

FW: St. Mary's Parish fence

St. Mary - Saskatoon <[REDACTED]>

Thu 2023-09-28 2:32 PM

To: Ryan N. Baker <[REDACTED]>

-----Original Message-----

From: Absalon Verdote <[REDACTED]>

Sent: September 18, 2023 11:24 AM

To: St. Mary - Saskatoon <[REDACTED]>

Subject: St. Mary's Parish fence

CAUTION: Verify sender. Email external to 'rcdos' accounts. Do not open attachments or click links unless you know they are safe.

To whom it may concern,

Having the fence around the church property is important because it will keep the Priests and church staff safe. I have seen needles around the church yard and it's really scary. One time my wife and I witnessed two men under the influence fighting at the side of the rectory wall by the parking area. The fence is really important around the church.

Thank you,
Absalon Verdote

Sent from my iPhone

FW: Fence

St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Thu 2023-09-28 2:27 PM

To: Ryan N. Baker [REDACTED]

From: St. Mary - Saskatoon

Sent: September 14, 2023 1:20 PM

To: Rev. Kevin McGee [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Fence

From: alejandro rugamas [REDACTED]

Sent: September 10, 2023 10:13 AM

To: St Mary Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Subject: Fence

CAUTION: Verify sender. Email external to 'rcdos' accounts. Do not open attachments or click links unless you know they are safe.

Do you feel having a fence around the church is important?

In my honest opinion and experience I would say "yes". The reason is that the community and the neighborhood around the church is a dangerous zone, and not going too far past Saturday 9 I saw a lot of junkies doing drugs just in the main entrance stairs. It is pretty common to see people smoking drugs and under its influence in the stairs of the church so yes, the fence will keep these people out of the grass and they will not fall asleep there or they will not dirty the lawn.

FW: Why the fence is important

St. Mary - Saskatoon <[REDACTED]>

Thu 2023-09-28 2:32 PM

To: Ryan N. Baker [REDACTED]

From: ARIS C.C. [REDACTED]

Sent: September 17, 2023 4:37 PM

To: St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Subject: Why the fence is important

CAUTION: Verify sender. Email external to 'rcdos' accounts. Do not open attachments or click links unless you know they are safe.

Hello,

I believe the fence is important to protect the property and privacy.

People leaves garbage and syringes that is very unsafe for our kids

It is sad to see all those people doing what they do injecting emesis and just out of reality and our kids seem that too There is lots people scare to go there because that

Thank you,

Alfredo Colorado

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

FW: Fence

St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Thu 2023-09-28 2:26 PM

To: Ryan N. Baker [REDACTED]

From: St. Mary - Saskatoon

Sent: September 14, 2023 1:25 PM

To: Rev. Kevin McGee [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Fence

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Sent: September 13, 2023 12:41 PM

To: St Mary Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Subject: Fence

CAUTION: Verify sender. Email external to 'rcdos' accounts. Do not open attachments or click links unless you know they are safe.

I have read the bulletin and understand the City has an issue with the chain link fence. This is my opinion. The fence at St. Mary's is high, but being chain link, you can see quite clearly in all directions through it. In the past couple of years there has been large numbers of people who camp on the lawn with all their stuff. They are often high on dope and there are dirty needles. I have actually seen someone giving themselves a needle. Going to church can be a challenge walking by this. If I still had children I would not take them to St. Mary's. Being a senior, I have begun to wonder if I should be going. Over the years St. Mary's has been very supportive to the poor with hampers etc. This is another level where people need help not just with poverty, but with addictions. Every day our caretaker cleans up garbage and needles. Does anyone want people camped on their personal lawn??? I know I would not **want to open my door and deal with it. No high chain link fence.....then is the City coming daily to clean up the mess and help people move on?????**

FW: FENCE AROUND THE CHURCH PROPERTY

St. Mary - Saskatoon <[REDACTED]>

Thu 2023-09-28 2:33 PM

To: Ryan N. Baker [REDACTED]

From: CA Maestrocampo [REDACTED]

Sent: September 17, 2023 3:03 PM

To: St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: FENCE AROUND THE CHURCH PROPERTY

CAUTION: Verify sender. Email external to 'rcdos' accounts. Do not open attachments or click links unless you know they are safe.

This is to confirm that I'm agreeable to the fence built around the church property. I'd attended mass at St. Mary's Church ever since I arrived Canada in 2003. I always find it safe and homely to spend a Sunday spiritual retreat. However, with the recent inappropriate presence of those who are not devotees of the church who seemed not to even respect the place, it's understandable that the congregation has to do something to protect the said property.

