



Saskatchewan District Community
 #210-160 Phelps Way, Saskatoon, SK S7V 0K7
 Phone: (306) 653-6452
 Email: finance@sdcsaskatoon.ca

Sights and Sounds

March 31st, 2026

Birthdays



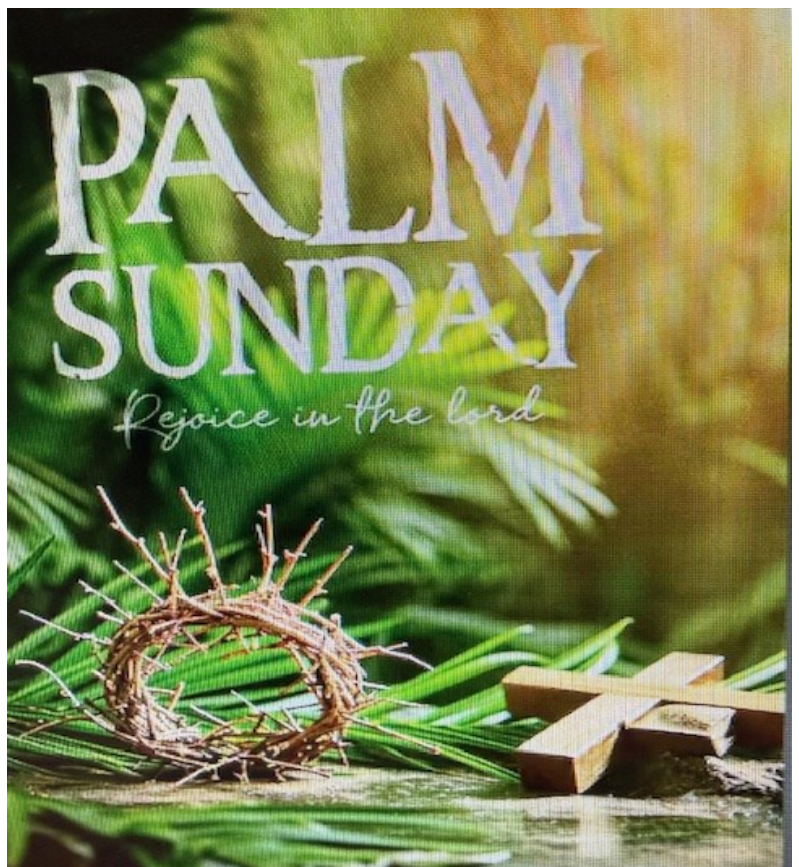
- March 20th - Bernard Normand
- March 24th - Shaun Nechvatal
- March 28th - Katarina Nechvatal
- March 29th- Fr. Eugene Warnke
- April 1st - Anika Nechvatal

Anniversaries of Perpetual Vows

Anniversaries of Marriage

Coffee Times at Samaritan Place

- April 23rd, 2026 - 2:30 to 4:00
- May 21st, 2026 - 2:20 to 4:00
- June 18th, 2026 - 2:30 to 4:00
- July 23rd, 2026 - 2:30 to 4:00
- August 20th, 2026- 2:30 to 4:00



An Easter Message from Fr. Doug

Greetings to each of you and those you love and care for! As we enter into the Paschal Mystery and as we live this Mystery in our own lives may we be nourished by the faith of those who have gone before us!

On Palm Sunday, Isaiah spoke of the disciple awakening to listen to and to be taught by the Lord. Isaiah spoke of the relationship between the disciple and the Lord. As I prayed with the text, I noticed that the relationship between the disciple and the Lord led the disciple to grow more and more confident that they would not be abandoned by God. In fact, when the disciple was confronted with suffering, the disciple did not turn away or rebel but trusted in the saving power of God.

Today, as disciples of the Lord, we are awakened and we are taught by the Lord. Today, our lives are a mixture of suffering and of joy. As Holy Week unfolds, we prepare ourselves to hear stories of suffering and abandonment. We know that the betrayal, the darkness of Good Friday and the silence of Holy Saturday do not have the last word. The promise of Easter Sunday runs through our stories, our imagination and our experience! However, maintaining hope in the midst of diminishment, of illness, suffering and death, silence and grief is not easy. As we celebrate the Easter mysteries, we are called to remain faithful, to do as Jesus has done. We are called to joyfully proclaim our confidence in our God even as we suffer and die! Our proclamation is of great value in a world where people are suffering from leaders who celebrate the use of power and violence!

