



# Holy Cross Parish Annual General Meeting March 30, 2025

ON- LINE VERSION  
(No BUDGET or  
Financial Statement)



***Sustaining &  
Strengthening  
Holy Cross Parish  
as a vital and viable  
Parish Faith  
Community  
in the  
Archdiocese  
of Regina***

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT**  
**March 30, 2025**  
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**2025 HOLY CROSS PARISH PASTORAL STAFF &  
VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP TEAM**

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**PASTORAL STAFF**

PASTOR	Fr. Carlos Jimenez
PASTORAL ASSISTANT & OFFICE ADMINISTRATION	Martin Kondzielewski

**SUPPORT STAFF**

BOOKKEEPER	Rita Gareau
CARETAKER	Jacob Antony

**PASTORAL COUNCIL**

CHAIRPERSON	Pat McGinn
VICE-CHAIRPERSON	Brigitte Leibel
PAST CHAIRS	Neil & Lori Garchinski
MEMBERS AT LARGE	Jan Genert, Elise Paquin, Ron Adams, Gilbert Evangelista
SECRETARY	Lori Garchinski

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

LITURGY	Connie Todd
FUNDRAISING	Wayne Rutten
SOCIAL ACTION	Rita Gareau
HOSPITALITY	Marie Lebersback & Susan Leier
PERSONNEL	Ron Adams

**FINANCE COUNCIL**

CHAIRPERSON	John Lebersback
CONDO	Pat McGinn
PAYROLL	Rita Gareau
BUILDING & GROUNDS	Wayne Rutten, Garry Kraushaar, Gerard Woynarski
COLLECTION COUNTERS	Mike and Sherry Andruschak
SECRETARY	Wendy Kraushaar

**ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES**

CWL	Loretta Jelinski
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS	Len Jelinski

## **VISION, MISSION, VALUES & GOALS OF HOLY CROSS PARISH**

### **Vision**

We are Christ on earth, bringing Christ to all.

### **Mission**

One family of faith living out the message and work of Jesus Christ.

### **Values**

As a Roman Catholic faith community we value:

1. All of creation as the work of God,
2. Each person as a child of God,
3. Scripture as the Word of God, and
4. Living what we profess to believe.

### **Goals**

The Goals of Holy Cross Parish are to:

1. Meet the needs of our Christian Community,
2. Develop and celebrate our faith,
3. Promote, support and celebrate all vocations,
4. Support and involve youth and children,
5. Support lay ministry and Parish leadership,
6. Reach out to the wider community - to refugees, aboriginal peoples, seniors, the home bound and shut-ins, and
7. Evangelize.

**HOLY CROSS PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**March 30, 2025**  
**AGENDA**

**Chair: Pat McGinn**

**Recorder: Lori Garchinski**

Welcome: Pat McGinn

Opening Prayer: Father Carlos Jimenez

1. Call to order: Recognition of Pastoral Council and Finance Council members and staff
2. Agenda
  - a) Additions
 Motion and Adoption of Agenda
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of April 7, 2024
  - a) Errors and/or omissions
 Motion and Adoption of the minutes
4. Business arising from the minutes of April 7, 2024
5. Pastoral Council Reports
  - a) Chairperson
  - b) Liturgy
  - c) Hospitality
  - d) Pro-Life
  - e) Fundraising
  - f) Social Action
 Motion and Adoption of Pastoral Council Reports
6. Finance Council Reports
  - a) Chairperson
  - b) Collection Counters
  - c) Personnel
  - d) Building and Grounds
  - e) Archbishop's Appeal
  - f) Condo
  - g) Budget
 Motion and Adoption of Budget
  - h) Financial Statements
 Motion and Adoption of Finance Council Reports
7. Organizational Reports
  - a) Catholic Women's League
  - b) Knights of Columbus
 Motion and Adoption of Organizational Reports
8. Staff Reports
  - a) Pastoral Assistant & Office Assistant
 Motion and Adoption of Staff Reports
9. Elections
  - a) Elections to Pastoral Council
  - b) Consideration of participation and involvement in the 2025 year
11. Closing Remarks – Pat McGinn
12. Closing Comments and Prayer – Father Carlos Jimenez
13. Adjournment

## Holy Cross Parish

### Minutes of the April 7, 2024 Annual General Meeting

Opening Prayer: Father Carlos Jimenez

1. Call to order – Pat McGinn called the Annual General Meeting meeting to order at 10:40am. Pat provides a thank you to the Hospitality Committee and all those who contributed to the meal today. Special thank you to all those who worked on the AGM report which provides a comprehensive review of our last year events.
2. Agenda  
 Additions: No additions noted  
 Motion: Dolores Deis made the motion that the April 7, 2024 AGM agenda be adopted as distributed. Seconded by Helen Herauf. Motion Carried.
3. Minutes of the April 23, 2023 AGM  
 Errors or Omissions – none noted  
 Motion: That the minutes of the April 23, 2023 AGM be adopted Connie Todd and seconded by Wendy Kraushaar. Motion Carried.
4. Business arising from the April 23, 2023 minutes – no business was identified from those at the meeting.
5. New Business: Pastoral Council Reports  
 In the 2024 AGM booklet, the following reports are found:
  - a. Pastors Report – Ruth Robillard thanked Fr Carlos for his report in the AGM report. Fr Carlos made a note that there was a typo compensation from St Mary's for his service. They will be contributing 40% towards his salary not 33% as is indicated in the report.
  - b. Chairperson
  - c. Liturgy
  - d. Fundraising
  - e. Pro-Life
  - f. Hospitality
 Motion to adopt the Pastoral Council Reports was made by Albert Robillard and seconded by Dolores Deis.  
 No further discussion – Motion Carried.
6. Finance Council Report
  - a. Chairperson
  - b. Collection Counters
  - c. Building and Grounds
  - d. Archbishop's Appeal
  - e. Condo
  - f. Budget
  - g. Financial Statements
 Motion to adopt the Finance Council Reports by Susan Leier and seconded by Trudy Rutten.  
 No Discussion – Motion Carried.

## Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting continued...

7. Organizational Reports  
Catholic Women's League – Motion to adopt this report is by Pam Richaud and seconded by Jan Genert.  
Knights of Columbus – Motion to accept this report Wayne Rutten and seconded by Harvey Kennedy.  
No Discussion – Motion Carried.
8. Staff Reports  
Pastoral Assistant and Office Assistant Reports  
Motion to adopt the Staff Reports by Jan Genert and seconded by Trudy Rutten.  
No discussion – Motion Carried.
9. Constitution  
Review of the new Constitution – Brigitte Leibel and Pat McGinn went over the new Constitution including the handout to ensure everyone is aware of the changes or adjustments. A committee including Brigitte Leibel, Mike Morris and Pat McGinn drafted the new version based on the Archdiocese template and have also circulated it to Pastoral Council. There was some discussion with the new format of how elections take place however the goal is to ensure that we parishioners are wanting to participate in the activities of the parish and not so much pressure on being a chair of a committee. Once this discussion occurred, the document was then sent to the Archdiocese who has approved the constitution as was presented. The final step is to bring it to the AGM for a larger review and consideration of the new processes which will be implemented if the constitution is approved.  
Discussion: Corrections, Additions, Omissions – Position description were moved from the main body of the Constitution to an appendix work. Discussion ensued with some concerns in regards to what the Archdiocese direction is in the changes to the Constitution. After a lot of discussion the question was called.  
Motion to adopt the new Constitution by Albert Robillard and seconded by Rita Gareau.  
1 Opposition noted. Motion Carried.

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## Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting continued...

### 10. Elections

Nominations Committee and scrutineer – Jan Genert was the chair of nominations and proceeded with the slate of officers.

Elections of Pastoral Council – The slate was identified by Jan Genert and shared with the current group. Huntley OConnor made the motion and Neil Garchinski seconded the motion. There was also a call for any nominations from the floor. Neil nominates Bob Herauf and Ruth Robillard seconded. Bob refused the nomination but was grateful for the consideration. CWL nominations for Loretta Jelinski and Knights of Columbus – representative to follow. Motion to close the nominations was by Ruth Robillard and seconded by Pam Richaud. Motion Carried. No oppositions.

There may not be enough council members to support Spiritual Education, Youth, and Stewardship, these topics will continue to be reviewed by Pastoral Council to ensure that there was some ongoing focus on these topics as well.

11. Closing Remarks – John Lebersback wanted to acknowledge his experiences with Jennifer Ochieng who was supporting financial work through Archdiocese. Unfortunately, Jennifer suddenly passed away earlier this year and Holy Cross just wanted to recognize her contributions and support. We know that Jennifer leaves behind a loving family and two children. The AGM representatives asked for a minute of silence to remember Jennifer and her work in our city.

12. Closing comments and prayer – Father Carlos Jimenez gave his remarks. We may be small in numbers but we are large in our hearts and he is very happy for that. He is grateful for the ongoing structure and work that this parish has done to support the community. Thank you for the Challenge Girls work and for the leaders as well. Thank you to Rita, Martin and the support of Pastoral Council for their ongoing help including supporting St Mary's Parish as they transition their church work. Fr Carlos noted that he will be extended for one more year while structure is put in place in order to support St Mary's parish to be more independent. St Mary's AGM is April 21 so we ask the Holy Spirit to help them as well with their volunteers, dedication to their parish and support for their community. Thank you to everyone.

Pat provided an update to the group in regards to the ongoing discussion of the building of the condo development next to the Church.

Motion to adjourn – Neil Garchinski, Len Jelinski seconded.  
Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.



## *Pastor's Report*

First of all, I would like to thank you all for your active and dynamic participation in the life of our parish community, physically, spiritually and materially. Without your support in all our activities, we will not be able to survive the challenges of keeping our faith community to be our spiritual home, where each us celebrates Christ as His body and bring Christ in us to the world around us.

To realize this vision of us as Holy Cross faith community, we come to celebrate as the body of Christ in the daily liturgy, with especial celebrations during Advent, Lent and Easter, and during our Feast Day with half-day recollection, the sacrament of confession, Christmas 9-day Novena Masses, Tuesday Adoration devoted to praying for Peace in the World, and First Friday devotional Masses and Adoration in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Additionally, a devotional prayer of the Holy Rosary for Divine Mercy for our world is a regular activity 30 minutes before every Mass. We extend our Holy Cross sacramental celebrations to Queen Victoria Estate Care Home every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, and a lay liturgical celebration of the Word and Communion each Sunday by our lay ministers. And as your priest, we extend our weekly Masses at the retirement homes at Renaissance along McIntyre Street, College Park 1 and Broadway Terrace. There is a clamor also to give communion service to Catholics at Qu'Appelle House care facility. Will be looking to this possibility the coming year with the Liturgy Committee of the Parish Council.

Special thanks to the members of the CWL of Holy Cross Council and the Gerein Council of the Knights of Columbus for their vibrant contributions and leadership in all aspects of our parish life, from liturgy, to finance, fund raising, parish pastoral council, to mention a few of the myriads of their involvement in all aspects of our parish activities.

In my meeting with the Archbishop on January 15, this year, he emphasized to me the decline in our contribution to the Archbishop Annual Appeal comparing it to last year's contribution of more than 70% from this year 2024 of less than 50% of our parish goal. Why the decline? I am not sure for we were not remiss in showing the Archbishop's Appeal campaign videos during the period of the appeal in all our weekend Masses. Let us not forget that we belong to the greater body of Church in our Archdiocese, and the Archdiocesan Pastoral Leadership needs our continued financial support aside from our prayers.