Cynthia Maestrocampo

FW: Fence

St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Thu 2023-09-28 2:32 PM

To: Ryan N. Baker [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: September 25, 2023 2:32 PM

To: St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Subject: Fence

CAUTION: Verify sender. Email external to 'rcdos' accounts. Do not open attachments or click links unless you know they are safe.

I am in favor of the fence.

FW: St Mary's Fence

St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Thu 2023-09-28 2:32 PM

To: Ryan N. Baker [REDACTED]

From: Don Witzel [REDACTED]

Sent: September 18, 2023 9:39 PM

To: St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Subject: St Mary's Fence

CAUTION: Verify sender. Email external to 'rcdos' accounts. Do not open attachments or click links unless you know they are safe.

We would like to request an exemption to the fence bylaw to enable a more safe and secure environment for the church and those that attend it. We have had discussions with people who had previously attended but no longer do so because of concerns for their safety. As parishioners feel less safe, our attendance is diminishing and people are finding alternate locations to worship. This will in turn limit our volunteer base and financial ability to perform outreach to the Pleasant Hill community. We are saddened the community has become less safe over the last few years but feel the higher fence is a necessity.
Carrie and Don Witzel

FW: St. Mary's Fence

St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Thu 2023-09-28 2:32 PM

To: Ryan N. Baker [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Elsa Verdote [REDACTED]

Sent: September 18, 2023 11:41 AM

To: St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Subject: St. Mary's Fence

CAUTION: Verify sender. Email external to 'rcdos' accounts. Do not open attachments or click links unless you know they are safe.

To whom it may concern:

Having the fence around the church property is very important to me due to several reasons:

- it gives me the feeling of being secure especially for the priests and the staff
- going to church and not seeing people sleeping outside the church property
- not seeing needles all over the church's yard. I can tolerate garbages but using the church property as bathrooms is unacceptable

When they started building the fence, it gives me the feeling of satisfaction that the fence will be a sign of no trespassing, that I don't have to witness people under the influence fighting and not being scared that you might get hurt too. It gives me a little bit of assurance that the priests, staff and us the church goers will be safe.

I hope for your kind consideration to keep the fence.

Sincerely,

Eloisa Cas-Verdote

Sent from my iPad

FW: Regarding importance of the fence.

St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Thu 2023-09-28 2:26 PM

To: Ryan N. Baker [REDACTED]

From: St. Mary - Saskatoon

Sent: September 14, 2023 1:25 PM

To: Rev. Kevin McGee [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Regarding importance of the fence.

From: Judi Fyfe [REDACTED]

Sent: September 13, 2023 11:51 AM

To: St Mary Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Subject: Regarding importance of the fence.

CAUTION: Verify sender. Email external to 'rcdos' accounts. Do not open attachments or click links unless you know they are safe.

To Whom it May Concern,

I have been a parishioner of St. Mary's for 50 years. This parish has been a cornerstone of my life, for no matter where I have lived in the city, or even when I moved to Regina for 4 years, this remained my parish. No other place was rooted in such diversity of peoples and culture and in giving and caring for surrounding neighborhood. I have raised my children in this parish and even my grandchild has been baptized in this parish. I mention all of this, so you know that when I speak of St. Mary's it is because of my love for a place that has brought such faith and strength to not just my life, but to the lives of so many. Never, in all my years at this parish have we as parishioners felt threatened or afraid of homeless who have been around. But this pandemic of narcotic abuse has brought on threats that we can not be victims of also. When I come to church and have to step around two people sharing drugs then throwing the needle on the ground in front of me...when I have to walk through last nights clutter of discarded needles that litter the ground and pray one hasn't poked through the ground unseen and into my sandale...when I have to wait in fear because there are clusters of homeless making parties on the lawns of the church and rectory and I'm to afraid to go past...then I know that having the fence is the right thing. The rectory is home to our parish priest. We all have a right to feel safe in our own homes. That fence needed to be made to keep anyone from climbing over. There should be no doubt or question as to that. I am thankful that we have the fence in place and now my only wish is that we would have extended the fence across the back to have complete enclosure. I thank you for letting me express my views and opinion.

Sincerely,
Judi Weber

FW: Fence

St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Thu 2023-09-28 2:32 PM

To: Ryan N. Baker [REDACTED]

From: Ken Roberts [REDACTED]

Sent: September 23, 2023 12:21 PM

To: St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Subject: Fence

CAUTION: Verify sender. Email external to 'rcdos' accounts. Do not open attachments or click links unless you know they are safe.

