



**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

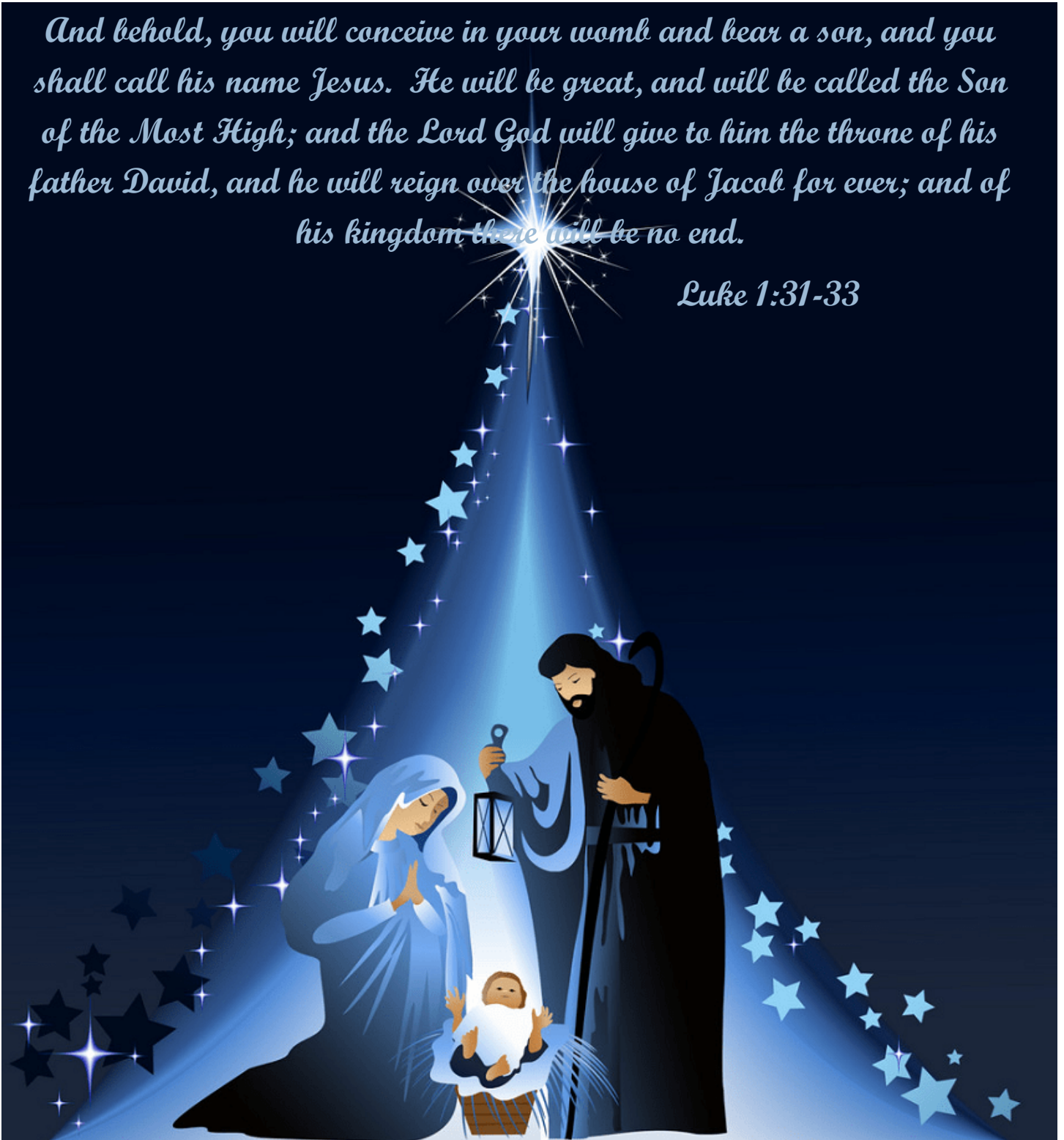
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH  
Estevan, SK

FAITHFUL • WELCOMING • FAMILY

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!*

*And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.*

*Luke 1:31-33*



## Christmas Holy Mass Schedule

### 4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23 at 5pm (Estevan)  
 Saturday, December 23 at 7pm (Torquay)  
 Sunday, December 24 at 10am (Estevan)

