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ST. MONICA



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH
Estevan, SK

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Torquay:
SACRED HEART

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.

Palm Sunday

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March 23rd & 24th, 2024



St. John the Baptist Holy Mass Schedule

Sat. Mar. 23	5pm Estevan; †Arlene Anderson
Sat. Mar. 23	7pm Torquay; †Father Lucey
Sun. Mar. 24	8am Bienfait; †Teresa Lee
Sun. Mar. 24	10am Estevan; Mass for the People
Tues. Mar. 26	6:30pm Estevan; †Jason Stefanski
Wed. Mar. 27	11am Hospital; †Richard Holzer
Wed. Mar. 27	6:30pm Estevan; †Mannie Mack
Thurs. Mar. 28	7:30pm Estevan; Holy Thursday
Fri. Mar. 29	3pm Estevan; Good Friday Liturgy
Sat. Mar. 30	8:30pm Estevan; Easter Vigil
Sun. Mar. 31	8am Torquay; Easter Sunday
Sun. Mar. 31	10am Estevan; Easter Sunday

*My God, my God, why have you
forsaken me? - Psalm 22*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 23:** 11:45am Blessed Meals Delivery
- Mar. 26:** 6:15pm Benediction
- Mar. 27:** 1pm Blessed Meals Volunteer Meeting
- Mar. 27:** 6:15 Benediction
- Mar. 29:** 1pm Ecumenical Walk of the Cross beginning at Trinity Lutheran
- Mar. 30:** 2pm Easter Basket Blessing
- April 2:** 2pm CWL Meeting
- April 10:** 6:30pm Confirmation/ First Holy Eucharist Class
- April 13:** 11:45am Blessed Meals Delivery
- April 16:** 7pm PPC Meeting
- April 17:** 6:30PM Confirmation/ First Holy Eucharist Class

SJB Blessed Meals

Our Parish Family will be offering homemade meals to seniors in our community every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from Sept-May.
During the Summer, the Meals will be offered once a month on the 1st Saturday.

We ask for your continued prayers in support of this awesome ministry. We are blessed to be able to go out into our community and share the love of God with those who have given so much to us throughout their lives

If you or someone you know would enjoy a free home cooked meal delivered, please contact the Parish Office at 306-634-2190.



Thank you for giving from the heart to Share Lent 2024!



Development and Peace – Caritas Canada thanks you for supporting the **Reaping our Rights** campaign with your Share Lent donation. Thanks to your generosity, the amount we collected will support our sisters and brothers in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Middle East.

If you have not yet had a chance to give, you can still place your Share Lent envelope in the offertory or donate online at devp.org/give.

Thank you for continuing to pray for all those who are working to build a world of peace and justice.

Palm Sunday - March 24, 2024

"Pilate again said to them, 'Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?' And they cried out again, 'Crucify him.'" – Mark 15:12-13
Jesus told us, "Whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." Every day, we are presented with opportunities to help someone. Every day, we have the opportunity to see the face of Jesus in others and be the face of Jesus to others. Every day, we pass by someone in need. Pray for the strength and courage to be the answer to someone's prayer.



Adoration Update

Adoration will be suspended beginning on Thursday, March 28. Please note that following the Holy Thursday of the Passion of the Lord Mass that evening, there will be Adoration until midnight. Adoration will resume on Tuesday, April 9 at 9:30am.



Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil Bells



Bring your bells from home to ring during the singing of the Glory to God on Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday) and at the Easter Vigil. Ringing the bells creates a "joyful noise to the Lord" as a way to give thanks for the miracle that is taking place atop the altar. So, let us make a joyful noise!!

Please note that the bells will not be rung after the Gloria on Holy Thursday until the Gloria at the Easter Vigil.

St. John the Baptist Parish Holy Week Schedule

Monday, March 25

- Eucharistic Adoration from 9:30am until 5pm

Tuesday, March 26

- Eucharistic Adoration from 9:30am until 6:15pm
- Benediction at 6:15pm
- Holy Mass at 6:30pm

Wednesday, March 27

- Eucharistic Adoration from 9:30am until 6:15pm
- Holy Mass at the Hospital at 11am
- Benediction at 6:15pm
- Holy Mass 6:30pm

Holy Thursday - Thursday, March 28

- Holy Mass at 7:30pm
- Eucharistic Adoration following the Holy Mass until midnight

