



# Holy Cross Parish

December 3/4, 2011

### Parish Team

Pastor: Fr. Thomas Nguyen  
Pastoral Assistant: Louise Reeve  
Bookkeeper: Erna Woynarski  
Administrative Assistant: Heather Melnyk  
Caretaker: Alf Kolodniski

### www.holycrossregina.ca

315 Douglas Ave. E.  
Regina, Sask. S4N 1H7  
Phone: 757-1325 Fax: 757-8641  
Rectory: 205-4784  
Fr. Thomas Email:  
fr.tnguyen@yahoo.ca  
e-mail: holycrosschurch@sasktel.net

### Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 9 a.m.–12 noon, 1- 4 p.m.

Contact the office to arrange for Baptisms,  
Marriages & Funerals

Gerein Centre Use: 757-1325

**Pastor's Day Off: Mondays**

## 2nd Sunday of Advent

**First Reading:** Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

**Second Reading:** 2 Peter 3:8-14

**Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8

**Reflection:** These last weeks before Christmas are such a busy time. There is so much planning and preparation to do. Presents must be carefully considered and bought. There are Christmas cards or letters to write. Meals must be planned and organized and the cleaning seems never-ending. Time goes by at warp speed. Preparing for this great Christian celebration can feel like preparing for an expedition to the top of Mount Everest. And if we forget for a moment any of the things we think we have to do, there are many voices constantly reminding us: "Hurry! Only three more weeks until Christmas!"

Barely audible through the racket, another voice is calling to us, too, with a different, less noisy, invitation: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

Today, right now, in this quiet moment, we can hear this voice. Mark echoing Isaiah, is telling us to pause, to consider what we are doing, and to prepare ourselves for the arrival of the Lord. Clear away all the clutter, the unnecessary baggage, the tempting detours with their attractive scenery. Remember that the path between us and God, the path that opens before us from the moment we are born, is both simple and straight. We can walk that path any time, even a busy time like now. All we have to do is set off.

### Questions:

**Adult-** How do you know you're following Christ and living his teachings faithfully?

**Children-** What good thing might God be asking you to do right now?

**Prayer:** Speak, Lord Jesus; I will listen. You do not come to my soul without speaking to me in some way. Make your presence known in my heart and in my mind. I will be quiet, and let my desires and worries rest, in order to hear you. In silence, I will learn to know your "intimate will" in my regard. Amen.

### PARISH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK December 4-11, 2011

SUNDAY	9:00 AM	MASS	CWL Bake sale after
	11:00 AM	MASS	both Masses
MONDAY			
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	MASS	
	7:30 PM		CWL Meeting
	7:30 PM		K of C Light up for Christ
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	MASS	
	7:30 PM		Choir Practice
	7:30 PM		Prayer Group
THURSDAY	9:00 AM	MASS	
	9:30 AM		Study Group
	7:00 PM		K of C Adoration/Rosary/Benediction
			For Immaculate Conception of Mary
	7:30 PM		K of C 4th Degree
FRIDAY	9:00 AM	MASS	
	7:00 PM		Reconciliation Celebration/Holy Child
SATURDAY	4:15 PM		Reconciliation
	5:00 PM	MASS	
	5- 9:00 PM		St. Nicholas Party
	5:00 PM		K of C Christmas Social
SUNDAY	9:00 AM	MASS	
	11:00 AM	MASS	
	2- 4:00 PM		Family Christmas Party

### WEEKLY READINGS

<b>Mon:</b> Isaiah 35:1-10	Luke 5:17-26
<b>Tues:</b> Isaiah 40:1-11	Matthew 18:12-14
<b>Wed:</b> Isaiah 40:25-31	Matthew 11:28-30
<b>Thurs:</b> Genesis 3:9-15, 20	Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12
	Luke 1:26-38
<b>Fri:</b> Isaiah 48:17-19	Matthew 11:16-19
<b>Sat:</b> Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11	Matthew 17:10-13

### 3rd Sunday of Advent Page 27-29

**1st:** Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11 **2nd:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**Gospel:** John 1:6-8, 19-28

# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Donations received for November 27:

Envelopes: \$4,194.50

Loose: \$399.80

QVE: \$275.00



## Stewardship 2nd Sunday of Advent



John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the U. S. Bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship:

"Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live - the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."

