



Holy Cross Parish

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

BULLETIN #2

Dec. 7, 2025

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

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

Sat. 5:00 pm
Sun. 9:00 am
Tues. 7:00 pm
Wed. 9:00 am
Thur. 9:00 am
Fri. 9:00 am

Page 2: Calendar Raffle Winners, Prayer Intentions, Calendar Raffle sales, Food & Clothing Drive

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Page 4: CWL, Pro-Life, Advent Story

Page 5: Church Finances, Christmas Flowers

Page 6-8: Archdiocese News—parish events around the Diocese

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Isaiah 11: 1-10 / Romans 15: 4-9 / Matthew 3: 1-12

MONDAY

December 8
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Gn 3:9-15, 20
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
Lk 1:26-38

TUESDAY

December 9
Advent Weekday
Is 40:1-11
Mt 18:12-14

WEDNESDAY

December 10
Advent Weekday
Is 40:25-31
Mt 11:28-30

THURSDAY

December 11
Advent Weekday
Is 41:13-20
Mt 11:11-15

FRIDAY

December 12
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zec 2:14-17
or Rv 11:19a;
12:1-6a, 10ab
Lk 1:26-38
or Lk 1:39-47

SATURDAY

December 13
St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

SUNDAY

December 14
Third Sunday of Advent
Is 35:1-6a, 10
Jas 5:7-10
Mt 11:2-11

Will You Notice the Shoot?

ANN M. GARRIDO

Today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah offers a familiar Advent image: the shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse. The verses immediately preceding speak of God walking through the forest with an ax: "The tall of stature shall be felled, and the lofty ones shall be brought low" (Isaiah 10:33). But now, amidst all the destruction, a tiny sign of new life emerges, and the Spirit of God descends upon it, bearing many gifts—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, delight.

So often, when we scroll through the news, our attention is captured by violence and war and the "mighty" who make great noise when they fall. "Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees," echoes John the Baptist in today's gospel. If we are looking for where God's Spirit can be found, however, Isaiah reminds us we will need to look elsewhere. We will need to attend to the quiet, fragile resurrections taking place below the surface when it appears as if all has been lost. If we seek wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, and delight, we will need to look where the little ones of the earth are found. We must have our eyes open for the shoots.

The gospels emphasize that Jesus was one such little one. Although the glory days of his people seemed to have come to a crashing close, they have not. In him, we glimpse the truth that life is stronger than death. We see that the future has not been erased, no matter how terrible the past. In him, we find our hope. ●



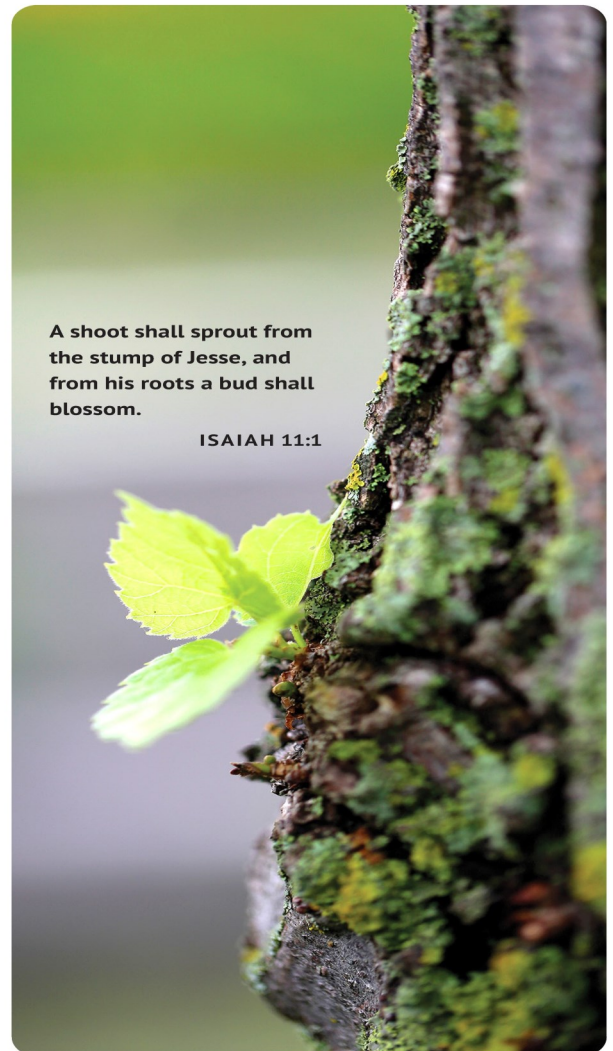
SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR ANN
M. GARRIDO