As a District Community we will gather with each other, with our families, or with our faith communities! Let us encourage one another in our joys and in our sorrows. Our communion is nourished by our life stories, stories of suffering and joy, stories of abandonment and community! The truth we have come to know is that God does not abandon us in our suffering and in our sorrow. The truth we have come to know and to proclaim is that God will raise us up together! As we experience grief and sorrow, as we experience silence and abandonment, as we experience joy and fulfillment, as we experience liberation and communion, may we taste and see a rumour of resurrection! Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, and the Holy Spirit is alive within us!

The season of the Holy Spirit prompts us to sing songs of praise and thanksgiving! Happy Easter!

On March 16, 2026, Corrine & Blain headed to Battleford for a long overdue visit with Fr. Moe Schroeder.

We enjoyed meeting Fr. Moe's good friends, Art & Viv Bastion.

Art & Viv share many home cooked meals with Fr. Moe, and judging by Fr Moe's smile, it was easy to tell he enjoys those meals too.



Playing crib is something Art & Fr. Moe enjoy doing throughout the week. It was easy to tell that neither of them like to lose.



Fr. Moe & Blain having a great talk while we enjoyed a great subway lunch. Fr. Moe treated us to a delicious blueberry pie for dessert. It was a fabulous visit.





Fr. Richard Doll continues to do well at Parkridge Centre. We had a care conference last week and all the reports from the different departments were great!

We are now attending weekly mass at Parkridge Centre and Fr. Arnold from St. Patrick's Parish is very nice to listen too.



Fr. Richard is now up to having physiotherapy three times a week. With each session, he is getting stronger and walking a longer distance each time.

Jon, Fr. Richards's physiotherapist continues to be impressed with Fr. Richard's progress.

Fr. Richard's goal is to get himself up and into his chair with no assistance. I know he will do it!!!!!!





March 26, 2026, Bishop Mark Hagemoem joined Fr. Bassim Shoni and the residents of Samaritan Place for mass.

Above: Fr. Bassim Shoni, Bishop Mark Hagemoem, Bishop Gerry Weisner, Fr. George Gruber & Fr. Paul Facht. Thank you Brian Zimmer & JoAnne Chrones for making sure our Oblates who reside at Samaritan could get to mass.

Fr. Mike Dechant popped into Samaritan Place for a visit with Fr. Paul Facht and myself while he was passing through on his way to Edmonton. It was beautiful to witness Fr. Paul & Fr. Mike greet each other and share time together.



At the Heart of the Charism: Aix Experience 2026

Submitted by Mark Lich, Oblate Associate SDC

From **March 9–19, 2026**, twelve pilgrims from across Canada made their way to **Aix-en-Provence** to follow in the footsteps of **St. Eugene de Mazenod**, founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and to deepen their understanding of his charism.



Canadian Pilgrims in the inner courtyard of the Oblate house.

Back row

Dan Friedt (Alt.) Arnold Francis (Ont.) Michael Dechant, OMI (BC) David Sax (BC) Matt Sherry (Sk) Greg Saretsky (Alt) Cathy Holden Saretsky (Alt) Father Bonga

Front row

Joanne Friedt (Alberta) Karen Sax (British Columbia) Mark Lich (Saskatchewan) Renee Siraco (Ontario) Paolo Siraco (Ontario)

After a day of travel we arrived March 9th and were warmly greeted at the Marseille airport and chauffeured to the Oblate Foundation house in Aix. The house was originally built about 1620 and was the residence of the Carmelite nuns until the Oblates took it over in early 1800's. Father Bonga, Father Paolo, Father James and Brother Jean Marie provided true OMI welcome and hospitality during our stay at the Foundation House.



Fathers Mike and Bonga celebrating Mass at Marseilles Cathedral, St. Eugene's tomb.



Visiting deceased Oblates and Members of the de Mazenod Family



This cemetery was a 15 minute walk from the Foundation house. Here we remembered, prayed and lit candles for Oblates and others. I chose to pray for our dear Brother, Walter Demong, Father Syl Lewans and Father Andre Vincelette. Brother Walter instilled in me the Oblate hospitality and welcome. Father Syl and Father Andre were our parish priests at St Patrick's Parish in Saskatoon. Father Andre gave us the honour of presiding at our wedding.

Mark Lich, SDC Associate



Please visit the OMI Associates web page to see more about our Journey.