## CWL NEWS:

- **CWL Christmas Party** (Bring a guest) Tuesday, Dec. 6. Mass at 7 p.m., a *short* meeting will begin after "Light up for Christ", which will be followed by the party. Gifts will be collected for the staff of the Marian Centre. Also asking for a \$3.00 donation for Teen Parents. **Just for fun bring a gently used door prize.** Ladies and guest please plan to attend. **PLEASE BRING A SMALL PLATE OF APPETIZERS OR DAINTIES. Thank you.**
- **CWL Membership fees** of \$25 for the year 2012 are now due. Exact change or cheque in an envelope with your name, address and phone number would be appreciated. Please mark CWL Membership on the envelope and if paying by cheque please make it payable to "Holy Cross CWL" Thank you.

## K OF C:

- ◇ K of C Christmas Social, December 10
- ◇ K of C Meeting December 19, 7:30 p.m.

**CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNER:** Last weeks winner was Carrina Selinger.



**HELP NEEDED:** We are in need of two collection counters to help out on January 29, February 5, June 24 and July 1 weekends. This does not have to be a permanent commitment. Help out with one weekend or with all. Please call the office if you are able to help us out. Thank you!

## CHANGE TO WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Thursday and Friday morning Mass times will change from 8:00 a.m. to **9:00 a.m. effective December 8/9.** Bible Study group will move from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Thursday mornings.

## REGISTER FOR FIRST EUCHARIST AND CONFIRMATION NOW - CLASSES BEGIN SOON

**First Eucharist** (Grade 2 and up) Saturdays 5 - 8 p.m.

- Parents and children attend all classes. Classes include supper for the family.
- All children in Grade 2 must take First Eucharist and Confirmation in the same year as the celebrations will happen together.
- Class dates: January 21, February 4, February 18 (Please also see Confirmation dates)
- Jesus Day Retreat, April 25, 9 a.m. to noon, lunch is provided.

*December Anniversaries* 

Congratulations to the following couple on the celebration of their wedding anniversary this month.

*Felix & Jane Kryzanowski*      *December 29*      *37 years*



## SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**Thursday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m.** The Knights of Columbus invite everyone to join them for Adoration, the Rosary, and Benediction.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation in Advent

Regina East Advent Reconciliation Celebration will be held at **Holy Child Parish on Friday, December 9 at 7 p.m.** All are invited to this time of prayerful reflection on our Advent call to overcome the darkness with the light of our Messiah. Several priests will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

## RESPECT FOR THE EUCHARIST

"The law concerning Eucharist fast is still firmly in effect in the Church. The law states *"one who is to receive the most Holy Eucharist is to abstain from any food or drink, with the exception only of water and medicine, for at least the period of one hour before Holy Communion"* Canon #919. Chewing of gum or eating candy during Mass would certainly break the Eucharistic fast. It continues to be very important to promote great respect for the Eucharist."

Yours sincerely in Christ,  
Daniel J. Bohan  
Archbishop of Regina

## *O Come All Ye Faithful!*

We are looking for Children Who will Sing, Act, or play instruments for the Christmas morning 10 a.m. mass.

If you would like to take part in the pageant or music, Please email [pa.holycross@sasktel.net](mailto:pa.holycross@sasktel.net). When you register please indicate the age of your child and how he or she would like to participate.



*See everything, overlook a great deal,  
ALWAYS improve a little.* CWL Banners

**Confirmation** (Grade 2, 4, and 5) Saturdays 5 - 8 p.m.

- All older students who have not been confirmed, please contact Louise for options.
- Class is for parents and children. Supper is included.
- Class dates: March 3, March 17, March 31
- Confirmation Retreat is May 4, 9 a.m. to noon, lunch is provided.