A shoot shall sprout from
the stump of Jesse, and
from his roots a bud shall
blossom.

ISAIAH 11:1

Reflect

Are my eyes open to the small signs of God's work
in the world, or am I too distracted to notice?



What's Happening at Holy Cross 2

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNER—November 30, 2025

Len & Loretta Jelinski

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF Dec. 06—Dec. 14, 2025

Sat.	Dec. 6	In memory of Don Kent, offered by Joyce & Family.
Sun	Dec. 7	For the repose of the soul of Rina Balvert-Verheijde, offered by Gerry & Lynn Heymen.
Tues	Dec. 9	For the repose of the soul of Sheila Phillips offered by the Holy Cross CWL.
Wed.	Dec. 10	For the repose of the soul of Geri Huber offered by Judy Miazga.
Thurs.	Dec. 11	PRO POPULO for Nov. 13-14
Fri.	Dec. 12	In memory of Juan & Julieta Opulencia, offered by Josie Howard.
Sat.	Dec. 13	For the repose of the soul of Sheila Phillips, offered by Jack & Gladys Herzberger.
Sun.	Dec. 14	In memory of Christina & Philip Thibault, offered by Yvonne & Rick Mulrooney & Family.



FOOD & CLOTHING DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus is again initiating a Food/Clothing Drive during the Christmas season.

Things have changed. The Marian Centre has changed its operations and is no longer providing noon meals and are providing breakfast only. To assist them with breakfast they require Cheese Whiz, jams of any flavor, and peanut butter.

They also provide items on an individual basis such as canned fruit, soup, deodorant, small body wash and razors. In addition they are providing limited emergency clothing such as winter coats, gloves and socks for men, women and children.

Visitation House is currently closed while they are going through a restructuring. Non-perishable goods will be collected as in the past but will be given to Souls Harbour who provide hot meals at noon. Their need is great as they serve 200+ meals per day.

Collection Bins will be at both church entrances from Nov. 29 through Dec 14. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Holy Cross CALENDAR RAFFLE 2026 Tickets \$20



\$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 #25-3393

2025 DONATION ENVELOPES

Are available to pick up from the table in the Gerein Centre. They may be used beginning January 1st, 2026.

ADVENT DATES

Recollection (mini-retreat)	Sat. Dec. 6, 9 am-12 pm
Christmas Bake Sale	Dec. 6 & 7, after Masses
Reconciliation	Thurs. Dec. 11, 7 pm
K of C Christmas Social	Sat. Dec. 13, 5 pm
Mass	
Food & Clothing Drive	Until Dec. 14
Advent Novena	Dec. 16-24 daily, 9 am except Tues.

What's Happening at Holy Cross 3

PARISHIONERS' CORNER

Birthdays this week: **Dolores Pentz** on Monday, Dec. 8, and **Carol Holowachuk** on Thursday, Dec. 11. Happy birthday to both of you.

Sadly, **Fr. Ken Koep** passed away Friday, Dec 5 morning at Trinity Manor. Please keep him in your prayers.

There were 26 people from Holy Cross who rode the bus out to Briercrest for their annual Christmas play. The singers were beautiful and orchestra excellent. We came home humming and happy and well fed by Charlotte's.

2026 Calendar Raffle tickets will be on sale until Dec. 31st. But if you're looking for an easy Christmas gift that slips into a card and can be a pleasant surprise when an unexpected cheque arrives for a winner anytime next year, this is your ticket.