### Christmas Eve-Nativity of the Lord

Sunday, December 24 at 5pm and 7pm (Estevan)  
 Sunday, December 24 at 9pm (Bienfait)

### Christmas Day-Nativity of the Lord

Monday, December 25 at 8am (Torquay)  
 Monday, December 25 at 10am (Estevan)

*"But Mary Kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart."*

*Luke 2:19*

*"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."*

*Luke 2:11*

### New Year's Eve-Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday, December 30 at 5pm (Estevan)  
 Saturday, December 30 at 7pm (Torquay)  
 Sunday, December 31 at 8am (Bienfait)  
 Sunday, December 31 at 10am (Estevan)

### New Year's Day-Mary the Holy Mother of God

Monday, January 1 at 10am (Estevan)

### St. John the Baptist Holy Mass Schedule

Sat. Dec. 30	5pm Estevan; †Irene Kuemper
Sat Dec. 30	7pm Torquay; †Anton & Special Intentions
Sun. Dec. 31	8am Bienfait; †Jason Stefanski
Sun. Dec. 31	10am Estevan; Mass for the People
Mon. Jan. 1	10am Estevan; Mass for the People
Tues. Jan. 2	6:30pm Estevan; †Molly Heier
Wed. Jan. 3	10am Hillview; †Alphonse and †Clara Mehler
Wed. Jan. 3	11am Hospital; In Thanksgiving
Thurs. Jan. 4	9am Estevan; Special Intentions of Kendra Fai
Fri. Jan. 5	9am Estevan; †Mannie Mack
Sat. Jan. 6	5pm Estevan; In Thanksgiving
Sat. Jan. 6	7pm Torquay; In Thanksgiving for Father Lucey
Sun. Jan. 7	8am Bienfait; In Thanksgiving
Sun. Jan. 7	10am Estevan; Mass For The People

### Christmas Flowers

Thank you to the families who have donated for Christmas and Christmas season flowers in memory of their departed loved ones, and in thanksgiving. May your families be blessed through the Christmas season and may your loved ones rest forever in the loving arms of Jesus.

#### **In Thanksgiving for:**

The Kuntz Family  
 Connie Wheeler  
 The Pangan Family  
 The Masepequena Family



#### **Flowers in Memory of:**

Dorothy and Robert Price  
 Isabelle and Casper Jenish  
 Audie and Molly Heier  
 Lucas Bittman  
 Deceased Memebers of  
 D'Souza, Fernandez and Alfonso Families  
 Ian Fernandez

## A Heartfelt Christmas Message

Dear Beloved Parishioners, grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I am filled with joy and gratitude as I reach out to you as the newly appointed pastor of our cherished parish. It is with immense pleasure that I extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you as we approach the glorious celebration of the birth of our Lord.

In these initial months, I have been truly blessed to witness the strength of faith and unwavering devotion that characterizes our Parish Community. Your commitment to living out the teachings of Christ and your dedication to our shared Catholic values have left a profound impression on my heart. Your love for God and one another is a testament to the vibrant spirit that thrives within our parish.

As I reflect upon the generosity displayed by our parishioners, I am moved by the selflessness and kindness that defines our community. Your support, both financial and spiritual, is the strength of our parish, allowing us to continue spreading the message of love, hope, and faith to those in need. Your acts of kindness do not go unnoticed, and I am deeply grateful for the unity and strength that your contributions bring to our shared mission. This Christmas season, let us come together as a community to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. In the spirit of love and fellowship, let us open our hearts to the joy and peace that His arrival brings. As we exchange gifts and gather with loved ones, may we be mindful of the greatest gift of all—the gift of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am excited about the journey that lies ahead for our parish, and I am confident that, with God's grace and your continued devotion, we will thrive as an inspiration of faith, hope, and love in our community.

May this Christmas be filled with the warmth of family, the joy of fellowship, and the peace that surpasses all understanding. Know that you are cherished and appreciated for the unique role each of you plays in our Parish Family.

Wishing you a blessed and Merry Christmas!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Thuy Nguyen

### Pastoral Care Ministry

Our team has grown to include many ministers. We vary in age and gifts but together we are so grateful for the blessings we receive through our Pastoral Care Ministry. We offer regular training workshops and welcome anyone who feels a call to serve our parish in this way.