Please email [pa.holycross@sasktel.net](mailto:pa.holycross@sasktel.net) with any inquiries or call Louise Reeve at 757-1325.

Registration forms located at both entrances or they can be printed from the web site, [www.holycrossregina.ca](http://www.holycrossregina.ca).



# December 2011



Sun

Mon

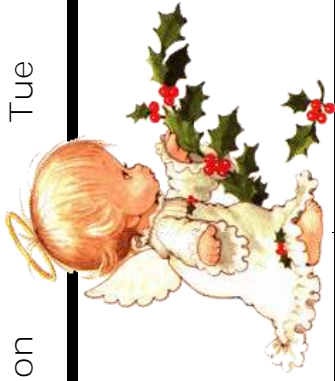
Tue







Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



4 9:00 AM MASS 11:00 AM MASS 12:00 PM Senior Youth Retreat ends CWL Bake Sale 	5	6 7:00 PM MASS 7:30 PM CWL Meeting K of C Light up for Christ	7 7:00 PM MASS 7:30 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Prayer Group	8 9:00 AM MASS 9:30 AM Study Group 7:30 PM K of C 4th Degree Mtg. 7:00 PM K of C Adoration/ Rosary/Benediction <i>Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9 9:00 AM MASS 7:00 PM Reconciliation Celebration at Holy Child	10 4:15 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM MASS 5-9 PM St. Nick Party 5:00 PM K of C Christmas Social
11 9:00 AM MASS 11:00 AM MASS 2:00-4:00 PM Family Christmas Party	12	13 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM MASS 7:30 PM Pastoral Council Mtg.	14 7:00 PM MASS 7:30 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Prayer Group	15 9:15 AM MASS with St. Andrew	16 9:00 AM MASS 7:00 PM Women's Retreat	17 9:00 AM Hamper Packing 4:15 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM MASS 
18 9:00 AM MASS 11:00 AM MASS	19 7:30 PM K of C Meeting 	20 7:00 PM MASS	21 9:00 AM MASS 7-9 PM St. Andrew Christmas Concert 	22 9:00 AM MASS	23 9:00 AM MASS <b>Office Open 9 AM - Noon</b>	24 7:00 PM MASS 10:00 PM MASS 
25 10:00 AM MASS 	26 <b>Office Closed</b>	27	28 7:30 Choir Practice 7:30 PM Prayer Group	29 <b>Office Open 9 AM - Noon</b>	30 9:00 AM MASS 5:30 PM Wedding	31 4:15 PM Reconciliation 5:00 PM MASS

## DECEMBER SAINTS

**St. Francis Xavier (December 3)** This amazing missionary - who evangelized the far East - laid the foundation for Christianity in Japan and died with his eyes on the great harvest waiting in China. His name was on the lips of everyone in Europe after his Letters were published, and he inspired others to follow him in his great conquest of the world for Christ.



He was the papal son of a Basque noble family born in 1506. At eighteen he was sent to study in Paris and roomed with St. Ignatius of Loyola and Peter Favre from Savoy. He became one of six who founded the Society of Jesus. In 1541 he was appointed apostolic nuncio to the East by King John of Portugal and he embarked for India. He travelled as a missionary and in 1549 landed in Kaoshima, he learned the language and after two years he left the Japanese mission in charge of another Jesuit and returned to Goa where he was appointed Jesuit provincial of India.

He turned his eyes to China. Encountering difficulties entering he sailed to the island of Sancian, there he caught a fever and while still waiting for permission to enter China he died on December 3, 1552. He was canonized in 1622.

**St. Nicholas (December 6)** Nicholas and his legends have become associated with Christmas and so it is fitting that his feast day should come in the month of December. Little is known of his true history, but legends fill in the story and explain why he has been linked to Christmas giving.