This is a another busy week of preparation and celebration—the CWL Bake Sale this weekend, the Reconciliation Service on Thursday, the 11th; and the Knights of Columbus' Christmas social on Saturday, the 13th.

Don't forget to let us know about any important events going on in your life where we can pray for you and with you or help you celebrate. Contact Deacon Martin at pastoral.assistant@holycrossregina.ca or 306-347-0929 OR Joyce at byapple@sasktel.net or call 306-789-1983.



KNIGHTS KORNER
37 Years of Service to Holy Cross
1988—2025

K of C CAROL FESTIVAL SUCCESS

The Knights are proud to announce that this year's K of C Carol Festival received over \$13,000 in donations. This represents the highest contributions since the Knights took over the Carol Festival three years ago. The generosity of all the attendees will go a long way in supporting the four designated charities of the festival including: Chili for Children, Access Communications Children's Fund, Carmichael Outreach and Coats for Kids program from Sask. K of C Charitable Foundation.

Our Council would like to thank all the individuals from our Parish community who attended this year's Carol Festival.

GEREIN COUNCIL CHRISTMAS DINNER & SOCIAL

This is notice to all Gerein Council members and their family members of our Council's 2025 Christmas Dinner & Social. It will be held on Saturday, Dec 13th after the 5:00 PM Mass. Executive Knights of our Council will be contacting all members about their intentions to attend. We look forward to the fraternity and having a joyous time!

Archbishop's Appeal
2025 Our Holy Cross
Goal
Collection as of Dec. 04



Our GOAL

\$27, 692

ONE MORE
MONTH TO
GO!

20,000

15,000

12,000

9,000

7,000

5,000

3,000

1000

\$6,000.00
total
received from
Holy Cross as
of Dec. 04
(21% of goal)



Please prayerfully consider what you can contribute to the good programs of the Archdiocese.

None of us is alone in this world. Each of us is a vital piece of the great mosaic of humanity as a whole.

St. John Paul II

DECEMBER EVENTS

Saturday, Dec 13th – 10:00 to 6:00 PM, Salvation Army Kettles, Southland Mall.

Saturday, Dec 13th - 6:30 PM, Msgr. Gerein Council Christmas Social (After 5:00 PM Mass)

Tuesday, Dec 16th – 7:45 PM, Monthly Council Mtg (After 7:00 PM Mass)

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.

What's Happening at Holy Cross 4



CWL NEWS

A short CWL meeting took place on Tuesday, Dec. 2 followed by a Christmas party. There was a total of 1,341 Cabbage Rolls made for the Christmas Bake for a total of \$1,077 profit. All were pre-sold. Mention was made of the wonderful response of the ladies who turned out on Friday to do the rolling.

The Holly Jolly Trade Show did well and made a profit of \$945. Further such ventures are under consideration.

A donation of \$500 will be given to the St. Maria Faustina School to provide a Christmas gift, personally selected by the teacher to suit each student. St. Faustina School serves students with intensive needs, aged 5 to 21, from all over Regina, with an estimated 85% autism.

Sixteen dozen muffins were collected for Sacred Heart School for this month, and plans are in place for the Christmas Bake Sale this weekend, Dec. 6 and 7, and ladies were encouraged to GET BAKING!!

There was a report on the two funerals held recently, and a big thank you to all the ladies who so willingly volunteer to provide the service at the funeral receptions.

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. NOTE: There will be no meeting in January.

PRO-LIFE NEWS

Fertility Rate Drops to Record Low in Canada

Canada's fertility rate had reached a record low of 1.25 children per woman last year, according to new data from Statistics Canada. Canada's fertility rate has generally been declining for decades, down from the peak of almost four (3.94) children per woman in 1959, according to a 2024 StatCan report.

One of the sharpest declines in fertility rate occurred in the mid 1960s and early 1970s following introduction of the hormonal birth control pill in 1960, at the time used to regulate menstrual cycles. Then decriminalization of the pill as a form of contraception followed in 1969 along with decriminalization of abortion the same year.

