

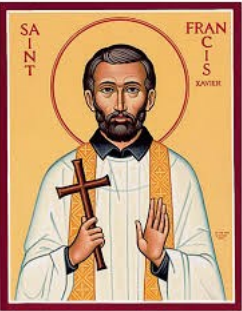
PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT ST. JOSEPH PARISH HALL – The San Lorenzo Ruiz Knights of Columbus Council #11429 is hosting a pancake breakfast from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on **Sunday, January 21** at St. Joseph Parish Hall on the corner of Broadway Avenue and 8th Street East in Saskatoon. Adults: \$10; Children 5-15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

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.

The **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OF SASKATOON** and Campaign Life Coalition Saskatchewan will be hosting a screening of the documentary film called "Roe Canada", on **Monday, January 22nd** at 7 pm, at the Cathedral of the Holy Family hall. Admission is by free will offering. The film discusses how Canada can effect the change of hearts away from abortion, in a post Roe v Wade era, and how we can transfer some successes in the USA to Canada. For more information contact Louis - 306-249-2764

SCAM ALERT – Fraudulent messages continue to circulate via e-mail, as well as via text and message apps, allegedly coming from our priests, bishop, or others in the Catholic community, asking for money, gift cards, or other gifts. DISREGARD all such messages! Do NOT reply or engage with the individuals sending these messages. The e-mail addresses typically look like they could be real (using names, titles, etc.). Do NOT send gift cards, money, or cash transfers if requested to do so over e-mail or via text message. If you receive messages asking for help like this from our bishops or priests or other leaders, either contact their offices directly to check whether the messages are authentic, or just ignore. If you are the victim of fraud, contact your local police or RCMP office.



St Francis Xavier

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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

Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2024

Ministries for January 14, 2024

Sacristans	Arlene Hodges & Rosalyn Kohle
Proclaimers of the Word	Kiply Yaworski & Jim Moorhead
Prayers of the Faithful	Guy Belliveau
Altar Servers	Arlene Hodges & Rosalyn Kohle
Cross Bearer	Lane Foster
Welcomers	Marg Dewey & Nancy Greenizen
Coffee Preparation before Mass	Loretta & Gil Weimer
Coffee Clean Up after Mass	Loretta & Gill Weimer

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

So [Eli] said to Samuel, “Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’”

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you?

John 1:35-42

[Jesus said,] “You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas (which is translated Peter).”

Beneath the Whitewash

Fr. Ron Rollheiser, OMI



There is a story told in Holland about an old church. For many years, upon entering it, everyone would stop and bow in the direction of a whitewashed wall. Nobody knew exactly why anybody did that, but everyone had been doing it for such a long time that nobody questioned it. It was tradition. It felt right. One day, the parish decided to renovate the church. They began to strip the paint and whitewash off the old walls. They discovered traces of a painting on the wall that everyone bowed to. They gently peeled off the whitewash so as not to damage what was beneath it. Slowly, a very beautiful, centuries-old painting of Christ emerged. Nobody alive was old enough to have actually seen it before. It had been hidden for at least a century. Yet everyone had been bowing to it, not knowing why, but sensing that there was a good reason for the reverence. There is a Christmas lesson in that. Western culture still bows toward the crib of Bethlehem. Like the people in that church in Holland, many are unclear why we are doing what we are doing. There is not much conscious faith left in secular Christmas celebrations, just a habitual response to a tradition. But—as the story of the recovered painting can teach us—that’s not all bad. It’s better than not bowing to the wall at all. At least we still have the sense that there is something special beneath the whitewash. If we are among the ones who know that there is a painting of Christ behind the whitewash, our response should not be one of cynicism. Our task is not to stop the bowing or the celebration. Our task is to help peel off the whitewash, to help restore the painting beneath it, and to tell the story of who did the painting and why. The best way to help our culture to celebrate Christmas properly is not by criticizing how it celebrates, but by celebrating in a better way. Let our joy exceed that of the commercial world! Let our bow be deeper and more aware of the marvelous gift that’s behind the whitewash: the gift of the Incarnation of our God!

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.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS: Thank you to all who contributed to this year’s Christmas Hamper campaign. As a parish, we were able to raise \$475.00 to help support St. Mary’s Parish create over 300 hampers this year.

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.

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 **January 11, 2024**. 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.

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.

“ON LIVING TRADITION: CATHOLIC CULTURE AND THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE OF FINE ART” is the topic of Rebuilding Catholic Culture’s 7th Annual Dessert Night and Talk at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 1235 12th Street, Saskatoon (doors open at 6:30 pm). Dr. Peter Kwasniewski, a speaker, composer, and scholar who has written more than 20 books on beauty, music, and liturgy, will give an exciting lecture on the tradition of the fine arts in Catholic culture. This will be followed by the famous cheesecake and brownie bar. This event is free of charge, but we do ask that you consider making a free will donation. Space is limited: please RSVP your attendance by contacting Celene Sidloski at (306) 715-1541 or e-mail her at csidloski@stmcollege.ca.

