

BAA UPDATE: Thank you to those who have generously contributed to this year’s Bishop’s Annual Appeal campaign. We have received \$7,910 towards our goal of \$21,370. There is still time to make your donation to this year’s campaign, if you wish.

We are collecting **DONATIONS OF FOOD ITEMS** on an ongoing basis for **Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish** who operates a food pantry for the neighbourhood community. Please bring food items to the church and place in the baskets. The food items will be delivered to Our Lady of Guadalupe after the last Sunday of each month. Thank you very much for your support.

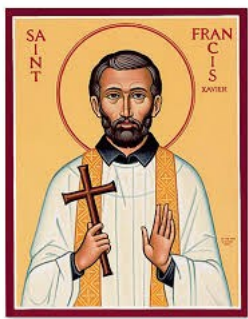
ROSARIES REQUESTED FOR PRISON MINISTRY - The diocesan Office of Restorative Ministry is seeking donations of sturdy rosaries (metal chains) for prayer with those who are in prison. Donations can be dropped off / sent to the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon (office hours are 9 am to noon, 1 p.m. to 4:30 pm weekdays). Prison ministry is supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

A CONTEMPLATIVE MASS, led by Fr. Kevin McGee, will be held **Friday, December 1 at 5 p.m.** at **St. Mary Parish**, 211 Ave. O South, Saskatoon. The rhythm of the Contemplative Mass is a gentle , steady flow, marked by 20 minutes of silence after communion. It is designated to allow space for reflection and recognition of the intimate presence of Christ who comes to us through scripture and the Eucharist. Silence in this form of worship can feel uncomfortable or awkward, especially when experienced for the first time. We encourage you to relax and rest in the abiding presence of God.

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED FOR CHAPEL - ST. ANGELA MERICI RESIDENCE at 125 Cree Crescent, Saskatoon (Lawson Heights neighbourhood) needs volunteer help for the chapel. We are looking for lectors for 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sundays, as well as singers, an organist and sacristans for Sunday Mass. Contact Judy Gatin at St. Angela Merici Residence at (306) 986-5993.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT ST. JOSEPH PARISH HALL – The San Lorenzo Ruiz Knights of Columbus Council #11429 is hosting a pancake breakfast from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on **Sunday, January 21** at St. Joseph Parish Hall on the corner of Broadway Avenue and 8th Street East in Saskatoon. Adults: \$10; Children 5-15 years: \$5, Family \$35. (*Future dates: February 18*)

2023 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE		
	ST FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH	ST JOSEPH’S PARISH
Christmas Eve	9:00pm	N/A
Christmas Day	N/A	11:00am
New Year’s Eve	N/A	N/A
New Year’s Day	9:00am	11:00am
Baptism of the Lord	9:00am	N/A



St Francis Xavier

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Fr. Hoang Nguyen—Pastor
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MISSION STATEMENT OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH
“A welcoming community, empowered by baptism, committed to the Gospel”

Sacrament of Penance:	30 minutes before Mass or by appointment
Weekday Liturgies:	Wednesdays at 9:00am (except 3rd Wednesday of the month: Adoration and Confession at 5:30pm and Mass at 6:30pm)
Eucharistic Liturgies:	Sundays at 9:00am

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

November 26, 2023

Ministries for December 3, 2023

Sacristans	Irene LeGatt
Proclaimers of the Word	Loretta Weimer & Noah Foster
Prayers of the Faithful	Brenda Ritz
Altar Servers	Guy Belliveau & Gawain Koshinski
Cross Bearer	Noah Foster
Welcomers	Dave & Betty Schurman

READINGS FOR 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you are our potter: we are all the work of your hand.
1 Corinthians 1:1-39 God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son.
Mark 13:33-37 [Jesus said], “May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.”



Finding God in the Interruptions

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI



In a biography of C. S. Lewis, A. N. Wilson describes how Lewis' life was, during virtually all of his productive years, interrupted by the demands of his adoptive mother who made him do all the shopping and housework. Lewis' brother Warnie, who also lived in the household (and who generally refused to let his own agenda be so interrupted), laments this fact in his diaries and suggests that Lewis could have been much more prolific had he not been forced to spend countless hours doing domestic chores.

Lewis himself, however, gives a different assessment. Far from being resentful about these interruptions, he's grateful and suggests that it was precisely these domestic demands that kept him in touch with life in a way that other Oxford dons were not. Wilson agrees. He suggests that it was precisely because of these interruptions, which kept Lewis' feet squarely on the ground, that Lewis was able to have such empathic insights into the everyday human condition.

We, too, must look for the hand of God in our interruptions. These often appear as a conspiracy of accidents, but through them God guides and tutors us. If we were totally in control of our own agendas, if we could simply plan and execute our lives according to our own dreams with no unwanted demands, I fear that many of us would slowly and subtly become selfish.

C. S. Lewis once said that we'll spend most of eternity thanking God for those prayers he didn't answer. I suspect we'll also spend a good part of eternity thanking God for those interruptions that derailed our plans.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: For the foreseeable future, Ryan will be in the parish office Fridays. If calling and there is no answer, please email him at rnbaker@rcdos.ca.

E-TRANSFERS: Should you wish to donate to St. Francis Xavier Parish by using E-transfers, please use the following instructions:

1. Send an e-transfer using the following e-mail: sfxsaskatoon@rcdos.ca
2. Use the following question: What is the name of our favorite shrub? The answer is willow.
3. If you wish to use your own questions, please send an email to rnbaker@rcdos.ca with the answer.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Francis Xavier Parish.

FEAST OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER: Next Sunday, **December 3**, is the Feast of St Francis Xavier. Please join us after Mass for refreshments and treats to help celebrate our parish feast day.

PENITENTIAL SERVICES: On **Tuesday, December 13**, there will be adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and reconciliation (no Mass), at 5:30pm held at St. Francis Xavier Parish. St. Joseph's Parish will be hosting a Penitential service on **Friday, December 15** at 7:30pm

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS: This Advent season, we will be collecting donations for Christmas food hampers with all donations going to St. Mary Parish's Hamper Program who is preparing Christmas hampers for the inner-city community. You can put your donation in an envelope marked with your name, address, and Christmas hampers in the collection basket.

DÉCOR AT ST FRANCIS: St. Francis will once again be accepting cash donations to purchase poinsettias in honour of loved ones. The cost of the poinsettias will be \$20.00. Payment can be made by E-transfer, cheque or cash. If using E-transfer or cheque, please note poinsettias in the memo field. If using cash, please mark the envelope for poinsettias. In the envelope, include the name(s) of the person/people for who the poinsettia is purchased for.

MITTEN TREE: The parish will again have a Mitten Tree in the welcoming area as one of our Advent activities. There will be a basket under the tree where you can place donations of socks, mitts, gloves and tuques. All items will be donated to The Bridge, a non-profit, interdenominational Christian faith ministry that works with the inner city community.

St. Francis Xavier has resumed holding **Mass at Sunnyside Care Centre** on St. Henry Avenue on the **second Thursday of every month at 2:00 pm**. The next Mass is scheduled for **December 14, 2023**. We are looking for volunteers to assist with the mass. If you are interested in volunteering or participating, please speak to Fr. Hoang or Jo-Anne Lund for details. All are welcomed to attend.

The **2023-2024 MISSALS** are now available and can be purchased in the welcoming area after mass. The cost is \$5.00.