Good Friday - Friday, March 29

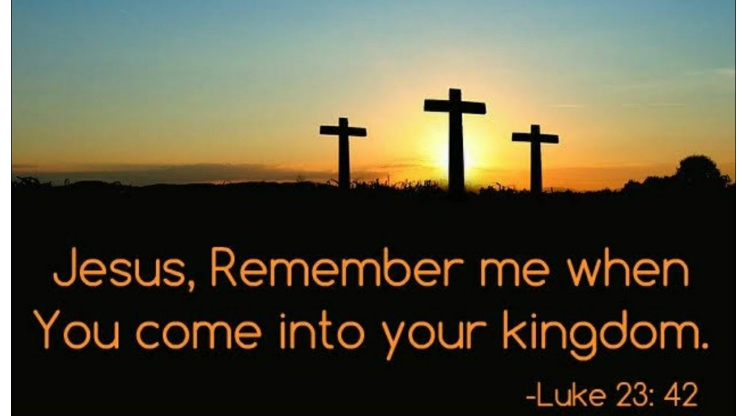
- Ecumenical Walk of the Cross at 1pm beginning at Trinity Lutheran Church
- Good Friday Liturgy with Communion at 3pm Estevan

Easter Vigil - Saturday, March 30

- Holy Mass at 8:30pm

Easter Sunday - March 31

- Holy Mass at 8am Torquay
- Holy Mass at 10am Estevan



Mark 11.1-10

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village opposite you and immediately after entering it, you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone should say to you 'Why are you doing this?' reply, 'The master has need of it and will send it back here at once.'" So they went off and found a colt tethered at a gate outside on the street and they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They answered them just as Jesus had told them to, and they permitted them to do it. So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. Many spread their cloaks on the road and others spread leafy branches that they cut from the fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: "Hosanna! Blessed is he whom comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest."



As we begin our journey through Holy Week, I pray that we all get to live each day of this special week in reverence, reflection and reticence. To help you with your personal Holy Week pilgrimage, we are offering Eucharistic Adoration on Monday from 9:30am until 5pm and on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30am until 6:15pm. I encourage you to take some time from your busy day to spend time in prayer. It doesn't have to be a full hour, come sit in the presence of Jesus for any time that your schedule allows. We will also

have Stations of the Cross booklets available on the table in the main entrance of the Church if you would like to follow in the steps of Jesus during your adoration prayer; please return them to the table when you are finished.

Benediction and Holy Mass are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday at 6:15pm each evening. Celebrating the Holy Mass is the greatest prayer we can pray. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. I invite you to make these Holy Masses a priority in your Holy Week journey, receiving the grace of God to bless us with a deeper understanding of the celebrations to come.

May our Parish Family join together to follow Jesus in the days leading up to his Passion and Resurrection. And may we pray for all in our world who are suffering, in mind or body, in countries torn apart by war, in isolation, in fear and anxiety, and those whose families are divided. May the strength of Jesus in his suffering and the peace of Jesus in his obedience surround us during this holiest of weeks.

God Bless!

-Father Thuy

Easter Flowers

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

In memory of:

- †Anne and †Frank Johner
- †Steve Wolos
- †Lenley and †Leanne Wolos
- †Roland Lagasse
- †Sevirina and †Pedro Lubi
- †Leonard Miiller
- †Russell and †BettyDaniels
- †Colette Enmark
- †Deceased Members of the Yuzak Family
- †Scott Friess



Easter Flower Donations



We are accepting donations for the flowers that will decorate the Church during the Easter season. You may donate in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for someone. Your loved ones name

will be published in the bulletin so our Parish Family can pray for them. Through your generosity, may our Parish Family be blessed with the joy and beauty of Easter.

Special Monthly Offering Envelopes

We are happy to announce that we are revitalizing our Family and Youth Ministry.

These special donations will go towards the cost of hosting events. We are looking at hosting game nights, potluck suppers, escape rooms, and various crafts (Resurrection Gardens, Advent Wreaths, etc.).

We are also asking for your prayers. That our Family and Youth Ministry bring us closer as a Parish Family and that each member of our Family feels cared for and valued.

Thank you so much for your generosity towards this awesome Ministry. We can't wait to see you at the Events!



Holy Incense During Holy Week

If you are sensitive to incense and will be attending the Holy Thursday, Easter Vigil or Easter Sunday Masses, we will have seating available in the Nursery. The door will remain closed and there is a fan in that room for ventilation.





