



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

December 10, 2017

Second Sunday of Advent

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:

Saturday at 7:00 pm, Sunday at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (11 th):	9:30 am-	+Christine Ooi
	6:00 pm-	+Thresia Tedeschi
Tues. (12 th):	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe	
	9:30 am-	+Mary Kerunsky
	7:00 pm-	+Sheila Desroches
Wed. (13 th):	10:30 am-	ASPEN VILLA
		+Elias Giannoulis
Thurs. (14 th):	10:00 am-	<i>Funeral Mass—Sandra Kormos</i>
	2:30 pm-	LAKESIDE MANOR
		+Norbert Soyka
Fri. (15 th):	9:30 am-	Merv & Rosemarie Todos
Sat. (16 th):	10:00am-	+Jimmy Flavel
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	7:00 pm-	+Al Herchuk
Sun. (17 th):	Third Sunday of Advent	
	9:00 am-	Orest & Bernice Machushek
	11:00 am-	Mass for the People

•**Missed the Penitential Service last week?** Additional services at 7pm this week: Thurs., Dec. 14 (St. Henry, Melville), and Fri., Dec. 15 (St. Joseph, Canora)

•The **Divine Mercy Devotion** is prayed each Friday at 1pm (except the first Friday of the month).

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation: Half-hour before Saturday morning and Saturday evening Mass, or anytime by appointment.

Infant Baptism: Please contact Fr. Louis at least one month prior to Baptism.

RCIA: Adults wishing to be received into the Catholic Church should contact Fr. Louis.

Matrimony: Please contact Fr. Louis at least 6 months prior to the time you would like to be married.

Anointing: Please contact Fr. Louis at any time.

For Anointing of the Sick and other emergencies, you may contact Fr. Louis at 1.306.530.0126

CONTACT US

Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca | Hours: Monday-Friday 8am–noon, 1pm–4pm
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www.stgerard.ca



Lord, you are the compassion of God in the world. You never forget any of your people. Give me the courage to be the compassion of God for others.

- From *Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas* - Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

A Note from Your Pastor.....

Now that I have settled into parish life, I would like to visit every family in the next while – actually the next (long) while as there are over 1,300 households in our parish! But please phone me – I would love to visit with you and your family!

If you or a family member are planning to be admitted to the hospital, and wish to have a visit from me and would like to receive Holy Communion, please notify me. I would love to do it if I have a request from you.

You may reach me at 306.782.2449 (office) or 306.782.0323 (rectory).

May God bless you and your families.

Rev. Louis Nguyen

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron of the Americas & the Philippines



The feast in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe goes back to the 16th century. Chronicles of that period tell us the story.

A poor Indian named Cuauhtlatohuac was baptized and given the name Juan Diego. He was a 57-year-old widower, and lived in a small village near Mexico City. On Saturday morning December 9, 1531, he was on his way to a nearby barrio to attend Mass in honour of Our Lady.

Juan was walking by a hill called Tepeyac when he heard beautiful music like the warbling of birds. A radiant cloud appeared, and within it stood an Indian maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the bishop of Mexico, a Franciscan named Juan de Zumarraga. The bishop was to build a chapel in the place where the lady appeared.

Eventually the bishop told Juan to have the lady give him a sign. About this same time Juan's uncle became seriously ill. This led poor Juan to try to avoid the lady. Nevertheless, the lady found Juan, assured him that his uncle would recover, and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape or tilma.

On December 12, when Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop's presence, the roses fell to the ground, and the bishop sank to his knees. On the tilma where the roses had been appeared an image of Mary exactly as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac.



Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools News December 11 - December 15, 2017



	Sacred Heart	St. Alphonsus	St. Mary	St. Michael	St. Paul	St. Theodore
Mon.		•Advent Celebration @ 10am	•Advent Service @ 9:30am		•Advent Celebration @ 12:30pm	
Tues.					•"Angels to the Rescue" @ 1pm & 7pm	
Wed.						
Thurs.			•Family Christmas Program @ 7pm			
Fri.		•CTTCS Elementary Band Performance 12:30-1:30pm	•SHHS Band Concert @ St. Mary's @ 10:45am		•Christmas Sweater Day •Band Performance @ 9:15am	

"Praise you, Lord, for the blessing of learning."

~Catholic Prayers for Every Day and All Day~



SACRAMENTS of INITIATION PREPARATION



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

The next baptism session will be held Sunday, January 28th @ 6:30 pm. Please contact the Parish Office to register – 306.782.2449

CONFIRMATION

The Second Sacrament of Initiation

FIRST EUCHARIST

The Third Sacrament of Initiation

The 2017-2018 Sunday Missals are located on the tables in the Welcome Area. Please pick up a copy today while quantities last! Also available are a limited supply of Little Books Advent & Christmas Reflections (blue).