I am agnostic about the fence. However, it is my opinion that the process around the decision to erect the fence could have been more collegial. I believe we are now experiencing the results of this lack of collegiality. Sincerely, Ken Roberts

FW: Importance of Maintaining the Church Fence.

St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Thu 2023-09-28 2:27 PM

To: Ryan N. Baker [REDACTED]

From: St. Mary - Saskatoon

Sent: September 14, 2023 1:17 PM

To: Rev. Kevin McGee [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Importance of Maintaining the Church Fence.

From: Kene Andeh [REDACTED]

Sent: September 13, 2023 12:04 AM

To: St Mary Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Subject: Importance of Maintaining the Church Fence.

CAUTION: Verify sender. Email external to 'rcdos' accounts. Do not open attachments or click links unless you know they are safe.

Dear Father Kevin,

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to express my strong support for maintaining the fence around St. Paul's Church property. In light of the recent incident during the 11am Sunday Mass on 10th September 2023, I believe that the fence serves as a crucial security measure that ensures the safety and well-being of our parishioners and visitors.

The incident involving the individual who disrupted the Mass and entered the sacristy was a deeply unsettling experience for many of us, including my mother who was visiting and attending our parish for the first time. It was a stark reminder of the challenges we face due to the high crime rate and drug-related issues in the church neighborhood.

Having a fence around the church property provides a level of security and a sense of safety that is essential, especially during gatherings like Mass, when we come together to worship and seek spiritual solace. It is a preventive measure that can help deter individuals who might have ill intentions or who are not in their right state of mind.

Additionally, it sends a clear message that we are committed to ensuring a safe and peaceful environment for our parishioners and guests. This sense of security can make a significant difference in how comfortable people feel attending our church, particularly newcomers like my mother.

While I understand that there may be concerns from the City of Saskatoon, I believe it is our responsibility to prioritize the safety of our parishioners, workers, and the clergy. I would support any efforts to appeal the directive and maintain the fence while also exploring ways to address any potential concerns from the City.

Please count my voice among those in favor of keeping the fence intact. I trust your judgment and leadership in this matter and applaud the fence initiative to ensure the security and well-being of our parish community.

Thank you for considering my input, and I pray that our parish continues to be a place of solace and safety for all who seek it

Sincerely,
Kenechukwu Andeh

FW: Fence around church property

St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Thu 2023-09-28 2:33 PM

To: Ryan N. Baker [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: leonidas bueno [REDACTED]

Sent: September 17, 2023 11:04 AM

To: St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Subject: Fence around church property

CAUTION: Verify sender. Email external to 'rcdos' accounts. Do not open attachments or click links unless you know they are safe.

I am emailing about the fence around the property and I think it is very important to have it. The reason for it is to protect the people coming and going from church and the services it provides. It helps keep away some of the people that are there that want to do harm to themselves or to others and I think the church should have a fence there due to the area it is in. I stand by having a fence there because I feel a bit safer when I go to Saturday service. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

FW: Fence

St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Thu 2023-09-28 2:28 PM

To: Ryan N. Baker [REDACTED]

📎 4 attachment (24 MB)

****attachments were not there****

Fence - Cut 2.jpg; Fence- Garbage.jpg; Fence - Steps Drugs 3.jpg; Fence - Steps Drugs 1.jpg;

From: St. Mary - Saskatoon

Sent: September 14, 2023 1:17 PM

To: Rev. Kevin McGee [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Fence

From: Paul Labelle [REDACTED]

Sent: September 12, 2023 4 59 PM

To: St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Cc: Father Graham Hill [REDACTED]; Bishop Mark Hagemoen [REDACTED]

Subject: Fwd: Fence

CAUTION: Verify sender. Email external to 'rcdos' accounts. Do not open attachments or click links unless you know they are safe.

Hello,

In response to the small note available at the door of St. Mary's on Sunday asking, "Do you feel having a fence around the church property is important?" I am attaching my original email to Father Kevin with my comments regarding the announcement that a fence would be put up. Since then I am sure you are aware that a correction had to be issued, with reference to the original announcement, due to incorrect information about support by local "Community partners".

With regards to this latest request for comment I would offer the following:

1. This request seems too little too late. I would think many people would say, 'what is the point of asking this now, the fence is already up?' So the likelihood of getting a good cross section of opinion is probably not going to happen.

2. The fence seems to have not achieved its purpose. I am attaching photos which show, a) A hole having been cut in the fence for access b) Trash still being thrown inside the fence (protests perhaps??), c) drug paraphernalia still on the steps of the hall side door (2 photos). I have also seen sleeping materials at that same spot, which means people are jumping the fence to get access to this area. So unless some razor wire is going to be added to the top of the fence, it will probably continue. c) Trash in the alleyway between the church and rectory at an all time high! (another protest??) d) And the best of all: A "No Loitering" sign posted! Does anyone seriously believe this is going to have any effect on the folks around there? Or is an enforcement officer going to be hired?