St. John the Baptist Parish Easter Basket Blessing Saturday March 30 at 2pm

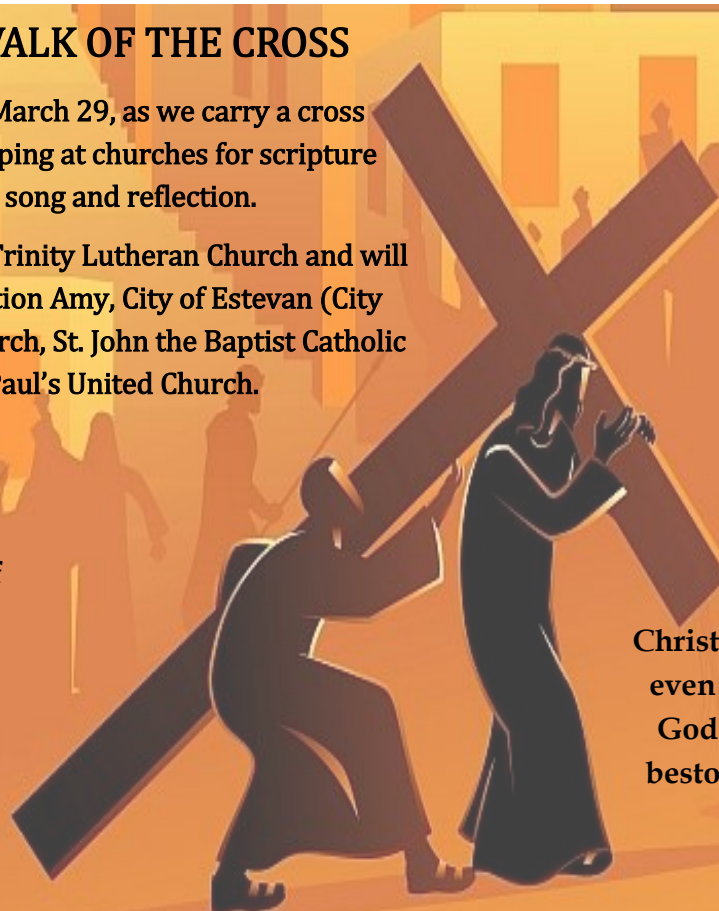
The blessing of the Easter Basket has been a cherished Catholic ritual for centuries among families of Eastern European origin and adopted by people of all ethnic backgrounds who enjoy this richly symbolic custom. On Holy Saturday, families would prepare their Easter Baskets to be later blessed at church. After Easter Sunday's Resurrection Mass, the family would share this blessed food and exchange good wishes. The Christian significance of Easter is symbolized in the foods used for the Holiday feast. Baskets are lined with a white cloth and decorated with ribbons and greenery to symbolize spring, renewal, and the Resurrection. Traditionally, the baskets would include: decorated hardboiled eggs (representing Christ's Resurrection), lamb-shaped butter or sugar (representing Christ as the "Lamb of God"), bread (symbolic of Jesus as the "Bread of Life"), ham (symbolic of great joy and abundance), sausage (symbolic of God's favor and generosity), smoked bacon (symbolic of the overabundance of God's mercy), some prefer lamb (representing Christ as the "Lamb of God"), salt (symbolic of prosperity and justice and to remind us "You are the salt of the earth"), cheese (symbolizes the moderation Christians should have at all times), horseradish & pepper (symbolic of the Passion of Christ and the bitter herbs of the Passover). A white candle is often inserted into the basket to represent Christ as the "Light of the World." Lastly, the basket is covered with linen symbolizing the covering of Christ's shroud. Children are excited to participate in this heart-warming tradition by helping to prepare and decorate the family basket and later, proudly carry it into church on Holy Saturday for the blessing. Some families with small children have their "little-ones" carry their very own decorated basket filled with fruits, a chocolate bunny or some other treat to be blessed. The foods included within any basket can be easily personalized.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF THE CROSS

Join us on Good Friday, March 29, as we carry a cross throughout Estevan, stopping at churches for scripture reading, prayer, song and reflection.

The walk begins at 1pm at Trinity Lutheran Church and will include stops at the Salvation Amy, City of Estevan (City Hall), St. Giles Anglican Church, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and St. Paul's United Church.

All are welcome to take turns carrying the cross. If you are not able to walk the whole distance, you are welcome to drive or ride to the next station.



Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

Philippians 2:8-9

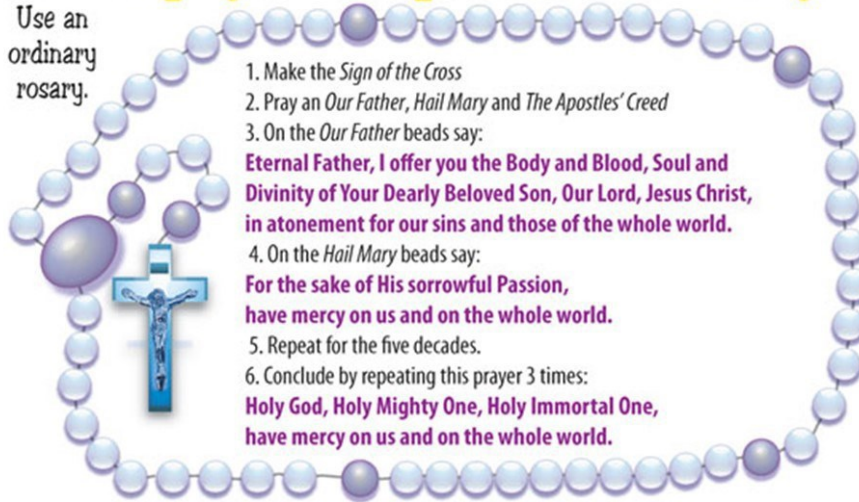


Divine Mercy Sunday

The Sunday after Easter is known as Divine Mercy Sunday. Began by a Polish nun, Sister Faustina Kowalska, in the late 1930s, we are encouraged to place our trust in God's mercy and receive His grace into our lives. Seeing the importance of this message, Sr. Faustina was canonized on April 30th, 2000 by Pope John Paul II who declared that, from that time forward, the second Sunday of Easter would be known as Divine Mercy Sunday.

How to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Use an ordinary rosary.



1. Make the *Sign of the Cross*
2. Pray an *Our Father*, *Hail Mary* and *The Apostles' Creed*
3. On the *Our Father* beads say:
Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.
4. On the *Hail Mary* beads say:
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
5. Repeat for the five decades.
6. Conclude by repeating this prayer 3 times:
Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Let us join together praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet on the second Sunday of Easter this year, to receive forgiveness and mercy from the Risen Lord.

Go to <http://www.praymorenovenas.com/divine-mercy-novena/> to learn more about the Divine Mercy Novena which begins on Good Friday.

Prepared for St. John the Baptist Parish Estevan

Sacred Triduum

As Christians, we are obliged to be present during the Sacred Triduum. This season in the Church opens with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, reaches its climax in the Easter Vigil, and closes with Evening Prayer II on Easter Sunday. These services flow into one another and are full of beautiful rites and traditions.

Following the Holy Mass on Holy Thursday, we are all asked to leave the Church in silence. Adoration will be taking place in the Church until midnight that night. You are welcome to stay and pray after the Holy Mass or you can come back anytime until midnight.

On Good Friday, the Church of God fasts (as well as Holy Saturday) to honour the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare to share more deeply in the joy of his resurrection. You are invited to join the Ecumenical Walk of the Cross at 1pm on Good Friday. The Walk will begin at Trinity Lutheran Church and will continue to different stops within our city center. When we come to the Church for the Good Friday Liturgy, we are asked to come in silence and to leave in silence that day. We also begin the Easter Vigil in quiet and in darkness. These periods of silence are very meaningful in our journey through the Sacred Triduum.

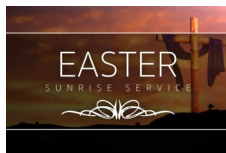


PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed from Friday, March 29 through Friday, April 5. We will reopen with our regular hours on Monday, April 8. Have a blessed Easter!

Ecumenical Easter Sunday Sunrise Service

You are invited to join the Ecumenical Easter Sunday Sunrise Service on Sunday, March 31 at 7am at the gazebo at Churchill Park. This is an awesome way to begin your Easter Sunday in prayer as the sun rises on a glorious day!



Divine Mercy Novena

Don't forget to start your Divine Mercy Novena on Good Friday.

The intention for each day is:

- DAY 1 (Good Friday)** - All mankind, especially sinners
- DAY 2 (Holy Saturday)** - The souls of priests and religious
- DAY 3 (Easter Sunday)** - All devout and faithful souls
- DAY 4 (Easter Monday)** - Those who do not believe in Jesus & those who do not know Him
- DAY 5 (Easter Tuesday)** - The souls of separated brethren
- DAY 6 (Easter Wednesday)** - The meek and humble souls and the souls of children
- DAY 7 (Easter Thursday)** - The souls who especially venerate and glorify Jesus' mercy
- DAY 8 (Easter Friday)** - The souls who are detained in purgatory;
- DAY 9 (Easter Saturday)** - The souls who have become lukewarm.

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