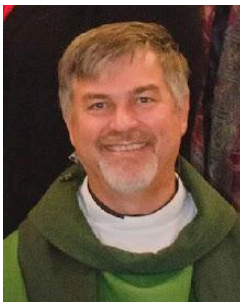
The Catholic Chronicle
St. Joseph – Spring 2025

A note from your Pastor

I am writing this just before Easter. Yesterday I heard



the news of the death of Bishop Emeritus Albert Thévenot. Truly a dark day; a reminder that not everything is peaches and cream. This combined with some of the international policies of our neighbour to the south, indicates that Good Friday has prevailed—and evil has triumphed over good. But at the same time, we had record numbers at our Palm Sunday, Easter and Confirmation celebrations—which is an indication that good has prevailed. I can only judge the world from my perspective; and from my perspective there are a number of wonderful things happening in St. Joseph Parish. 1) Already we have individuals who would like to participate in next year's RCIA program. 2) Attendance at our Sunday celebrations is up. 3) Our elevator is fixed and ready for another 40 years of service…although we have yet to replenish the dollars we used from our savings to pay for it. 4) Children's Liturgy is experiencing high numbers once again. And 5) I am getting more and more joy from being your pastor. It is not just that everything is running smoothly...it is because I can see the Holy Spirit alive and well in our parish. Parishioners are dropping in for coffee, volunteering their services, and the collection, which enables us to do God's work is going up. All of this is enabling me to say, PRAISE THE LORD!

Feast Days in May/June/July

May 3 –Sts. Philip and James (Apostles)
May 15 – St. Isidore (Patron of Farmers)
May 30 –St. Joan of Arc
Jun11 –St. Barnabas (Apostle)
Jun 13 –St. Anthony (Patron of lost and stolen items)
Fri June 27 – Feast of the Sacred Heart
Jun 29 –St. Peter & Paul (Prince of Apostles)
Jul 3 –St. Thomas (Apostle)
Jul 11 –St. Benedict (Father of Monasticism)
Jul 25 –St. James the Greater (Apostle)

Altar Server Appreciation Day

In this special Jubilee Year, we would like to Celebrate a special Altar Server Appreciation Day, bringing together altar servers from across the diocese to recognize their dedication and faithful service at the altar. This summer, on August 15th, we will gather at St. Laurent Shrine for this special event! This will be a time to come together in gratitude, celebration, and prayer. The afternoon will begin at 3:00pm, with Bishop Stephen Hero joining us to mark the occasion. Supper will be provided, and by 7:00pm, participants will join the wider shrine community for evening activities.

Opportunities for Youth

Flames of Hope

The Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is excited to announce the upcoming *Flames of Hope* - Youth Rally. Youth ages 12+ are invited to a full day of faith, fun, fellowship, testimonies, Adoration, and Reconciliation on Saturday, May 24, 2025 from 9:00am to 5:00pm at John Paul II Collegiate in North Battleford. The registration fee is $25 (paid by St. Joseph if you are going). Contact Neha at youth@padiocese.ca or (306) 922-4747 ext. 232

Young Adults Gathering at Sacred Heart

Every third Friday of the month, young adults gather at Sacred Heart Cathedral for an evening of fellowship, fun, and faith-filled connection. Each month, we come together to catch up with one another, play some games, and enjoy light conversation in a welcoming space. Everyone is welcome to be part of it. The next gathering will be on Friday, June 20th, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at the Cathedral. Whether you've been before or are thinking about coming for the first time, we'd be happy to see you. For more info, contact youth@padiocese.ca or call 306-922-4747 ext. 232.

Faith Based Health Care Directive

Dying used to be simplier. You grew old in the home you lived in all your life, and when your body wore out, you passed into eternity. Today with all the medical technology, you can be kept alive indefinitely. In some ways this is a good thing. In some cases this is merely prolonging the inevitable. How can you be sure that your wishes are respected when your time comes? The answer is a Faith Based Health Care Directive, often called a living will. It will address the questions concerning your medical treatment in certain situations; such as being resuscitated…when you are still relatively young, or not being resuscitated when your body says, "It is time to die. The Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan has an excellent resource at www.chassk.ca/publications/ Simply go to that page, scroll down, and download or print the file. 1) Be sure to fill it out, 2) Discuss your wishes with your family, 3) Appoint a proxy, as the time may come when you are no longer capable of making decisions, 4) And leave a copy of your Advanced Health Care Directive with your Proxy, Family and Doctor. In this way your wishes will be respected until your natural death.