Legends tell stories of his generosity: of providing dowries for poor girls, and his part in the release of three unjustly convicted army officers.

By the time of the Emperor Justinian in the sixth century, there was a church dedicated to St. Nicholas in Constantinople. When the Muslims conquered the Middle East, including St. Nicholas' city of Myra, soldiers from Italy took the relics to

Bari and there they have rested since. A new church was built for them, and devotion to Nicholas spread all over Europe, and there were over two thousand churches dedicated to him. In Holland, he was known as Sinter Klaas and he became associated with gift-giving at Christmas time. Sinter Klaas soon became Santa Clause, with no religious significance and the Christian origins of the legend were forgotten.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12)** Our Lady of Guadalupe is honored as the queen and mother of the Mexican people, and the story of her coming to Mexico is one of the loveliest in the history of the church.



Juan Diego was an Indian who lived near Mexico City in 1531. He was going to Mass one morning and passed near a hill called Tepeyac where he heard singing voices. Wondering what it was, he heard himself called by name and went to see who was calling him. At the top of the hill, he saw a lady, "her garments shining like the sun," and she told him that she wanted a Church built on the hill in her honor and to go to the bishop and tell him of her desire.

He did as he was told but the Bishop did not believe him. The next day the lady told him to go back once more and that this time he would be listened to. This time the Bishop said he would need proof.

The next visit to Church, Juan tried to avoid the lady but she appeared to him anyways and gave him special instructions for the next visit: he was to climb the hill and gather some of the flowers that were there in his tilma, or cloak and take them to the bishop. When Juan came into the Bishop's presence and opened his tilma, everyone in the room knelt, not at the miracle of flowers (it was the middle of winter), but at the image painted on the tilma: the image we know as Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The church was built and the image enshrined there.

### PLEASE NOTE.....

**2012 ENVELOPES** are ready for pick up in the Gerein Centre. Please pick yours up as soon as possible. If you were not issued a set, but would like one, call the office at 757-1325. **Do not use your new envelopes until January, since the numbers have changed.**

#### Guidelines When Using Envelopes:

- Please ensure that the amount is **clearly written** on the envelope. It helps the collection counters immensely if you write an amount in the space provided.
- If you are making a donation with a post-dated cheque, it is helpful to write "**post-dated cheque**" on the outside of your envelope. This will help prevent deposits from being made too soon.
- If you have missed a Sunday or two, it is not necessary to use multiple envelopes. For example, if you usually donate \$20 per week and you are away for one week, simply fill out one envelope the following week and enclose your donation of \$40.

**2011 DONATION DEADLINE:** The deadline for 2011 donations is noon on December 30. **Note that all contributions made at the 5 p.m. Mass on New Year's Eve will be counted as a 2012 donation.**

**2011 COMMITTEE EXPENSES:** Please hand all requisition forms and invoices into the parish office by noon on December 30. This will help ensure that all 2011 expenses are properly allocated.

### ALTAR SERVERS FOR FUNERALS

*If you are interested in serving at funerals at Holy Cross, please contact our co-ordinator and indicate if you can assist during the day or evening funerals or both.  
You will find that it is an honor to serve families during their bereavement.*



Co-Ordinator - Ed Deck - 525-3229

Assistant Co-Ordinator - Gordon Hoffert - 757-3678

## Important Mass Dates

December 9	7:00 p.m.	Deanery Reconciliation Celebration at Holy Child
December 24	7:00 p.m.	MASS
	10:00 p.m.	MASS
December 25	10:00 a.m.	MASS
December 26-29	<b>NO MASS</b>	
December 30	8:00 a.m.	MASS

### Mass Schedule for Mary Mother of God/New Years

December 31	5:00 p.m.	MASS
January 1	9:00 & 11:00 a.m.	MASS

### Office Hours

December 23	9:00 a.m. to noon
December 26- 28	Closed
December 29 & 30	9:00 a.m. to noon



### Light up for Christ

The K of C Monsignor Gerein Council will lead the parish in blessing and lighting our Nativity Crèche in front of the church. December 6, Mass at 7 p.m. followed by the lighting ceremony. Hot chocolate will be served in the Lower Gerein Centre afterwards.

