



Archdiocese of Regina *Bulletin*

*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New
Year*

Christmas Greetings from Archbishop Don

Warm greetings to you all as we prepare to celebrate the Lord's birth in this tumultuous year of 2024. I want to start with a couple of quotes which have been meaningful to me over the years, and which aren't very Christmassy, but they do set a framework for understanding what Christmas and the Incarnation bring to us. The first is from the great American writer Annie Dillard, who in processing a very harsh experience, writes: "it is late, a late time to be living."

In the midst of the wars which continue on relentlessly in our world, the over 100 million refugees and displaced persons, amidst the deep and polarizing differences which only seem to be getting more entrenched throughout the Western world, it does seem like a late, late time to be living.

The other quote comes from C. S. Lewis, who is writing about the impact of his mother's death when he was still a child: "With my mother's death all settled happiness, all that was tranquil and reliable, disappeared from my life. There was to be much fun, many pleasures... but no more of the old security. It was sea and islands now; the great continent had sunk like Atlantis."

I offer those reflections because I think they help name the experience today that the foundations on which our society, and indeed our world, have been built upon, now seem very shaky. The collective values which have sought to uphold human dignity and the value of each human person, advancing in some ways, are deeply threatened in others. Trying to describe this moment in history, C. S. Lewis's words come to mind: it is all sea and islands now.

But faith offers a different kind of foundation, not rooted in a general and perhaps naive sense that things are ever progressing in a good direction. Rather, faith grounds us in God's capacity and desire to enter into our history in all its struggles, and bring a different kind of transformation. The birth of Jesus, the coming of God in the flesh, proclaims God's desire to be near us, to walk with us, to show us a face of incredible mercy and great tenderness. This is the foundation on which we can live with hope and joy, despite shakiness of the moral and political landscape with which we live. I am sure that at the time of Jesus's birth, in the midst of tremendous political instability and oppression, it also felt like a late time to be living. The fact is, God has created us to live here and now, trusting that God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is here with us in the mess and fray, in this time and place.

Finally, I invite you to consider one more thing, which has to do with the way that God has come into the world in Jesus. If you were all powerful and trying to change the world, trying to bring about a kingdom of peace and justice, seeking to create a communion of joy among all peoples, would you do so by sending a baby into the world? Would you step aside from your power and might and send yourself in vulnerability and hiddenness?

This is what God does. This is who our God is. This is how God is revealed to us. In the most intimate, tender, vulnerable way imaginable. God has come to walk with us. This Christmas season, I invite you to ponder that, and to reflect upon the incredible mercy and compassion that is revealed there. And put a hold on all temptations to discouragement or despair. And look at what God is doing. Then trust in that, find joy in that, and try to do things God's way, to live and act in the way God opens up before us, with great trust and hope, joy and mercy.

Merry Christmas to you all! May you know the great blessings of the Christ Child!

Bishop Donald Bolen

Due to backlogs and delays related to the postal strike, we encourage you to use these two convenient ways to donate to the Archbishop's Appeal:

E-Transfer:

Send your donation to annualappeal@archregina.sk.ca. In the message field, include your address and phone number for a tax receipt, as well as your parish name to allocate your gift to your parish's goal.

Cheque:

Make your cheque payable to your parish, marking "Archbishop's Appeal" in the memo line. Place it in the collection plate or deliver it to your parish office.

For more details, visit the Archdiocese website. Thank you for your generosity and support!

Pastoral Centre Christmas Hours

The Archdiocese of Regina Pastoral Centre will be closed to the public for Christmas beginning Wednesday, December 25. We will reopen on Thursday, January 2nd. Staff from the Finance and Appeal Offices will be present occasionally on Friday, December 27th, December 30th and December 31st. If you need to contact someone from the finance or appeal department for year-end purposes, please contact:

306-721-6733

annualappeal@archregina.sk.ca

Archbishop's Appeal Donation Timeline for Year-End Donations

Tuesday, Dec 31, 2024: Last day for parishioners to submit donations for the 2024 Appeal. All donations must be submitted to the parish or the Appeal office by Dec 31. That includes cash and cheques (payable to parish or Archdiocese), credit cards, auto-debits, e-transfers, and online gifts via Canada Helps.

Please note that the Pastoral Centre will be closed from December 25th- January 1st.



WE ARE HIRING
Donor Services Coordinator

The Archdiocese of Regina Development Department is seeking a detail-oriented, self-motivated individual with fundraising and donor relations experience to join their team as a Donor Services Coordinator. More information can be found on the Archdiocese of Regina website. Please apply promptly to ensure your application will be considered.

For more information please visit archregina.sk.ca/employment

Youth Ministry Workshop

On **Saturday, Jan. 25th from 10:00 -4:00**, at the diocesan center, the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is having a workshop for the training, support and collaboration of those who work in ministering to young people, with lunch provided. It is our hope that as many people as possible who are involved in ministering to the young people of our archdiocese, would be willing to bring their minds and hearts to this table of sharing. We are also more than willing to take this workshop on the road! Invite us to come to your community!
TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE OR ASK QUESTIONS PLEASE SEND EMAIL TO: oyyam@archregina.sk.ca



ArchRegina Weekly Report

The weekly report is published every Friday and features top stories, reflections, Catholic news, from our Archdiocese and around the world.

Stay connected and inspired throughout the year! Subscribe to our other email publications and follow us on social media for the latest Catholic News, inspirations, and updates on Archdiocese of Regina events and activities. Let's journey together in faith!

The Archdiocese of Regina is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.



TODAY A SAVIOUR IS BORN FOR US

Merry Christmas from Archbishop Donald Bolen and all of the staff of the Archdiocese of Regina

