



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

December 12th, 2021

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
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (13 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (14 th)	7:00pm +Divina Muyargas
Wed. (15 th)	9:00am +Mark Banga 10:00am NURSING HOME (SOUTH) +Steve Matechuk
Thurs. (16 th)	9:00am +Walle Head 3:00pm YORKTON CROSSING +Eugene Kuemper
Fri. (17 th)	9:00am +Eleanor Loster
Sat. (18 th)	9:00am Brian Michael Bernath

5:00pm Mass for the People

Sun. (19 th)	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00am +Tom Pasloski 11:00am +Henry Kuruliak
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WELCOME BACK!

Please note the following changes for our parish per the **Archdiocese of Regina guidelines** (effective July 11, 2021) and the **Government of Saskatchewan Interim Health Order** (extended until January 31, 2021):

- **Masks must be worn at all times until further notice**
- Masks & hand sanitizer will be provided.
- **Please sit in the pews that have hymnals and maintain two metres between households**
- The choir and singing has resumed
- Holy water will not be available in the Baptismal font at this time
- We will not shake hands when we share the sign of peace
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection will continue

Please come! Everyone is welcome!

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



Saturdays at **8:30 am** or by appt.



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, you are generous and kind to all your people. Instill within me a compassionate and generous heart that I may respond to my poor sisters and brothers near and far away.

- 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 ...

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent. We are watching and waiting for the coming of Christ.

In the Gospel, Luke tells us that people come from different places to meet John the Baptist and to express their longing for the Lord. They ask John the Baptist: **What should we do?** His answer might surprise us! It seems very simple as he offers them the ordinary: share with others, do not be selfish, do your work well..., and make these extraordinary.

Yes, it is all ordinary. But we need to be aware that God uses the ordinary, and makes it extraordinary. We are children of God, and everything that we do matters.

We are waiting for the coming of the Lord. We may have the same question in our hearts: **What should we do?** We might hear the same answer: do the common things, the things that are expected of us, it is our daily work and do them well.

Here is a list of things I would ask you to reflect on:

- Do your work well. Whatever your daily work is, **do it well.**
- Are you a spouse? **Love.** Say “I’m sorry” or “I forgive you.” (and remember to smile!)
- Do you speak with others? **Be kind** instead of cutting.
- Do you wash dishes? **Do it out of love.**
- Are you a Christian? **Be what you are,** and everything you do has an eternal value.

Saints expressed it perfectly with their desire to do ordinary things extraordinarily well out of love for the Lord. St Francis de Sales said: “*A tiny act done with two ounces of love is worth more than martyrdom endured with one ounce*”. This is the key!

Encourage one another to see that all the duties and the suffering – as well as the joys – of our lives have infinite value in God’s eyes, and all the challenges and all the struggles become part of God’s plan for salvation.

My dear sisters and brothers, Christmas is almost here. We have this time of Advent to prepare for the most extraordinary event in history: the birth of Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man. Remember, God takes the ordinary and makes it truly extraordinary.

And now I have few more words that I wish to send to each of you, my dear sisters and brothers – those who receive my message electronically each weekend.

The pandemic is still around us. As you know, I have been sending my message to you from the beginning of the pandemic. I want to bring God’s word to you when we were all isolated from the church and our parish family community.

Now the church is open and our activities are almost back to normal. I welcome you back to celebrate the Eucharist on the Lord’s Day (see the Mass schedule in the bulletin).

This is the last time that I will send this message to you via email. I will continue to do my best to serve God’s people by writing my message each week. Please spend time to check out the link on our home page at www.stgerard.ca – “From the Pastor’s Desk” – or you may continue to read it in the parish bulletin, which is also available online.

I will continue to keep in touch with you via email when I have special events that I want to share with you.

I wish all of you a very peaceful Advent. May God be with you and bless you always. I love you all and pray for you.

Fr. Louis Nguyen



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

The next Baptism Preparation session will be

TODAY

Sunday, December 12th @ 3pm in the Parish Hall.



A big **THANK YOU** to all who came out to clean the church Saturday, December 4th, especially the Youth Group. Many hands made the job go smoothly and quickly.