[Fence Loiter Sign.jpg](#)

**** two photographs added at the end of the document****

[Fence-Alley.jpg](#)

So to answer the question posed: I **do not** think it is important to have a fence around the church property. While I do not live in the area I am around there very often and I have never felt threatened. I also have been told by many of our indigenous parishioners and even some of St. Mary's parishioners, that the fence has set the relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous back a hundred years.

Respectfully,
Paul Labelle p.d.

----- Forwarded message -----

From **Paul Labelle**

Date: Sat, Jun 10, 2023 at 1:10 PM

Subject Fence

To: Fr. Kevin McGee <>, Father Graham Hill <>, Bishop Mark Hagemoen

Father McGee,

Father Graham forwarded me your letter regarding the fencing of St. Mary's Property. I want to let you know my "strong feelings" of opposition to this action.

It may not be your intention, however "Fort" St. Mary's will clearly communicate separation and protection from those who live on the streets in the neighbourhood. Not a very welcoming sign. Perhaps a better initial approach may have been to talk with your community partners, like Prairie Harm and West Side Clinic, to organize community groups

to regularly clean up the area, offering proper instruction on how to deal with hazardous waste, cast-off needles, etc. Also making available secure sharps containers around the outside of the partner buildings would be a good idea. I suspect a fence will really not solve the problem because garbage and needles will likely be thrown over the fence or pushed through the links (as they are now), possibly in protest. Also, an 8-foot fence may very likely be in contravention with City of Saskatoon bylaws regarding fence heights. You may have to deal with bylaw enforcement complaints.

I agree with you that the issue of homelessness "needs a more robust response than what St Mary's Parish can provide alone". However, St. Mary's parishioners could be a force for change, if they so desired. They are influential people and should they offer an organized approach to the City and the Provincial governments I suspect there would be positive change

I look forward to seeing how St. Mary's is going to make this action appear to create greater options of how it can be a positive presence in the neighbourhood

sincerely,
Deacon Paul Labelle

FW: On the fence

St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Thu 2023-09-28 2:26 PM

To: Ryan N. Baker <[REDACTED]>

From: St. Mary - Saskatoon

Sent: September 14, 2023 1:21 PM

To: Rev. Kevin McGee [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: On the fence

From: Paul Wheeler [REDACTED]

Sent: September 10, 2023 12:33 PM

To: St Mary Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Subject: On the fence

CAUTION: Verify sender. Email external to 'rcdos' accounts. Do not open attachments or click links unless you know they are safe.

Hi St. Mary's,

I believe that having a fence, high enough to be a deterrent, is of critical importance in our neighborhood at the moment.

While I believe that as a church, we need to be connected to the challenges of our area, I also firmly believe that this work cannot be accomplished if we are always concerned with security for the parish. Having the current high chain link fence allows us to dedicate our limited time to activities of the church and neighborhood outreach, such as the hamper program.

Having a non-effective 1 meter high fence would, in my opinion, result in the following:

- a) Encourage camping, drug use, and associated activities on church property.
- b) Discourage parishioners from attending church events.
- c) Discourage volunteers coming out for activities such as the neighborhood hamper program.
- d) Tie up our very limited resources in clean-up, safety, and security activities.
- e) Tie up city resources such as police and other workers in responding to calls for assistance at our parish.
- f) Encourage criminals to use St. Mary's grounds to hide illegal activities, such as the sale of illegal drugs.

Do not allow the small measure of security we currently possess be stripped away. In this neighborhood's present state, the fence around St. Mary's actually allows us to reach out to those outside of it.

Signed,
Paul Wheeler
Parishioner of St. Mary's

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest

Matthew 11:28

"Whatever good work you begin to do, beg of God with most earnest prayer to perfect it."

St. Benedict of Nursia

FW: Why the fence is important

St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Thu 2023-09-28 2:33 PM

To: Ryan N. Baker [REDACTED]

From: REINA SERRANO [REDACTED]

Sent: September 17, 2023 4:26 PM

To: St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Subject: Why the fence is important

CAUTION: Verify sender. Email external to 'rcdos' accounts. Do not open attachments or click links unless you know they are safe.

Hello,

This is Reina from the Spanish Community.

