



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

December 11th, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES
Saturday at 5:00 pm, Sunday at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

CONTACT US

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9am-noon/1pm-4pm (closed Friday)
125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4
www.stgerard.ca | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca

St. Gerard Parish is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nēhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.

Pastor.....	Fr. Louis Nguyen	306.782.0323	louisyorkton@gmail.com
		306.621.8068	Emergencies
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (12th) **Nat'l Day of Prayer
with Indigenous Peoples**
6:00pm *Penitential Service*

Tues. (13th) 7:00pm +Donna Olshewski

Wed. (14th) 9:00am +Mark Banga
10:00am **ASPEN VILLA**
Family of Loan

Thurs. (15th) 9:00am +Joan Kormos
2:30pm **YORKTON CROSSING**
Agnes Swejda
6:00pm *Simbang Gabi*

Fri. (16th) 9:00am +Ed Langton
6:00pm *Simbang Gabi*

Sat. (17th) 9:00am +Wayne Loster

5:00pm +John Jason Himpe

Sun. (18th) **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
9:00am +Esperanza Castro
11:00am Mass for the People
6:00pm *Simbang Gabi*

SACRAMENTS

Infant Baptism: Please phone the Parish Office to register for Baptism Preparation. 306.782.2449

RCIA: For adults wishing to be received into the Catholic Church, contact Father Louis. 306.782.0323.

Matrimony: Please contact Fr. Louis 12 months prior to the date when you would like to be married. 306.782.0323

Reconciliation: Saturday at 8:30am or anytime by appointment. 306.782.0323

Anointing: Please contact Father Louis at 306.621.8068.



Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!

Eucharistic Holy Hour Devotion
at 6pm (prior to 7pm Tuesday Mass)

Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord Jesus, so that every person on this earth may know they are loved, we pray – Be born in us, be born in our world.

-The Redemptorists

Sunday Connection

First Reading

Isaiah 35.1-6,10

In the day of the Lord, all sorrow and mourning will cease.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 146.6-7,8-9,9-10

The Lord will save his people.

Second Reading

James 5.7-10

Be patient, and be ready; the coming of the Lord is near.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11.2-11

Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning “rejoice.” This Sunday is so named because “Rejoice” is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today’s Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.” Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week’s Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus’ message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus’ ministry and Jesus’ assessment of John’s role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John’s arrest in chapter 14.3-12. In today’s Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus’ message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God’s work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God’s kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.



FAMILY CONNECTION

It is easy to look at our world and become discouraged by the apparent absence of God and signs of God’s salvation. Advent, however, is a season of hope, in which we acknowledge that salvation is both mysteriously present, even in our world, and yet to be fulfilled.

Read together today’s Gospel. Think about John’s question to Jesus: *Are you the One?* Jesus does not answer directly, but points to the signs of the kingdom present in his midst.

Together as a family, look through the newspaper for signs of hope that God is at work in our world. Pray that the world will know God’s salvation by praying together the Lord’s Prayer.

Please sign up today for the Christmas and New Year's Masses. Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Hospitality, Sacristans, Gate Keepers.


 **News from the CWL** 

2023 CWL Memberships are due now. Renew your membership by December 31st and your name will be entered in a draw for a free membership. Memberships are \$35. Cash or cheques, payable to CWL, can be put in the Sunday collection in an envelope marked 'CWL Membership'.

 **News from the Knights of Columbus** 

December 14 Christmas family social in chamber 6pm
December 21 Evening bingo
December 29 Evening bingo

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.782.8664. www.kofc-2031.ca


 The Knights of Columbus are selling 2023 Parish Liturgical Calendars after each Mass. Only \$5.00 each! While supply lasts.

2023 GIVING PROGRAM

The 2023 Sunday collection (offertory) envelopes are in the Welcome Area for those who have contributed by this method in 2022. **IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FIND YOUR BOX OF SUNDAY COLLECTION ENVELOPES** please phone the Parish Office.

