

Mass Intentions
may be requested
by contacting:

Fr. Young

**SIGN-UP FOR
MASSES (CLICK
HERE)**

The regular weekday Mass schedule (with Masses at 8am Tuesday-Fridays) will not resume until Jan. 12. Church-Office hours may fluctuate during holiday season. Call to arrange an appointment.

Available spots for liturgies are found on the sign-up website (see link below).

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

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WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SASKATOONLOURDES/ WWW.FATHERYOUNG.COM

[HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/10CoD4FABA82DABF8C25-LITURGIES](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoD4FABA82DABF8C25-LITURGIES)

Pastoral Message

On the last Sunday of the year, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. We are here to offer all the members of our own families on the altar for God's blessing. Today we hear God's promise (Chapter 15), of numerous descendants to Abraham whom Judaism, Christianity, Islam consider their father, and its fulfillment (Chapter 21) when Abraham's wife, Sarah, gave birth to Isaac. In the second reading, taken from the letter to the Hebrews, the sacred author further shows us the trusting faith of Abraham in the promises of God, first, in Abraham's willingness to move his whole family to an unknown place to which God said He would lead him; second, in the way Abraham and Sarah trusted God's power to give them a son born to them in their very old age and third, in the way Abraham's unwavering Faith in his God enabled him to obey, without hesitation, his God's order to sacrifice his only son. Today's Gospel presents the head of the Holy Family, Joseph, faithfully obeying God's law given through Moses concerning the purification of the mother and the redeeming of the child by presenting Mary and the Baby Jesus in the Temple. The events recounted here are also found on February 2nd, the *Feast of Presentation of Jesus*.

We need to learn lessons from the Holy Family: The Church encourages us to look to the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for inspiration, example and encouragement. They were a model family in which both parents worked hard, helped each other, understood and accepted each other, and took good care of their Child so that Jesus might grow up not only in human knowledge but also as a Child of God. We need to make the family a confessional rather than a courtroom. See that you never convert your family into a courtroom; instead let it be a confessional. If the husband and wife start arguing like attorneys in an attempt to justify their behaviour, their family becomes a court of law and nobody wins. On the other hand, if the husband and the wife -- as in a confessional -- are ready to admit their faults and try to correct them, the family becomes a heavenly one. Marriage is a sacrament of holiness. Each family is called to holiness. By the Sacrament of Matrimony (marriage), Jesus sanctifies not only the spouses but also the entire family. The husband and wife attain holiness when they discharge their duties faithfully, trusting in God, and drawing on the power of God by prayer.

~WITH JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, FR. GEOFFREY YOUNG

Some notes for Liturgies throughout the coming weekends and for the Christmas season:

- Arrive around 5 minutes before your scheduled time for liturgy (stay in your warm cars). It is best during this time to park on 12th ST side to use front entrance. Doors will be propped open when the Church is ready for you. You will see the doors open; **but please allow the exiting persons to leave first before approaching the entrance.**
- Once the liturgy has begun - the doors will remain shut - **no admittance will be permitted during this time under any circumstances** until you see the doors opened up. Assisting staff will help facilitate this and to allow a safe and free flow of traffic coming and going.
- Following the liturgies - for those able to assist in sanitation - wipe down your seats with the available cleaning supplies. The designated assisting staff at each particular service will help facilitate this. For all others, please depart as expediently as possible. Please, during this time, do not linger and visit in the Church-Gym our welcome area. Because of time constraints, it is important to clear out the area so it can be sanitized and prepared for the next parishioners to enter.

Ways to Contribute to the Church: Our Lady of Lourdes has a **food collection** for families in need connected to our parish community. To assist us in this ministry, you may make monetary donations out to the parish (indicate with a note/in the Memo: 'Food Collection'). This helps us to be able to buy goods or items particular to each situation. You will receive a charitable tax receipt of any monetary gifts given to the parish for this or other contributions. **Our parish also will be preparing Christmas hampers.** During Covid, this is the best way to help prepare hampers as we can buy any necessary items. Again, and gifts made out to Our Lady of Lourdes, with a note/memo to indicate where your gift is to be directed.

CHILDREN'S CATECHESIS LESSON

During this Christmas season, we recall how Mary gives God her "Yes!" How can we give our "Yes!" to God?

For age appropriate reflections on the Gospel, go to <https://www.thebetterpart.net/> and click on the age group for your child.