Vocations to the Priesthood

I would like you to consider something. Every Sunday you come to St. Joseph to celebrate your faith; to become one with our God. When you get married, you come to the church, because you want God to bless your marriage and be a part of your family. When your child, or grandchild, is born, you want it to belong to the family of God, so you have him/her baptized. When the time comes for you to pass from this world to the next, you want a celebration in the church, because your relationship with God does not end with your death. Who makes all these possible…the parish priest. I can tell you that parish priests do this because they believe it is their vocation, their call from God. And most of the parish priests thoroughly enjoy their vocation. But…there is a but…priests are becoming a rare commodity. Consider the reality that in the last 40 years, only 12 priests have come from our diocese, and of these 12 only 7 are still with us…and in the next 6 years there will be at least 7 of our priests retiring, and only Dale is in the pipeline. St. Joseph has always had a parish priest, but that may not always be the case. We, as a parish family, need to get serious and start encouraging our sons and grandsons to become priests, and our daughters and granddaughters to become sisters. Only when we have an environment of vocations in our church, will young men and women start considering a religious vocation. I remember once reading, "Your priest was once someone's son, perhaps your son will one day be someone's priest." I can tell you that my mom was in no way less proud of me than she was of her other children. Let us all pray that many of St. Joseph Parish's children will become priests and sisters.

An Article on Permanent Diaconate

The title "deacon" comes from the Greek word *diakonos*, which means "servant." Though all Christians by baptism are called to *diakonia*, or service, deacons serve as a public sacramental sign of Christ in and at the service of the world. Like a priest, a deacon is a member of the clergy who shares in the ministry of the Bishop. Unlike a priest, he may have a wife, a family, and a secular job. The diaconate is a distinct vocation, or calling, to imitate Christ in his service to all humanity, to bring the world to Christ and Christ to the world. This fall we will see another "crop" of candidates prepare to become Permanent Deacons. It is wonderful to see this once vanishing ministry in the Church flourish once again. Please pray for this new "crop" of Permanent Deacons, and please pray that many young people would respond to the call to become Priests, Deacons and Sisters.

Please pray for Vocations

Heavenly Father,
bless your Church with an abundance
of holy and zealous priests, deacons,
brothers and sisters.
Give to those you have called
to the married state
and those you have chosen to live
as single persons in the world,
the special graces
that their lives require.
Form us all in the likeness of your Son, so that in Him, with Him
and through Him
we may love you more deeply
and serve you more faithfully,
always and everywhere.
With Mary, we ask you this
through Christ our Lord. AMEN

Parish Council

Parish Council has the awesome job to bring the needs of parishioners forward, and to help Fr. Jim govern the parish. There have been a few changes to

Parish Council these past few months. Come September we will be starting with a new Parish Council Chairperson, Ting Marshall. Ting has been sitting on Parish Council as a Member at Large and a year ago has offered to step forward. After a year of mentoring her, John Piggot will be stepping down. We would like to thank John for all his dutiful service in leading the parish for the last 10 years. John will stay on Parish Council as vice chair, and will still take care of security and protocol. Thank you to John and thank you to Ting.

The next change is in the Pastoral Care area. After years of faithful service Vi Pelletier will be stepping down from the Communion to the Sick and Homebound Ministry, to insure they are not denied the Sunday Eucharist. We thank Vi for her years of faithful service. If you feel called to this area please see Fr. Jim. (Are you interested?)

Pat Suchorab, who has been spearheading the Comfort & Care for Widowed Persons, has also stepped down. With more and more of our population aging, Pat's shoes will be hard to fill. We thank you Pat for your years of wonderful service.

If you were at the annual meeting, you would have heard George Marshall (husband to Ting) offer to let his name stand for Ecumenism. Dialogue with other Christian denominations has been a priority since Vatican II. Thank you to George for stepping forward.

The other members of Parish council include:
Finance & Property – Don Dolezsar
Liturgy - Jean Oleksuik
Faith Education – Howard Weitzel
Children's Liturgy – Arianna Oleksuik
Youth – Deacon Paul Joy
Communion to the Sick & Homebound – **Vacant**
Comfort & Care for Widowed Persons – **Vacant**
Social Justice – Patti Tomyn
Ecumenical – George Marshall
Knights of Columbus rep– Darrell Oleksuik
Community Life – **Vacant**
Responsible Ministry Protocol – John Piggott
Security & Safety – John Piggott
Members at Large – Darren & Shauna Strange, Agatha Kam & Glen Cherne, Luciano Lauzon, Tom Mano.