Have you considered Pre-Authorized Giving? No need for cash or cheques! Plus, Pre-authorized Giving is assured, results in lower administrative costs, and assists our parish when budgeting for programs and services. **Please complete the Pre-Authorized Giving form** and submit it to the Parish Office or via the Sunday collection. Forms are available on the large glass table in the Welcome Area.

OR you may e-transfer your donation instead! Email giving@stgerard.ca for more information.

 Please pick up your 2023 offertory envelopes, available in the Welcome Area when you are at Mass.

Or stop into the Parish Office during regular office hours. Thank you!

National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples

Dec 12th is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, when the Church in Canada celebrates **The National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples**. This initiative, coordinated since 2002 by the CCCB Advisory group, the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council, marks this feast as a day of prayer, solidarity and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron of the Americas and the Philippines, appeared in Mexico in 1531 as an Indigenous woman to St Juan Diego, whose Indigenous name was Cuauhtlatoatzin (“Eagle Who Speaks”), and spoke to him in his Indigenous language of Nahuatl. She is wearing the black sash around her waist, which is an Aztec Maternity Belt that Mexican women would wear to indicate they were with child. At a time when colonizing powers in the Americas were showing little respect for Indigenous ways, language, and culture, the mother of Jesus, comes as an Indigenous woman to this land, affirming her special love, indeed her identification with and embrace of Indigenous Peoples and culture. God walks with Indigenous Peoples, and has always walked with Indigenous Peoples.



“Who is this that comes forth like the dawn, as beautiful as the moon, as resplendent as the sun...?” Song 6:10 (Vg)

**O Blessed Virgin, Our Lady of Guadalupe
Intercede for us with your Son
That we who live in this land,
Indigenous and non-Indigenous together
may experience healing and
reconciliation,
on a renewed journey for justice
and peace for our children.**

Mother of the Church, pray for us.



The Miracle that Summons Us

By Barbara Hughes

I've always been a morning person. It's possible that my body clock was genetically programmed to rise with the morning sun, but more than likely it was the demands of a busy life that would awaken me during the predawn hours. But regardless of the genesis, somewhere along the road to adulthood, the early-morning hours became sacred.

As the size of our family increased, so did the need for my holy hour with God. I might spend the time reading Scripture, praying the rosary, or simply pouring out my heart to God. How I spend the time has become less important than entering the sacred space where I meet the person I truly am: a beloved child of God, not because of anything I do, but because of who God is. Knowing this helps keep the past in right perspective, allows me to celebrate the present, and prepares me for the day ahead. Watching and waiting during the time before the sun rises remains a guilt-free luxury, not so different from the season of Advent.

The way I see it, Advent is to Christmas as dawn is to daylight, an occasion for humble expectation and joyful celebration when time seems still. It heralds the rising of the Son from the night of sin, inviting Christians to ponder the mystery of Christ's threefold coming: in history, with us now, and in anticipation of his Second Coming.

Such a regal liturgical season calls for purple vestments, greenery, and the lighting of candles. Transcending the barriers of time that once held the world in bondage, Advent calls forth age-old stories about Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah. No longer distant figures from the past, these saints bid hearts to prepare for the birth that is ever ancient, ever new.

During the predawn days before Christmas, the communal celebration becomes personal when Mary's *fiat* invites me to say yes to God and when Elizabeth's greeting challenges me to see Jesus in the face of a weary salesclerk. When life's events rob my soul of peace, Joseph reminds me to trust God, and when self-doubt threatens to steal my identity as a child of God, Zechariah invites me to sit in silent prayer and breathe in love's miracles.

Some have called Christmas a magical season, but there's nothing magical about God becoming man. The Incarnation is a mystery and the miracle that summons Christians to receive the Infant God anew, for once again a new day is dawning.