#### Senior Care Ministry

We have been blessed with the opportunity to provide ministry in all of our senior care facilities. Communion services are celebrated every week in each home with Holy Mass at the chapel at St. Joseph's Hospital on a weekly basis. We celebrate Holy Mass in each care home once a month. We also provide a Word of God Liturgy with Communion twice a month at Mainprize Manor in Midale. We have made new friends and are enjoying the gift that each of our seniors give us through their unfailing faith. We truly receive more than we give.

#### Home Communion Ministry

We are working to expand our Pastoral Care Ministry to serve all in need. Our ministry team is available to provide home communion to those who are not able to attend mass due to physical or other limitations. Offering Holy Communion in our senior Parishioners homes is a key piece to our goal serving everyone in our Parish Family. If you or someone in your family would like a minister to provide home communion please let us know.

#### Prayer Shawl Ministry

We are fortunate to have gifted ministers who are willing to give their time to pray as they knit or crochet beautiful prayer shawls. These shawls are filled with the love of faithful people and are available to anyone experiencing sickness or preparing for surgery. Please Contact the Parish Office if you are experiencing a prolonged illness or recovering from surgery or treatment, we can arrange a visit.

*For more information about our Pastoral Care Ministry, please contact  
Gwen Van De Woestyne at [gwenvandewoestyne@gmail.com](mailto:gwenvandewoestyne@gmail.com) or the Parish Office.*

Pastoral  
CARE

## Sacraments At St. John the Baptist Parish

### **Sacrament of Baptism**

We look forward to celebrating this first Sacrament for your child with your family. Baptism Prep is held three times per year in our Parish.

### **Sacraments of Confirmation/First Holy Eucharist**

These Sacraments are celebrated together in May or June each year. Registration for the Sacrament Prep for Confirmation/First Holy Eucharist begins in January. This is open to children in Grade 2 and up.

### **Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist**

Holy Mass is celebrated throughout the week and on the weekends. Please check a current bulletin for the schedule.

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated 30 minutes before each weekday and weekend Holy Mass.

### **Sacrament of Marriage**

Contact the Pastor by calling the Parish Office eight months prior to your wedding. Please note that the Church will not be reserved for you until you have had the initial meeting with Father Thuy.

### **Sacrament of Anointing**

The Sacrament of Anointing is offered after each Holy Mass during the seasons of Lent and Advent. For anointing in your home, please contact the Parish Office to set up a date and time. In case of emergency please call Father Thuy at (306) 570-7306, or if you are unable to reach him, contact Connie at (306) 421-8477. The Sacrament of Anointing is available at any time. During Office hours, please contact the Parish Office.

*To register for sacrament prep, you must be a registered parishioner of St. John the Baptist Parish. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.*

# THE SACRAMENTS



## Catholic Women's League

The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service. Our CWL is a creative, active and vibrant group of women. If you would like more information about the St. John the Baptist CWL, Please contact Anita Kjersem at (306) 421-7538.



## Knights of Columbus

The Mission of the Knights of Columbus is to empower Catholic men to live their faith at home, in their Parish, at work and in their community. The K of C at St. John the Baptist is a strong, involved group. If you would like more information about joining this great group of men, please call Sheldon Spilchuk at (306) 634-6852.

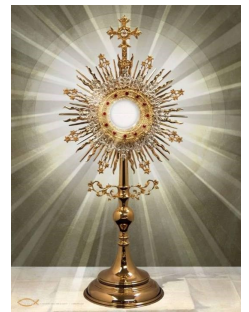
## Eucharistic Adoration

A Holy Hour is a perfect way to give thanks to God and ask for his help. Everyone is welcome to come and spend time in prayer with Jesus.

The Eucharistic Adoration schedule is: Tuesdays from 9:30 am until 6:15pm

Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:30am until 5pm

Please note that Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will resume in the Church on Tuesday, January 3.



## **Parish Office Holiday Hours**

The Parish Office will be closed from Monday December 25 until Tuesday, January 2. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 2.

There will be no weekday Holy Masses from December 26 to December 29.



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Donations to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal must be made by Sunday, December 24. Donations can be placed in the collection basket or mailed to the Archdiocesan office. Any donations received after December 24 will go towards the 2024 appeal.



## **Christmas Flowers**

We are graciously accepting donations for the flowers that are decorating the Church this Christmas season.