If you feel called to service on Parish Council, please feel free to speak to Fr. Jim

Baptism Preparation

Having children is the first command God gave to humanity, "Go forth and multiple. Here at St. Joseph, we are striving to cooperate with God in this valuable task. Having a child is a monumental event, having them baptized and raising them in the faith is even more difficult. To this end we have Baptism Preparation classes for all parents. The next set of classes are May 22 & 29. Please phone the parish (306) 764-4942 to register. NOTE: The next set of classes after these will not be until Fall.

Ecumenism

At the Annual Meeting on March 16, I was doing my happy dance. George Marshall put forward his name to serve as our Ecumenical Chairperson. In this action, I see the great prayer of Jesus taking one step forward. *"May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us."* (John 17:21) The call for Christian unity made by Vatican II is finding an ever greater echo in the hearts of believers. The courageous witness of so many martyrs of our century, including members of Churches and Ecclesial Communities not in full communion with the Catholic Church, gives us new vigor and reminds us of our duty to seek unity. I for one look forward to the many activities and celebrations we can undertake to work towards unity.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

For me, as a pastor, nothing gives me more pleasure than to have someone who wants to join our Church. It means we are doing something right, and they want to be a part of the community that reflects the love of God. Every week during communion there is a whole host of individuals who come up for a blessing. Many of these individuals are spouses of devout Catholics. I am left wondering, "After coming to the church for 20 or 30 years why don't they just become Catholic." I had an old sister in one of my parishes who spoke of one such man, her comment was, "He's Catholic, he just doesn't know it." If your spouse has been coming for 20 or 30 years and would like to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church, talk to them, and talk to Fr. Jim. We will be running an modified RCIA program for this specific group in September. Already I have two individuals who will be a part. Please consider joining, as a weekly blessing is wonderful, but receiving the Eucharist is literally "out of this world." If you or someone you know would like to be a fully initiated member of the Church, please talk to Fr. Jim

STRIVE

It has been said that pornography is confessed only by half the penitents, and the other half are too embossed to confess it. But there is hope. STRIVE, a free program created by Matt Fradd, because when it comes to quitting porn, he knows what works. If

you want to quit porn, he wants to equip you with the tools you need and a brotherhood of support to help you find lasting freedom. These are some of the comments of individuals who have used this free program. **1)** "This is the first time I've intentionally gone this long without porn." **2)** "With STRIVE, I have never felt such a great feeling of community and brotherhood in this fight." **3)** "I am able to see the big picture of the effects pornography has on me and those around me. Thank you!" **4)** "I feel totally awesome. It's been 21 days since I've looked at porn. For me, that is a huge accomplishment!" **5)** "I feel myself dying to my old ways...and am responding completely differently to temptation**."** Simply go to **www.strive.com** and begin.

St. Theresa Pilgrimage

All are warmly welcomed to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Therese of Lisieux and the Centennial of the Pilgrimage held in her honour on June 7th & 8th, 2025 at St. Theresa Shrine in Wakaw; one of the diocesan designated pilgrimage sites for this jubilee year. Please see the agenda below for times.

Saturday, June 7, 2025
6:00 p.m. Confessions
7:00 p.m. Indoor French Mass (English Homily)
8:00 p.m. Outdoor Adoration (Weather Permitting)
Followed by Light Lunch

Sunday, June 8
8:30 a.m. Registration—Religious Store Opens
9:00 a.m. Outdoor Way of the Cross
9:45 a.m. Confessions
10:45 a.m. Outdoor Mass
12:00 p.m. Lunch Served— Cost $10/person
1:30 p.m. Guest Speaker—Bishop Stephen Hero
"St. Thérèse: A Pilgrim of Hope"
2:15 p.m. Adoration & Healing Service

Bring Your Own Lawn Chairs. For Information About Camping Locations please Contact the Parish: 306-233-4230 or Email: sttheresaparish@gmail.com

St. Laurent and Pilgrimage Vocations Walk

The Vocations Commission is planning another Vocations walk from Duck Lake to St. Laurent Shrine, on Tuesday, July 15, starting at 12:00noon.

Social Justice Endeavors

Are you downsizing or moving. Remember there are many refugees and immigrants who have little or nothing. Please contact Patti Tomyn at (306) 981-5526 if you have major things to give away.

