



December 24, 2020 – Jan. 10, 2021 – The Christmas Season

Dec. 24-25 – Feast of the Nativity of the Lord



In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them...“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the

heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”...So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger...The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke 2:8-14,16,20



The year 2020 has brought in a lot of big changes in our way of life, and this is mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those things we have been used to every year – parties, gifts, decorations, reunions and the like may not be possible at this time due to various safety precautions. And many of us may somehow feel disheartened realizing that our Christmas celebration this year will be totally different from what we have been used to.

However, if we come to think of it, this pandemic may have been leading us towards the essence of a truly meaningful Christmas celebration. Let’s refresh “the original Christmas” in Bethlehem: nothing but centered on disadvantaged people in disadvantaged circumstances – poor family refused of a dignified human shelter; poor baby in swaddling clothes; humble manger, poor shepherds, sheep, in a cold winter night. And this image reminds us of the central meaning of Christmas: The **Eternal Word becoming flesh**. As we always say, “**Jesus is the reason for the Season.**” And this is precisely the main calling of the Season: not material, but spiritual; not external but internal.

I write this message on the day of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. What is the reason for Mary’s greatness? Besides, her whole life showed: **It is Jesus and only Jesus**. In these times of troubling uncertainties, may we always have confident recourse to her motherly protection and care. May she always inspire us to be humble and obedient children of God “...that God’s Word to us will be fulfilled and that nothing is impossible with God.”

“God can write straight with crooked lines.” In His wisdom and love, He makes sure something good still comes out of every human experience, no matter how unfortunate and painful it may be.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Fr. Ferdinand

Dec. 31 is the deadline for 2020 Archbishop’s Appeal donations. \$16,325 has been donated (57% of our parish goal) as of Dec. 19.

St. Peter Parish, 100 Argyle Street, Regina, SK S4R 4C3
stpeterregina.ca, 306-545-4411, stpete@sasktel.net
Office hours: Mon Wed Fri 9:30-1:30, Tue Thu 2:00-6:00
Mass attendance organizers: speteryqr@gmail.com

Pastor: Fr. Ferdinand Eusebio
Weekend/special Masses: see inside
Regular Weekday Masses: Tue 6:00 p.m., Wed - Fri 9:00 a.m.
Confessions/anointing/death: 306-807-0960 (10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

Dec. 27 – Feast of the Holy Family



Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God.

Luke 2:27-28

The just Simeon saw him with his heart, because he recognized the infant. He saw him with his eyes, because he took the infant in his arms. Seeing him in both ways, recognizing the Son of God, and cuddling the one begotten of the Virgin, he said, “Now, Lord, you are letting your servant go in peace, since my eyes have seen your salvation.” Notice what he said. You see, he was being kept until he should see with his eyes what he already perceived with faith. He took the baby body, he cradled the body in his arms. On seeing the body, that is, on perceiving the Lord in the flesh, he said, “My eyes have seen your salvation.” How do you know this is not the way in which all flesh is going to see the salvation of God?

St. Augustine, Sermon 277.17 as quoted in *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Luke*, Verbum.com electronic edition.

- Thanks to the efforts and sacrifices of many people here, throughout the Archdiocese, and elsewhere, the Church has made the graces of Christmas available to all of us, even those who are unable to be at Mass. Even then, let us *participate* remotely and *rejoice* in our Lord’s coming!
- Special thanks, therefore, to Fr. Ferdinand, priests who do online or TV Masses, our organizers, and ushers!
- Some Catholics here and at other parishes have been pointing out, understandably, that our churches can very safely fit more than 30 (plus priest and necessary volunteers) at a time, while crowding is being tolerated in stores. While we do not deny these things, please understand that in any case, **we cannot afford to pay the fines that could indeed come if we let more people in.** Therefore we are not here listing again Christmas and New Year’s Mass times, whose attendance lists are full, to discourage walk-ins. Our organizers will have communicated the times to those who can come.
 - If anyone finds that they cannot come to a Mass for which they are scheduled, please contact the organizers at speteryqr@gmail.com; or let the Office know at 306-545-4411.
 - Regular weekday Masses Dec. 28-30 and Jan. 5 are cancelled.
 - School students and staff, we have missed having you over for pageants, retreats, and other special events!
 - Bulletin deliveries were suspended in November due to safety concerns. We anticipate that they will resume in the spring. Christmas bulletins were mailed out to those on the delivery list who were not scheduled to come in to Mass, but they will not normally be mailed out.
 - Lectors are asked to bring their Missals to Mass to read from at Mass, as an extra COVID-related safety precaution.
 - To donate online, see archregina.sk.ca/giving.
 - Thanks and blessings to our CWL, who have just donated \$3,500, and to all groups and individuals who donated in 2020! Our tax receipts will be out in February.
 - St Peter's Youth Art Guild is looking for emerging young artists! No fees – art materials are supplied. Ages 8 to 18 welcomed. Currently classes are held via Zoom for distance learning due to Covid-19 on the 1st Thursday of each month. Registration forms are available from our Office. You are welcome to contact Dawna with questions at 306-543-6533 or ddecorby@sasktel.net.
 - The Parish Office will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 4. We will still check email and phone messages, and process Annual Appeal donations (submit by Dec. 31).