You may donate in memory of a deceased loved one or in thanksgiving for someone in your life. Special donation envelopes are available in the main entrance of the Church or at the Parish Office. With your help, our Parish Family will be blessed throughout the Christmas season and always.



## **Come Celebrate at St. John the Baptist Parish**

### **Bible Study**

Every Fall, we host a 6-8 week Bible Study. We are blessed to have awesome resources from great Catholic speakers. Watch the bulletin for more information in September 2024.

### **Lenten Study**

Each year during the season of Lent, we host a Lenten Study. This is a 6 week program that gives you time for contemplation, reflection and transformation during the season of Lent. Watch the bulletin for more information.

### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper And Holy Mass With The Rite Of Burning Palms**

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday. Join us for a traditional pancake feast followed by Holy Mass where we burn the palms from the past year creating the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

### **Stations of the Cross**

Join us on Fridays during Lent as we journey with Jesus through the Paschal Mystery.

### **Pentecost Brunch**

You are invited to our celebration of Pentecost, beginning with Holy Mass and followed by a delicious brunch.

### **Parish Picnic**

In the Summer of each year we host our Annual Parish Picnic. We start the day with Holy Mass followed by a BBQ lunch, live music, games for the kids and awesome fellowship.

### **All Souls Holy Mass**

Each November 2, we honour our deceased loved ones with a special Holy Mass. You are invited to join us to light a candle for your departed loved ones.

### **Christ the King Brunch**

To celebrate the end of the liturgical year and give thanks for all our blessings, we celebrate Christ the King Sunday with Holy Mass followed by brunch.

### **Parish Christmas Party**

We celebrate with our Parish Family with a potluck supper, Christmas games and fun. Our children bring tickets they have received during Holy Mass for the lottery. Five major prizes are drawn for as well as numerous smaller prizes.

### **Explore Great Websites:**

Formed has a wealth of the best videos, programs, books and resources. They also have an incredible selection of programming for children. Go to <https://formed.org/> to register at no cost and start watching! Ascension press is the Formation Leader. This is the home of Bible In A Year. They have many resources, some at no cost and some that require purchasing. Check out the site at <https://ascensionpress.com/> and sign up for their free program, Catechism In A Year. Dynamic Catholic is a website that was created to be a community movement, a group of people much like us who are trying to make sense of life and live the best life they can. Check out <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/> for wonderful Advent and Lenten resources, as well as great books and videos. Word on Fire harnesses beauty, goodness and truth to draw people into or back to the Catholic faith. You can access articles, videos and their bookstore. Some resources are at no cost. Take a look at Bishop Robert Barron's site at <https://www.wordonfire.org/>

At the Augustine Institute, they joyfully embrace and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through graduate classes, video productions short courses, study programs, books, talks, and multimedia resources. Check out their website at <https://www.augustinesinstitute.org/>

Merry Christmas from our Liturgy  
Committee!

Our many ministers are invaluable to the  
celebration of the Holy Mass each week  
and because of them our liturgies are truly  
beautiful. On behalf of all the Liturgy  
Committee, may the happiness of  
Christmas Day be repeated every day of  
the New Year. Wishing you a Merry  
Christmas!

May the peace and blessings of Christmas be yours; and  
may the coming year be filled with happiness.

Merry Christmas!

Father Thuy

Connie, Jocelyn, Gwen,

Cindy and Sigfredo



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STOUGHTON - TUESDAY MORNING

OXBOW - TUESDAY AFTERNOON

KIPLING - EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> FRIDAY AFTERNOON

## Finance Council

On behalf of the Finance Council, we wish to extend our gratitude to our parishioners for their unconditional support to our Parish throughout this past year. Sharing your Time, Treasures and Talents have enabled your Church to successfully meet the needs of your Parish Family and all its ministries.

We offer to you, our continued prayers throughout this Christmas season and the coming New Year. Let Christmas be for each of us, an opportunity to be grateful for the Lord's presence among us and let His light fill our hearts this Holy season. Merry Christmas and have a Blessed 2024!

Kim and Dana Skjonsby, Finance Council Chairpersons

*Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. -Psalm 96*

### BILLESBERGER LAW FIRM



**JOHN J. BILLESBERGER**

**BARRISTER & SOLICITOR**

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MIDALE - Tuesdays - (306) 458-2277  
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