



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SUNDAY BRUNCH



TODAY - Sunday, December 6th

St. Mary's Cultural Centre

Following the 9:00 am & 11:00 am Divine Liturgies

The Knights Would Appreciate your Support! Everyone Welcome!

DATE	TIME	EPISTLE	CANTOR	USHERS	ORGANIST	GREETERS
SAT DEC 5	5:00 pm English	Delores Oucharek	Peter Kobylka	Dennis Benko Carl Pacholka		
SUN DEC 6 <i>28th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	9:00 am Ukrainian	Bernie Stephaniuk	Lorne Stechyshyn	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood		
	11:00 am English	Gloria Rhinas	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	Richard Zulyniak Myron Kulasa	Iris Skehar	Judy Diakow
SAT DEC 12	5:00 pm English	Olga Achemichuk	Peter Kobylka	Don Gabora Lionel Fedorowich		
SUN DEC 13 <i>Sunday of the Holy Forefathers</i>	9:00 am Ukrainian	Ed Pindus	Ed Pindus	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood		
	11:00 am English	Gwen Bilyk	Laurie Fedorowich Ron Wizniak	Mike Smud Bill Krywulak	Iris Skehar	Phyllis Lazaruk

SUNDAY COLLECTION Nov. 29 2015	Received in 180 Regular Envelopes	\$ 4,049.00
	Loose Collection.....	\$ 143.00
	Received in 24 Other Envelopes	\$ 540.00

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: st.mary.yorkton@sasktel.net Pastor: blukie@gmail.com
 Web: www.saintmarysyorkton.com Eparchy of Saskatoon: www.skeparchy.org

Eparchial Pastoral Council - Pat Thompson 306-782-9425
 Parish Council President - Geraldine Koban 306-782-0270 Knights of Columbus - Bill Prybylski 306-782-5259
 UCWLC - Brenda Pasloski 306-783-4438 UCY -
 UCBC - Peter Moroz 306-783-6293 Cultural Centre - Russ Thompson 306-782-9425
 Golden Agers - Verna Moroz 306-783-6293 Cultural Centre Manager - Stan Shymanski 306-782-1010

Young Adult Ministry Office - Phone: 1-204-799-1060
 Email: rymcssr@gmail.com Web: www.yorktonredemptorists.com

ST. MARY'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Церква Матері Божої Неустанної Помочі

Our Mother of Perpetual Help

155 Catherine Street, Yorkton, SK S3N 0B9

VOL. 52, No. 37

PARISH BULLETIN

DECEMBER 6, 2015

Христос Посеред нас!
Є і буде!

Christ is Among Us!
He is and will be!



The parish community of St. Mary's extends a warm
Welcome - Вітаємо
 to everyone who is with us today, especially all Visitors.
 We are pleased that you have come to pray with us this Sunday. May the Lord bless You.

Pastoral Care of the Ukrainian Redemptorists

Fr. Bohdan Lukie, CSsR - Pastor
 Fr. Raymond Lukie, CSsR - Assistant Pastor
 Fr. Methodius Kushko, CSsR - Assistant Pastor

OFFICE HOURS Monday - Friday
 9:15 am - 12:00 pm 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Office 306-783-4594 Fax 306-782-4214
Info Line 306-782-0654

SICK CALLS - Anytime

BAPTISMS & MARRIAGES* by Appointment

**Please contact the pastor at least six
 months before the wedding date.*

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY
 Saturday 5:00 pm English
 Sunday 9:00 am Ukrainian
 11:00 am English

HOLY DAYS
 9:00 am Ukrainian 7:00 pm English

WEEKDAYS
 8:00 am Monday - Friday
 9:00 am Saturday

Dear Beloved Parishioners and Guests,

This piece of prose was shared with me at one of our Christmas celebrations and I thought – why not share it with the whole parish for our personal reflection:



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Why is Jesus better than Santa Claus?

Santa lives at the North Pole; **JESUS** is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh; **JESUS** rides on the wind and walks on water.

Santa comes but once a year; **JESUS** is an ever-present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies; **JESUS** supplies all our needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited;

JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited.

You have to wait in line to see *Santa*; **JESUS** is as close as the mention of HIS name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap; **JESUS** lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, he only says: "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?"

JESUS knew our names before we were born. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and our future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly; **JESUS** has a heart full of Love.

All *Santa* can offer is HO HO HO; **JESUS** offers health, help and Hope.

