

The Roman Catholic Parish of St. Gerard

Parish Office: 125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4
Phone: 306.782.2449 Fax: 306.782.8566
www.stgerard.ca office@stgerard.ca

Parish Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8-12/1-4

Rectory: 122 Fourth Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1A7
Phone: 306.782.0323

Parish Hall: 125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4
Phone: 306.783.4255 hall@stgerard.ca



Pastor: Father Francis Hengen
Parish Hall Manager: Jeff Krasowski
Caretaker: Mario Guerra

Parish Office Administrator: Sandra Archer
Office Clerk (casual): Mary Bybliw

SUNDAY MASS TIMES: Saturday 7:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am & 11:00 am
Sacrament of Reconciliation every Saturday at 6:30 pm & by appointment

Third Sunday of Advent - December 11, 2016

Liturgical/Mass Schedule

- Mon. (12th): *Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe*
(Patron of the Americas)
9:00 am- +Roseanne Koski
- Tues. (13th): 9:00 am- +Mary Kerunsky
- Wed. (14th): 10:00 am- Aspen Villa
+Gladys Molnar
2:00 pm- *Divine Mercy Devotions*
7:00 pm- +Alex Herchuk
- Thurs. (15th): 9:00 am- +Helen Nagy
5:30 pm- *Simbang Gabi*
- Fri. (16th): 9:00 am- John & Cecilia Dernisky
5:30 pm- *Simbang Gabi*
- Sat. (17th): 9:30 am- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
10:00 am- +Edward Yeroschak

6:30 pm- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
7:00 pm- Denis & Marianne Dierker

Sun. (18th): *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

9:00 am- +Agnès Stokman
11:00 am- Mass for the People
5:30 pm- *Simbang Gabi*

Non-liturgical Schedule

- Sun. (11th): 7:00 pm- *Come Join Us at the Table*
Parent Meeting
- Mon. (12th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal
7:30 pm- Pivotal Players
- Tues. (13th): 7:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for 9am Mass
7:00 pm- Parish Finance Council Mtg
7:30 pm- Properties Committee Meeting
- Wed. (14th): 7:30 pm- K of C Christmas Social
- Thurs. (15th): 7:00 pm- Choir Rehearsal for
10pm Christmas Eve
- Fri. (16th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal
- Sat. (17th): 6:15 pm- Choir rehearsal for 7pm Mass

Please remember the sick in your prayers:

Mary Rose Bielinski, Art Scherr, MaryAnn Scherr, Fran Semchuk



Lord, you are patient with me and give me time to correct my faults and become a better person. Help me to be

more patient and loving toward others.

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



This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

Matthew 11.10

SIMBANG GABI 2016

9-day Novena in Preparation for Christmas

December 15-23 @ 5:30pm -6:30pm
December 17 @ 7:00pm

Followed by light snack

St. Gerard Church
125 3rd Ave. N Yorkton, SK

Keep the Tradition Alive!



Experience Christ through human beings both ordinary and extraordinary! Become acquainted with saints, mystics, artists and theologians - "Pivotal Players" who shaped the church and changed the course of civilization.

MONDAY, December 12th @ 7:30 pm, take a guided tour of Michelangelo's art: David, the Pieta, the Sistine Chapel and the Last Judgement. Explore the artistic and the beautiful as a vehicle to the spiritual, catching a glimpse of God's glory and power.

An Adult Faith Formation evening, organized by the St. Gerard Religious Education Committee



Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools News December 12 - December 16, 2016



