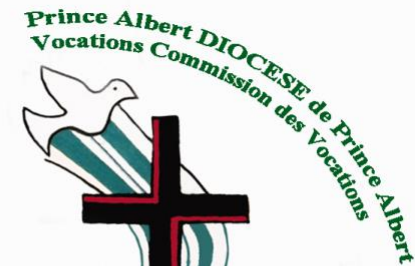


Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert



**Go, and make disciples of all nations.
Allez! De toutes les nations faites des disciples.**
Matthew 28:19

Fr. Travis Myrheim
Vocations Director

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The Pilgrimage from Duck Lake to Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine on July 15, 2024

This year, 2024, the Prince Albert Diocese Vocations Commission hosted our 3rd annual Vocations Pilgrimage Hike. Again, we walked over 11km from Blessed Sacrament parish, Duck Lake, to Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, St. Laurent de Grandin. The Pilgrimage hike took 4 hours, because along the way we stopped 9 times, as a novena of sorts. At each stop we prayed the novena prayers to Our Lady of Hope (Our Lady of Pontmain, France). We reflected on such things as how our personal vocations can bring hope to the world, and prayed for more Vocations, especially in our local dioceses. Next year, during the ordinary Jubilee, we will focus on Pilgrims of Hope again from a Vocations standpoint. All are welcome to come and pray for Vocations, and please invite people who are considering a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.



The Presentation at the Temple
WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

Save the Date
Sunday, February 2, 2025
World Day of Prayer
for Consecrated Life



St. Theresa Parish, Wakaw Centennial and 99th Annual Pilgrimage



On the weekend of June 8th and 9th, 2024 our parish celebrated our 100th Anniversary as well as our 99th Annual Pilgrimage. It was an occasion to celebrate our patron, St. Therese of Lisieux and one hundred years of our parish serving the spiritual and physical needs of those in and around Wakaw.



Procession with the Blessed Sacrament

The Saturday events included a free outdoor music concert featuring food booths and an evening candle light procession with the Blessed Sacrament and recitation of the rosary and divine mercy chaplet. At the late afternoon concert we were blessed with the musical talents of Al Rybchinski & Lisa Anderson, drummers from One Arrow as well as French singers Denise & Jeanne Wruck. Tianna Williams displayed her sacred art throughout the weekend and Centennial History books were also displayed and sold. Although there were scattered showers throughout the day, the skies cleared to allow the procession to occur as planned.

On Sunday the day began with an outdoor Way of the Cross followed by our guest speaker, Christy Dupuis, who currently serves with Catholic Christian Outreach leading their programming and content development for Catholics who desire to be activated as missionary disciples. Christy’s talk focused on our call through our baptism to be missionaries bringing the good news to those in our families and circles of friends and acquaintances as well as our call to be in a close relationship with God through prayer and embracing the sacrament of reconciliation. Although St. Therese entered the cloistered Carmelite order at the age of 15 and died at the early age of 24, she is the patron of missionaries. Much of Christy’s talk focused on a quote of St. Therese— [Sanctity is] “a disposition of the heart which makes us humble and small in the arms of God, conscious of our weakness, and CONFIDENT to the point of audacity in the goodness of our Father.” Oh that we would all truly live the call to know and love God in this way as we live out the vocation that God has for each one of us.



Speaker Christy Dupuis

Christy’s inspiring talk was followed by a time for personal reflection and confessions and then the celebration of an outdoor mass at our newly renovated mound. Bishop Emeritus Albert Thevenot, missionary of Africa, concelebrated the mass with our parish priest, Fr. Matthew Nguyen and 4 other priests of the diocese and was the homilist. Deacon Rick Lucas also assisted at the mass. Bishop Emeritus Albert spoke about how missionaries were supported by St. Therese through prayer and letters that they received from her. Following the mass the pilgrims gathered in the church basement for a delicious meal and then ended the day with a healing service and adoration.



Above: Celebration of Mass at the Mound

We had a wonderful celebration! Thank you to all who helped plan and execute this event and all those that came to celebrate with us. We invite you all to our 100th Annual Pilgrimage which will be held on Sunday, June 8th, 2025.



Left: Historical Banners and Historical Religious Articles made up part of the décor.



Jubilee Year 2025

By Fr. Maurice Fiolleau

“Jubilee” is the name given to a particular year; the name comes from the *yobel*, the ram’s horn used to proclaim the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). This Jewish holiday occurs every year, but it takes on a special meaning when it marks the beginning of a Jubilee year. In the Bible it was to be marked every 50 years. It was intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation and involved in the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.