There has been a move this year to start our parish council's working cooperation with Little Flower with our Pastoral Chairs' attendance in both parishes Pastoral Council meeting. There was also a move with Holy Cross and St. Mary's Council to work together starting with the joint project of the CWL's fundraising endeavor in the coming years. There is also a brewing idea of the three parishes working on a Parish Mission project.

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## *Pastor's Report (continued)*

Despite the perceived declining number of parishioners, I found attendance this year as I tend to count heads at every Mass, we have an approximate average of Mass goers during weekdays a total of 56 from Tuesday to Friday, with 8-12 comes for Adoration of Tuesdays, and First Fridays. On Saturdays an approximate of 40-70 people, and Sundays at approximate average of 60-80 depending on the weekend. Approximately a total number of 196 heads per week. This shows in the positive performance of our Financials for the last two years. But more importantly, active parishioners are dynamically participating and supporting the parish in all activities; liturgical, spiritual as well as community fellowship. Let us continue to help support our parish life in all our activities to make Holy Cross dynamic and vibrant faith community, with each member living her mission of to be Christ in the World, and bringing Christ to where each parishioner is engaged with wherever one is in the world. Let us make Holy Cross be an attractive Spiritual Home to those whose life is in Christ and the ones whose searching for a life in Christ.

Again, thank you for having me as your pastor. I am so blessed to be with you. Let us once again journey together and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mother Mary, we will continue to animate all of us towards our common goal of holiness of life.

Father Carlos Jimenez

## *Pastoral Council Chairperson's Report*

Hello to all parishioners. I am Patrick McGinn chair of Pastoral Council and I would like to thank you for your faithful participation in the life of the parish.

Over this last year, we continued as a vital congregation. The interest and level of volunteer participation and it's programs in ministries speaks to the vibrancy of the parish. This is personified in the following ways:

- ◆ We are blessed with Father Carlos, second year of pastoral responsibilities;
- ◆ Maintaining a schedule of weekday and weekend Masses, and other special religious services;
- ◆ Performing the sacraments;
- ◆ Volunteerism to Pastoral Council and committees;
- ◆ Maintaining our strong complement of employees in the operation of the parish office and parish pastoral assistant role;
- ◆ Achieving financial stability with the generous donations of parishioners and fundraising successes;
- ◆ Fundraising events that foster community interaction;
- ◆ The drive and input of our CWL and Knights of Columbus;
- ◆ Our outreach to seniors and senior's homes with volunteerism in their personal lives and events;
- ◆ Outreach and charitable donations to other charities;
- ◆ Our interaction with our sister parishes, notably the shared roll with Father Carlos, to St. Mary's Parish, and with mutual relations with Little Flower Parish in invitations to respective council meetings.

The parish family is always changing with births, deaths, and the addition of new parishioners. It is our hope that these dynamics maintain at least our parish membership numbers, and thereby potentially result in the continuance of the parish.

Critical to our financial picture is the parishioners attention to collections and donations. Fundraising is an absolute and necessary component to achieving financial stability. The success of these events depends on volunteerism effort, parish participation, all of which can be challenging.

Filling volunteer positions into Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and its respective committees, and membership into the CWL and Knights of Columbus collectively, contribute meaningfully to the "vitality" and "vibrancy" of the parish, two very key words a focus.

We look forward to another year of community and religious service at Holy Cross.

Respectfully submitted,

Yours in Christ,

Patrick McGinn  
Pastoral Council Chair

## *Liturgy Committee Report*

Chairperson: Connie Todd (year 2 of Term)

Sub-committee chairpersons:

Altar Servers/Power Point: Pam Richaud,

Liturgical Ministries: Dolores Deis,

Children's Liturgy: vacant (activities suspended since March 2020),

Music: Trudy Rutten, (music groups—Anthem, Holy Cross Choir, Linda Selinger (retired June/24) , Strings and Voices (retired Fall/24), Joyful Noise, and guest group Vision)

Environment: Darcy Butchko

Lay Ministries: Connie Todd—lay leaders: Patricia Schiessler and Dan Devers

Ushers: Don Gardiner and Gerry Fry collect Saturday mass and Knights of Columbus collect Sunday mass

Pastoral Assistant: Deacon Martin Kondzielewski

Committee meetings 2024 were held in January, February, April, May, August, September, October, November and December. Thank you to Brigitte Leibel for being our recorder.

Celebrant: Fr. Carlos Jimenez is our celebrant. He continues to assist St. Mary's Parish with Mass celebrations. He also assists Fr. Jake of Little Flower Parish with senior care home Masses. (College Park, Renaissance, Broadway Terrace)

2024 Mass Celebrations: Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. (July 2 weekly Adoration at 6:00 p.m. introduced). Wednesday, Thursday, Friday at 9:00 a.m. Saturday at 5:00 p.m. Sunday at 9:00 a.m. The Rosary was lead by parishioners one half hour prior to each mass. Reconciliation opportunity was available prior to all Masses. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was also celebrated on the first Friday of each month. Novena Masses were celebrated before Holy Cross Feast Day and Advent. February 3/4 Fr. Carlos provided Blessing of Throats (Feast Day of St. Blaise) with the Anointing of the Sick February 9/10.

Lay-lead Services: Holy Cross provides a Lay service to Victoria Park Care Community and Queen Victoria Estates Residence twice a month on the second and fourth Sundays. A Mass celebration was also provided to QVE on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. Thank you to Dan Devers and Patricia Schiessler for their continued dedication to this special and much needed ministry.