	Sacred Heart	St. Alphonsus	St. Mary	St. Michael	St. Paul	St. Theodore
Mon.	•Jr Boys Bball @ SHHS	•SCC Meeting @ 6:30pm	• Advent Celebration @ 9:30am	•Advent Celebration @ 10:45am	•Christmas Character Day •Week Three Advent Celebration @ 9:05am	
Tues.		•Advent Celebration @ 10am	•Gr. 5 receive Gideon bibles	•Special Needs Santa Party •Gideon visit	•Formal Day •Christmas Concert @ 1pm & 7pm	
Wed.			•Family Christmas Celebration @ 7pm		•PJ Day •Gideon bible presentation to Gr. 5	•Gr. 5 Gideon bible presentation
Thurs.	•Jr Girls Bball @ SHHS •Elementary Band Concert in Theatre	•SHHS Christmas Band Performance @ St. Alphonsus @ 1:45pm •Band Concert @ SHHS @ 7pm	•Christmas Band Concert @ SHHS @ 7pm	•SHHS & Gr. 8 Band Performance @ 12:30pm •Band Christmas Concert @ 7pm	•Red, White & Green Day •Christmas Band Concert @ SHHS @ 7pm	
Fri.		•Pre-K Celebration		•Ugly Sweater/Tacky Christmas Day	•Unique/Ugly Sweater & Jeans Day	

"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

CONFIRMATION

The Second Sacrament of Initiation

FIRST EUCHARIST

The Third Sacrament of Initiation

ATTENTION PARENTS OF ALL CHILDREN GRADE 2 AND OLDER

The Sacraments of Confirmation & First Eucharist Initial Parent Meeting will be held **TONIGHT** @ 7:00 pm



News from the CWL



The December Newsletter is available for pick up in the Welcome Area.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Dec. 14 **Family Social** – Please phone/text Wayne @ 306.783.7380 or email wex13@sasktel.net if you are planning to attend.

Dec. 22 Bingo (evening)
Dec. 23 Articles for “The Word” due

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Brian @ 306.730.7083 or 306.730.7017 after 5pm (or leave a message).



Penitential Service

Monday, December 19th @ 7:30pm



With the celebration of Reconciliation (in sacrament and in Penance celebrations), our Advent practices allow us to be closer to Christ and to improve our life. The one-half hour Penitential Service will be celebrated communally with individual absolution (Form B) to follow. Several priests will be in attendance.



ART & ENVIRONMENT

Decorating for Christmas
THURSDAY, December 22nd @ 9:30AM

The Christmas & New Year Ministries sign-up sheets are in the Welcome Area THIS WEEKEND for:

Welcomers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, & Hospitality Ministers.

Altar Servers please sign up in the Sacristy.



Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve
8:00 pm 10:00 pm

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day
10:00 am

**Dec. 31 – Eve of the Solemnity of
Mary, the Holy Mother of God**
7:00 pm

**Jan. 1 – The Solemnity of
Mary, the Holy Mother of God**
9:00 am 11:00 am



ALL ARE WELCOME TO SING AT THE CHRISTMAS MASSES

Choir rehearsals (all at 7pm)
are as follows:

Thurs.	Dec. 15 th	For 10pm Christmas Eve
Tues.	Dec. 20 th	For 10am Christmas Day
Wed.	Dec. 21 st	For 8pm Christmas Eve

2017 Giving Program

The 2017 collection envelopes are available in the Welcome Area for those who have contributed by this method in 2016. **Please use the new envelopes commencing January 1, 2017.** Also, please note that some envelope numbers have changed.

If you do not have collection envelopes and would like to receive a set for 2017, **please complete a Parish Registration Form, located on the large glass table in the Welcome Area and at the south entrance**

****NEW FOR PAG**** Due to requests for “Special Collection” envelopes by those who contribute by Pre-Authorized Giving, envelopes will be supplied in 2017. **Please pickup your personalized envelope from the table in the Welcome Area.**



Bringing Home the Word **+**

A Garden Well-tended

By Mary Katharine Deeley

I'm not much of a gardener. When our family was young, we planted vegetables to connect our children with the miracle of growing things. But the truth is, I kill houseplants regularly, and the clay soil in our back yard made growing things a little harder than I was willing to tolerate. So I spent my time tending to children and other pursuits.

When I look at the wonderful young women my children have become, I don't regret any of it—they're evidence of a garden well-tended. We all have gardens we cultivate in the soil we work and in the lives we lead.

