



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH
FAITHFUL • WELCOMING • FAMILY

St. John the Baptist Parish is a warm and inviting family, living out our Baptismal call and nourished by the Eucharist, serving the needs of all with joy and gratitude, practicing stewardship, celebrating the sacraments and witnessing God in others.

Welcome

We are so glad you joined us today!

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

10am - 2pm (including lunch hour)

Email:

stjohnthebaptist@sasktel.net

Website:

www.stjohnthebaptistestevan.ca

Facebook: facebook.com/stjohnthebaptistestevan

Pastor: Father Sathi Antony

306-634-5790 or ansathi@sbm.sasktel.net

Pastoral Assistant: Connie Wheeler

306-634-2190 or 306-421-8447 or

conniesjb@gmail.com

Office Assistant: Karla Waloshin

306-634-2190

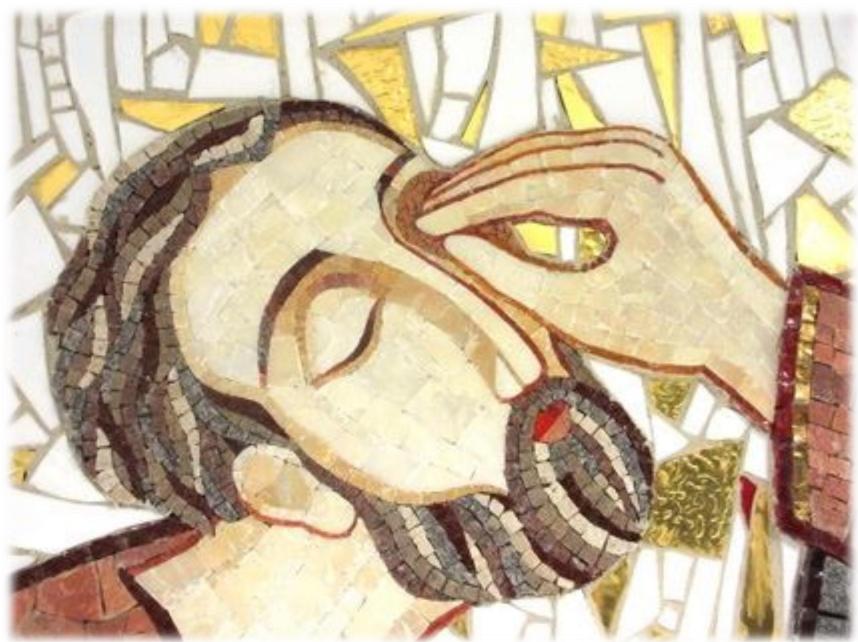
Finance Administrator: Doris Trobert

306-634-2190

Facilities Manager: Randy Franke

Caretaker: Sigfredo Gonzalez

Janitorial Services: Joseph Be



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 14 & 15, 2020

Mass Schedule

All Masses are cancelled until further notice.

Sacraments

Anointing: Contact the Pastor

Marriage Preparation: Contact the Pastor
8 months in advance

Parish Records Update

If your address or family information has changed, please contact the Parish Office to provide the updated information. This will help us keep our records current. You can email your updated information to stjohnthebaptist@sasktel.net or call the office at 306-634-2190.



St. John the Baptist Parish is building a Pastoral Care Team. Are you interested in joining this team as an extra ordinary communion minister visiting the sick and homebound? Would you like to be a part of a team that provides a lay presided service to our care homes on Sundays?

Would you like more information? Please contact Connie Wheeler at the Parish Office at 306-634-2190.



"I was sick and you took care of me."
Matthew 25:36

A Spiritual Act of Communion for those Self-Isolating

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.



March 22, 2020 - 4th Sunday of Lent

"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

How often do we invest our time, talent, and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car, and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent, and treasure here on earth.

COVID-19 Announcements from St. John the Baptist Parish

1. The Lenten Reconciliation evenings that were planned for Sunday, March 22 and Tuesday, March 31 are cancelled.
2. The Annual General Meeting scheduled for Sunday, March 22 has been cancelled.
3. Our Lenten Bible Study has also been cancelled.
4. Beginning Monday, March 23, the Parish Office hours will be from **10am until 2pm** (including lunch hour). If you need any assistance or have any questions, you are encouraged to call or email.
5. The Church will continue to be open throughout the week from 9am until 7pm for private prayer and devotion. Please respect the social distancing requirements set out by the Government.
6. Stay home if you are sick to avoid spreading any illness with others.



Estevan Ministerial Association Lenten Service and Lunches

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, the remaining Ministerial Lenten Service and Lunches have been cancelled.



CWL Scholarship Info



St. John the Baptist CWL provides ministry to our youth. We offer two Scholarships for Grade 12 ECS students with ongoing identification of volunteer life in various parish and community activities.



An application form and further scholarship criteria is available through the school website and at the church entrances. The deadline to submit an application is April 21, 2020.

Formed. The Catholic Faith On Demand Get thousands of movies, programs, audio and books instantly.

St. John the Baptist Parish holds a membership to this website and you can sign in for free to gain access to all of their resources. It just takes a few easy steps:

1. Enter formed.org into your internet browser.
2. Click on Sign Up.
3. Click on I Belong To A Parish or Organization.
4. Enter St John the Baptist Estevan. When you see our parish on the list, click on it.
5. Click on next.
6. Enter your info to create an account and then you will have access to everything.