Pastoral Planning Day

It has been said, "If you fail to plan, you are really planning to fail." Here at St. Joseph, we have set Saturday, September 6 from 10:00am to 12:00noon as a time, when we can come up with a master plan for the next pastoral year. With so many things happening, we want to set a schedule that is not only efficient, but also all encompassing. This mtg is open to all parishioners, so mark your calendars now!

A Note from Amoris Laetitia: The Joy of Love,

This is one of Pope Francis' encyclicals, and it is a theme which runs through the recent final document on the Synod of the Church. "The Church wishes, with humility and compassion, to reach out to families and "to help each family to discover the best way to overcome any obstacles it encounters". It is not enough to show generic concern for the family in pastoral planning. Enabling families to take up their role as active agents of the family apostolate calls for "an effort at evangelization." "This effort calls for missionary conversion by everyone in the Church, that is, one that is not content to proclaim a merely theoretical message without connection to people's real problems". (200 & 201)

Anniversary Sunday

St. Joseph's Parish is planning a Milestone Wedding Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, June 8 at 10am. Registration will begin in the foyer a month before the celebration. You can also contact the Church Office at 306-763-4942. Wedding Anniversaries will be recognized at 5 year intervals until the 50th when they are recognized every year. For those who register for the Milestone Wedding Anniversary Celebration may we request copies of your most up to date picture and your wedding picture; if you have not provided copies for previous years. Kindly bring these to the church office as soon as possible. Couples celebrating these milestone anniversaries will be given free tickets for a Pancake Breakfast courtesy of the Knights of Columbus. These tickets will be given out prior to the celebration. For more information you may call Marlene at 306-763-9846 or Gloria at 306-764-2356. Thank you.

Remembering your St. Joseph in your Will

Planned Giving is when people plan very large donations to their parish. Normally people do not think of a planned gift until late in life. I am asking you to think about what kind of legacy you can leave to St. Joseph. Presently there are over 1300 families on our parish roster. If only 25% of those bequeathed 10% of their estate, or even $10,000 of their estate to

the parish, we would have 400 X $10,000 = $4,000,000 (or more) which we could invest, and never have to worry about money again. I would ask that you talk over options with your family and your accountant, and see what is the best way to leave a legacy.

Bishop's Annual Appeal

The totals for the Bishops Annual Appeal are in. The results are as follows

	Goal	Amount pledged	Number participating	Average Pledge
St. Joseph				
2023	$35,943	$45,430	127	$358
2024	$34,664	$48,190	123	$391
Diocese				
2023	$450,000	$437,763	1260	$347
2024	$475,000	$500,916	1280	$391

NOTE: The average for the parish and the diocese were only a few cents different.

Direct Deposit

Some Parishioners have been asking for the option of Direct Depositing their weekly collection. This can be a convenient way of donating to the parish, as the weekly task of finding a bill to put into the envelope is done away with, and the parish is left with a steady supply of income. If you are interested in direct deposit, please contact Helen at the parish office (306) 764-4942 and she will set you up. It has also been noted by some, that if you are using the direct deposit method of donating, others may never see you put anything in the collection basket. We are suggesting that you take the envelope from your box, write DD (for direct deposit) on it and drop the empty envelope into the collection basket.

Advantages to using Envelopes

Every year we, as a parish, order a few extra boxes of envelopes. They help parishioners keep track of their donations, and it enables them to get an Income Tax Receipt; which in turn gives them a deduction on their Income Tax. Every year we encourage people to use these envelopes, and every year I am left asking, "If it is beneficial, why doesn't everyone use them?" I don't know the answer to that, but if you would like to start using envelopes, please contact our parish secretary.

Elevator Fundraising

We started our Elevator Fundraising back in September. The reason is the Elevator is almost 40 years old and parts are no longer available, we have had reliability issue and we have to get it retrofitted. Prior to the Bishop Annual Appeal we raised about $50,000. We put the campaign on hiatus while the Bishop's Appeal campaign was in action, and during the Christmas season, but now we are back into the elevator campaign. The raffle brought in a few thousand, the sale on May 10 brought in a few thousand, and money has still been coming in. Presently we are sitting at over $60,000. The total bill will be $120.000. If you have not yet contributed to this fund there will be ample time in the New Year.

To Park or not to Park – That is the question

When people arrive late for Mass they are often looking for a place to park. Some are taking the open spots immediately opposite the church. Unfortunately these are the driveways of our neighbours. Please do not upset our neighbours because they are gracious enough to watch over our building at night. Vehicles will be towed if they block those driveways and you will be left holding the bill. Rather than giving that amount to a towing company, please donate it to the Elevator Fund.

