



Holy Cross Parish

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

BULLETIN #3

Dec. 14, 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), Nakawé (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

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THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10 / James 5: 7-10 / Matthew 11: 2-11

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

TUESDAY
December 16
Advent Weekday
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13
Mt 21:28-32

WEDNESDAY
December 17
Advent Weekday
Gn 49:2, 8-10
Mt 1:1-7

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

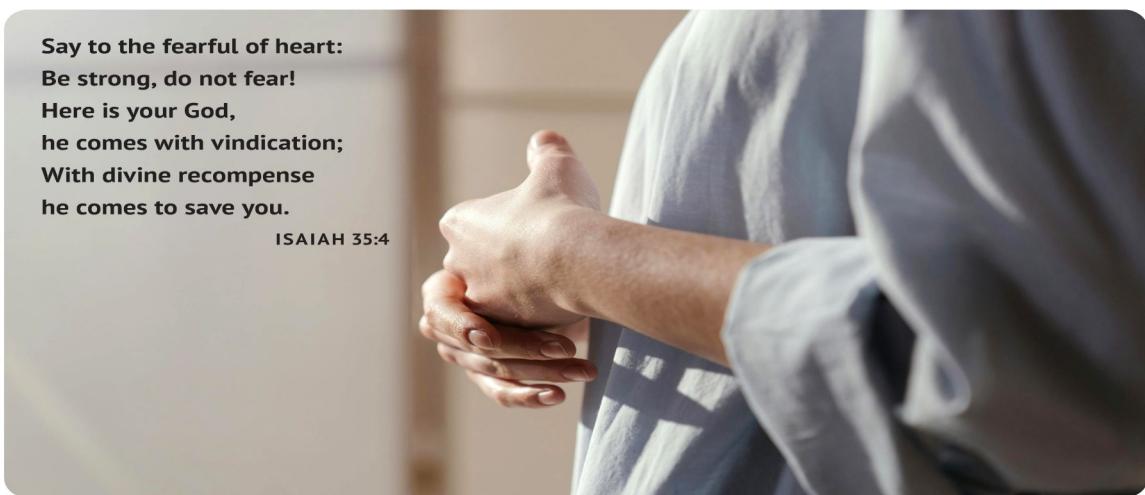
FRIDAY
December 19
Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2-7,
24-25a
Lk 1:5-25

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

SUNDAY
December 21
Fourth Sunday
of Advent
Is 7:10-14
Rom 1:1-7
Mt 1:18-24

Say to the fearful of heart:
Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
With divine recompense
he comes to save you.

ISAIAH 35:4



The Gift of Questions

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

We sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod's prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn't it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, "Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand," or, to quote an unnamed saint, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24).

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts.

Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith. ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
FR. THOMAS M.
SANTA, CSsR

Reflect

Do I welcome questions, mine and others, as a way to grow in faith?

What's Happening at Holy Cross 2

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNER—December 07, 2025

Mary-Anne Harazny

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF Dec. 13-21, 2025

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.
Tues	Dec. 16	In memory of Ted & Alma Dizy, offered by the Family.
Wed.	Dec. 17	For the repose of the soul of Sheila Phillips, offered by Dolores Deis.
Thurs.	Dec. 18	For the repose of the soul of Phong Le, offered by Margaret Preiner.
Fri.	Dec. 19	For the repose of the soul of Sheila Phillips, offered by Judy Miazga.
Sat.	Dec. 20	PRO POPULO
Sun.	Dec. 21	For the repose of the soul of Elaine Pitzel, offered by Jack & Gladys Herzberger.

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.

FOOD & CLOTHING DRIVE



Last Day!

The Knights of Columbus Food/ Clothing Drive during the Christmas season has made a change. Following the talk last Sunday by Tammy Milo about the shortage of food hampers for needy families in the Regina Catholic School System it was decided to cooperate with the Social Action Committee of Parish Council and provide the donations of Food to both the Marian Centre and the Catholic Schools.