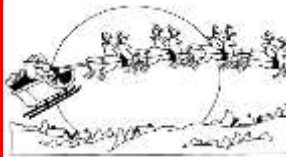
## St. Nick Shindig

**Who?** Youth Grades 1-6 Youth Grades 7-9 (Leaders Needed)

**Where?** Holy Cross Parish Hall (St. Andrew's gym)

**What Time?** December 10, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(We begin with mass as families then the youth stay after for supper, friends and games. If your family will not be able to stay for mass please indicate this when you register.)



**How Much?** \$7 per person (Supper included)

**Bring a \$5 gift for a fun gift exchange.**

**Registration is a MUST by Wednesday December 7.**

Please email [ym.holycross@sasktel.net](mailto:ym.holycross@sasktel.net)

When you register please indicate the age of your child.

**We will have a Fabulous St. Nicholas Party.**

Please indicate if you are coming early to pick up your kids. This youth night will be happening in our hall. (St. Andrews school gym).

**All Parents must sign their children in AND out for the safety of the kids.**

*We are all fortunate to be in a position to be able to give gifts at Christmas. Please remember the special people we provide with hampers each year and pick up a Christmas tree ball off the window and either entrance to the church. Buy a gift for the person listed on the ball, wrap and tape the ball label to it, and return to the church by **December 11**. There are still many gifts needed.*

*Food donations are also being collected. Social Action provides food hampers to approximately **50 families**. Any donations you can give, big or small, will help to feed a family this Christmas.*

*Be generous and help us help others.*

## CHRISTMAS HAMPERS & GIFTS

We are collecting food for our Christmas Hampers. The deadline is **Friday, December 16**.

### Specific items needed for hampers:

- Rice/pasta/Kraft Dinner
- Canned soup
- Canned fruit
- Cranberry sauce
- Canned milk
- Canned meat/fish
- Packages of jello
- Canned beans/vegetables
- Canned tomatoes
- Cake/Cookies/Candy
- Peanut butter/Jam
- 2012 Calendar
- Hot Chocolate mix & juice in packages for each distribution



**Anyone wishing to donate money** is asked to put it into the Sunday collection in an envelope marked "Christmas Hampers". If writing a cheque, make it payable to Holy Cross Church and designated for "Hampers". The donations help to buy turkeys, oranges, and anything missing in the food already given.

**Family Christmas Gathering: Sunday, December 11, 2-4 p.m.** Join with parishioners and neighbours in our community for a time of Christmas activities, carols, and refreshments. Meet with those receiving our hamper gifts. Potluck lunch: Please bring either sandwiches, cheese and crackers or Christmas oranges. We also need help running games, crafts, kitchen duties, and singing at our Family Outreach Christmas Party. If you can help, please call the parish office.

*Help make Christmas for some less fortunate families a little more festive.*

### Advent II

Light two purple candles.

*Lord Jesus, just as Mary, your Mother, prepared for your coming as she carried you in her womb, help us make ready for your coming at Christmas.*

*Help us respond to your love for us by caring for the poor needy among us, and bring us all to live with you together in heaven. Amen*



### CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKETS



2012 Calendar raffle tickets are on sale at both entrances after Mass today. For \$20, you are eligible to win \$25 each and every week of the year, with 4 special prizes of \$100. Looking for a gift for the special someone that has everything? Our calendar raffle tickets are one size fits all and who doesn't like to win money? Proceeds of the raffle go directly to Holy Cross to help our Liturgy, Social Action and Spiritual Education Committees. We appreciate your generosity! Sales close at 12 noon on December 31. SLGA License # RR11-0371

## OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

**ATTENTION YOUTH GRADE 6-8:** The Archdiocese of Regina Youth Ministry office invites all grade 6, 7, 8's to join other young Catholics from around the city on Sun., Dec 4. (That's today!) for the "Great Adventure!" An afternoon of sports, snacks, crafts and other adventures will be held at St. Martin's Parish from 2-4 p.m. Cost is \$4/person. All are welcome! For further information contact Michelle Braden at 352-1651 ext. 223.