Lent/Easter 2024: Lenten Recollection March 23 featuring speaker Brett Salkeld. Parishioners returned old palms that were burned prior to Tuesday evening Mass on February 13 with the ashes used for Ash Wednesday Mass on February 14 at 7:00 p.m. Fridays of Lent saw Stations of the Cross at 6:45 p.m. lead by K of C, CWL, Challenge Girls, Pastoral Council and Liturgy Committee, followed by Mass. Parish reconciliation with several priests was March 7, 2024. Triduum Masses: Mass of the Lord's Supper Thursday March 28 at 7:00 p.m. followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 p.m. Good Friday March 29 at 3:00 p.m. followed by Vigil of the Cross until 8:00 p.m. Vigil of the Resurrection of the Lord Saturday March 30 at 8:00 p.m. Easter Sunday March 31 at 9:00 a.m.

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## *Liturgy Committee Report (continued)*

September Volunteer Drive for liturgical ministries affirmed the amazing commitment of Holy Cross parishioners. Thank you to all volunteers.

Recollection to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Cross was September 14/24. Guest speaker Kevin Philips spoke on the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 30) was acknowledged by the wearing of orange ribbons the weekend of September 28/29.

All Soul's Day: Annual Memorial Mass was celebrated on Saturday November 2, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Family of Holy Cross parishioners who had passed since last November were invited. Many parishioners who had lost family and loved ones throughout the year also attended. This Mass of Remembrance continues to be a spiritual and heartfelt time for those grieving. Many are thankful for the opportunity to bring a photo, light a candle and reflect on memories of their loved ones.

Advent Reconciliation and Recollection: Parish Reconciliation December 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Several clergy were in attendance. Advent Recollection (mini retreat) held December 14/24 from 9:00 am – noon. The morning began with a welcome and adoration. Guest speaker was Deacon Eric Gurash. A time of reflection and Mass followed. Fellowship was enjoyed by all over the luncheon.

Christmas and New Year's Masses: December 24 (8:30 p.m.), December 25 (9:00 a.m.), December 31 (7:00 a.m.—Adoration 6:00 p.m.), January 1 (9:00 a.m.)

Congratulations Deacon Martin Kondzielewski—ordained June 14, 2024 (serving at Christ the King Parish). We thank you for your continued support as pastoral assistant.

Thank you to Joyce Murphy for her work in the office. A special thank you to Lori Garchinski for preparing the weekend Power Point Mass parts.

To the committee and all the great volunteers...thank you so much!!!

All ministries work so very hard to provide wonderful celebrations of the Word of our Lord. You are what keeps our parish vibrant and viable.

Thank you Fr. Carlos for your guidance and being our shepherd.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Todd  
Liturgy Chairperson

## *Hospitality Committee*

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The responsibility of the Hospitality Committee includes:

- ◆ To ensure a welcoming environment is maintained in our parish;
- ◆ To encourage community participation through special events which encourage fellowship;
- ◆ To encourage a sense of belonging and relevance for all who choose to be part of our parish; and
- ◆ To provide opportunities for the community to celebrate our Family of Faith.

The following events were held in 2024:

- ◆ Lenten Recollection Reception (March 23, 2024), 25 people attended
- ◆ Easter Vigil Reception (March 30, 2024), 50 people attended
- ◆ Annual General Meeting Reception (April 7, 2024), 50 people attended
- ◆ Parish Feast Day Pot Luck Brunch (September 14, 2024), 32 people attended
- ◆ All Souls Reception (November 2, 2024), 42 people attended
- ◆ Parish Advent Recollection Reception (December 14, 2024), 33 people attended

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marie Lebersback & Susan Leier

## *Pro-Life Report*

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Our heartfelt thanks go to Joyce Murphy and Irene Wald for their dedication to not only inform us of Pro-Life events and activities (including MAiD) through the bulletin and other means but their willingness to take on tasks at the last moment that support this important movement. We also thank all those within the parish who assist in anyway with this important work.

Your efforts of promoting the goals of Pro-Life and the message of the sanctity of life from conception to natural death, are an inspiration to us all as a obvious sign of the mirroring of Christ's love for His Church.

## *Fundraising Committee Report*

Thanks to the many parishioner volunteers and friends, Holy Cross conducted the following successful fundraising activities in 2024.

A successful fundraiser with fellowship, food and entertainment was held on Sunday April 7 at the Serbian Club. There were 65 parishioners and friends who enjoyed a chicken breast buffet and entertainment provided by Neil and Beckie. THANK YOU. Special “thank you” to our parishioners, CWL and K. of C. who donated items (homemade/prepared) for our raffle and silent auction. With the meal, raffle and silent auction, the 50/50 draw, and donations, the result is a net of **\$1,438.30** for Holy Cross activities and services. A donation from Victoria Park Personal Care Community showed their support for Holy Cross.

The Holy Cross “24<sup>th</sup> annual *Cal Murphy Memorial Golf Tournament*” was held on Friday May 31 at Deer Valley Golf Club in Lumsden. There were 42 golfers plus 33 others in attendance for the beef on a bun buffet and friendly hospitality and fellowship. Thanks for the support to our many golf sponsors, and to all who contributed to the donations, the silent auction items and the 50/50 draw. It was a very successful golf tournament. Thanks to the many sponsors who provided a significant portion of the profit of **\$13,316.06** to fund Holy Cross activities. THANK YOU. To continue this successful golf fundraiser WE NEED YOUR HELP. We require new ideas, more volunteers and suggestions how to attract more golfing participation.

