

We will be **DECORATING THE CHURCH** for the Christmas season after mass on December 17th. All parishioners are welcomed to stay and help.

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

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.

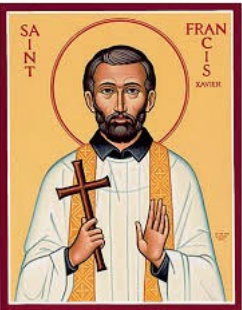
ROSARIES REQUESTED FOR PRISON MINISTRY - The diocesan Office of Restorative Ministry is seeking donations of sturdy rosaries (metal chains) for prayer with those who are in prison. Donations can be dropped off / sent to the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon (office hours are 9 am to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

Do your Christmas shopping and support **SERENA SASKATCHEWAN** at the same time. Our annual Silent Auction is open online Friday, December 1 to Thursday, December 7 at 7pm (SK time). Start bidding at <https://myminiauction.com/serena>. Prize pick-up will be in Saskatoon Friday, December 8 from 4-7pm; alternate pick-up times can be arranged if needed. Feel free to share the link!

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*)

	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
email: hnguyen@rcdos.ca
Ryan Baker—Office Administrator
email: rnbaker@rcdos.ca

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

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

Ministries for December 17, 2023

Sacristans	Irene LeGatt
Proclaimers of the Word	Jo-Anne Lund & Betty Schurman
Prayers of the Faithful	Guy Belliveau
Altar Servers	Loretta Weimer & June Furmanic
Cross Bearer	Irene LeGatt
Welcomers	Rosalyn Kohle & Arlene Hodges

READINGS FOR THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
I will rejoice heartily in the LORD, my being exults in my God.

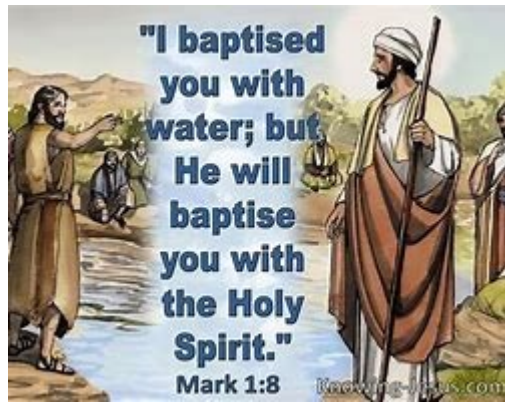
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

John 1:6-8, 19-28
[John the Baptist said,] “I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’”



Prepare the Way of the Lord

Sr Dianne Bergant, CSA



The admonition in the title of this reflection is found in the reading from Isaiah and in the Gospel passage. Isaiah describes a long line of exiles returning to Jerusalem after many hard years in Babylon. God leads them back home. In preparation for God's and the people's entry, the way is made clear: "Every valley shall be lifted up...The rugged land shall be a plain" (Isaiah 40:4). The road is repaired, just as we might do if someone important were coming to town. The Gospel writer reinterprets this passage. Instead of repairing an actual roadway, the words of John the Baptist prepare for the entrance of Jesus into his public ministry.

Despite their differences, both passages speak of the "way of the Lord," which is the way of salvation.

The people are told they will get a new start. In the first reading it will be after exile; in the Gospel it is the new ministry of Jesus. Even St. Peter refers to this newness. He calls it "new heavens and a new earth" (2 Peter 3:13). He goes on to explain what this means. It will be existence "in which righteousness dwells." Saint Peter further states that this will come to pass on "the day of the Lord," the day when God's promises will be fulfilled and "all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9–10).

The events described in all three readings unfold because of God's merciful love of all. It is for such a day that we are called to prepare. Are we willing to exert the effort? Are we willing to listen to God's words?

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.

PENITENTIAL SERVICES: On **Tuesday, December 12**, 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 hampers with all donations going to St. Mary Parish's Hamper Program who is preparing Christmas hampers for the inner-city community. Please make cheques payable to St. Francis Xavier Parish. 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 \$25.00. 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.

The **ENVELOPES FOR THE WEEKLY OFFERING** for 2024 are now available for pick up in the welcoming area. If you are set up for Pre-Authorized Donations, and would like a set of "Special Collection" envelopes, please email Ryan at rnbaker@rcdos.ca and he will prepare a set for you for 2024. If you are wanting to sign up for Pre-Authorized Donations, please email Ryan and he will send you a sign up form.

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.