The Marian Centre requires items such as Cheese Whiz, jams of any flavor, and peanut butter for breakfasts. 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.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The Regina Catholic School System requires more basic foods such as potatoes, rice, pasta, canned fish, meat & veggies, and juices. A financial contribution may be made by eTransfer to bookkeeper.holycross@sasktel.net with the notation "School hampers", by cash, or cheque made out to Holy Cross Parish with the same notation.

Collection Bins will be at both church entrances until Dec 14. Thank you to all of you who have contributed. This is a very worthwhile cause and supports our Catholic community. Food and clothing will be distributed on Monday, Dec. 15.



What's Happening at Holy Cross 3

PARISHIONERS' CORNER

Birthdays this week are : **Peter Bresciani** and **Ursula Roesch** on Mon. Dec. 15th; **Glenys Sylvestre** on Wed. the 17th; and **Emily Rieder** on Fri. the 19th. May God bless you all abundantly.

Did you realize that we give away \$1,700 over the year in the Calendar Raffle? \$25 a week adds up and it's always a pleasant surprise to get an unexpected \$25 "windfall" sometime during the year or maybe even \$100 if you're extra lucky. But the best part is, it helps out our parish.

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, this is your ticket.

The project to put a piece of straw in the baby crib for each good deed you do during Advent got off to an inauspicious start last week. People may have heard the message but they didn't know where the crib was. We're doubling down on our efforts and hope you've remembered your good deeds, starting Nov. 30, so the Baby Jesus has enough straw by Christmas Eve to make a comfortable bed. The crib (cradle), by the way, is on the table at the front of the church near the votive candles.

Congratulations to the Knights for their successful Christmas Carol Festival. Congratulations also to the CWL for another successful Bake Sale and Raffle. Thanks to all the parishioners who donated their delicious specialties.

The Recollection on Saturday morning last week saw 28 parishioners take advantage of this opportunity to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. Liturgy of the Hours is a nice way to pray, even if it takes us a few tries to get our parts right; it keeps us on our toes and we pay

attention. Archbishop Emeritus James Weisgerber (Winnipeg) had an interesting talk about charity towards the poor, said the Mass, and stayed for lunch with us. Many thanks to all who made this morning possible.

There are still a few more Matthew Kelly books

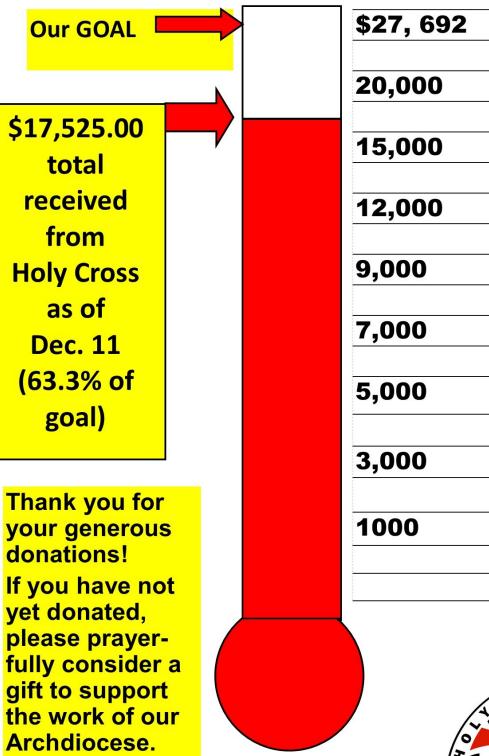
available for \$2. Don't forget to sign up if you plan to attend the book study tentatively planned for January. More news on a date later.

Fr. Ken Koep's funeral took place last Friday, Dec. 12 at Christ the King Parish. He was pastor at Holy Cross from 1980-87. Please remember him in your prayers.

We heard Finance Council Chair Gerard Woynarski last Sunday speak about Holy Cross's need for an increase in donations to be able to balance this year's budget. Care for our souls is one of the most precious things we have in this life and, though we think of it in another realm, reality shows us it requires treasures of this life to support it.



Archbishop's Appeal
2025 Our Holy Cross
Goal
Collection as of Dec. 12



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

PRO-LIFE NEWS

Alberta's Justice Minister Amery was emphatic at the UC Party Annual General Meeting when he said that Alberta can expect to see protections for minors from MAiD in the spring.