The fertility rates dropped below the "cohort replacement level" of 2.1 children per woman for the first time in 1972, meaning the birth rate is no longer high enough to naturally replace the population. Now the stat is down to 1.25.

Source: Olivia Gomm, *Epoch Times*, Oct. 2, 2025

A couple of weeks ago we reported this headline:



AN ADVENT STORY

From a Dec. 3, 1991 episode of Mother Angelica LIVE on EWTN about Advent:

During the broadcast she asked the studio audience, "Advent is a time of penance. Did you know that?" She went on to explain that Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas, and not only for decorating the tree and buying gifts.

She said, "God doesn't want your pocketbook. He wants your heart. He wants your mind. He wants you to be filled with him. He doesn't want all these kinds of sacrifices that you just drop in front of Him and then go your way, living a sinful life. ...

"I'm all for trees and decorations, but not at the expense of a lack of repentance in my heart, a lack of real repentance that says, 'Lord, I haven't given You an ounce of my time ...'"

Phone calls that followed focused on the theme of offering up our repentance, faults, and struggles to Jesus in preparation for his birth on Christmas.

As the Mother Angelica LIVE episode came to a close, Mother shared a special Advent tradition they partake in at the monastery.

"In our monastery, we have a little custom. We put an empty crib out and then we have a little pan of straw, bag of straw. And do something for the Lord that's really hard or what we call virtue-like... We go pick a straw and we put it in the crib. And I say to the sisters, 'Now I hope this crib is full of straw for Christmas Eve!'"

Source: Caroline Perkins, Dec. 2, 2025, *ChurchPOP/a-time-of-penance-mother-angelicas-powerful-reminder-about-the-forgotten-truth-of-advent*

This article has inspired us to challenge Holy Cross parishioners with the same type of goal. When you add an extra Mass to your week, do a kind deed, attend the Recollection, participate in the Advent Novena beginning Dec. 16, and any other special efforts to prepare for Christmas during this Advent—put a piece of straw or hay in the empty crib you'll find in the Gerein Centre. And hope the crib is full of straw ready for the Baby Jesus on Christmas Eve!

Since we're off to a late start, good deeds and special efforts done since the start of Advent on Nov 30 may be included.

Canada continues to promote abortion:

The Liberal Government recently awarded over \$4.3 million in funding to researchers at the University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine to promote abortion to minorities, as part of over \$13 million in funding for pro-abortion groups under the "Sexual and Reproductive Health Fund".

Source: Clair Marie Merkowsky, *LifeSiteNews*, Oct. 24, 2025

What's Happening at Holy Cross 5

	2025	PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT	November 25	Year to Date
	INCOME			
	Collections	Envelopes/Loose	11,676.30	98,532.00
		Automatic debit	3,334.00	36,534.00
		E-transfer	2,795.00	15,970.00
	Fundraising	Net Income - Harvest Supper	-2,119.34	3,068.66
		Net Income - Spring Supper	0.00	1,037.11
		Net Income - Golf Tournament	0.00	15,542.77
		Net Income - Missal Sales	-251.61	-188.11
	Sundry Revenue	Donations - Other	0.00	6,044.50
		Funerals	600.00	1,950.00
		Flowers	0.00	1,370.00
		Other Sundry Revenue	585.23	8,613.38
	TOTAL INCOME		16,619.58	188,474.31
	EXPENSES			
	Administration		10,008.05	109,820.94
	Build & Ground		3,211.60	43,773.08
	Diocesan		3,100.00	34,100.00
	Ministries		1,441.14	4,848.04
	TOTAL EXPENSES		17,760.79	192,542.06
	NET INCOME		-1,141.21	-4,067.75



HOLY CROSS PARISH



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 -
(memo: 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 in the Archdiocese



MADE FOR GREAT +NESS

A CATHOLIC MEN'S EVENT

Featuring **Fr. Yannick N'Cho** Pastor for St. Joseph's Parish in Balgonie and St. Agnes Parish in Pilot Butte

Friday, December 12 at 6:00 PM

Meal Served at 6:00

Presentation and Chat at 6:30

Devotions and Confession at 7:30

Fellowship at 8:30

Holy Family Parish

1021 N McCarthy Blvd
Regina

THE ADVENT CANDLES

Advent wreaths are usually made of leaves and feature four candles, each symbolizing one of the four weeks. Three of these candles are purple and one is pink.