In the Roman Catholic tradition, a Holy Year or Jubilee year is a great religious event. It is a year of forgiveness of sins and the punishment due to sin. It is a year of

reconciliation between adversaries, of conversion and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is a year of solidarity, hope, justice, commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters. A Jubilee year is above all the year of Christ, who brings life and grace to humanity.

In the year 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the first Jubilee (Holy Year). It would be a time in which God’s holiness would transform us. The Jubilee year in 1300 was so successful that a new invention was made to let the throngs of pilgrims pass the narrow Roman bridges: two-way traffic. Throughout Christendom (the known world at that time) there was great suffering, caused by wars and diseases such as the plague. Among the people there was a great desire to return to a more holy way of living. So, with great faith, the Christians determined to travel on foot to Rome, to pray at the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul and to receive the Pope’s blessing to obtain the grace and strength to carry on. They came in thousands at Christmas in 1299. Due to their great number Pope Boniface proclaimed a “year of forgiveness of all sins.” A similar year would be held in the future, every 100 years. Outstanding names are recorded among the pilgrims of that first Jubilee: Dante, Cima Bue, Giotto, Carlo de Valois, the brother of the King of France with his wife Catherine. Dante Alighiere writes of this event of that first Jubilee year in his “Divine Comedy” in Canto XXXI of Paradise.

There were many requests to have the second Jubilee to be held earlier than 100 years later, in 1350 instead of 1400. Pilgrims were required to also visit the church of St. John Lateran, the city’s Cathedral of the Bishop of Rome who is the Pope. Later Pope Urban VI decided to reduce the period to 30 years for the next Jubilee in memory of the early life of Jesus.

When Pope Urban died, however the new Pope Boniface IX opened the Holy Door on Christmas Eve 1390 but since the number of pilgrims were so great, he called a second Holy Year at Christmas 1400. The way in which Jubilee Years are marked has changed through the centuries.

Wishing the faithful could experience the graces of a Holy Year more frequently, later popes have proclaimed a Jubilee every 25 years as well as extraordinary Holy Years with particular themes. You might remember St. John Paul’s Year of Mary, Pope Benedict’s Year of Faith, and Pope Francis’ Year of Mercy.

The theme for the Jubilee Year 2025 is “Pilgrims of Hope.” The Pope inaugurates the Holy Year with the rite of opening of the Holy Doors at St. Peter’s Basilica on December 24, 2024. After that the Holy Doors of the other papal basilicas – St. John Lateran, St. Paul outside the Walls, and St. Mary Major are opened and remain so until the end of the Jubilee Year. Important dates to remember: each Diocese across the world will open the Jubilee Year with a special Mass in the Diocese to mark the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year on Sunday December 29, 2024, which is the Feast of the Holy Family. Closing the year will happen on December 28, 2025. The closing of the Holy Doors at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome will occur on January 6, 2026, the Epiphany of the Lord. This will mark the conclusion of the Jubilee Year. May the light of hope be able to reach all people in all parts of the world.

You might be interested in making a pilgrimage to Rome next year. Bishop Stephen Hero and Father Maurice Fiolleau will be leading a special Holy Year Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi next December 10 to 18, 2025. If you are interested, please contact Father Maurice Fiolleau at 1-306-922-4747 extension 224 or go to the Diocese of Prince Albert website to check out the details of the Itinerary. (<https://www.padiocese.ca/2025-jubilee-pilgrims-of-hope>)

Prince Albert Street Fair 2024

The vocations commission was present at the Prince Albert Annual Street Fair, reminding people of the importance of prayer, and of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We gave out wrist bands with the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit written on it, as a reminder to ask, and you shall receive. We pray that summer was a restful time for people and a time to reconnect with God.



Opening Doors to Tomorrow Career and Job Fair 2024

The Vocations Commission spent the day Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at the Art Hauser Center for the Opening Doors to Tomorrow Career and Job Fair. About 3000 attended the event. This event is sponsored by Saskatchewan Health Authority, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division, Prince Albert & District Community Futures and Prince Albert Catholic School Division.





From Teacher to Priest by Fr. Harry

I want to share my story with you in the hopes that it may inspire others to answer the vocation to clergy or religious life.

