



St. Mary's Parish

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ST. MARY'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

January-February, 2021

WELCOME to ORDINARY TIME 2021: During ordinary time the Church celebrates the fullness of the mystery of the Lord Jesus Christ. The people of God offer praise by celebrating the Paschal Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. On the first day of the week the Lord's Day, God assembles the beloved people to hear the Word, to reflect upon it, to offer the living sacrifice of praise, to eat and drink the banquet of the Lord. Then God sends them forth to proclaim this love by their words and actions. (*Ordo Catholic Calendar 2020-2021*)

May our actions and prayers reflect this Good News in the daily journey with our sisters and brothers!

POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION

May the Lord give us the grace
to live in full Fellowship
with our brothers and sisters of other religions,
praying for one another
open to all.

(*Columbia magazine, January 2021*)



COVID 19 UPDATE: The Government of Saskatchewan have extended our present guidelines issued on November 27, 2020 to February 19, 2021. Please review these on the parish website. (www.stmaryssaskatoon.org)

For St. Mary's the important guideline is that we are still permitted ONLY 30 people at each Mass. This does not include priest, lector, organist or usher. Registration for Mass will continue and will be reviewed as new guidelines are announced in the future.

PARISH COMMITTEE MEETINGS: A meeting of the newly formed **Property Committee** was scheduled for January 12th. However, after a Covid-19 scare, it had to be postponed to Monday, February 1st. Members of this committee are Jose Alas, Karl Baumgartner, Nick Blom, Vince and Gene Osika, Brendan Rogal and Kurt Stang, as well as Fr. Mick. Their first task will be to evaluate each of the 3 facilities (church, hall and rectory) and to create a seasonal plan for care and maintenance. Over the next month, the following projects are planned: a major cleaning of the Church interior, re-painting of both the lower and upper hall, and new flooring to be installed in both upper kitchen and lower kitchens. Hopefully, come spring, we will again smell the aroma of sausages and eggs in the hall!

There was a joint meeting of the **Parish Pastoral Council** and the **Finance Council** on January 19th, at which our financial operations for the 2020 year were reviewed, and preparations for the upcoming Annual General Meeting were begun. The AGM meeting for 2020 will be held in the upper hall, a date and time for this meeting is still to be determined.

A meeting of the **Liturgy Committee** is scheduled for **Saturday, January 30th at 2:00 pm in the Hall**. Please let the office know if you cannot attend. As we have now received the most recent directives from the Provincial Government and our Diocese, we will be able to begin to make preparations for the season of Lent and the celebration of Easter.

FEAST of the PRESENTATION of the LORD: On February 2nd, the Bishops of Canada will be celebrating a special Mass for the Consecration of Canada and the Church to the protection of St. Joseph. Please join us for the 9:00am Mass on Tuesday, February 2nd. If you have candles you would like blessed, bring them for blessing following Communion.

There will be a special **Liturgy of Consecration** livestreamed from Holy Family Cathedral on Tuesday, February 2nd, at 7:00pm. You are invited to join in this celebration.

WORLD DAY of PRAYER for CONSECRATED LIFE: February 2nd. The purpose of this day is “to help the entire church to esteem ever more greatly the witness of those persons who have been chosen to follow Christ by means of evangelical counsels”. (*St. John Paul II, 1997*)

On February 3rd, the **Feast of St. Blaise**, there will not be individual blessings of the throat, but the Prayer Blessing will be given to all following the Mass. Later, when the pandemic is over, we will give the individual Blessing to those who wish to receive it.

WORLD DAY of the SICK: will be celebrated on February 11th, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. World Day of the Sick “is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and those who provide assistance and care in both healthcare institutions and within families and communities. We think in particular of those who have suffered, and continue to suffer, the effects of the world wide coronavirus pandemic.” (*Pope Francis, 2021*) Please join us for Mass at St. Mary’s on Thursday, February 11th, 9:00am.

LENT & EASTER: Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th, and Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 28th. The sacred Easter Triduum begins with Holy Thursday on April 1st, Good Friday on April 2nd, Easter Vigil on April 3rd, and Easter Sunday April 4th.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION: This year grade 2 children in our parish will be celebrating the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Reconciliation will take place in the 5th week of Lent, and First Holy Communion will be celebrated during Easter season. Further information will be forwarded to parent’s homes, and to our parish program coordinator.

RITE of CHRISTIAN INITIATION of ADULTS: There are two candidates from St. Mary’s taking part in the RCIA program. They are receiving faith instruction with other candidates of the St. Paul’s Co-Cathedral community, but will be celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation with St. Mary’s during Easter Mass..

PARISH OFFERTORY: The heart (majority) of our parish income comes from our Sunday Envelope users and those using the Pre-Authorized Debit plan, and our thanks go out to them. The 2021 Offertory Envelopes have been ready for pick-up since late December. We are aware that a fair number of envelope users can not attend church on a regular basis because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Your Offertory Envelopes can be picked up at the parish office, or if you are unable to pick up, we will arrange to drop off your envelopes to you. We are so grateful for all those who continue to support St. Mary’s even in the midst of the Pandemic. May the good Lord continue to bless and protect you and those you love.



THANK YOU! I want to express, on behalf of our parish, a special word of thanks to all those who helped to make our Christmas and New Year’s celebrations so wonderful! The musicians and singers, the lectors who proclaimed the Word, those involved in the décor, those who sanitized following each Mass, those who assisted registrants at the door, the collection counters, and those of you who attended the various Masses, as well as our great volunteers in the office. A heartfelt thank you to all of the above! Fr. Mick

PLEASE REMEMBER in PRAYER:

Those who are sick...

Carol Kohnke, Nicholas Nunes-Garcia, Johanna Blom,

Those who have died recently...

†Giovanni Orlando, † Santina Paula Urbano, † Angela Knowles,

† Juana Astargo-Cuevas, †Aaron Caswell

Your deeds may be the only sermon some people hear today. - (St. Francis of Assisi)