His office released the following statement: "The Alberta Government's goal is to build a continuum of care where vulnerable Albertans can live in long-term health and fulfilment.

"The current federal framework for MAiD under the Criminal Code is insufficient in providing the necessary oversight and safeguards to protect vulnerable Canadians-- including minors."

Source: Dr. Trozzi, Wins of the Week, Dec 7, 2025

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.

What's Happening at Holy Cross 4



CWL NEWS

As urged by Loretta Jelinski at our last meeting to GET BAKING!! the ladies of Holy Cross did just that and provided homemade pies, bread, buns, tarts, scones, perogies and more for a successful Christmas Bake Sale. Lots of smiling people headed home with their baked treasures, including many raffle winners.

Thank you to all bakers and buyers for your amazing support in making this a successful event. The bake sale itself earned \$1,041 and the raffle \$315 for a total of \$1,356. A portion of the profit is going to Sisters of Mission Orphanage in Peru and a portion to local CWL Charities.

Raffle winners were:

Myrna Linner	Telemiracle Bear
Beckie Giesbrecht	Towels/wine
Helen Herauf	Epicure
Aaron Liska	Crochet Angel
Lorraine Ferrara	Outdoor floral swag
Megan Fenrick	Indoor floral swag
Don Harazny	Baking tray

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. The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 3 when the Muffin Program for Sacred Heart School will kick in once again.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE April 6 –16, 2026

Since 1981 and up to the present day, this small village in Bosnia Herzegovina has been receiving a daily apparition by the Blessed Virgin Mary. Many parishioners from Holy Cross and other parishes in the Regina Archdiocese have made a pilgrimage such as this in recent years.

The following are things you will be able to see and do:

Daily Mass in St. James Church
(Patron saint of pilgrims)

Rosary on Apparition Hill

Stations of the Cross on Cross Mountain

Visit to the Cenacola Rehabilitation Centre

Visit to the Castle

Visit to Mary's Meals

Professional Guide

If you are interested in joining us on this pilgrimage call Cathleen Devraj, 306-789-0705 or email cdevraj48@gmail.com.

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 on the table at the front of the church near the votive candles. And hope the crib is full of straw from your good deeds 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.

ADVENT DATES

K of C Christmas Social	Sat. Dec. 13, 5 pm Mass
Food & Clothing Drive	Until Dec. 14
Advent Novena	Dec. 16-24 daily at 9 am, except Tues. at 7 pm

Fill the cradle with good deeds by Christmas Eve. Each piece of hay represents one good deed.

What's Happening at Holy Cross 5



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

GEREIN COUNCIL CHRISTMAS DINNER & SOCIAL

took place on Saturday, Dec 13th. Thank you to all Brother Knights and their families who attended and also wives of deceased Knights who had belonged to the Msgr. Gerein Council.

This year our Council has provided monetary support to the following organizations & charities in our community through the earnings attained from the Knights of Columbus 2025 Football Roughriders Pool:

Camp Monahan (\$280)
Santa Maria Senior Citizens Home (\$555)
K of C Indoor Games (\$280)
Special Olympics (\$280)
Holy Cross Parish (\$1,860)

In addition, our Council has provided donations to the following community organizations & charities to assist with their needs:

ALS Society (\$100)
Marian Centre (\$100)
Visitation House (\$100)
Praise in the Park (\$100)
Clergy Appreciation (Friar's Fund) (\$100)
K of C Carol Festival (\$200)
K of C Coats For Kids (\$400)
K of C Charity Appeal rebate to Holy Cross

Parish (\$424.50).

This year our Council was very proud to support Holy Cross Parish and the local Christian community to the tune of nearly \$4,800. It is through the hard work, dedication and contributions from our members that this was possible. THANK YOU!

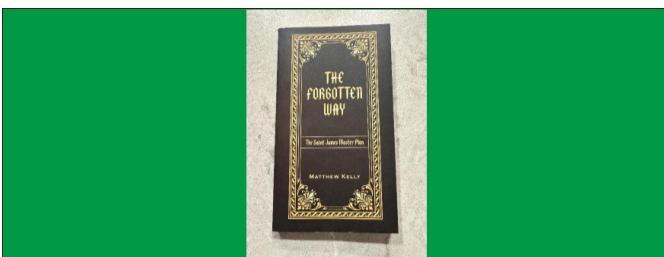
DECEMBER EVENTS

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.