On Sunday November 10 our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Traditional Harvest Supper was a real success, thanks to the support of parishioners and friends of Holy Cross Parish. About 250 participants enjoyed a delicious meal of turkey, ham, cabbage rolls and all the trimmings plus pie (homemade and others). Thank you to Victoria Park Retirement Living for a donation of cheese cakes. Due to seasonal illness, takeout suppers were a success. Special thanks to all who cooked the turkeys and hams, and who donated food for the meal. To all of you who helped with peeling of potatoes and rutabagas, hall decorating, cooking and preparation of food and serving the meal on Sunday, cleaning up after the supper, washing dishes and cleaning the kitchen. A very special THANK YOU!

Thank you to Resurrection Parish for the use of the parish hall. With the sale of Harvest Supper tickets, 50/50 draw, donations and bar sales, the Harvest Supper was another successful fundraiser of **\$6995.49** for Holy Cross Parish. THANK YOU.

Our successful calendar raffle sales held each November and December provided a source of revenue of **\$2212.05** for our Liturgy, Spiritual Education and Social Action work at Holy Cross.

Thank you to all those special Holy Cross parishioners and friends who provide their time and talent to lead and to volunteer at these fundraising events.

***VOLUNTEERING is a WORK of the HEART  
MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK***

Wayne Rutten and John Lebersback  
Fundraising Committee

## *Social Action Committee Report*

The Social Action Committee has been resurrected and was very active in 2024

We put out jars to collect any loose change that parishioners may have carried around in their pockets and purses. As a result of your generosity, we were able to send the following:

July 31   **\$117.75** to Marian Centre  
 Dec 31   **\$125.00** to Chili for Children  
           **\$125.00** to Carmichael Outreach

We have decided to carry on with this initiative in 2025. If you have a local charity you would like to see receive a donation, please let me know.

In October we had a food drive to celebrate World Food Day on Oct 16. We collected 85 lbs of food and added **\$300** that was sent to the Regina Food Bank.

In December, our parish adopted a family for Christmas. Again, the parishioners came through and I was able to deliver a lot of food and a few gifts to a needy family.

I feel that part of the job for Social Action is to educate people and let them know what is out there and what they can do to help. Working on this premise, there were articles in the bulletin promoting:

- ◆ The Warm Welcome Coalition run out of Carmichael Outreach;
- ◆ Development & Peace;
- ◆ Lenten Calendars;
- ◆ National Day for Truth & Reconciliations along with activities to participate in;
- ◆ The Church's stand on voting along with tips on different ways to vote.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first full year at the head of Social Action and it is due to all the support I have received from the parishioners. Your generosity is unmatched. Thank you so much and here's to a fulfilling 2025. God bless.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Rita Gareau

PS – If anyone is interested in joining me on this committee, just drop me a line or come to see me in the office. My contact information is on the front page of the bulletin or in the upcoming Parish Directory.



## *Finance Council Report*

Holy Cross Parish has effectively managed all aspects of Holy Cross operations through 2024. Father Carlos, visiting priests, bookkeeper Rita Gareau, the Finance Committee members, Pastoral Council, all ministries, the CWL, the K. of C. and all parishioners contributed to the successful outcome for Holy Cross Parish.

For 2024, the net profit of **\$17,658** was realized and was an improvement compared to the 2024 budget profit of **\$4,305**. The primary contributors to the outcome were:

- ◆ Collections and donations were above budget and above 2023 actuals;
- ◆ Fundraising profit was slightly below budget, and above 2023 actuals;
- ◆ Archdiocese contributions were fully delivered;
- ◆ Efficient management of parish expenses;
- ◆ Building & Grounds expenditures were approximately **\$6,000** below budget;
- ◆ St. Mary's monthly financial contribution for an annual total of **\$18,000** covers their portion of Fr. Carlos Jimenez salary.

Holy Cross covers the total cost of the condo.

A thank you to Father Carlos Jimenez for his leadership and spiritual guidance, to all visiting priests, to all Holy Cross leaders and parishioners. Thank you to Pastoral Council, CWL, K. of C. and all the ministries for your activities and support. Thank you to Finance Council members for their efforts and support. The Finance Council members include: Fr. Carlos Jimenez, Pastoral Council Chair Pat McGinn, Wayne Rutten, Gerard Woynarski, Garry Kraushaar, Sherry Andruschak, and Wendy Kraushaar, the Finance Council Secretary, and Rita Gareau, our parish bookkeeper. Thank you to Josie Howard for providing accounting expertise and preparing the Parish Financial Reports.

Special thank you to all parishioners for your financial support through the use of envelopes, electronic deposits, e-transfers and donations.

Thank you to all the parishioners for your generosity, donation of time, talent and assistance in controlling our expenses and the continued support for Holy Cross Parish.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Finance Council,

John Lebersback  
Finance Council Chairperson

## *Collection Counters' Report*

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There are four Collection Counting Teams that count every second week.

This operation runs very smoothly.

Thanks to these volunteers who do an outstanding job and to Rita for always being there to lend a hand.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherry Andruschak

## *Personnel Committee Report*

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The Personnel Committee was re-established during the latter part of 2024 at the request of Father Carlos.

The objectives through meetings was to discuss:

- ◆ review job descriptions including responsibilities;
- ◆ identify tasks supported by parishioners in the parish office;
- ◆ identify learning/training opportunities;
- ◆ establish consistent practices (for example approval of employee time cards);
- ◆ monitor employee's tasks and performance; and
- ◆ determine/establish individual annual personal goals and objectives.

The parish is supported by three employees:

- ◆ Deacon Martin Kondziewski - Office/Pastoral Assistant;
- ◆ Rita Gareau - Bookkeeper; and
- ◆ Jacob Antony - Caretaker.