Jan. 3 – Epiphany of the Lord

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Isaiah 60:1-3

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."... On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage...And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Mt 2:7-8,11-12



Christmas Messages from St. Peter's Council, Committees and Groups

This last year, our faith has certainly been tested with COVID, and we must continue to pray as we get through this. I do want to thank all past members of Parish Council for their service, and the new and current members that continue to assist Fr. Ferdinand with St. Peter's Ministries. Also, a special thank you goes out to Bernie Flynn, our last Parish Council chair. Our church is facing a different time with COVID restrictions, but we learned to adjust to the lower numbers that are allowed to attend services, which does reflect on church donations. However, we continue to make changes that are required, and we pray soon we can get back to some sort of normality. It's our faith that will get us through this particular moment.

I want to take this opportunity on behalf of St. Peter's to say a special thank you to Fr. Ferdinand for his spiritual leadership, Luke and Ron for their dedication for the day to day operations, and all those who assist.

During this time, let us reflect on the Gift of Christmas with the birth of Jesus, the love of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the importance of family and friends. Merry Christmas to everyone! Best of 2021. Be safe, healthy and let's pray to get through this pandemic! God Bless.

-Ken Dumont, PPC Chair.

We wish everyone a blessed and safe Christmas!

- Iris and Claudette, St. Peter's Pastoral Care ministry

Warmest Christmas Wishes to the parishioners of St. Peter Parish. May the new year bring you blessings of health and happiness in the days to come. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

-Yours in song from the St. Peter Music Ministry Team.

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him a hand" (Mother Teresa). On behalf of all Liturgy Committees; a heartfelt "THANK YOU" for all your support throughout this past year! May You be Showered with Christmas Each Day!

-Bernadette Gehl, Liturgy

As the Christmas Season is upon us, we find ourselves reflecting on the many challenges over the past year. Coming together as a Parish Family we are truly Bless. The Finance Committee would like to thank everyone in the parish for their support. We continue to come together to help our Parish in times of need. During this Holy Season I Would like to wish you and your family a Blessed Christmas and prosperous New Year. Remember to Keep Christ In Christmas. God Bless.

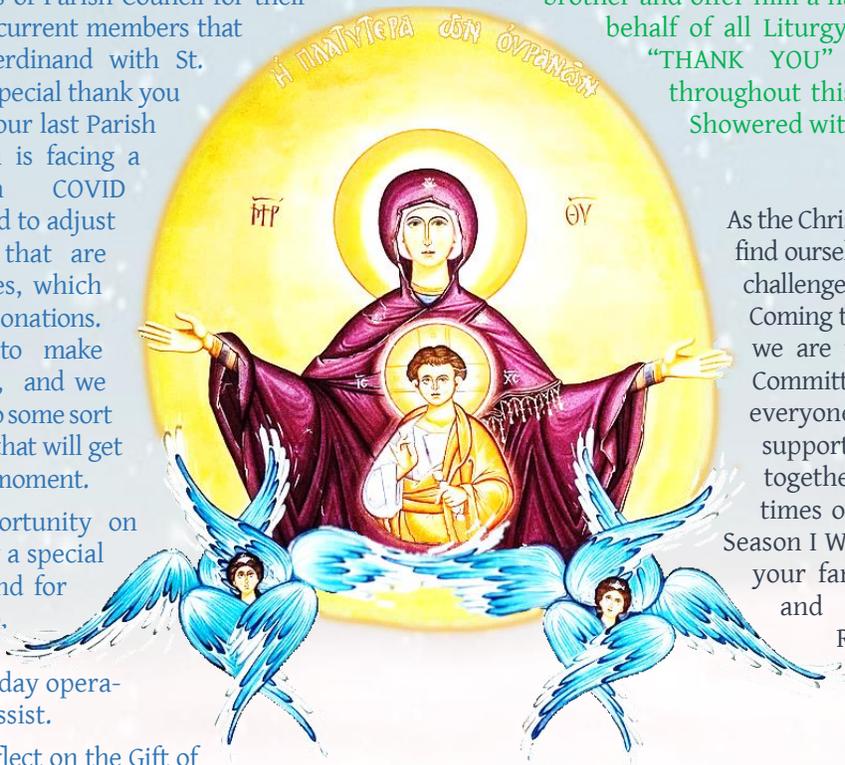
-George Penn,
Financial Chair

May the season of Advent be a time filled with reflection and waiting anticipation and bring the message of hope for all in this challenging year. At Christmas, may the birth of the Christ child bring love & joy to our hearts; enlightenment to our minds; and the spirit of peace. Let us welcome him into our lives with confidence and trust. May the joys of the Christmas season fill your heart throughout the New Year. On behalf of the Ladies' and Men's Auxiliary, Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year.