As the beloved of God, we are being transformed. Ever mindful of his coming, we prepare for the long-awaited birth. Joyfully, we acknowledge the presence of Christ with us here and now, even as we watch and pray, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

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News from the Archdiocese of Regina

ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL

Parish Goal: \$46,774
Amount Raised to Date: \$13,220 (28.3%)

The deadline for 2022 donations is Thursday, December 29 at 4:00pm.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon. (12th): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (prep)
Tues. (13th): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (pinching)
(Social Hall)
Sat. (17th): 11:00am- Perogy & Cabbage Roll
Drive-through Fundraiser
(until 2:00pm)
Sun. (18th): 12:00pm- **Deadline for Giving Tree**

•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•PEROGIES•
•CABBAGE ROLLS•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•

PARISH FUNDRAISER

**Saturday, December 17th
11am – 2pm**

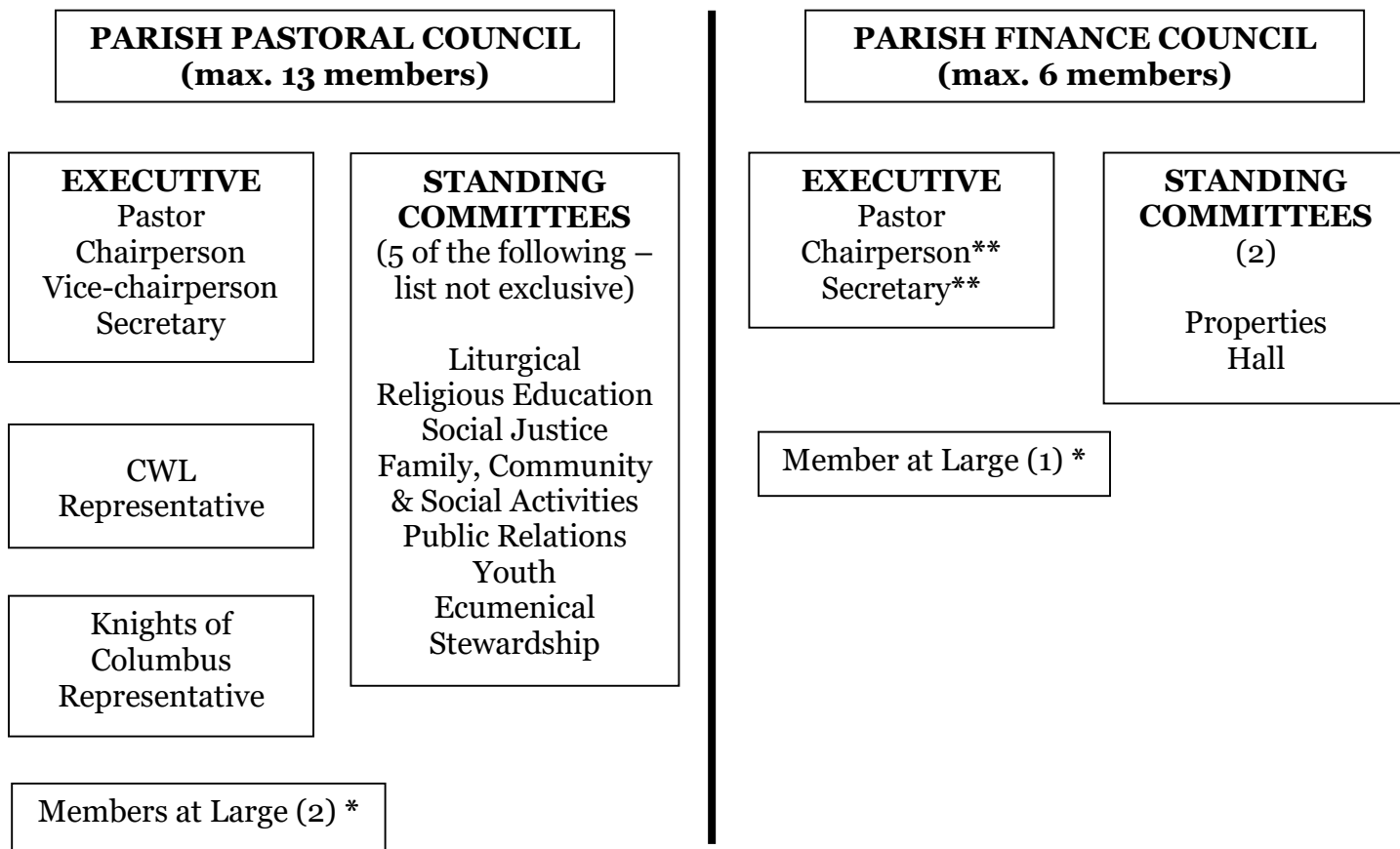
**Last chance before Christmas!!!
While quantities last!!!**

Potato & onion perogies	\$45 (10 dozen)
Potato & cheddar perogies	\$50 (10 dozen)
Cabbage rolls	\$30 (5 dozen)

DRIVE-THROUGH AVAILABLE! After driving up to the Parish Hall entrance, please remain in your vehicle and someone will come out to take your order.