The Forgotten Way – Book Study



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.

“Everyone should be quick to listen, and slow to speak”
(James 1:19)

“The promise of this book is simple; you can transform your life by the way you speak” (Matthew Kelly)

This little book is a wonderful way to reflect on the Advent season and prepare your heart for the coming of our Lord. Please sign up for the book study if you are interested (Date TBD). You can still buy the book if you choose not to attend the study. It also makes a great stocking stuffer for your family and friends! Cost—\$2.00

What's Happening at Holy Cross 6

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

GAUDETE SUNDAY, the 3rd Sunday of Advent:

We're at the half way mark, turning from the long days of darkness toward the light, from remembering and about to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child but also looking forward to His coming return in Glory.

The priest wears pink vestments; we light the pink candle as well this week. Though we remind ourselves that we need to correct our faults and turn to God more fully, we know He is near and comes with mercy and forgiveness.

With the intention to transform from our old ways, we can walk faithfully through the dark and the difficult toward a future illuminated with great joy.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL LITURGY MINISTRIES !

For Christmas & New Year's Masses

Sign up sheets are on the table in the Gerein Centre

Please let us know your availability

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. Have your requests into the office by **Mon. Dec 22 noon**.

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

STEWARSHIP BULLETIN BITS

"You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near."
James 5:8

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We can better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL—Bulletin Reflection

On Gaudete Sunday, we rejoice in the nearness of the Lord, as Isaiah proclaims the healing and restoration He brings. St. James encourages patience and steadfastness, reminding us that the Lord's coming is sure. In the Gospel, John the Baptist points to Christ's works of mercy, prompting us to recognize and rejoice in God's presence among us.

The Annual Appeal gives us an opportunity to share this joy by supporting parish ministries that heal, teach, and uplift our community. Your generosity helps bring the promise of Christ's love to life, filling hearts with hope and gladness this Advent season.

Thinking Faith E04: Re-Thinking Faith—Fostering a Contemplative Attitude Part 1

Keep awake and stay alert. These advent themes invite us to foster and develop what is known as a Contemplative Attitude - a particular way of being within the world that is 'highly tuned' to the presence of Christ in our midst. In this part one of a two-part Advent retreat, Deacon Eric reflects on this call to keep watch and how we might foster a contemplative attitude this Advent this week on Thinking Faith!

https://youtu.be/bQ39-hcrsKI?si=x5iGYLXZ6Vv_bfJR

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

EMAIL ONCE A WEEK DURING ADVENT

TO SIGN UP: EMAIL MGURASH@ARCHREGINA.SK.CA



Pastoral Centre Christmas Hours

The Archdiocese of Regina Pastoral Centre will be closed to the public for Christmas beginning Thursday, December 25. We will reopen on Friday, January 2nd. Staff from the Finance and Appeal Offices will be present occasionally between December 29th - 31st. Please call ahead if you plan to drop off at our offices.

Chelsey Kress – Financial Officer: 306-352-1651 ext 6728 ckress@archregina.sk.ca

James Lipoth – Development Officer: 306-352-1651 ext 6726 Email: jlipoth@archregina.sk.ca

Lori Garchinski or Taran Garchinski – Donor Services: 306-352-1651 ext 6733 Email giving@archregina.sk.ca

Merry Christmas from Archbishop Don and all of the staff at the Pastoral Centre!



What's Happening in the Archdiocese 2

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 Dorner - 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

Archdiocese of Regina Lay Formation: Forming Disciples, Shaping the Future

The Archdiocese of Regina Lay Formation Program gathered for its second year this past weekend. This month, they delved into Intro Theology and enjoyed a mini-Advent retreat. Our next intake will happen in the Fall of 2027. Contact Deacon Eric Gurash by email at egurash@archregina.sk.ca or by phone at 306-720-6724 for more information.

 **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