Santa says: "You better not cry";

JESUS says: "Cast all your cares on Me for I care for you!"

Santa's little helpers make toys;

JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa makes you chuckle but **JESUS** gives you joy that is your strength.

While *Santa* puts gifts under your tree;

JESUS became our "Gift" and died on a tree... the cross!

We need to put **Christ** back in **CHRISTmas**,

JESUS is still the **reason** for the **season**!

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

God willing, you should be receiving a Christmas letter and the Service Schedule sometimes this week. Please be kind and read this special greeting and keep the Christmas schedule on your fridge door as a warm reminder – to celebrate Christ's Birth with much joy and happiness and peace and love...

Oh yes, I will be preaching an Advent Mission at St. Josaphat's Cathedral in Edmonton from December 12-16th – so pray for me and for them...

Wishing you and yours
a wonderful peaceful Christmas!

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 14	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Meeting	7:00 pm
December 14	Cultural Centre Board Meeting	7:30 pm
December 15	Parish Council Meeting	7:00 pm
December 17	Knights of Columbus Bingo	7:00 pm
December 25	<i>Nativity of Our Lord</i>	
December 26	<i>Sobor of the Mother of God</i>	
December 27	<i>Feast of St. Stephen</i>	
December 31	Golden Agers Birthdays and Anniversaries	1:00 pm
January 1	<i>Circumcision of Our Lord - St. Basil's - New Year's</i>	
January 1	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Bingo	12:00 Noon
January 4	UCWLC Meeting	7:00 pm
January 4	Knights of Columbus Meeting	7:00 pm
January 5	<i>Vigil of Theophany</i> Solemn Water Blessing & Divine Liturgy	
January 5	Parish Potluck Supper	6:30 pm
January 6	<i>Feast of Theophany</i>	
January 6	Knights of Columbus Bingo	1:00 pm
January 13	Holy Rosary Hour	12:00 Noon
January 17	First Solemn Holy Communion Class	9:45 am
February 16	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament resumes	

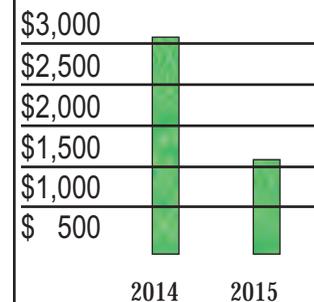
CAROLING:

If anyone would like the Ukrainian choir to carol for them, please contact any member, or Colette at (306)647-2626, karapita@sasktel.net We have already received an invitation from Gladstone Senior Residence



CO-MISSIONARY FUND 2014 -15

**OUR TARGET FOR THIS
YEAR IS \$3000.00**



Co-Missionary Fund Contributions can be made monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. Our goal is to contribute \$250/month or \$3,000/yr. Please make your cheques payable to "St. Mary's" but memo the cheque *Co-Missionary Fund*.

MUSÉE UKRAINA MUSEUM INC. 2016 CASH LOTTERY CALENDARS

COST \$20 EACH FOR 366 DRAWS

Available from UCBC - Peter Moroz (306-783-6293)

UCWLC - at St. Mary's Rectory (306-783-4594)



Listen for the UKRAINIAN HOUR

Sundays 3:00 - 4:00 pm Mondays 10:00 - 11:00 pm
on 98.5 the ROCK

BBESSI SCHOLARSHIPS

Bishop Budka Eparchial Stewardship Society Inc. (BBESSI) has two scholarships available to students completing post-secondary education at either the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina or any campus of Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

The Walter & Frances Hnatiuk Scholarship in the amount of \$200.00 will be awarded to a student who is a Ukrainian Catholic and has demonstrated financial need and academic achievement. Must have completed at least one full year of studies.

The Walter Petryshen Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$200.00 will be awarded to a student who is a Ukrainian Catholic and has demonstrated financial need and academic achievement. Must have completed at least one full year of studies.