Purple candles signify prayer, penance, and preparation for Christ's coming. In the past, Advent was called a "little Lent," which explains the color purple, associated with repentance.

As Lent prepares Christians for Christ's resurrection at Easter, Advent serves as a time of preparation for both Christ's birth at Christmas and, in the first two weeks, reflects on His future coming.

The pink candle is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, or "Gaudete Sunday". On this day, the priest wears pink vestments during Mass. Gaudete Sunday is a celebration of joy, as it marks the halfway point of Advent and brings the faithful closer to the anticipation of Christ's birth.

The circular shape of the Advent wreath represents eternity, symbolizing a state without beginning or end. This reflects the eternal nature of God, who exists outside of time.

The wreath's green color represents hope and vitality. It reflects Christ's presence and calls us to nurture a life of grace and spiritual growth.

Source: ChurchPOP, "The Ancient Origins of the Advent Wreath & Its Profound Symbolic Meaning", Victoria Arruda, Nov. 30, 2025.



HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG DECEMBER 21 @ 3 PM DARKE HALL

Featuring:
The Tuesdays, *choir*
Barbara Flaten-Orr, *piano*
Quinn Bell, *bass*
Justin Hauck, *percussion*

Bring your family, neighbours, and holiday spirit for Deck the Hall, our first annual community Christmas carol sing-along. With The Tuesdays leading the music, we'll fill the hall with classic carols, festive favourites, and the warmth of voices raised together.

Admission is free, but registration is required.

We'll also be collecting donations for the Regina Food Bank – a small way we can make a big impact together at this time of year.



Register now at darkehall.ca
306-523-2751 | 2255 College Avenue



Volunteers Needed for Salvation Army Christmas Kettles



The Salvation Army is urgently seeking volunteers to help staff their Christmas kettles this year. This is their largest annual fundraiser, and all funds raised stay right here in Regina to support individuals and families in need.

There are **12 kettle locations across the city**, operating **daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.** Volunteers are invited to sign up for a time that works best for them.

If you can offer even a short shift to support this important work, please contact **Lauralee Fanning at 306-757-6405**. Your generosity and presence can make a real difference this Christmas season.

SALE OF TOURTIÈRES 2025 (FRENCH CANADIAN MEAT PIES)

a tourtière makes a wonderful meal anytime - a thank you gift for friends and neighbors - for co-workers or your boss - as a hostess gift ...

WHAT?

Tourtières, white or whole wheat crust

COST?

large tourtière – 20\$
small tourtière – 9\$



WHERE TO ORDER, PAY, AND PICK UP YOUR ORDER?

Paroisse Saint Jean-Baptiste, 2517, 25th Avenue, Regina

(306) 586-5006

(306) 539-5086

baptiste@accesscomm.ca

to pay through INTERAC use

phone in your order

text your order

email your order

baptiste@accesscomm.ca

What's Happening in the Archdiocese 2

STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN BITS

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." MATTHEW 24:42

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and you begin to see God's active presence in your life. You grow in gratitude, each day, for all that we have been given.

Thinking Faith S03 : E08/E12

Angels, Demons, Purgatory, and do we all worship the same God?

In this episode of Thinking Faith, Deacon Eric and Dr. Brett Salkeld respond to questions from grade 9 and 10 students at Miller Catholic High School. They dive into topics such as the nature of purgatory, offering metaphors and practical examples to help understand the process of purification. They explain how angels, including fallen angels, fit into Christian theology, touching on the distinctions between angels and humans. Finally, they tackle the question of whether Muslims, Christians, and Catholics serve the same God, **exploring the nuances** and commonalities in beliefs about God across these faiths.