In today's readings, Isaiah and Jesus point to gardens of a different sort. Isaiah imagines God as the great gardener who brings flowers and trees out of arid sand and clay soil and then moves on to bring sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf. What a glorious image of a promise made—where we all grow and are made whole.

Jesus doesn't answer John's disciples. He simply points them in the direction of the garden of Good News he's tended. He sends them to John with tales of what they've seen and heard in all its abundance because John will know a garden when he hears about it and will rejoice in its growth.

Finally, James, laboring in the Lord's garden decades after the Lord's death, reminds us of the truth every farmer, landscaper, and household gardener knows so well: Making things grow—crops, flowers, faith, or people—takes patience. What's growing in your garden this Advent?

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PARISH CENTRE HAPPENINGS

306-783-4255 - Perogy Hotline - 306-783-4255

PEROGIES & CABBAGE ROLLS SALES

LAST CHANCE BEFORE CHRISTMAS!!!.....Perogies & cabbage rolls available to purchase after each Mass **NEXT WEEKEND!!! While supplies last!**

2016 National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples

The Aboriginal Council and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops have promoted the annual National Day of Prayer since 2002. It is celebrated on **December 12**, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, whom Pope Pius XII proclaimed patroness of the Americas in 1946. The devotion dates to 1531 when the Blessed Mother appeared as an Aztec princess to a humble Aboriginal peasant, Saint Juan Diego, at a place called the Hill of Tepeyac, which eventually became part of Villa de Guadalupe, a suburb of Mexico City.

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

O Great Creator, we give praise and thanks to you for our lives and for our families. Your gift to us of human community is one of your greatest blessings.

We thank you for our Elders – our grandfathers and grandmothers – whose patience and wisdom guide our lives.

We thank you for our fathers and mothers, who by giving their love to each other bring us into the world, nurturing and leading us.

We thank you for our brothers and sisters, with whom we come to know what sharing and caring really means.

We thank you for young people, whose hope for a better world energizes and inspires us.

We thank you for the little ones – the children - whose innocence and promise bring gladness and joy.

O Creator, may our families always be that blessed and first community that we honour and cherish.

As you continue to make all things new, may we hear your invitation - in all creation - to receive and share all that is good and true with each other.

O God, we also face many challenges and crises in our lives and world.

May our families continue be the first and constant community that shows us how to live intimately and respectfully with all people, and all Creation.

May all Glory, Praise, Honour and Thanksgiving be shown to you, Father of all mercies and compassion, Jesus Saviour and Guardian of our souls, and Spirit of peace and communion.

YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"Flowers"

This Week...

Waiting is difficult. The farmers must be patient. As they work the soil and worry about getting enough, but not too much rain, they realize it is all in God's hands. All they can do is work the soil and wait. We are promised that even the desert shall bloom. John the Baptizer, who had been waiting all his life for the Promised One, sends a message to Jesus: "Are you the one we are waiting for, or must we keep waiting?" Be hopeful! Jesus is *promised* to us!

For Your Reflection

More than any other season of the year, the weeks before Christmas are a time when young people learn patience and hope. Imaginations run wild with visions of vacation time and presents, and the weeks seem to take forever.

- Who is the most patient and hopeful person you know? What is she or he like? How does her or his patience and sense of hope affect others? How can you try to be like that person?
- What is something you are hoping for? What is something you are expecting, something that makes it hard to be patient?

Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle 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. Francis Hengen, or if you would like more information contact the RCIA Co-ordinator, Mary Bybliw, through the parish office at 306-782-2449 or email office@stgerard.ca

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. Please see the brochures at the entrances of the church, or visit on line at www.sttherese.ca

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

If you are experiencing post abortion distress symptoms such as; depression, flashbacks, nightmares, anger, denial, suicidal urges, eating or sleeping disorders, drug or alcohol abuse, inability to bond with your live children, spiritual divorce from God, or avoiding relationships you can receive help and healing by attending a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekend. For more information please check out our website at www.rachelsvineyard.org, or email Bonnie at r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net, or call 1-306-480-8911.

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