On behalf of the Personnel Committee, I would to congratulate Deacon Martin on his ordination as Deacon in June. In addition I would like to acknowledge the dedication and support of Rita and Jacob and their contribution to our parish community.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Adams  
Personnel Committee

## *Buildings and Grounds Committee Report*

It has been busy year at the church with many things happening including maintaining the grounds and landscape around the church, continuing to maintain cleaning and safety standards required to maintain the safe operation of our church Holy Cross.

Ensuring sufficient supplies to allow for operation and cleaning of church facilities continues to be an ongoing process. Special thank you to janitor Jacob and many volunteers who continue to step forward to complete cleaning of the church and contents.

Some of the work that occurred this year at Holy Cross Parish include:

- ◆ Replacement of the air conditioner for Gerein Center;
- ◆ Installation of an air conditioner in our condo (rectory);  
(These were installed by Able Plumbing and Heating).
- ◆ Installation of a portable air conditioner in church office. (Thank you Ray for the installation);
- ◆ Duct cleaning of the condo;
- ◆ Continued inspection and maintenance of furnaces, boiler, water, sewer, alarm systems. Extra work was done to fix the operation of the two furnaces on east side of church;
- ◆ Cleaned out of church garage by selling and donating extra chairs and tables to allow spaces for Father's truck. Thanks to Ray for the storage shelves;
- ◆ Installation of new bulbs in our front sign and repair of lights on the front cross at front of church. (Beaver Electric Ltd.);
- ◆ The removal of some graffiti;
- ◆ Fall cleanup and trimming of the grounds around the church.

A special thank you is extended to all our volunteers who spend their time and skills to keep Holy Cross church inside and outside looking great, clean, and a safe, welcoming place to come and to worship. To all dedicated volunteers who go that extra mile in maintaining flowers and plants, to Brad Homes for looking after the lawn and irrigation system, we thank you and may God bless you.

Thank you to Jacob for his work in the operation of the church. We thank all of the parishioners/contractors who come to church and support our many projects from repairs to fundraising.

To Father Carlos Jimenez, our visiting Priests, our church staff, members of CWL, K. of C. and Pastoral/Finance Councils thank you for helping to keep Holy Cross Parish, a viable community that we can be proud to worship in, to be a part of and to share with the outside community.

**“Remember... Volunteering is a Work of the Heart”  
We need more to join us?**

Respectfully submitted,

Building and Grounds Committee  
Wayne, John, Garry and Gerard

## *Holy Cross's Response to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal*

Our goal was **\$26,696.00** (this goal is assigned to us by the Archdiocese)

By October 31, 2024, we had \$50.00 – **.2% of the goal**

By November 30, 2024, we had \$7,100.00 – **26.6% of the goal.**

On December 31, 2024, the grand total was **\$19,130.23 – 71.66% of the goal**

We didn't quite reach our goal but a good result all the same.

The Archdiocese implemented a new system last year in which they did not report to us monthly. So any money received by the Archdiocesan Office was all included in the December number.

Thanks you to everyone who contributed.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rita Gareau, Bookkeeper

### **2024 Archbishop's Appeal Update**

	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Received*</b>
Gifts Attributed to Parishes	\$1,400,000	\$905,000
Gifts Not Related to Parishes	\$200,000	\$353,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,600,000</b>	<b>\$1,258,000</b>

*\*These amounts are rounded to the nearest thousand and subject to external audit.*

## *Condo Representative Report*

Holy Cross owns and operates the condo at 327 – 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue East which is the residence of our permanent priest, and part of the Douglas Park Estates Condominium Association. The Association held its AGM on April 3, 2024 and an Executive Meeting on April 16, 2024. There was also a meeting in July 2024 regarding the roof resurfacing, lawn care, water meter and sprinkler systems. The Association is in the process of revising their bylaws. These meetings were attended by Dorothy Bresciani who was owner and resident of her own condo, and for many years acted as Holy Cross' condo representative. Dorothy has since moved out of the condo complex and now I as a member of Finance Council am representative for the condo.

Father Carlos moved into our condo in the spring of 2023. Since then, a new air conditioning system was installed in May 2024 and the roof was repaired in the fall 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat McGinn  
Condo Representative

## *Catholic Women's League Report*



Holy Cross Catholic Women's League received its charter in May 1961 and since then continues serving the parish in many ways. Members serve as sacristans, altar servers, greeters, assist in parish fundraising events, serve on Pastoral Council, serve funeral lunches, sing in regular and funeral choirs and take communion to shut-ins.

The Marian Centre staff received personal gifts donated by members at the Christmas Social, muffins are collected for Sacred Heart School and pill bottles are collected for Carmichael Outreach. We gave support to the Christmas Market organized by members Melanie and Megan Fenrick in November and will do so again in May. Visitation House and Carmichael Outreach were recipients of baby and lady's personal items.

The monetary request received from ladies in Uganda for soap making kits and Sr. Faustina Elementary School for Christmas hampers was answered, as well as a donation to Jackson Joubert. Our sponsorship under the Chalice programme for Chelsea from the Philippines continues. She is now continuing her college education with the goal of becoming a lawyer.

With help of donations from Dollar-a-Month, baking and cabbage roll sales, funeral lunches and the Christmas Market, we were able to send financial support to the following: Marian Centre, Sask. Pro-Life, Campion College, Catholic Health Association, Telemiracle, Peru Mission, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Visitation House, Chili for Children, Santa Maria, Leader Post Christmas Cheer Fund and Holy Cross Parish.

Recognition was given to two members of long standing: Lillian Goudy -50 years and Ursula Roesch -55 years.

We thank the ladies of the parish who have contributed to the Dollar-a-Month collection, donated muffins and baking, given their time making cabbage rolls, serving funeral lunches as well as donating to our baby and pill bottle collection. These contributions and support enable us to carry on with our charitable donations.

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month with the exception of July, August, September and January.

New members are most welcome and invited to join us in our service for "God and Country."