<https://youtu.be/kWsxgLnZ6tQ?si=UpLIZhwpQD-PD3TI>

ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL—Bulletin Reflection

As Advent begins, Isaiah calls us to look forward to the day when nations will stream to the mountain of the Lord in peace and justice. St. Paul reminds us to awaken from spiritual sleep, putting on Christ and living in readiness. In the Gospel, Jesus urges vigilance and preparation, encouraging us to be watchful for His coming.

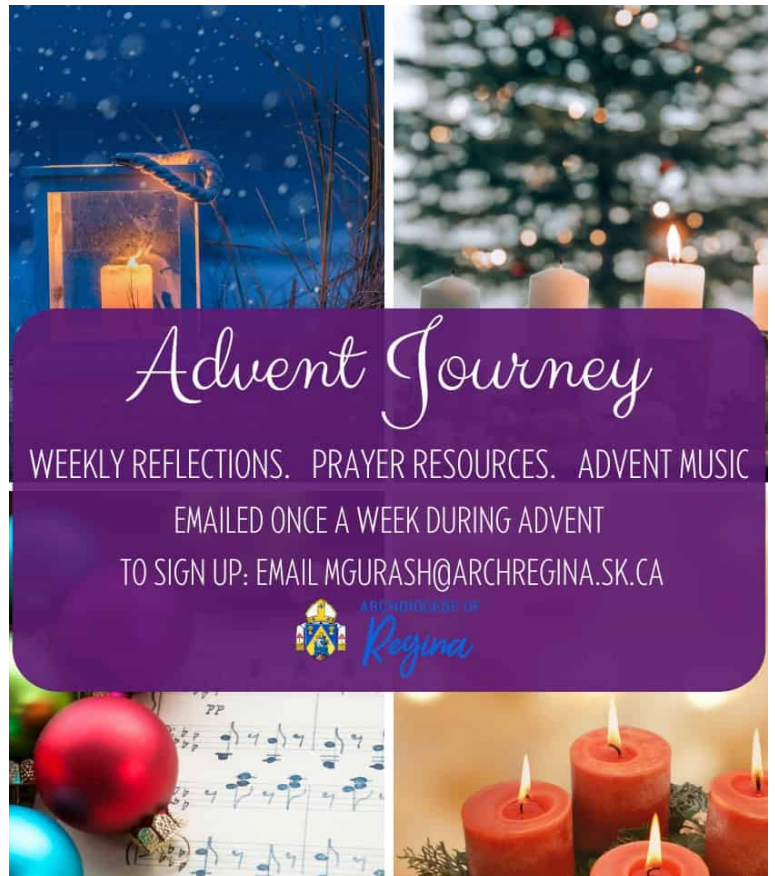
The Annual Appeal is an opportunity to prepare the way of the Lord in our parish, supporting ministries that nourish faith, hope, and charity. Your generosity helps ensure that our parish community is ready to welcome Christ with joyful hearts and open arms.