Come Celebrate

Simbang Gabi

Traditionally, Christmas Day in the Philippines is ushered in by the nine-day masses that start on the evening of December 15th or on the dawn of December 16th. Known as the Misa de Gallo (Rooster's Mass) in the traditional Spanish, these masses are also more popularly known as Simbang Gabi, or "Night Mass". People firmly break the silence of the night and the routine of their lives so as to truly express their faith to God as they anticipate the Christmas joy.

At St. Gerard Church, the Simbang Gabi novena masses will be celebrated at **5:30pm beginning Friday, December 15th and concluding Saturday, December 23rd, including Sunday, December 17th.**

The masses will be celebrated primarily in the Filipino language, with English. Refreshments will be served following each mass. Everyone welcome!

The Simbang Gabi is the most important Filipino Christmas tradition.

Note: The St. Gerard Filipino Community will be ministering at the anticipated Sunday Mass on Saturday, December 16th at 7pm instead of Simbang Gabi at 5:30pm.

On December 23rd Simbang Gabi will be celebrated at 4pm.



News from the CWL



The CWL would like to thank everyone who helped make our Christmas Sparkle Tea such a success! Thank you to everyone who worked to make quilts, rice bags, potato bags, aprons and Christmas pudding; to everyone who brought purses, scarves and jewellery, and such a wonderful selection of Christmas baking to serve and sell; to everyone who worked so hard at the tea in any capacity, and to all who attended: thank you! What a great time of working together and fellowship! A total of just over \$3,000 was raised for palliative care. God bless you all!

Winners of raffle: Necklace - Carol Deters, Ring - Joan Bonyai Andrusyk, Earrings - Maxine Paydli, Bedding Set - Lynda Dernisky

The December CWL newsletter is available in the Welcome Area of the church.



News from the Knights of Columbus



December 12 Evening bingo
December 13 Christmas family social – phone/text Wayne @ 306.783.7380 or email wex13@sasktel.net by Sunday for numbers.

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Brian @ 306.730.7083 or 306.730.7017 after 5pm (or leave a message). More info.: www.kofc-2031.ca



Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

8:00 pm 10:00 pm
(incense)

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

(Holy Day of Obligation)

10:00 am

Dec. 31 – Eve of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

8:00 pm

Jan. 1 – The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

10:00 am



Bringing Home the Word **+**

Putting Our House in Order

By Mary Katharine Deeley

In the weeks before Christmas, preparations for the holiday seem all-consuming. We cook, we shop, we clean; we buy or make presents for our families and friends. Sometimes we break into song, and often we give more generously than at other times. We'll probably have guests, and we'll want to do a little extra to make ready for them.

Today's readings turn our gaze to a more significant kind of preparation for Christmas and remind us that Jesus Christ, who was born in Bethlehem more than two thousand years ago, waits to come again in the fullness of time. More to the point, he waits for us to open our hearts and our lives to him. What does that take exactly?

Think about the way we clean house for special guests. Not content with simple wiping and dusting, we get out the polish, clean the top of the refrigerator, and even check for dust bunnies that have wandered to the corner under the bed. That's a fine metaphor for what we need to do with our souls.

Advent is the time to check the dark recesses for thoughts and actions that indicate we're less than ready to meet Christ face to face. Advent is the time to sweep away the cobwebs and put our inner house in order, knowing that Christ is on his way.

Maybe in the midst of cooking and cleaning the house we live in, we can find the time for prayer and reconciliation so that when he comes, we can stand before him with doors open wide in welcome.

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PEROGY HOTLINE – 306.783.4255

- Cabbage rolls (rice & dill) - \$25 (5 doz. bag)
- Perogies (potato & onion) - \$30 (10 doz. bag)
- Perogies (potato & cheddar) - \$35 (10 doz. bag)

There is still time to contribute to the Annual Archdiocesan Appeal!

Have you celebrated your 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, 65th or 70th Wedding Anniversary in 2017?

Couples who celebrated a Jubilee Anniversary and who register their anniversary with the Parish Office by December 15th will receive a special blessing at Sunday Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family (Saturday, December 30th at 7pm and Sunday, December 31st at 9am and 11am).

Phone 306.782.2449 or stop by the Parish Office Monday to Friday, 8am-noon and 1pm-4pm.



Do you know that we collect food on a continual basis? The food that is placed in the wooden chest in the Welcome Area is delivered regularly to the Salvation Army.

There is a great need in our local community!

Some suggestions for items to donate include: pasta & pasta sauces; canned meats & fish; canned beans, soups & stews; canned vegetables & fruit; hot & cold cereal; infant foods & baby formula.

2018 Giving Program

The 2018 collection envelopes are available in the Welcome Area for those who have contributed by this method in 2017.

Please use the new envelopes commencing January 1, 2018.

If you do not have collection envelopes and would like to receive a set for 2018, **please complete a Parish Registration/Census form (yellow)**, located on the large glass table in the Welcome Area and at the south entrance.

Have you have considered switching from collection envelopes to "PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING"?

Please complete the Pre-Authorized Giving form (green) and submit it to the Parish Office. Forms are available on the large glass table in the Welcome Area and at the south entrance.