-Ken Hegel, President

On behalf of St. Peter's CWL, we wish everyone the gifts of joy, peace and love this Christmas and always.

-Patricia Mulvay, CWL President





The Marian Centre wishes to thank all who have continued to support them and their lunch program this past year, especially during these Covid days.

We have continued to serve bagged lunch meals at the door, including the baked goods, sandwich ingredients and other items which are donated or purchased with money given to us. We will (please God!) serve a Christmas meal 'do go' this Christmas Day.

Requests for men's clothing are more limited this year, and are primarily for warm coats, winter foot ware and winter gloves. We are privileged to serve Christ, the Poor One, who comes to our door and we give thanks to many of you who by your prayers and support make this possible.

Merry Christmas!

Marian Centre Staff



The Knights of Columbus of our parish would like to **thank you, our parishioners**. Ten years ago, we started collecting winter clothing. At first, we collected for schools alone, St. Luke, St. Peter, St. Timothy and some schools outside our area. Then **you were so generous** - we also received adult clothing which we gave to Marian Centre, Carmichael Outreach and some other locations. **All who received were so thankful!** So, we had to try one more year - our tenth. With Covid, the decision was made to just collect one day. Again, many of you gave so much.

If we had a container - as wide as the center isle (about 6'), as tall as Ken Hegel and George Penn (about 6') reaching from the front pews to the back doors (about 56') - in ten years, we have collected over 2,000 cubic feet of clothing (everyone likes a little mathematics). For ten years, our parish has made so many people so very happy for Christmas! Thank you so very much! God bless!

This Advent, as we reflect and await the coming of the Christ Child, we recognize that this has been an extraordinarily challenging year. At Christmas, when the Christ Child comes quietly into our noisy world, may the message of the first Christmas, that the Saviour has been born to us, fill your hearts and your homes with love and joy. On behalf of the St. Peter's Knights of Columbus, A Blessed Christmas - with all good wishes to you and your family for health and happiness this coming year.

-Ken Hegel, Grand Knight



As we celebrate Jesus' birth let's rejoice in the glory of the Lord who blessed us with his son to protect and guide us. Merry Christmas and all the best for 2021.

St. Peter's Senior Citizens Society

The true heart of Christmas is one of peace, love, and joy. May any festive stress caused by the pandemic fade and be replaced with these. Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas hope, good health, and happiness in 2021.

-Marlene Hopfauf and Charmaine Offet, Burial Aid Society

As we think and pray everyday about the well-being and happiness of everyone we serve, especially those who are isolated and suffering over Christmas, the words of a famous nun who was an art expert keep returning to my mind. She was asked in a TV interview whether she was glad when she could get out of her cloister. Surprised, she began her answer by saying that life in the cloister was bliss. Contemplation was her main passion; art was a hobby that became a side mission. Since we haven't been called to be nuns or monks, we think of isolation and poverty as great hardships. But the contemplative union with God that can make it blissful, an angelic way of thinking and loving, seems to be something that we are all called to (Mt 22:30, CCC 2028) and capable of, a grace offered in the life of faith at some point in its right development. To all parishioners and friends, esp. those with crosses, we wish you the *deepest Christmas bliss* of that life with the Christ child, together with Sts. Mary and Joseph!

St. Peter Parish Office

Date Day/Time		Intention	Date Day/Time		Intention
Dec. 19- Jan. 10 Special Mass Intentions			25	Fr 9:30, 11:00 a.m.	All parishioners / Barb Pelltier
			3	Su 9:30, 11:00 a.m.	All parishioners / available
			26	Sa 4:30, 6:00 p.m.	Available / Rene Carignan
			5	Tu 6:00 p.m.	cancelled
19	Sa 4:30, 6:00 p.m.	†Teresa Zerr / †Branimir Simic	27	Su 9:30, 11:00 a.m.	All parishioners / Jovita Gahite
20	Su 9:30, 11:00 a.m.	All parishioners / Barb Pelltier	6	We 9:00 a.m.	available
			7	Th 9:00 a.m.	†William Labash
22	Tu 6:00 p.m.	†Branimir Simic	No Masses here Dec. 28-30.		
23	We 9:00 a.m.	†Mike Mayer	31	Th 6:00 p.m.	†Len Schuett
			8	Fr 9:00 a.m.	available
24	Th 4:30, 6:00, 8:00 p.m.	†Dick and †Clifford / †Frank Chopik	1	Fr 9:30, 11:00 a.m.	All parishioners / Barb Pelltier
			9	Sa 4:30, 6:00 p.m.	available
			2	Sa 4:30, 6:00 p.m.	†Branimir Simic / available
			10	Su 9:30, 11:00 a.m.	All parishioners / available

- Hospital chaplains: **Pasqua**, 306-519-1380. **Wascana**, 306-530-6511. **General**, 306-519-1405.