Respectfully submitted,  
Loretta Jelinski  
President

## *Knights of Columbus Report*



Monsignor Gerein Council

Just imagine a train engine with no train cars. What would you think? That is very strange. Why are there no train cars? If the engine would pick up some train cars at a different location, you know that someone somewhere will receive the necessities of life, such as, food, clothing, transportation, repair parts, or even a new vehicle. If you have to wait for a train of 50 to 80 cars you know that a lot more people will receive their necessities of life.

Msgr. Gerein Council in a way is like this train with no cars. It cannot do very much. Our Council is very small but fortunately we have many who dedicate themselves seriously to the principles of the Knights of Columbus. Even though we are few, we give a lot, such things as Coats for Kids, food drives for the needy, clothing drives for those in need, assistance in distribution of poppies, helping the Salvation Army at Christmas with their Kettle donations, and participating in liturgical services in our church.

Our Council supports Camp Monahan, sponsors and supports the Poor Man Suppers during Lent (half the proceeds earned is given to the CWL for their charities while the remaining supports our charities). We support the K. of C. Football pool tickets sales to our parishioners and to ourselves. The money earned is donated to several charities, such as Santa Maria Seniors residence, the Knights of Columbus Indoor Games in Saskatoon, to Special Olympics, to Camp Monahan, also to Pro-life, to the Marian Centre, and to funds in support of the education of our Clergy, also to Holy Cross Parish and to many others in need.

A special thank you is forwarded to all the volunteers at this year's Christmas Carol Festival at Knox Metropolitan Church and a special thankyou to all volunteers and supporters of our Pancake Breakfasts and our Poor Man's Suppers.

Now think, if this train had 50 cars, how much could it bring to those in need? In a similar manner, one Council can do very little but 50 councils can sure do a lot.

Our members are extremely grateful for all the support we have received from our parishioners. We cannot thank you enough for all your dedicated support and assistance. We are grateful for the support you provided when we asked for donations to the education fund for priests.

However, the bottom line is we need more young members. We need our younger generation to step forward and give their support to our senior members by becoming a member of Msgr. Gerein Council. You will be blessed many times through your generous support. New members will even receive an extra blessing when they become a Knight of Columbus.

God Bless everyone!

Len Jelinski  
Grand Knight

## *Parish Statistics*

<b>Year</b>	<b>Baptisms</b>	<b>Marriages</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Registered Families</b>	<b>Active Contributing Families</b>
2024	2	2	10	250	144
2023	2	1	7	327	160
2022	1	0	14	313	151
2021	1	1	8	319	150
2020	2	1	12	327	200
2019	4	2	11	352	245
2018	6	1	12	375	275
2017	4	3	5	400	300
2016	8	4	14	400	300
2015	6	1	14	400	300
2014	14	2	18	400	311
2013	17	5	18	548	280
2012	18	9	16	675	324
2011	19	8	16	690	371
2010	22	7	25	740	400
2009	21	6	16	747	410
2008	27	11	22	734	414
2007	14	3	17	705	430
2006	25	9	19	726	416
2005	18	9	15	672	-
2004	23	8	14	680	-
2003	27	15	19	664	-
2002	26	5	26	664	-
2001	21	13	14	710	-
2000	31	13	15	990	-

## *Office Assistant's Report*

Every year continues to evolve and mold. My reports this year highlights some of the larger experiences.

### **Continued Working with St. Mary's**

I continue to work with the two volunteers who do the bulk of the office and financial administrative work at St. Mary's. They are now familiar with their electronic data program and the recording of sacramental records is caught up. This year we focused on writing the annual report to the Archdiocese of Regina and the odd catch up work.

### **Work with Christ the King**

Due to my placement at this parish as a deacon, I have been able to assist with the printing of their bulletin when toner was short or their photocopier inoperative. They returned their thanks with paper supplies. I also provided resource materials to their volunteer catechist and their pastoral assistant when they requested R.C.I.A. materials.

### **Bulletins**

I want to thank this year again Joyce Murphy, for her work of layout on our weekly bulletins. Her creative insight and abilities keep the pages fresh. She still thinks this is fun. She was off for a few months due to shoulder surgery but came back to continue in October.

### **Other Projects; (a sample)**

Gerein Centre Rentals - this year rentals included a retreat with St. Faustina Elementary School, two Challenge Girls events and two workshops by different sections of the Archdiocese of Regina.

Parish-Friendly updates (our electronic database) - Due to the picture directory phone outs the committee was able to gather, confirm and correct information since we had last attempted to do so in 2021 at the beginning of COVID. We now have as accurate a picture of our parish as we can have. See parish stats below.

Certificate requests- there has been an uptick of these this year. Most are for sacramental purposes (baptism certificates for school registration or to get married) but we also have had several for retirement (moving to Mexico) and the closing of estate business.

### **Report to Archdiocese of Regina:**

This report is requested of us every year. Even with the updated electronic database, many of the numbers reported here were obtained by reason, detective work and often bold-faced guesses. But it is the most accurate report we have had since 2021. It was easy to count high school through pre school children because their ages have been registered in our database. Many of our adults never provided their birthdates and so the system could not give an accurate count. The numbers do not indicate activity within our parish. Many of the individuals and families in our database have not returned to Mass. Nor are they involved with the parish events except for the occasional donation of money. This information will be sent through our archdiocese to the Vatican.

### **Households**

Both Catholic married partners- 96

One partner Catholic – 31

Single parent families – 7

Single/widowed – 109

Irregular relations - 20 (these are couples who are civilly married but are not married in the church nor had their relationship convalidated or are living common law)

**TOTAL: 250**

### **Parishioners**

Adults: 65+ - 220

Adults: 18-64 – 152

High school: - 28

Elementary age: 32

Pre-School: 7

**TOTAL: - 437**



## *Pastoral Assistant's Report*

Sr. Cora used to say to me that every person who came into the office was an opportunity to serve in a pastoral way, across the desk. I have continued to do this service in that spirit.