Deadline date for applications will be December 31, 2015. Please submit your applications to:

Bishop Budka Eparchial Stewardship Society Inc.
214 Avenue M South
Saskatoon SK S7M 2K4
Attention: Scholarship Committee

If you require further information, please email the Scholarship Committee at admin.skeparchy@sasktel.net

Musée Ukraina Museum Inc. 2015 Lottery Winners for November

\$20.00 Winners: Kathy Kozak-Saskatoon, Billie Sastaunik-Melville, UCWLC-St. Peter & Paul-Saskatoon, Sally Maruschak-Cudworth, Geraldine Koban-Yorkton, Pat Sundahl-Edmonton(AB), Joey Weber-Tway, Maureen & Calvin Werner-Springside, Anna Solomyana-Saskatoon, Sofia Mycyk-Riverside Estates, William Gulka-Saskatoon, Paul Bunka-Saskatoon, Roman & Elaine Kushneryk-Wakaw, Ted Buis-Winnipeg(MB), Pauline Mialkowsky-Saskatoon, Krista Guderyan-Hudson Bay, Garth Walls-Battleford, Helen Gibson-Yellow Creek, Mel Osolinsky-Wakaw, William Kostiuik-Saskatoon, Eugene & Olga Kiwaluk-Kamsack, Greg Gellela-Saskatoon, Curtis Pryma-Aberdeen.

\$50.00 Winners: Patrice Detz-Regina, UCBC- St. Athanasius-Regina, Kathleen Yaworksi-Saskatoon, Jane Lesiuk-Regina.

\$100 Winners: Stella Richter-Regina, Sharon Fincaryk-Didsbury(AB).

\$200 Winner: Deacon Myron Yamniuk-Saskatoon.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Have you purchased your 2016 Calendar? Lottery License #RR14-0333

CHRISTMAS RADIO BROADCAST - CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED!

The cost of the Christmas Radio Broadcast on GX Radio has nearly doubled from last year. We are always very appreciative of our organizations - K of C, UCBC and UCWLC who continue to support this endeavour every year. If families or individuals are interested in contributing to this wonderful annual tradition, please come by the Parish Office with your contribution or place an envelope in the collection plate clearly marked for the Radio Broadcast. *The choir will acknowledge all donors on the broadcast.*



HAS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED ?? Please notify the Parish Office if you have a change of address or a new phone number. This will help to keep our records current and ensure that tax receipts go to the correct address. Thank you.

YORKTON DISTRICT PARISHES

Schedule of Services in the Yorkton Pastoral District

BEAVERDALE	Friday, December 25	10:00 am	Christmas Divine Liturgy
CALDER	Thursday, December 24	9:00 pm	God is with Us & Divine Liturgy

29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS

DECEMBER 6, 2015

The theme of Sunday is always Resurrection.

We invite you to refrain from kneeling during the Divine Liturgy.



Today's special liturgical parts & readings are found on page 28-29 in the Tropars, Kondaks, Epistle & Gospel Readings

booklets which are located at the entrances of the church.

Next Week's Readings: Epistle - Colossians 3:4-11 Gospel - Luke 14:16-24

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

SUN	Feast of St. Nicholas
	Collection for Orphanages in Ukraine
	9:00 am.....	Divine Liturgy
	9:45 am.....	First Solemn Holy Communion Class
	10:00 am.....	Adult Faith Formation Program
	10:15 am & 12:15 pm.....	Knights of Columbus Brunch
	11:00 am.....	Divine Liturgy
	11:00 am.....	Little Angels Class
MON	7:00 pm.....	Knights of Columbus Meeting
	7:00 pm.....	UCWLC Meeting
TUES	8:30 am - 4:00 pm.....	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	7:00 pm.....	Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood Bingo
WED	9:00 am & 7:00 pm.....	Feast of the Immaculate Conception Divine Liturgy
THUR	6:45 pm.....	Ukrainian Choir Practice
SAT	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy
	5:00 pm.....	Divine Liturgy

WEDDINGS PLANS ??- If you are planning to be married at St. Mary's or any of the Yorkton District parishes, **please contact Fr. Bohdan (306-783-4594) at least six months before the wedding date.**



EMAIL BULLETIN - If you would like to have the Bulletin emailed to you please send your request to: cssrmonastery@sasktel.net

COLLECTION FOR ORPHANAGES IN UKRAINE - 2015

THIS WEEKEND - DECEMBER 5TH & 6TH

We will have a collection for Orphanages in Ukraine this weekend - December 5th & 6th during the Divine Liturgies.

(If you wish, you may use the special envelope in your offering envelopes)

The Sisters will purchase the required gifts for the children in the Orphanage. A tax receipt can be given out if you include your envelope number with your donation.

Please make your cheques payable to: St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Please give generously, as these children are in need and appreciate their Canadian Gift.



DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

29th Sunday after Pentecost / Feast of St. Nicholas **Colossians 3:4-11 ~ Luke 17:12-19**

MON Dec 7 **St. Ambrose** **Hebrews 3:5-11,17-19 ~ Luke 20:27-44**

8:00 am +Tony Smysnuik.....Smysnuik Family

8:00 am +Adella Byblow.....Pearl Baronesky

TUE Dec 8 **Venerable Patapius** **Hebrews 4:1-13 ~ Luke 21:12-19**

8:00 am +Peter & Rose Brigidear.....Family

8:00 am +Deceased Members of Gulak & Gromnisky Families.....Jerry & Toni

WED Dec 9 **Galatians 4:22-31 ~ Luke 8:16-21**



9:00 am **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** **7:00 pm**

THU Dec 10 **Martyr Mennas** **Hebrews 7:1-16 ~ Luke 21:28-33**

8:00 am Health for Fr. Methodius Kushko, CSsR.....John & Hazel Krywulak

8:00 am Health for Toni Gromnisky.....Lenora & Richard

FRI Dec 11 **Venerable Daniel** **Hebrews 7:18-25 ~ Luke 21:37-22:8**

8:00 am God's Blessings for the Oleynik Family.....Bill & Mary Oleynik

8:00 am Health for John & Hazel Krywulak.....Family

SAT Dec 12 **Venerable Spiridon** **Ephesians 2:11-13 ~ Luke 13:19-29**

9:00 am +Volodymyr, +Maria and +Gregory.....Ivan & Halyna Bachynskyy

5:00 pm Health for Ivan Sakundiak.....Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS - If you are paying for this service by cheque, please make your cheque payable to: Ukrainian Catholic Mission

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER

Vatican City, 30 November 2015 (VIS) – **The Holy Father's universal prayer intention for December is:** That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.

His intention for evangelization is: That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.

STORY OF THE NATIVITY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH AT THE 11:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY
*****CALLING ALL CHILDREN*****



We wish to invite all children who wish to participate in the Story of the Nativity which will be presented on Sunday, December 22nd during the 11:00 am Divine Liturgy.

*Please call Fred at 306-621-7609 to sign up.
 The deadline is Monday, December 14th.*

Saint Mary's Building Fund Donations



N.N. \$70.00 Mr & Mrs J. Cymbalisty \$10.00

Balance of the Fund to date: \$300,120.74 **Thank you very much**

Donations may be given anytime.
 All funds collected will be used for the future renovations of our church.
 Building Fund Envelopes are available at the entrances of the Church

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DONATIONS

In Memory of Arthur Gazdewich

Robin & Kristy Grutterink \$100.00
 Don & Lynette Krysak \$50.00
 Eugene & Olga Kiwaluk \$50.00
 Garry & Valerie Surcan \$25.00
 Joe, Pauline & Kevin Dutchak \$20.00
 Nestor, Cindy & Evelyn Dutchak \$20.00

In Memory of Lorne Sakundiak

Rev. Michael & Marilyn Krochak \$50.00

Donation to St. Mary's Church

William & Mary Oleynik \$1,000.00

In Memory of Sophie Madarash

Rev. Michael & Marilyn Krochak	\$50.00	Walter & Theresa Denischuk	\$20.00
Gerald Smysnuik	\$50.00	Marilyn Leniuk	\$20.00
Bryan & Pat Kuspira	\$50.00	Dan & Rose MacLean	\$20.00
Anne Porter	\$40.00	Victor & Vickie Puchala	\$20.00
Dave & Sonia Starling	\$40.00	Allan & Jacquie Link	\$20.00
Jackie Gulka	\$30.00	Larry & Sandra German	\$20.00
Robert & Kathy Rusnak	\$25.00	Phyllis Lazaruk	\$20.00
Beverley Farthing	\$20.00	Sophia Pisiak	\$20.00
Harvey & Evelyne Sturtz	\$20.00	William & Mary Oleynik	\$20.00
Olga Gamracy	\$20.00	Andrew & Eunice Mathuik	\$20.00

UKRAINIAN CHOIR:

- ◆ Practice - Thursday, December 10 & 17: 6:45-8:15 pm at the Cultural Centre.
- ◆ Sunday, December 20, 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
- ◆ Thursday, December 24th, Christmas Eve: 10:30 pm Compline & Divine Liturgy
- ◆ Friday, December 25th, Christmas Day, 9-10:30 am: on GX 94 AM radio (<http://cjgx.streamon.fm>)

Adult Faith Formation Program

Next Installment of the DVD Presentations
JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD AND DEEP INTO FAITH

THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH at 10:00 AM
GOLDEN AGERS CENTRE (CHURCH BASEMENT)





His holiness Pope Francis has announced the celebration of an "extraordinary Holy Year", a "Jubilee of Mercy" commencing on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2015 and concluding on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, November 20th, 2016.

THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

Jesus dictated the Chaplet of Divine Mercy to Sister Faustina in 1935. In the revelations that followed He disclosed to her its value and efficacy.

In this prayer we are offering the *Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity* of Jesus Christ to God the Father. We are uniting ourselves with His sacrifice offered on the Cross for the salvation of the world. By Offering God the Father His *most dearly loved Son*, we are asking for mercy for *us and for the whole world*. The word "us" refers to the person reciting the Chaplet and those for whom he desires to offer it or for whom he should pray. The "whole world" indicates all people living on earth and the souls in Purgatory. By praying the words of the Chaplet we are performing an act of love toward our neighbour, which along with trust, is the indispensable condition for obtaining graces.

The Prayers of the Divine Mercy Chaplet (to be recited on ordinary Rosary beads)

Begin with: Our Father.....Hail Mary....The Apostles Creed....

On the five large beads say: Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, *in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world*.

On the "Hail Mary" beads of each decade say: For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion, *have mercy on us and the whole world*.

Conclude with (3 times): Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Eternal One, have Mercy on us and on the whole world.

Optional Conclusion: *Eternal God, in whom Mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your Mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your Holy Will which is Love and Mercy itself.*

FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS - PRACTICAL VIRTUES

Archpriest Ihor G. Kutash

In the midst of the pre-Christmas Fast, Advent, we celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas, the Wonder-Worker, the Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (once in Asia Minor - now Turkey).

The reason we celebrate is expressed well in one of the responses from the service for the Saint: "Thy practical virtues, O Father clothed by God, have made the beauty of thy priestly robes shine with yet greater splendor". How well it is said here. St. Nicholas was a Bishop, a leader of his people, who did not merely preside over liturgical services and preach, but one who got involved in the practical affairs in the daily life of his flock with all its trials and tragedies.

We are told by tradition how he saved one poor man from selling his daughter to a life of sin, by providing (anonymously) money for their dowry (without which girls of the time would not have been accepted in marriage). His earthly possessions were used by him in the practical service of the Lord.

We also hear how on one occasion he saved from execution three men who as it turned out were wrongly accused. He literally turned back the sword by placing - or offering to place - his own head on the block before the heads of his people could be touched. What a fearless example of zeal. He overcame the natural fear that we humans have of death in order to do what was needful for mercy to prevail.

We also hear of how he spent years in prison during the time of the persecution of Christians by the Roman Emperor Diocletian for refusing to hand over sacred books to be burned. He was not willing to compromise his faith - being especially mindful of the need for a spiritual leader to set an example. Once again his liberty - and his very life - was at stake.

Finally we hear how his anger flared at the First Ecumenical Council, called by the Christian Emperor Constantine, to resolve the matter of the theological teaching on the nature of Jesus Christ. The Alexandrian presbyter Arius insisted that Jesus were merely a man. The testimony of the Scriptures and the faith of the Church proclaimed Jesus to be the Incarnate, Only-begotten Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, Consubstantial with the Eternal Father. When Arius, at the Council, was singing one of his popular ditties proclaiming his teaching (one of his methods of spreading his teaching was placing them to the tunes of popular drinking songs and leading people in singing them), Nicholas walked up to him and struck him in the face. For this Nicholas was reproved by the Council, but the members found the courage to refute the heresy of Arianism, and St. Nicholas was later exonerated. It was his zeal for the truth that got him into trouble.

Thus we see in St. Nicholas practical virtues, kindness and sympathy that express themselves in practically giving what is needed, courage in the face of danger, an unbending faithfulness to the truth, zeal for what is right and just. Admirable virtues - ones we need to seek to acquire for ourselves. Let us remember that St. Nicholas was able to accomplish what he did because of the grace of God with which He was "clothed", as the liturgical words above proclaim. We too are clothed by this grace through our Baptism and our life in the Church. Let us actively co-operate with this grace, as did St. Nicholas, and follow his shining example in our lives, even as he followed the shining - supreme example of our Lord, Jesus Christ.