ST. GERARD PARISH REVISED CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Below is the new organizational chart of the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council. Copies of the revised Constitution and Bylaws are located at each entrance to the church. Or you may contact the Parish Office for an electronic copy.



* Appointed by the Pastor for a one-year term to ensure a good representation of all dimensions of the parish

**May be appointed by the Pastor or elected from the membership of the Parish Finance Council

Notes:

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) acts as a consultative body, making recommendations to the pastor, having strived to achieve consensus, such that each person supports the recommendation-making process.

All PPC meetings are open to parish members. They are usually held the last Wednesday of each month September to June.

Whether elected, appointed, or representing a particular group on the PPC, each member is committed to the larger mission of the parish community.

The Parish Finance Council (PFC) acts as a consultative body in close collaboration with the pastor, and oversees the financial matters of the parish including the following areas: budget goals and objectives, patterns, estimates, revenues and expenses, fund-raising projects and the Archbishop's Appeal and other Archdiocesan special projects (to name a few). It is responsible for presenting an annual financial statement to parishioners, and a quarterly report to the PPC.

St. Gerard Parish
Comparative Income Statement to October 31, 2022

	2022	2021	Change		2022	2021	Change
REVENUE							
Collections	210,428	202,302	8,127	Hall:			
Other (Donations, rel. articles)	18,021	9,091	8,929	Wages, Salaries, etc.	9,088	8,629	458
Perogies & cabbage rolls (net)	10,017	5,766	4,251	Catering	10,596	2,179	8,417
Annual Fall Supper (net)	0	0	0	Total Hall	19,684	10,809	8,875
Catering	26,976	5,104	21,871				
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	265,442	222,263	43,178	Rectory	10,708	8,945	1,763
Building Fund Donations	5,575	4,660	915	COMMITTEE EXPENSES			
Trust Fund Donations	25	400	-375	Family & Social	162	0	162
Federal Wage Subsidy Program	0	12,257	-12,257	Ecumenical	188	0	188
TOTAL REVENUE	271,042	239,581	31,461	Liturgy	4,697	3,084	1,612
OPERATING EXPENSES				Stewardship	0	0	0
Pastoral	1,212	1,136	75	Religious Education	1,737	117	1,620
Parish Office	10,509	8,278	2,231	Social Justice	94	461	-367
Other Administrative Expenses	44,373	41,789	2,584	Youth	0	0	0
COVID-19 Expenses	653	806	-152	Community Life	0	0	0
Diocesan Assessments	41,310	41,650	-340	Public Relations	0	0	0
Wages, Salaries, etc.	61,774	59,802	1,972	Pastoral & Finance Council	16	13	3
Building:				Refugee Family Committee (net)	0	0	0
Sask Energy	5,980	4,569	1,412	Cemetery Expense	150	150	0
Sask Power	17,719	11,215	6,505	Total Committee Expenses	7,043	3,825	3,218
Water	1,196	848	348				
Property Taxes	0	0	0	TOTAL EXPENSES	276,804	224,516	52,287
Insurance	31,800	19,738	12,062				
Parking Lot	11,286	1,331	9,954	NET INCOME (LOSS)	-5,762	15,064	-20,827
Garbage/recycling	1,318	815	502				
Repairs & maintenance	10,239	8,963	1,276				
Total Building	79,537	47,478	32,059				

Notes:

Effective January 1, 2021 the following expenses have been recategorized as "Other Administrative Expenses":

Bank Charges Collection Envelopes Review Engagement Donations to Other Charities from General Funds Priest Contract

