages them."

necessary to reject everything that is connected to it; the things that are connected to sin and thus, we have to reject: a worldly mentality, excessive esteem for comforts, excessive esteem for pleasure, for well-being, for wealth. The example of this detachment comes to us once again from today's Gospel in the person of John the Baptist: an austere man who renounces excess and seeks the essential. (...) Detachment is not an end in itself, but is a means of attaining something greater, namely, the Kingdom of God, communion with God, friendship with God.

(*Angelus, 6 December 2020*)



Archdiocese of Regina *Bulletin*

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday
of Advent



New Year's Day Levée

The faithful of the Archdiocese
are cordially invited to
the Archbishop's New Year's Levée
to be held at
Holy Rosary Cathedral
3125-13th Ave., Regina
January 1, 2024
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)*

*The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina
will gather in joy and thanksgiving for the
Ordination of*



DANIEL MALONE

TO THE

Transitional Diaconate

By the Most Rev. Donald J. Bolen
Archbishop of Regina

On

Monday, December 18, 2023

1:00 PM

at

Holy Rosary Cathedral
Regina, SK

Livestream: youtube.com/ArchdioceseRegina

Christmas Mass Times

A list of the Christmas Mass times along with Advent Reconciliation times can be found at archregina.sk.ca/christmas-mass-times/. The Midnight Mass from Holy Rosary Cathedral will be livestreamed to youtube.com/ArchdioceseRegina.

Emmaus Family Support Holy Hour of Adoration and Prayer for Mental Health

Join us at Holy Trinity Parish in Regina on Thursday, December 28, from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm for a Holy Hour of Adoration and Prayer focused on mental health during this Christmas season. The Christmas season can be a particularly challenging time for anyone living with mental health challenges. While the public focus of the season is on joy, peace, and hope; depression, anxiety, and other mental health challenges can be exacerbated by the additional stress and even loneliness that some experience. All are welcome to join us for this hour of quiet reflection and communal prayer with the Blessed Sacrament as we unite in faith and seek consolation, peace, and support. For more information and support, visit emmaussupport.ca.

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Pastoral Centre Christmas Hours

The Archdiocese of Regina Pastoral Centre will be closed to the public for Christmas beginning Monday, December 25. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd. Staff from the Finance and Appeal Offices will be present occasionally between December 27th to 29th. Deliveries can be left in the mailbox at Blessed Sacrament parish, 2049 Scarth St. If you need to contact someone from the finance or appeal department, please find their contact info here archregina.sk.ca/grouppage/staff-contacts/. Merry Christmas from Archbishop Don and all of the staff at the Pastoral Centre!

Stewardship Bulletin Bit

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." – 1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.