*Eparchy of Saskatoon
Family and Life Office
Bulletin: November / December 2015*

“The future of the world passes through the family” Familiaris Consortio, 79

(Part III of a three part series on Marriage.) Some of you might remember that this series began in June. Part I considered the question of the church teaching on family planning. Part II considered the struggles and joys of the marital relationship. This installment will consider what happens when a marriage ends in divorce. The Church from the beginning has taught the indissolubility of sacramental marriage as an icon of Christ and the Church, and it maintains that teaching. However, the fact remains that many marriages simply end. The reasons marriages end are often complex. Some of these marriages may not have been valid sacramental marriages in the first place. (Annulments will not be dealt with here but will hopefully have information on our web page about this soon....) Although I have never experienced a marriage breakdown my years as a family lawyer allow me to safely say that these situations are always complicated, painful and require healing for which time alone is often an insufficient remedy. On the reverse side there are some possible options to assist with healing from the loss of a marriage. As part of a series of Family Catechesis Pope Francis spoke on divorce on August 5, 2015. What follows is some key points from that address which may be read in its entirety on the official Vatican website.

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2015/documents/papa-francesco_20150805_udienza-generale.html

1. The doors of the Church are always open. No one should feel excluded from the love and healing offered by Christ through the Church.



“The Church is called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open”.... No closed doors! No closed doors! “Everyone can share in some way in the life of the Church; everyone can be part of the community”.... The Church “is the house of the Father, where there is a place for everyone, with all their problems” (Ap. Exhort. Evangelii Gaudium, n. 47).

2. Even those baptized persons that have formed new relationships of cohabitation, after the failure of their marriage, are not excommunicated.

Pope Francis repeats the consistent call to welcome all into the church to “...live and develop their membership in Christ and in the Church through prayer, by listening to the Word of God, by attending the liturgy, through the Christian education of their children, through charity and service to the poor, through the commitment to justice and peace.” To be clear, mere separation or divorce does not, in and of itself, affect one’s status with respect to the Eucharist. However, like all of us, those who experience marriage breakdown may not be in a position to receive the Eucharist if their life circumstances are not in line with the teachings of the Church—for instance in the event of cohabitation outside the sacrament of marriage. As each situation is unique you should consult your Pastor for a determination of your specific situation regarding the sacraments. © DPL

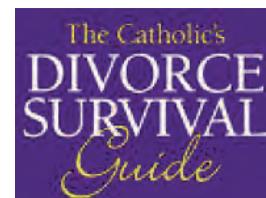
Help for those who have gone through a marriage breakdown—

The TRANSITIONS program is a ministry affiliated with the Office of Marriage and Family Life in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon that ministers to those who are separated or divorced. The Transitions program offers peer support through an 11-week program in which participants meet once a week to reflect on and discuss topics outlined in a handbook. Topics of discussion include: The Process of Divorce; Grieving the Death of a Relationship; Self Image/Self Esteem; Dealing with Stress; Anger; Guilt & Blame; Loneliness; Letting Go; Forgiveness; Fractured Families Can Be Whole; Growth after Divorce; Single Again—But Still a Parent; Children in Blended Families; Declaration of Nullity (the annulment process)



For more information see:

<http://saskatoonrcdiocese.com/marriage-andfamilylife/transitions#sthash.HLhJSZ0g.dpuf>



The Catholic’s Divorce Survival Guide, DVD’s, Leaders Guide and Personal Survival Guide is an excellent resource for those who do not have access to programs which might be available in major centers like Saskatoon, or as an adjunct to such a program.

“Whether you are recently divorced, or have been for many years and are still struggling and seeking healing and peace, this 12 DVD series and personal guide will assist you in finding “Peace, Power and Passion” after your divorce. The series is narrated by Rose Sweet, a Catholic speaker and author of “Healing the Divorced Heart” and “Dear God Send me a Soul Mate”, and who herself went through a divorce – www.RoseSweet.com. As you listen to each of the DVDs, you will hear men and women share their stories and struggles, and how they found help and healing after their divorce. It lets you know that you are not alone in what you are experiencing and the importance of going through the grieving and healing process at your own pace. You can also find additional resources on their website www.FaithLifeline.com.

As one who has walked this road and found peace and healing I strongly encourage you, if this is where you are in your life’s journey, contact Deborah Larmour at the Family and Life Office and inquire about getting this series. It will help. You are not alone.” *Chris Pidwerbeski*



Pope Francis @Pontifex Aug 8, 2015

We are all sinners. Let us be transformed by God’s mercy.