My name is Fr. Harry, and I was ordained a priest on Aug 6th, 2024. Prior to my ordination, I worked as a teacher at Ecole St. Mary High School (50%) and as the Religious Coordinator for the Prince Albert Catholic School Division (50%). It was my initial goal early in life to work 32 years then retire to a life of relaxing at home, going for coffee, or just caring for my garden. Well, God had other plans, and even though it meant a lot of change, I took a leap of faith, and I am so blessed to be able to serve as a priest at St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Prince Albert.

Here is my story. I've felt I had a calling to the priesthood early in life around the age of 18, but I only took baby steps forward. I would help at Church but wanted my calling to be fulfilled only on Sunday. My career was on track to become a school administrator and I served as either a Vice-Principal or Principal for about 15 years. Administration is great, but I still felt there was more that I was wanted to do to serve Jesus.











Well, my vocation shifted out of first gear and into high gear once I started teaching for a Catholic School Division. I really loved that we could pray, read scripture, and search for theological meaning in different contexts. I wanted to go study and learn more about my faith, and the Prince Albert Catholic School Division provided me the opportunities to truly grow in faith.

I took time off to study at seminary, then online and summer classes helped completed my theology degree. I had an opportunity to study in Edmonton, Toronto, and Ottawa. I was ordained a Deacon in 2010 then had the opportunity to serve as the Religious Coordinator for the Prince Albert Catholic School Division. I also continued to teach so I could help teachers teach religion, but also be in the classroom to teach Catholic Studies.

As I approach my retirement from teaching, I wanted to serve more in the parishes. I had a big decision to make, and I clearly remember my prayer about ordination. I prayed to God, "If you call me, I will say yes, and I trust you Jesus". That was a very profound prayer for me, and things started to fall into place for my ordination. As is the requirement in the Eastern Churches, my wife had to give her consent for the ordination (and I am glad she did!). There was so much to plan for the ordination, similar to a wedding. After much prayer and final preparations, I was ordained as a priest on August 6th by Bishop Michael Smolinski, the Bishop of the Eparchy of Saskatoon.

Now I am one year away from retirement, and I continue to work ½ time as the Religious Coordinator and ½ time as parish priest. Thus far, this schedule keeps me busy, but I pray for God's graces to help me. If you are considering religious or clergy life, my advice is to pray and talk to your Bishop. If you open your heart to His calling, you will experience His graces. Just be ready for an amazing adventure!!!!

December 2024

<i>sunday</i>	<i>monday</i>	<i>tuesday</i>	<i>wednesday</i>	<i>thursday</i>	<i>friday</i>	<i>saturday</i>
<p> 1 Pray for all seminarians as they journey towards the Priesthood</p>	<p>2 Visit an elderly home and hand out homemade cookies.</p>	<p>3 Read how Jesus treated children on his journey (Mk 10:13-16)</p>	<p>4 Cut out a star, write a prayer on it for your family, and hang it on the Christmas tree</p>	<p> 5 Read the story of Mary's Annunciation and Visitation (Lk 1:26-45)</p>	<p>6 Feast of St. Nicholas. Go on the internet and find out who St. Nicholas is</p>	<p>7 Do a random act of kindness for a neighbour</p>
<p> 8 Pray for your parish priest as he journey's in your parish</p>	<p>9 Put some money into a salvation Army kettle</p>	<p> 10 Read about St. Paul's misfortunes on his journey's (2 Cor 11:16-33)</p>	<p>11 Write each family member a letter with reasons why you love them, or draw a picture</p>	<p> 12 Look up "Story of the Candy Cane." Hang one on your tree.</p>	<p>13 Feast of St. Lucy Light a candle and pray for a loved one</p>	<p>14 Donate a gift to a Christmas charity</p>
<p> 15 Pray for our Bishop as he journey's throughout our diocese</p>	<p>16 All day treat your mom/dad as if she/he was Jesus</p>	<p> 17 Read how Jesus sent out his disciples (Mt 10:1-15)</p>	<p>18 Answer as a family: "When I wake up on Christmas morning, how will I be different?"</p>	<p>19 Look up special Christmas traditions from around the world</p>	<p> 20 Drive around town to look at Christmas lights</p>	<p>21 Call a distant friend or family member to wish them a Merry Christmas</p>
<p> 22 Pray for Pope Francis, that he will be guided by the Holy Spirit</p>	<p>23 Do one kind deed for someone in your family</p>	<p> 24 Read the story of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1-20) and go to Christmas Eve Mass</p>	<p>25 To everyone you see today, give a big hug and wish them a Merry Christmas</p>	