ART & ENVIRONMENT

Decorating for Christmas
TODAY

SUNDAY, December 12th at 1pm

WELCOMERS, LECTORS, HOSPITALITY MINISTERS (USHERS)

If you were not on the most recent schedule and would like to be added to the one for **January to April**, please contact the Parish Office by Thursday, December 16th. Phone 306.782.2449/email office@stgerard.ca



Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00pm

Mass for Families with Young Children

8:00 pm 10:00 pm

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

(Holy Day of Obligation)

9:00 am 11:00am

Dec. 31 – Mass of Thanksgiving

7:00 pm

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

(Holy Day of Obligation)

10:00 am



News from the CWL



2022 memberships are \$30.00 and can be placed in an envelope marked 'CWL' and put in the collection basket, or mail to CWL, 125 3rd Ave N, Yorkton, S3N 1C4. For other arrangements please call Paulette 306.782.7923.



News from the Knights of Columbus



If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Keith Hayward @ 306.783.0963. www.kofc-2031.ca

News from the Archdiocese of Regina



St. Gerard Parish Goal -\$45,768
Giving to Date -\$19,125
% of Goal to Date - **41.80%**

National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, **December 12th**, is a *National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples*. All are invited to join their Indigenous sisters and brothers in a special way this day through prayers and acts of solidarity:



O God, Great Spirit and Faithful Creator, with humility we your children acknowledge the relationship of all living things.

For this we thank you, we praise you and we worship you.

We call on you, Great Mystery, the Word made Flesh – our teacher, prophet and brother - to open our hearts to all our brothers and sisters, and with them to grow in the wisdom, honesty, courage and respectfulness shown in The Sacred Teachings. Give us the honesty to recognize that the Earth provides us with life sustaining breath, nourishment and healing, and give us the strength to proclaim by our words and actions that the Earth is a blessing for all peoples. May we avoid the sins of exploitive personal power and profit. May we seek the righteous way of love, service, and healing in all things.

Father, as we walk our journey on this Earth, may your life-giving Spirit protect and guide us with your Wisdom so that we might live in right relationship and harmony with all humanity. May we pass on to future generations this Earth and all your gifts as you have provided them to us. +Amen



Bringing Home the Word

Fear and Intimacy

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The bronze sculpture in the Vatican Museum by Francesco Messina, *The Young St. John the Baptist*, shows him pointing as if responding to a question or pointing the way. There was anxious anticipation amongst the Jews about the coming Messiah. Yet, we have no reason for anxiety.

Anxiety comes from fear of the unknown. When we're unsure of how things will turn out, we get anxious. When we lack control or can't plan for our security, we get anxious.

Fear and anxiety are the enemies of intimacy and love. Fear makes us run far enough away so we feel removed from danger, safe from the aggressor. Or it drives us to hold someone, seeking strength in attachment. But fear doesn't create space for true intimacy. It either creates excessive distance or suffocating closeness.

John didn't want to create fear or caution of God. Rather, he wanted to open hearts to receive God in love. Ours is not a God of fear, but of love.

In Jesus' Incarnation, he shows just how much he wants to be with us. He comes to make his home among us, while waiting for us to accept him and make room for him. He doesn't force but comes with patience and love.

Knowing that he loves and wants the best for us, we merely need to make ourselves known to him by revealing our deepest needs to him with prayer.

John the Baptist came to prepare the path for the Messiah, and many responded by asking, "What should we do to prepare?" Put aside anxiety and fear, simply prepare a home for him, and then let him in.

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The **Christmas & New Year Ministries sign-up sheets** are in the Welcome Area. **PLEASE SIGN-UP THIS WEEK!!**



God of healing and mercy, lift us from everything that keeps us from living and sharing your abundant life. Help us see our selfishness, fear, anxiety, and justification so that we might cast ourselves into your saving arms and be a part of your light for the world. Amen.

selfishness, fear, anxiety, and justification so that we might cast ourselves into your saving arms and be a part of your light for the world. Amen.

2022 Giving Program

In the next few weeks, the 2022 Sunday collection (offertory) envelopes will be in the Welcome Area for those who have contributed by this method in 2021. If you do not have envelopes and would like to receive a set for 2022, **please complete a Parish Registration Form**, located on the large glass table in the Welcome Area.