**NORTHERN LIGHT:** Join the U or R Concert Choir and Chamber Singers for a concert on Sunday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Knox-Metropolitan United Church. Tickets are available at the door, \$10/adults, \$7, seniors, free/students. For more information call Dr. John Wiebe 585-5538 or email john.wiebe@uregina.ca.

**HOLIDAY CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SERVICE:** Join us for a special service filled with music, light and hope. Speers Holiday Candlelight Memorial Service is free of charge and is open to anyone who has ever lost a loved one. Family and friends are welcome. Refreshments will be served. Sunday, December 4, 2 p.m. at Speers Funeral Chapel. Call 522-3232 to Register.

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION CONCERT:** Riffel, O'Neill, LeBoldus and Miller high schools are holding their annual Christmas celebration concert on Wed., Dec 7 at the Conexus Centre of the Arts beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are available from any of the four high school offices or at Conexus Arts Centre box office. Tickets are \$10 each.

**MINI-RETREAT FOR WOMEN:** Refresh your soul during this busy season with this month's retreat on the Holy Spirit's gift of Knowledge. We begin with Mass at 7 p.m. and conclude with social time and refreshments. Nursing moms

are welcome. Join us at Holy Cross, 7-9 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16. Contact diane.goski@accesscomm.ca or call 565-0083 for details. Hosted by the women of Regnum Christi.

**HOLY YOGA:** Classes will be offered at Christ the King starting January 2012. Holy Yoga is a chance to stretch, strengthen, relax, and pray while focused on Christian scripture. Class is taught by Connie Moker Wernikowski. Schedules and registration forms can be found at www.bigfishyoga.ca or call Connie at 551-6933, or email mokerw@sasktel.net. Connie has added a very gentle class on Tuesday mornings for those with physical issues or for anyone who wants to simply relax and restore.

### NEW PARISHIONERS/CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you are new to the parish or have recently moved, please complete this form and place it in the collection basket.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_ Change \_\_\_\_\_ Envelopes wanted \_\_\_\_\_

<b>MINISTRY SCHEDULE 2nd Sunday</b>			
December 10/11, 2011	Saturday 5:00 P.M.	Sunday 9:00 A.M.	Sunday 11:00 A.M.
ALTAR SERVER	Dianna Onyango	Jennifer/Hayley Keller	Natasha Bigeau
MINISTRY TEAM CAPTAINS	Mary-Anne & Don Harazny	Phyllis Kennedy	Sharie & Bernie Ryma
USHERS		Merv Shuster	Roy Taylor
CHILDREN'S LITURGY	Brenna & Tim Patenaude	Chelsea Holmes & Bryant Adams	Melanie Nargang
MUSIC		Anthem	Holy Cross Choir
COLLECTION	Team 9 Glen & Jean Thompson (Blaine & Lorraine Ferrara)		



### Christmas Flowers

Christmas flowers are purchased by donations from parishioners in honour of deceased or living members of their families. We invite you to make contributions if you wish. Fill out the form below and place it in the collection baskets. Tributes will be published in the Christmas bulletin if indicated on the form.



#### Christmas Flowers for Holy Cross Church

Donations toward Christmas Flowers for the Church:

Parishioner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of deceased loved one)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

or  
In Honour of: \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of living loved one)

Env. # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Publish my gift in the Christmas bulletin: \_\_\_\_\_

Through the kindness of: \_\_\_\_\_