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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.

## *3rd & 4th Sunday of Advent*

**Pastor:** Father Thuy Nguyen  
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As we journey into the Third Week of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, the Church invites us to rejoice. The word "Gaudete" means "Rejoice" in Latin, reflecting Philippians 4:4: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. This Sunday is marked by the rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath; a symbol of joy amidst our preparation for Christ's coming.

Why is this Sunday a call to joy? Advent, while a season of penance and reflection, is also a season of hope and anticipation.

On Gaudete Sunday, we pause to celebrate the nearness of our Savior.

The promise of Emmanuel—"God with us"—assures us of God's love and salvation. In daily life, joy can feel elusive. Challenges and trials often cloud our ability to experience true Joy. Yet, Christian joy is not the absence of difficulty but the presence of Christ in the midst of it. True joy springs from trust in God's promises and confidence in His unfailing love. To nurture this joy, we must stay connected to Him through prayer, the sacraments, and His Word.

How can we cultivate and share this joy during Advent? First, spend time in prayerful gratitude. Count your blessings and thank God for His presence. Second, make room for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Letting go of sin and experiencing God's mercy fills the heart with peace. Third, embrace acts of kindness. Joy multiplies when shared—a kind word, simple gesture, or small gift can bring light to someone's life.

Finally, as we await Christ's birth, let Advent be a time for family and community. Pray together, share meals, and create connections reflecting God's love. Encourage others to look beyond the materialism of the season and focus on its true meaning.

May the joy of Gaudete Sunday inspire us to live with hope and generosity, becoming witnesses of Christ's love in a world that yearns for joy. Rejoice in the Lord, share His joy, and prepare our hearts to welcome Him this Christmas.

In Christ,  
Fr. Thuy

## St. John the Baptist Holy Mass Schedule

Saturday, Dec 14	6am Estevan Christmas Novena; †Thi Lai Nguyen
Saturday, Dec 14	5pm Estevan; †Isabelle Baril
Saturday, Dec 14	7pm Torquay; †Mannie Mack
Sunday, Dec 15	8am Bienfait; No Mass Intention
Sunday, Dec 15	10am Estevan; Mass for the People
Sunday, Dec 15	7pm Estevan; Christmas Novena; Healing for Karen Meckler
Monday, Dec 16	7pm Estevan; Christmas Novena; †Dwayne Soroko
Tuesday, Dec 17	6:30pm Estevan; †Earl Craig
Wednesday, Dec 18	11am Hospital; Special Intentions
Wednesday, Dec 18	7:30pm Estevan; Christmas Novena; Intentions for Freddy L.
Thursday, Dec 19	9am Estevan;CWL Member Intentions
Thursday, Dec 19	7pm Estevan; Christmas Novena; †Teresa Lee
Friday, Dec 20	6am Estevan; Christmas Novena; Healing for Karen Meckler
Friday, Dec 20	10:30am Nursing Home; †Maureen Sandrock
Saturday, Dec 21	5pm Estevan; †Mannie Mack
Saturday, Dec 21	7pm Torquay; †No Mass Intention
Sunday, Dec 22	8am Bienfait; No Mass Intention
Sunday, Dec 22	10am Estevan; Mass for the People
Sunday, Dec 22	5pm Estevan; Special Intentions

*Sing and shout for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 15:** 2pm Interdenominational Choir Practice
- Dec 17:** 7pm PPC Christmas Supper
- Dec 18:** 6pm Bible Study
- Dec 20:** 6pm Parish Family Christmas Party
- Dec 21:** 11:45am Blessed Meals
- Dec 21:** 2pm SJB Choir Practice
- Dec 22:** 7pm Interdenominational Choir Practice
- Dec 23:** 3pm Christmas Gospel Play Practice
- Dec 23:** 7pm Interdenominational Celebration
- Dec 24:** 11am Christmas Gospel Play Practice

Dustin Hall

Marlene Shurygalo

Simon Hall

Christian Quin

Blanche Keating



Happy Anniversary

Ray & Elaine Walton



# Adoration

## of the Blessed Sacrament

We will not have Adoration from December 23-January 3. The regular schedule will resume on January 7, at 9:30am

**Wishing you all the Blessings of this Holy Season!!**

### Catholic Women's League of Canada



Please remember we are collecting our 2025 Membership Fees of 42.50 that

are due by the end of the calendar year. You can Pay by dropping it off at the office during the week or drop it in the collection basket at Mass.

Please use the envelopes at the entrance of the church or mark your own CWL Membership to ensure we receive it.

stjohnthebaptistcwl@gmail.com

If you have any questions or need your membership picked up please call or text Gail at 306-421-0260.

### 2025 Offering Envelopes

The 2025 Offering Envelopes are available in the main entrance of the Church. If you don't already have envelopes and would like some, please contact the Parish Office. 306-634-2190.

### Christmas Flowers

We are graciously accepting donations for the Christmas flowers that will decorate the Church throughout the Christmas season. You may donate in memory of a deceased loved one or in thanksgiving for someone in your life. Their names will be listed in the bulletin so our parishioners can pray for them. Thank you so much for your continued generosity. Our Parish Family is truly blessed!