Have you considered switching from collection envelopes to Pre-Authorized Giving? NOW IS THE TIME!! Pre-authorized Giving is convenient, 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. Forms are available on the large glass table in the Welcome Area.

Please note: The deadline for 2021 donations is **Thursday, December 30th at 12 noon**, including e-transfers.

Donations received after this deadline will be processed as 2022.

Thank you for your financial support of our parish!

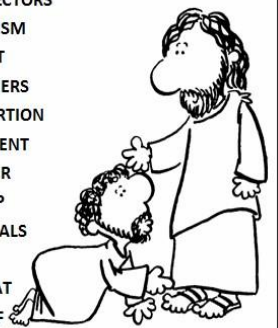
The 2021 Giving Tree Campaign is coming to a close! This program supports less fortunate families, children and needy individuals in our community with personal items, clothing or small presents to be provided for the Christmas Season.



REMINDER... All items are to be returned to the base of the Giving Tree **by TODAY**.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

T	S	T	N	E	T	N	O	C	N	COLLECTORS
S	R	E	I	D	L	O	S	A	O	BAPTISM
C	O	S	X	P	T	S	M	H	I	EXACT
E	T	E	A	A	A	A	S	F	T	SOLDIERS
L	C	F	L	N	E	R	I	F	R	EXTORTION
L	E	F	D	I	H	B	T	I	O	CONTENT
O	L	A	N	N	W	A	P	S	T	WATER
C	L	H	A	R	E	T	A	W	X	STRAP
S	O	C	S	O	L	A	B	L	E	SANDALS
T	C	A	X	E	N	T	N	O	C	FIRE
										WHEAT
										CHAFF



THE WEEK AHEAD

- Sun. (12th): 1:00pm- Decorating the church
3:00pm- Baptism Preparation Session (Parish Hall)
- Mon. (13th): 7:00pm- Bible Study (Lower Level)

Indigenous Peoples and the Church:

Walking Together Toward Healing and Reconciliation

Each week, beginning on Sunday, 21 November 2021, the Solemnity of Christ the King, the CCCB will release a video recording of a Bishop in Canada reflecting on the Gospel Reading for each Sunday of Advent. This year's reflections were developed in view of the Indigenous Delegation which will be travelling to Rome to meet with Pope Francis. Each reflection is based on one of the five essential stages of reconciliation: examen, confession, repentance, reparation (making amends), and reconciliation. Likewise, it is hoped these reflections will assist the faithful, Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike, in preparing for Pope Francis' eventual apostolic journey to Canada.

The video link is found on our homepage at www.stgerard.ca The text of this video follows on the next few pages.

National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples: December 12

Never have we been...

...at this place: at the cusp of charting a new direction, full of possibilities and right relations with Indigenous Peoples. The time is here for us to walk together in a good way. As people of God, we know that new beginnings are possible when we acknowledge the past, seek truth, and actively move towards reconciliation.

Join the Journey

Archbishop Don Bolen and his team of staff and volunteers have been walking in solidarity with Indigenous people and building relationships. See what steps have been taken here: <https://archregina.sk.ca/indigenous-relations> With our financial support, they can do so much more, right here in our archdiocese.

Special Collection, December 12th

On December 12, there will be a special collection for the TRC Healing Response in all parishes of the archdiocese. You can also support the TRC Healing Response any time via this link <https://archregina.sk.ca/giving> or by calling the archdiocesan office at 306-352-1651.



*Our Lady of
Guadalupe,
pray for us.*

HOMILY OF THE MOST REV. DONALD BOLEN, ARCHBISHOP OF REGINA



**Third Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021**

Today's Readings:

1st Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18A;

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7;

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

Today, December 12th, is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Here in Canada, since 2002 at the initiative of the bishops' advisory group the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council, the Catholic Church in Canada chooses this feast to celebrate a National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron of the Americas, appeared in Mexico in 1531 as an Indigenous woman to Juan Diego, whose Indigenous name was Cuauhtlatoatzin ("Eagle Who Speaks"), and spoke to him in his Indigenous language of Nahuatl. Around her waist she is wearing an Aztec maternity sash 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, has always walked with Indigenous Peoples.