This year's report is slim. That is because most of the pastoral ministry outward tasks have narrowed down to the ministry of funerals. We have had 10 of them since I last wrote last year. My ministry has also broadened to small but important bits of daily listening, answering questions or advising on liturgical, Biblical or sacramental inquests. And I will have over the course of a week opportunities to perform tasks that are not defined on my official job description but involve acts of mirroring Christ's love for His Church. That means I have a mindset of service always at the front of my mind.

When ever any of you call or write or walk into the office, I truly prepare myself to serve the all of you because you carry with you (all of you) Christ within you.

I have always had a similar attitude working here but since the last year of my diaconate discernment and after the ordination itself, my view of my place in this world has changed. And I am privileged and deeply humbled that I can serve here with you.

The list of sacramental services is that have been preformed here this year (most by Fr. Carlos on his own) are found on our stats sheet preceding my two reports.

I will mention that we have a young fellow, Aman Debesai, aged 15 who is journeying toward Confirmation and First Eucharist at Easter Time. His sponsor is his sister Milk. Pease keep him in your prayers.

### **Diaconate Update (key points)**

Marie and I continue to hold marriage preparation classes for couples within the Archdiocese (under the Holy Cross Parish banner).

Fr. Louis at Christ the King has me doing more homilies (i.e. Fridays during Lent) and wants me to do more counselling with married couples.

I visit seniors at Parkside Seniors home.

During the past summer for a handful of weeks I served here at Holy Cross as a deacon at Wednesday morning Mass which included preaching those days. Unfortunately my schedule and workload over took that ministry but it was enjoyable and I hope to be able to schedule the occasional Wednesday in the coming year.

My heartfelt thanks to you all, for your ongoing prayers, inquiries and good wishes as I continue my ministry as a permanent deacon.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Kondzielewski

## *Challenge Girls Report*

This year has been another exciting and blessed year for the Challenge girls club. We continue to grow in numbers, with new girls joining each month. We currently have 55 girls registered in the club. As a recap, we run three separate groups, with girls in kindergarten to grade 12. The Fall was a busy time for our club as we hosted numerous events, including an All-Saints Day Party for families. Well over 100 people attended, dressed as their favourite saint. Games, colouring, activities, a scavenger hunt, food, visiting. A couple weeks later, the club, along with the Catholic homeschoolers, hosted an amazing retreat day lead by Face2Face Ministries from Saskatoon. While this retreat was held at St. Martin's parish, it is worth noting that about 90% of the Challenge girls were in attendance. This demonstrates that the youth are seeking God! There were two retreats, one for grades 2-6 during the afternoon, and an evening retreat for grades 7-12. Bridging the two events was Mass and a pizza party! So many young people went to confession, learned about the power of forgiveness, and had the chance to meet with Jesus, face to face in Adoration.

Rounding off the Fall, on the Feast of Christ the King, we held a beautiful celebration to consecrate ourselves and our families to Christ the King. During the celebration, Fr. Michael Picard and Fr. Kenneth LeBlanc, Legionary of Christ priests from Calgary, gave two talks about the importance of loving Christ, and how that impels us to serve others. It was at that celebration that 14 young people, girls from Challenge and boys from Conquest, made a pledge of friendship with Christ. This was a public declaration of their love for Jesus, which is poured out through prayer, the sacraments, and service to their friends. This was the first of such events in Regina and we hope it will not be the last.

And finally, just a couple of weeks ago in March, the Challenge girls lead the Stations of the Cross, complete with singing the Stabat Mater.

One thing I want to highlight is that we've started a mother's prayer group that meets during Challenge. While some women are called to work directly with the youth, others (everyone) are called to pray for them, as prayer is the backbone of our ministry. The women pray for three (3) specific things for our children, and I would invite you to joint them in these prayers (even if you can't come to the Challenge meetings). They pray for protection, purity, and vocations. This has been very well-received by the moms who are also searching to deepen their relationship with God and form meaningful friendships. In Lent, we are offering meditations on the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Fridays at 6:15 in the church.

All of these blessed events would not have been possible if it weren't for the generosity of the people of Holy Cross. Thank you for opening your church home and your hearts to the young people. Please keep them in your prayers as some of them will be discerning religious life. And isn't this what it's all about! They are opening their hearts WIDE to Christ (St. Pope John Paull II) and inviting Him in. They know and understand that HE is the answer... HE is what they are searching for when they dream of happiness (JP II). We are all blessed to be a part of their journey.

In Christ,

Kirsten Joubert & Shannon Skolney

# The Year of 2024 in pictures



## *Acknowledgements*

### **THANK YOU TO:**

The Pastoral and Financial Chairs, Committee Chairs, Organizational Leaders and Staff for writing and submitting these reports.

Brigitte Leibel for doing the first layout of this report. You have my deepest thanks.

Connie Todd, Darcy Butchko, Brigitte Leibel and all who have submitted pictures to me of parish liturgies and events.

Fr. Carlos for his spiritual and emotional support, and his direction.

A special thanks to Connie Todd, Dorothy Bresciani, Pam Richaud, Rita Gareau, Marie Lebersback, Brigitte Leibel, Wayne and Trudy Rutten and Dolores Deis for providing key information at key times

All parishioners, visitors and all who in one way or another have been a part of/or have supported the Holy Cross Faith Community.

(This document was edited for grammar and punctuation, leaving the flavour and style of the writer intact. Any typos, mistakes or any organizational mishaps in this document are my own.)

Martin Kondziewski March 14, 2025