Sacrament of Anointing

The Sacrament of Anointing is for healing of our minds and bodies. This Sacrament is available by making an appointment with the Parish Office. Please pray for healing before and after receiving this Holy Sacrament.



Keeping Updated

If you would like to receive updates and faith resources from St. John the Baptist Parish during this time, please contact the Parish Office to give us your email address by emailing stjohthebaptist@sasktel.net or by phoning at 306-634-2190. Messages will be checked regularly.



He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers ...

2 Corinthians 1:10-11



ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF REGINA
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP



445 Broad Street N., Regina, SK, CANADA S4R 2X8

Tel: (306) 352-1651 Fax: (306) 352-6313 E-mail: chancery @archregina.sk.ca

March 18, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ of the Archdiocese of Regina,

Grace and peace to you in our Lord Jesus Christ.

In this challenging time, it is as important as ever for the Church to be close to the People of God, and I want to assure you of my spiritual closeness as we face the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic in our community. Please know of my prayers and pastoral concern.

At this time, the Church must weigh what appear to be competing values, the health and safety of our broader civic community, especially of the most vulnerable; saving lives; and the immense spiritual value of access to the liturgy of the Church and the sacraments. We are blessed by our longstanding spiritual tradition that the grace of the sacraments is available outside the sacraments themselves, in particular through an act of spiritual communion.

After careful and serious discernment – in light of directives from all levels of government (including a provincial declaration of a state of emergency and the closure of our schools), consultations with Catholic and secular healthcare representatives, the Council of Priests, and with reference to the decisions of other dioceses – we recognize the serious threat to public health that large gatherings create at this time. This is a matter of protecting the vulnerable who might be exposed to the virus at such gatherings. It is also about slowing the spread of this disease and mitigating the burden on our healthcare system. Having witnessed the situation in Italy, we dare not contribute to an overwhelmed system in which the vulnerable are unable to access the care they need.

In light of this, and in this time of Lent where we join our sacrifices to Christ's in a special way, I am calling on our pastors and the faithful of the Archdiocese to offer what may be the most profound spiritual sacrifice of our generation. As of Friday, March 20, 2020, the following measures are to be enacted throughout the Archdiocese:

- 1. Sunday and Weekday Masses are hereby suspended until further notice. We will be constantly monitoring the situation and issuing updates accordingly.**

Further, in keeping with the Code of Canon Law no. 87, I grant to all the Catholic faithful dispensation from their Sunday obligation until further notice.

Recognizing that the celebration of the Eucharist lies at the very heart of our spiritual lives, a roster of clergy, including myself, will celebrate daily and Sunday Masses from Resurrection Parish in Regina to be livestreamed available at the following link: <https://livestream.com/accounts/17094656>.

2. I will preside at the Chrism Mass scheduled for Monday, March 30, 2020, joined by the Deans. Oils will be distributed by the Deans to their deaneries. While this celebration will be closed to the public, it will be livestreamed. Information about the livestream will be disseminated through our website, email lists, and social media channels.

3. Baptisms, funerals, and weddings should be strictly limited in size, with immediate family only. Larger celebrations should take place at a later date when all restrictions have been lifted. Discernment should take place in consultation with families and their pastor, keeping in mind all government limitations on group size, travel restrictions, and health criteria surrounding social distancing and at-risk groups. For funerals, a graveside service with a memorial Mass at a later date is encouraged. Pastors are encouraged to arrange for **private confessions** ensuring all health and safety guidelines are followed.
4. Only essential gatherings (e.g., of Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils) are to take place. These must adhere to all government restrictions and health guidelines. Holding such meetings electronically should be strongly considered.
5. Information regarding Holy Week celebrations, sacramental preparation, First Communions and Confirmations, Initiation for Adults, ministry to the sick, and considerations for the ongoing financial needs of parishes will be forthcoming. Please refer to our special COVID-19 page on our website: <https://archregina.sk.ca/content/covid-19-updates>.
6. Recognizing the great importance for our Church to continue to foster and support the spiritual lives of the faithful, at the discretion of the pastor or administrator Churches may remain open to the public for private prayer and devotion. A separate communication will contain important considerations for doing this as safely as possible.
7. Community Care: The Archdiocese is organizing a comprehensive "Good Samaritan" care program to coordinate outreach efforts to those who may lack the necessary social supports to effectively meet their spiritual and material needs at this time. If you are interested in volunteering for this important initiative, please contact outreach@archregina.sk.ca.

As we have all watched this pandemic develop and spread, I have been asking myself, and continually take to prayer, the question, "How am I being called to serve and be close to the people of God at this time?" I conclude this letter by asking that every pastor and administrator in our Archdiocese take time to pray and dialogue with lay leadership about how they can most meaningfully and helpfully reach out to their people and provide for their spiritual needs through this crisis. And I encourage every member of the faithful in our Archdiocese to prayerfully consider how they are being called to reach out to one another and to those in need, keeping in mind all relevant health directives.

The Lord is never absent from us. We are called, not only in times of joy and celebration, but in times of trial and sorrow, to live faithfully, meaningfully, and compassionately. Even as we follow the most prudent health directives and honour our Christian duty to protect the vulnerable, we are called to be present to and with one another, if not physically, then spiritually. May we join together in prayer and service this Lent so as to open ourselves to God's grace, that the God who raised Jesus from the dead may also use this experience of suffering to show us a glimpse of the resurrection.

Yours in Christ,

✠ Donald J. Bolen
Archbishop of Regina

DJB:bg