In today's Gospel, chosen not for the feast but for the 3rd Sunday of Advent, we hear echoes of a dialogue between John the Baptist and those he has baptized in the wilderness. In his own words, John's was a baptism of repentance, signalling a decision to change, to a new way of living, hence they ask him what they should be doing, "what should we do now?" John's response begins by asking them to "bear fruits worthy of repentance." He points them to generosity and concern with others; "whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." He points them to honesty, to just dealings with others, and to integrity.

Today, as many people are gaining a new understanding of the history of this land, including the history of what Indigenous Peoples have suffered, and of systemic injustice that lives on to this day, many are asking that question: what to do. What should we then do? Arising out of conversation with Indigenous people, here are a few possibilities:

- learn about the history of this land. Most of us know too little, and what we think we know is what was told to us through a particular lens. It is time we start looking at that history from an Indigenous perspective;
- be alert to the ways in which racist attitudes are embedded in our culture, our communities, and our way of seeing things, and pray for the grace to listen to Indigenous people, and to their past and present experience, with an open heart;
- learn more about Indigenous culture and ways; there is a richness there that can help us become more human, more in touch with creation and better able to live well in a sustainable way on this land; and when invited, accept invitations to learn more about Indigenous spiritual traditions and sacred ways;
- get to know the TRC's Calls to Action addressed to the churches, and its principles of reconciliation, and discern what you might do to engage with those;
- learn more about where systemic change is needed in our society, in terms of education, access to health and to clean water, in restorative justice, in constructive response to those experiencing trauma and intergenerational trauma, in treaty rights and responsibilities, and in addressing the needs of Indigenous youth. Be an ally in the pursuit of justice and right relations;
- respond generously when the Church gives us the opportunity to make a financial contribution to healing and reconciliation in Indigenous-led ways;
- ponder and enter into conversation, wherever possible with Indigenous people, about what the Church and Indigenous Peoples walking together in a good way would look like; heed the words from Indigenous people, "nothing about us without us"; learn to walk not in front, not behind, but together.

The third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday – ‘gaudete,’ that is, rejoice. We hear St. Paul in today's reading from the letter to the Philippians tells us “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice.” There is a word of encouragement here, that can help us from feeling overwhelmed, from get depressed when faced with enormous challenges. Paul assures us, the Lord is near. When you are in a tough place, or when you are being profoundly challenged, it is not easy to rejoice. But let us take heart in what God is doing in our midst; let us be encouraged at the attention long overdue that is being given to Indigenous people, their gifts, the challenges they face; and let us pray for those preparing to leave for Rome and a meeting with Pope Francis, that good and helpful things can flow from this visit, that a new depth of relationship is coming to birth.

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Rejoice for the Almighty"

This Week...

Rejoice! Rejoice! Advent is more than half over! It will be Christmas soon! And the Mighty One is coming! How mighty is this Mighty One? So mighty that even John the Baptizer, one of the holiest men to ever live, was not worthy enough to untie the Mighty One's sandal! Who is this Mighty One? Jesus! The Almighty One who arrived as a helpless infant!

For Your Reflection

In the days of John the Baptizer, untying a sandal strap was the work of a slave. People's feet got mighty dirty every day from walking along the dusty roads. When you entered the home of a person who was rich enough to own a slave, the slave would untie your sandals and wash your feet. Imagine a person so mighty, that even John the Baptizer was unworthy to untie his sandals.

- Have you ever felt unworthy? Did you ever meet someone you were in awe of? Did you ever receive an honour you felt you hardly deserved? If so, talk about what it was like. If not, can you imagine it? Who would be the person, and what would be the situation that could make you feel unworthy?

The third Sunday of Advent is meant to be a day of awesome, incredible, totally magnificent joy. Rejoice is a key word and concept in the readings.

- Has anything ever brought you awesome, incredible, totally magnificent joy? Describe what that sort of joy might be for you.

- Jesus - the Messiah, the Almighty One, the Chosen One of God, the Saviour of the Universe - is coming. Does his coming seem to bring on a joy that is awesome, incredible, and totally magnificent?

- Do Christmas and even Jesus seem overrated in this world? Why or why not?

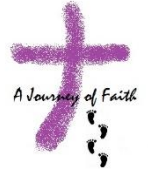
Excerpt adapted from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter*- St. Mary's Press, 2004



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 Regina 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