PRIEST HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Fr. J.B. Okai

306-737-0659


For those in hospital wanting to receive
the sacraments

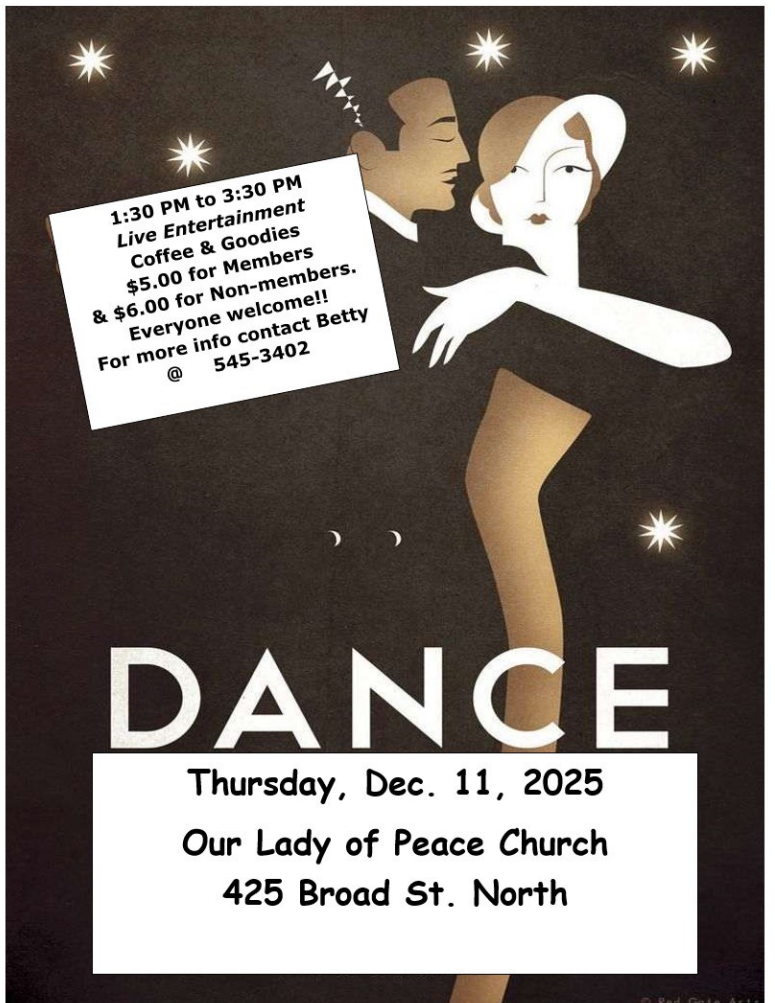


Advent Journey

WEEKLY REFLECTIONS. PRAYER RESOURCES. ADVENT MUSIC

EMAILED ONCE A WEEK DURING ADVENT
TO SIGN UP: EMAIL MGURASH@ARCHREGINA.SK.CA

 ARCHDIOCESE OF
Regina



1:30 PM to 3:30 PM
Live Entertainment
Coffee & Goodies
\$5.00 for Members
& \$6.00 for Non-members.
Everyone welcome!!
For more info contact Betty
@ 545-3402

DANCE

Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025
Our Lady of Peace Church
425 Broad St. North

© Red Gate Arts

What's Happening in the Archdiocese 3



Amici Singers present **ALL THAT HOLIDAY STUFF**

Featuring stories told by Jim Tenford

December 14, 2025
3pm
Knox Met
2340 Victoria Ave

\$20 tickets in advance or at the door
Cash only
Students are free

Corinne Groff - Artistic Director
Emma Cameron - Apprentice Director
Barbara Flaten-Orr - Piano
Jared Dormer - Percussion
Quinn Bell - Bass
Carter Powley - Woodwinds



DREAM BIG

Let Campion College
help you get there!



Campion College Scholarship Applications Open December 1!

Whether you're passionate about academics, leadership, service, or the arts, there's a scholarship designed to recognize your unique strengths and contributions. Campion's scholarships not only ease financial pressures—they celebrate the potential and promise of our students.

**Campion students are U of R students
and are also eligible for U of R scholarships!**



WHY APPLY?

- ✓ Access awards that support a wide range of achievements and interests
- ✓ Join a community committed to excellence, service, and the Jesuit tradition
- ✓ Invest in your future with support that helps you focus on what matters most—your education

Learn more at campioncollege.ca/scholarships



CAMPION COLLEGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF REGINA



We wait for the Christ Child


BOATS ON FIRE
catholic ministries

PRESENTS

A Two Evening Event:

**Monday, December 15 &
Wednesday, December 17**

7:00 Worship
7:30 Presentation
8:30 Conclusion

ST. MARTIN'S PARISH

Advent Mission

"PREPARE THE WAY
OF THE LORD"



Speaker:
Kevin Philip



Worship Lead by:
Neil Garchinski &
James Lipoth

Contact Angie for More Info: (306) 529-9802

St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church
4720 Castle Road
Regina