### Christmas Flowers

In gratitude for our incredibly generous Parish Family, let us pray for the following:

In Thanksgiving for:  
Al Wempe

In Memory of:  
 †Doris & †Lorne Sicinski  
 †Kate & †Myron Leschyshyn  
 †Richard & †Eva Hagel  
 †Jack & †Mitch Mclean  
 †Nancy Dorwart  
 †Scott Friess



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E-MAIL: [TGLAW@SASKTEL.NET](mailto:TGLAW@SASKTEL.NET) KIPLING - EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> FRIDAY AFTERNOON

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Christmas Eve-Nativity of the Lord

Tuesday, December 24 at 5pm and 7pm (Estevan)

Tuesday, December 24 at 9pm (Bienfait)

Christmas Day-Nativity of the Lord

Wednesday, December 25 at 8am (Torquay)

Wednesday, December 25 at 10am (Estevan)

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

Tuesday, December 31 at 7pm (Estevan)

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

Wednesday, January 1 at 10am (Estevan)

**December 15, 2024**

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

*"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." (Philippians 4:6)*

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God – He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God's image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous with all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.



**STEWARDSHIP**

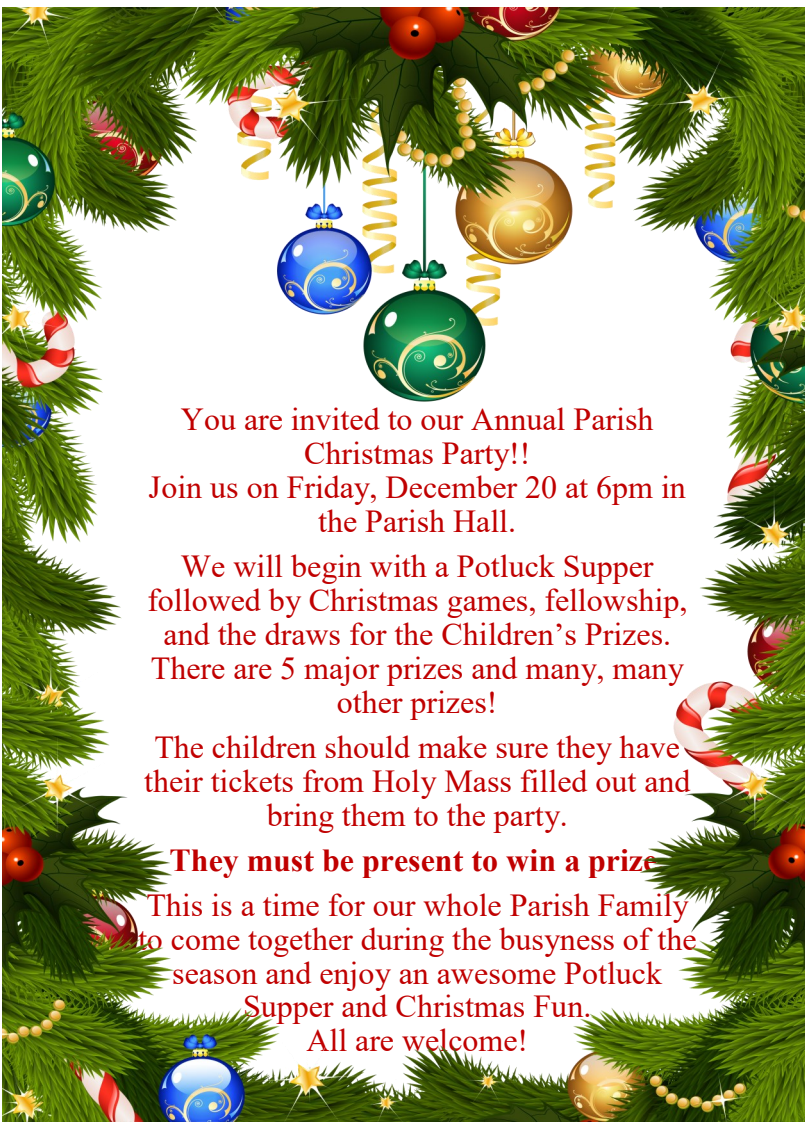
*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

**Archbishop's Appeal**

**Bulletin Reflection**

When the crowds ask John the Baptist, "What should we do?" he advises them to share with those who have none and act justly. This guidance is timeless, urging us to respond to God's call through generosity and fairness. Supporting the Archbishop's Appeal is a direct way to act on this advice. Our shared contributions fund vital ministries that provide for the less fortunate and promote social justice. In uniting our resources, we answer the question posed to John, actively participating in the joyful preparation for Christ's coming.





You are invited to our Annual Parish Christmas Party!!  
Join us on Friday, December 20 at 6pm in the Parish Hall.

We will begin with a Potluck Supper followed by Christmas games, fellowship, and the draws for the Children's Prizes. There are 5 major prizes and many, many other prizes!

The children should make sure they have their tickets from Holy Mass filled out and bring them to the party.

**They must be present to win a prize**

This is a time for our whole Parish Family to come together during the busyness of the season and enjoy an awesome Potluck Supper and Christmas Fun.  
All are welcome!

### Make Music With Friends

Do you play a musical instrument?  
Do you like to get together and play along with others?



Enjoy the spontaneous musical collaboration of a **Jam Session!**  
**Monday, Jan 6 from 1-4pm in the Parish Hall.**

Musicians, dancers, singers, and guests welcome to attend  
Call 306-471-7686 or further information or just show up with your gear!



### Christmas Office Hours

The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday, December 24 until Monday, January 6, 2025.

Contributions to your Parish Family can be brought to the Office by Monday, December 23 at 3pm. Or you may place your donation in the collection basket at any of the Christmas and New Year's Masses or e-transfer (stjohnthebaptist@sasktel.net). Thank you for your continued generosity to your Parish Home.