CHRISTMAS IN NOVEMBER PARISH FUNDRAISER

The Christmas in November event brought out more than 300 shoppers to our pre-Christmas bazaar and was a huge success for St. Gerard's Church. On behalf of the overseeing committee, I want to extend a huge thank you to all the bakers who donated baked goods, the Filipino parishioners who donated more than 100 dozen spring rolls and the Perogy/cabbage roll makers of our parish who prepared and sold more than 800 dozen perogies and cabbage rolls at our November 26th event. In addition, I want to extend my sincere thanks to who assisted with their time and effort to prepare and sell the items as well as those who could not make the event but who sought to donate funds towards their contribution to this first-year event. On behalf of the Christmas in November committee, I want to thank each of you for your contribution and in helping achieve our overall success and I wish every household a happy and joyous Christmas season.

– Submitted by Mark Bell,
Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson

The winners of the Christmas in November raffle are as follows:

Jonathan Rosas

Carol Deters

Wendy Deters

Judy Bernat

Magz Matias



Simbang Gabi is a devotional, nine-day series of Masses attended by Filipino Catholics in anticipation of Christmas.

It is similar to the nine dawn Masses leading to Christmas Eve practiced in Puerto Rico called *Misa de Aguinaldo*.

"All Parishioners" are invited to attend. Food and refreshment will be served after each Mass.

SCHEDULE

Thursday, Dec. 15 – 6:00pm

Friday, Dec. 16 – 6:00pm

Saturday, Dec. 17 – 5:00 pm

(anticipated Sunday Mass)

Sunday, Dec. 18 – 6:00pm

Monday, Dec. 19 – 6:00pm

Tuesday, Dec. 20 – 6:00pm

Wednesday, Dec. 21 – 6:00pm

Thursday, Dec. 22 – 6:00pm

Friday, Dec. 23 – 6:00pm



Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00 pm

Mass for Families with Young Children

7:00 pm 10:00 pm

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

(Holy Day of Obligation)

10:00 am

Dec. 31 – Mass of Thanksgiving

5:00 pm

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

(Holy Day of Obligation)

9:00 am 11:00 am



By celebrating the liturgical year as the domestic church, families develop traditions and encounter Christ in the home.

The Liturgical Year at Home

Greetings!

When we consider handing on the faith to the people we love, we rightly emphasize regular participation in the Mass. During the Mass each one of us is transformed. We become the Body of Christ, then we go out into the world to be it: healing what is broken, carrying the peace that surpasses all understanding to a world in desperate need, bearing the light into the darkness.

Celebrating feasts and seasons are . . . opportunities to see how God has acted in history.

This transformation does not take place only within the walls of the church building. We consider the words of Jesus: “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20). These words remind us that it is not only when we gather for Mass that we experience the presence of Christ. From its earliest days, the Church recognized the home, the domestic church, as a primary place of sanctification and encounter. In many ways, this is obvious: to grow in anything, one must develop, little by little, through practice. Where do we have more opportunities

to practice forgiveness, compassion, mercy, and love than with the people who are by our sides day after day?

One part of that growth is bringing celebrations beyond the sanctuary. Celebrating feasts and seasons in ways big and small makes explicit that the transformations we undergo during the course of a life of discipleship are joyful ones. They are opportunities to see how God has acted in history so as to understand what God is doing in our lives right this minute. Further, celebrations in the home allow us to see the beautiful diversity of people, enlightened by Christ, who have used their lives as a gift for the life of the world.

Human beings love both the familiar and the new. We find both in the rhythms of the liturgical year: the opportunity for relationship with the One who is everlasting and always new, the God of Life. Celebrations in the home, ordered toward the liturgical year, are a place of encounter. We look forward to a particular dessert, a favorite prayer, or a song the family shares on a particular day; we look back on our traditions with gratitude. Our traditions can also help us understand the way that other people of faith express themselves. We might, for example, want to learn from a Jewish friend about how they celebrate the Sabbath, and note the similarities and differences between their practices in the home and ours, all of which are oriented in one direction: the slow work of growing in love of God and neighbor.