<https://omilacombe.ca/at-the-heart-of-the-charism-aix-experience-2026>



Please note that SDC Oblate coffee times will now be at Samaritan Place 2:30 to 4:00 pm.

Our next coffee time will be April 23rd, 2026



Fr. Paul Fchet & Fr. Eugene Warnke enjoy a little visit.



Bishop Gerry Wiesner, his sister Marie & Gerry Weinkauf

Fr. Doug Jeffrey, Ana Gheysen, Fr. Bill Stang & Gerry Weinkauf



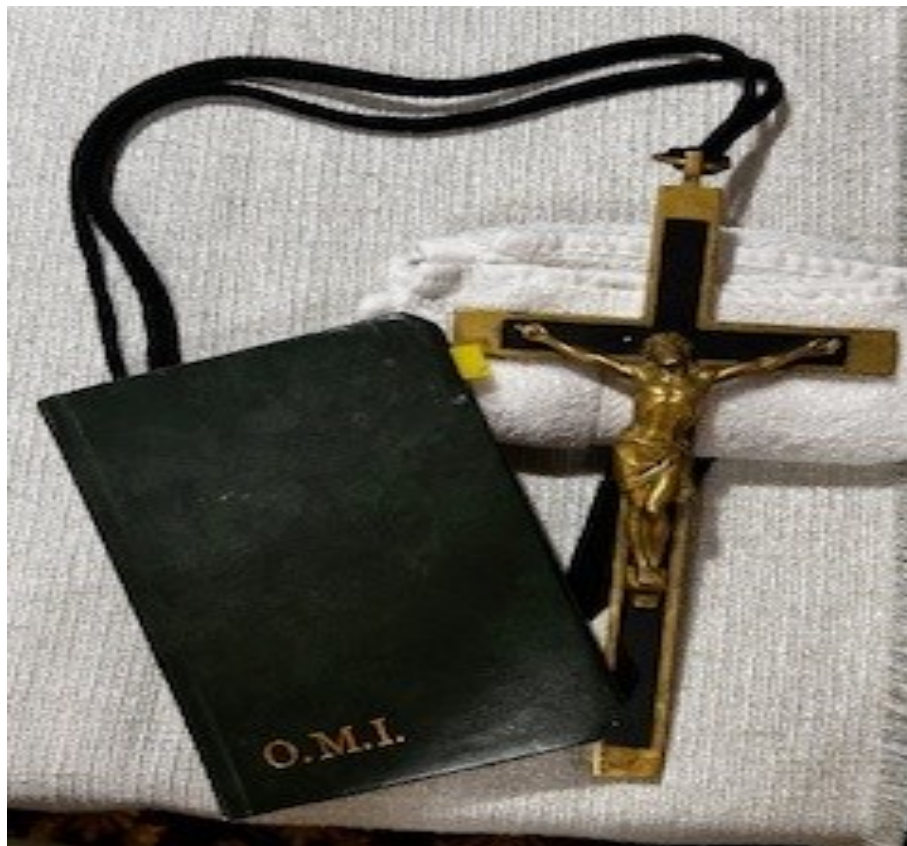


Fr. Albert Ulrich, Fr. Bill Stang, Fr. Doug Jeffrey, Fr. Paul Fachel, Jim Longstaff, Fr. Eugene Warnke & Fr. George Gruber all enjoying a great visit along with a cup of coffee & Brian Zimmer's home made cookies! They were so good, Fr. George Gruber had three!



Gerry Weinkauf was able to join us for coffee time and wonderful community time together.

So much to be grateful for.



News from the SDC Office

Year end is wrapping up just in time for tax season!

Please remember to send in your GST receipts.

On behalf of Fr. Doug Jeffrey & Corrine please make note of the following:

If you are planning to take an Oblate resident out of Samaritan Place, Trinity Manor or Parkridge Centre, **please remember** to sign the Resident Oblates out. Upon return, please make sure to sign them back into the building. The sign in & sign out sheets will be located at the reception or nursing station desks.



If you would like to share a story with the community, please send your write up to my attention with one or two pictures, and I will make sure to include your story in the next Sights & Sounds.



On behalf of Fr. Doug & myself, we want to wish each of you a safe and wonderful Easter long weekend.

May the beauty of spring fill your heart with happiness.

&

May the blessing of Easter bring you peace.

Fr. Nestor Gregoire's blog: <https://withmyfeetonmydesk.blogspot.com>

OMI Lacombe Canada Website: www.omilacombe.ca