I think the fence is important to protect the building from all that garbage and syringes people leave around and also helps us for example when people comes in a wheelchair to mass they have to go to the door in one of the sides where people stayed with all their belongings and have to moved to make the door available to go in.

Thank you,

Reina Serrano

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

FW: The fence at St. Mary's

St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Thu 2023-09-28 2:32 PM

To: Ryan N. Baker [REDACTED]

From: Stan & Jenny Delainey [REDACTED]

Sent: September 23, 2023 9:41 PM

To: St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Subject: The fence at St. Mary's

CAUTION: Verify sender. Email external to 'rcdos' accounts. Do not open attachments or click links unless you know they are safe.

I/we have attended /st. Mary's parish off and on over many years. The situation today is much different than 10 or more year ago

Why was the fence erected? Let's see? Do parishioners and the priests feel safe in today's environment?

We have een huge amount of garbage, needle , urine and we hear human fece on the tep of the church I have seen human feces on the sidewalk between St. Mary's and the rectory. We have seen a woman bathing in the holy water in the holy water font near the north entrance We have attended ma on a week day during the celebration of the mass a fight broke out on the south side of the church. There was much hollering, screaming and inappropriate language I wondered if omeone would be tabbed I hear thi wa not a one time event I al o hear the washrooms have been badly treated (damaged) and now they are only available with the use of a key. I/we feel orry for the acri tan and care taker who clean all of the me up What i our ociety coming to?

The chain link fence does not obstruct vision of the street or sidewalk. In view of what has been happening at St. Mary' I/we feel trongly that the chain link fence hould remain until uch time a our ociety become more human again.

Re pectfully ubmitted by Genevieve and Stan Delainey

FW: Fence around St Mary's Parish

St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Thu 2023-09-28 2:26 PM

To: Ryan N. Baker [REDACTED]

From: St. Mary - Saskatoon

Sent: September 14, 2023 1:22 PM

To: Rev. Kevin McGee [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Fence around St Mary's Parish

From: T TRES [REDACTED]

Sent: September 10, 2023 8:22 PM

To: St Mary Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Subject: Fence around St Mary's Parish

CAUTION: Verify sender. Email external to 'rcdos' accounts. Do not open attachments or click links unless you know they are safe.

Good Afternoon:

I would like to add my name to the list of St Mary's Parish members who are in favour of the fence surrounding St Mary's Parish and the rectory, and hence I am in favour of St Mary's Parish appealing the City of Saskatoon ByLaw. The reason I feel the fence is necessary is for the safety of St Mary's Parish staff and parishiners.

Thank you.

Tim Tress

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
[REDACTED]

FW: FENCE AROUND ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Thu 2023-09-28 2:32 PM

To: Ryan N. Baker [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: September 24, 2023 8:07 PM

To: St. Mary - Saskatoon [REDACTED]

Cc: Luis Alarcon [REDACTED]

Subject: FENCE AROUND ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CAUTION Verify sender Email external to 'rcdos' accounts Do not open attachments or click links unless you know they are safe.

To Whom it May Concern:

We understand that the City of Saskatoon is asking why or why not having a fence around the church [St. Mary's Catholic Church] is important.

We would like to **express our support** to having this fence around church property for the simple reasons that, unfortunately and as sadly as it is the number of people that circulate around the church appear to not only be homeless, but severely under the influence of alcohol and illicit drugs. Even before the pandemic, there would be impaired people that walked in the middle of mass, yelling obscenities at the priest celebrating mass, causing significant disturbances during mass. Also, we witnessed and encounter many times upon arriving at church as early as 3:00 o'clock [to get ready for our choir] groups of 5 to 6 people injecting themselves right by the side door, impeding our entering the church premises; one cannot reason with people under the influence, particularly on hard drugs. Used needles were left thrown carelessly on the ground. Many would also gather in the front steps doing the same thing, injecting, carrying and displaying their belongings, which were/are evidently unsanitary. We have lots of children that attend our church that, sadly, have to bear witness to these unsavory situations.

Erecting the fence appears to be the last option for the church to protect not only its property, but also the faithful that attend church. Now we do see encampments erected around the back alley by the parking lot behind the church. The solution to this serious issue of the amount of homeless people lies on very different solutions, than to let them feel free to inject themselves wherever they please, leaving used needles, obviously infected, around the church or anywhere for that matter.

Sincerely,

Ximena M Pino
Luis H. Alarcon
Bessie R. Pino
Ricardo Z Pino-Robles
[REDACTED] Simon Fraser Crescent
Saskatoon, SK. [REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**NO
LOITERING**

**Violators Will
Be Ticketed**



**NO
LOITERING**

**Violators Will
Be Ticketed**