Remember - our programs and services depend on your contributions. Please give generously to your parish!

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Mon. (11th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal
6:45 pm- CWL Christmas Gathering
- Tues. (12th): 7:30 pm- Choir rehearsal – 9am Mass
- Wed. (13th): 7:30 pm- Choir rehearsal **8pm Eve**
- Fri. (15th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Be Comforted"

This Week...

We are to be comforted by the promise that the day will come when valleys, hills, and hiding places that separate and divide humankind will be removed, and we will live in unity with another and God. We are called to comfort people with this hope, and to help prepare this way for our God even in the midst of the pain and suffering that is still with us.

For Your Reflection

Waiting for Christmas is hard. It is hard to wait for anything. But it is especially frustrating to wait for something when you don't know how long it will take or what is holding it up - for example, driving along on a busy highway and coming upon a traffic jam that cannot be explained. As far as you can see there is no accident, no construction, no reason for all four lanes to be at a standstill. But if you have been in such a situation long enough, you have seen what almost always happens. Sooner or later people start trickling out of their cars to talk to one another. They start sharing food, telling stories, getting acquainted, and cracking jokes. Suddenly the waiting doesn't seem like such torture. Why? Because people begin to comfort one another. And who usually starts it? Young people!

- How does attitude affect waiting and even pain. How does comfort affect attitude?
- When have you been comforted by a friend or a family member? What words helped? What actions helped? What did he or she try to do for you? Have you ever been able to be of comfort to another? What have you done or said? What happened?

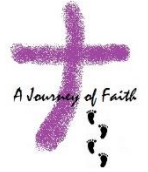
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter* - St. Mary's Press, 2004



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) is an incredible journey of discovery, the discovery of God's love in Jesus. If you or someone you know is interested in exploring the friendship and saving grace of Jesus Christ, we invite you to join us in the RCIA journey. It is a warm, welcoming experience that introduces the Christian faith in our Roman Catholic tradition. We explore topics such as Holy Scripture, the Sacraments, Church history and the core beliefs of the Church. Anyone who has taken this "leap of faith" has found it to be a life-altering experience.

The RCIA process is intended for those who are non-baptized. There are several rites and stages that are part of the process to prepare adults for Baptism and to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Rite of Reception of Baptized Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. If you have been baptized in another Christian tradition, the Catholic Church respects that baptism. Baptism is the sacrament of our rebirth in Christ and our immersion into His saving death and Resurrection. It can never be repeated. Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church happens after a period of preparation through catechesis, prayer and worship, and an introduction to Catholic life, values, and mission.



Adults who have been baptized in the Catholic Church but have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation can prepare for reception of this sacrament through a period of catechesis and prayer.

If you are interested in this journey of faith please contact Fr. Louis at 306.782.2449 or 306.782.0323.

And to all our friends in St. Gerard's parish, we remind you that we all have a responsibility to share our faith and bring others to Christ. If you know of a family member, friend, co-worker or fellow student who is searching for a deeper meaning in their life, let them know about RCIA.

LOST SOMETHING?



Mitts, toques, etc. – check the literature display drawer marked "Lost and Found" in the Welcome Area.

Books, religious articles, jewellery, etc. – contact the Parish Office.

OFFERING A MASS

The offering of a Mass in the name of a deceased family member or friend is one of the greatest ways to keep our beloved dead in our living memory. At each celebration of the Mass, the great prayer of sacrifice is made complete as Jesus' life, death and resurrection is offered to God the Father. When we offer a Mass for a particular person, we ask that in a special way the individual be remembered by the priest who offers up the great sacrifice on behalf of the whole community of faith. In a very real and active way, the life, death and resurrection of the person remembered becomes present and is offered up with Jesus. Each time we offer up a Mass for someone, living or dead, we celebrate the greatest gift of our faith – the gift of Everlasting Life in Christ.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is available daily at the EADM Centre Chapel at 484 Hamilton St. Regina. Hours: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm on Monday through Thursday. Friday, Saturday & Sunday: 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Please help us keep Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament available in our city on a daily basis.

The Healing and Growth Centre St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission

St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission – Searching for God's purpose in your life? Want to live life more fully, and take your faith to the next level? Then, come to St. Therese! At St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission, adults of all ages can explore their faith, discern their vocation in life, foster their prayer life and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. Visit on line at www.sttherese.ca

Rachel's Vineyard: a psychological and spiritual journey for healing after abortion.

Are you hurting because of an abortion? **Rachel's Vineyard** is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. For more information, please contact Elaine at 1.306.480.8911 or email r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY offers distance education courses for adults seeking faith formation for personal and professional development: ***Diploma in Ministry; Certificate in Lay Ministry; Come Let Us Worship: A course in liturgical foundations; Certificate in Spirituality; and Diploma in Intellectual Disability Studies.***

For an information package please contact Continuing & Distance Education, St. Francis Xavier University, toll free 1-877-867-5562, diplomainministry@stfx.ca or check the website:

www.mystfx.ca/academic/continuinged/Ministry.html