To Sit or not to Sit – That is the question

Everyone knows that every good Catholic sits at the back of the Church. However, the back of the church has been getting further and further back. People are coming in and immediately sitting in the foyer. This is unfortunate because that action is eliminating the space that is needed for parents with young children. If you do not have young children, please leave the spaces in the foyer for the young families. Thank you for your cooperation.

Death and New Hope

Easter is normally a time of resurrection and joy. However, in our church we have experienced the deaths of significant death. First was Bishop Emeritus Albert Thévenot, who served as our bishop for almost 13 year; passed away April 13, Palm Sunday. The second significant death in our church was Pope Francis. He was elected on March 13, 2013 and died on April 21, the day after Easter. To most believers, he will be remembered as a pastorally sensitive leader who sought to re-connect the church with the essentials of the Christian faith. Francis followed his namesake, St. Francis of Assisi,

renowned for poverty, peace, and care of creation. It is appropriate that these two great men both dies around Easter. However, with these deaths comes new hope. Our Church has elected a new pope—Pope _____, (this was written before his election) let us pray that God will give him all the strength, wisdom and gifts to lead us into the future.

Note on the Synod

From October 2021 to October 2024, the Universal Church undertook a synod on Synodality. The purpose of a synod is to listen to the people of God to uncover what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church at a particular time in history. This Synod asked us to consider how we are journeying together as the Church in communion, participation, and mission. After the final listening session in Rome in October of 2024, a report was generated, though the final document was not the primary intent of the process. Instead, the gift of the Synod on Synodality was to learn how synodality works through our journey, which the process created.

As the final document points out, our synodal journey has just begun. From our baptism, we are called as members of Christ's body to be missionary disciples. Disciples are those who follow Christ. Missionaries are those who are sent, and we are sent every week at the end of Mass. We are to use the skills taught through the synodal process, the skills of respectful dialogue and discernment through the Holy Spirit, to live our mission to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with everyone. We are called to do this as community believers, fully participating in the mission. And as we do this, we will live the refrain from the song "*Sing a New Church"* invites: "Let us bring the gifts that differ and, in splendid, varied ways, sing a new Church into being, one in faith and love and praise."

Upcoming Days of note

Mon May 5 to Fri May 9
Fr. Jim on Annual Priests Retreat
Sun May 11 – Mother's Day & Pancake Breakfast
Sun May 18 – 5:00pm – Filipino Mass
Thurs May 22 & 29 – Baptism Preparation classes
Sat May 24 – Youth Rally In North Battleford
Sat May 31 – 11:00am
Pro Life Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral
Sun June 8 – Pentecost – Anniversary Sunday
Pancake Breakfast
Sat June 14 – Street Fair
Sun June 15 – Father's Day
Also honoring of Grade 12 grads
Also 5:00pm Filipino Mass
Wed June 18 - 9:30am – St. Francis end of year Mass
Also – 1:00pm Farewell to grade 8 at Holy Cross
Thurs June 19 – 4:00pm
Priest Anniversary Mass at Sacred Heart
Fri June 20 – 10:00am Holy Cross Year end Mass
Tues June 24 – St. Mary Grad
Fri June 27 – Feast of the Sacred Heart
Sat Aug 2 to Sat Aug 9 – Fr. Jim on holiday

Five things People say on their deathbed

Live your life in such a way that you will never have to say any of these.

1. 'I wish I hadn't dedicated so much of my life to working so hard.' While money is important, so many people regret spending so much time at work, time that could've been allocated to family, friends and pleasure.

2. 'I wish I'd lived my life the way I wanted, not how others expected me to behave.' Being 'true' to oneself,' people's sadness at never achieving - or even attempting to achieve - their personal dreams.

3. 'I regret losing touch with so many of my friends'. Friendships, like all relationships, require maintenance. It's easy to let them slide and die out. We have regrets that we didn't do more to keep in contact with those people we met in life.

4. 'I wish I'd been brave enough to express my feelings more. Many people suppressed their feelings in order to keep peace with others. As a result, they settled for a mediocre existence and never became who they were truly capable of becoming. Many develop illnesses relating to bitterness and resentment they carried for years.

5. 'I wish I'd let myself be happier'. Fear of change or a fear of letting others down…'Life is a choice. It is your life,' 'Choose consciously, choose wisely, choose honestly. Choose happiness'