
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 13, 2015

Liturgical/Mass Schedule

Mon. (14th): 9:00 am- +Doreen Mireau
Tues. (15th): 9:00 am- +Matilda Copan
Wed. (16th): 5:00 am- *Simbang Gabi*
10:00 am- Nursing Home (South)
+Beatrice Puchala
2:00 pm- *Divine Mercy Devotion*
7:00 pm- *Penitential Service*
(**St. Henry, Melville**)
Thurs. (17th): 5:00 am- *Simbang Gabi*
9:00 am- +Bernice Saretsky
7:00 pm- *Penitential Service*
(**St. Gerard**)
Fri. (18th): 5:00 am- *Simbang Gabi*
9:00 am- +Bruce Wonchulanko
Sat. (19th): 5:00 am- *Simbang Gabi*
9:30 am- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
10:00 am- +Treeske Holtkamp

6:30 pm- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
7:00 pm- Albert & Frances Beres

Sun. (20th): *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

5:00 am- *Simbang Gabi*
9:00 am- +George Biblow
11:00 am- Mass for the People
8:00 pm- *Liturgy of the Hours*

Non-liturgical Schedule

Sun. (13th): 7:00 pm- *Come Join Us at the Table*
Parent Meeting
Mon. (14th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for 8pm
Christmas Eve Mass
7:30 pm- *Conversion*
Tues. (15th): 6:30 pm- Choir rehearsal for 10am
Christmas Day Mass
7:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for 9am Mass
7:00 pm- Liturgy Committee Meeting
Wed. (16th): 7:30 pm- Hall Committee Meeting
7:30 pm- Choir rehearsal for 10pm
Christmas Eve Mass
Fri. (18th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir Rehearsal
Sat. (19th): 6:15pm- Choir rehearsal for 7pm Mass

Please remember the sick in your prayers:

Rosemarie Massett, Brynleigh Yewsuk

**The "Giving Tree"
Deadline is TOMORROW!!**

The church will be open 8am to noon and 1pm to 4pm.
Please use the entrance by the Parish Office.

Pick a gift tag, purchase the gift and place it under the tree unwrapped (gift bags are okay) with the gift tag attached. Gifts will be delivered on December 15th to Safe Haven Salvation Army, Shelwin House, Whitespruce Provincial Training Centre and the Yorkton Transitional Homes for Youth.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND

Aspen Villa: Jean Kulcsar
Hospital: Richard Yaholnitsky
Nursing Home: Adrienne Wonchulanko & Claudia Shury
Triplex: Flora Duffy & Darlene Jakubowski

The “**Jubilee of Mercy**” commenced with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter’s on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2015. It will conclude on November 20, 2016 with the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

The Jubilee announcement had been made on the second anniversary of the election of Pope Francis (March 13, 2015). The opening of this next Jubilee will take place on the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council in 1965. This is of great significance, for it impels the Church to continue the work begun at Vatican II.

With the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis focuses attention upon the merciful God who invites all men and women to return to Him. The encounter with God inspires in one the virtue of mercy.

During the great Jubilee of Mercy, a **plenary indulgence** may be obtained by making pilgrimage to one of the great papal basilicas in Rome and passing through its Holy Door and fulfilling the spiritual requirements of this exercise. This indulgence is also granted to those who fulfill the same exercise by making pilgrimage to the Door of Mercy opened in the cathedral or other designated church in a diocese. It is the Holy Father’s great desire that the gateway of divine mercy be opened up to everyone.

On Sunday, December 13, the Holy Doors of the Holy Rosary Cathedral, Regina and the Co-cathedral at Our Lady of Assumption, Gravelbourg will be blessed and opened. All those who pass through these Holy Doors in pilgrimage:

- seeking God’s mercy through the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist
- who show God’s love and forgiveness and
- who show deep desire for true conversion
- praying the Apostles Creed and for the Pope’s intention

would be granted the fruits of the Jubilee indulgence of the year of mercy as declared by Pope Francis.

Likewise, Indulgence may be obtained by all pilgrims who during the year of mercy visit any of the Shrines located in the Archdiocese of Regina. For those whom, for various reasons, it will be impossible to enter the Holy Doors or visit a shrine, if they receive Holy Communion or attend Holy Mass and community prayer, even by means of the various communication media, it will be for them the means of obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence.

(Excerpts from “Pastoral Directives for the Archdiocesan Celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy”, Most Rev. Daniel J. Bohan, Archbishop of Regina and Very Rev. James Owolagba, Chancellor, December 3, 2015)



Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools News December 14 - December 18, 2015



	Sacred Heart	St. Alphonsus	St. Mary	St. Michael	St. Paul	St. Theodore
Mon.		•Advent Celebration •SCC Meeting	•Third Advent Service	•Advent Week 3 Celebration	•Advent Celebration	•3 rd Advent Celebration
Tues.			•Family Christmas Program		•Christmas Concert	•Visit to the Care Home
Wed.		•Christmas Concert		•Christmas Concert		•Christmas Concert
Thurs.						
Fri.		•Advent Celebration	•Fourth Advent Service •Gr. 5 Visit Nursing Home	•Advent Week 4 Celebration	•Christmas Spirit Day •Advent Celebration	•Community Potluck Lunch

“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

~ COME JOIN US AT THE TABLE ~

*The parish-based sacrament preparation program
for Confirmation & First Eucharist*

INITIAL PARENT MEETING

TONIGHT December 13th @ 7pm in the Parish Hall

All parents of children aged Grade 2 and older who have not received the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or First Eucharist are asked to attend.

MINISTRY SCHEDULES

The new schedules are available for pickup from the large table in the Welcome Area. **Please pick up your copy today!**

★ ALTAR SERVERS ★

If you DID NOT receive the schedule by email, please pick up a copy in the Sacristy today.

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

- *Welcomers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, & Hospitality Ministers* – please indicate your time preference (8pm/10pm/10am – Christmas; 7pm/10am – New Year's Day).
- *Altar Servers* please sign up in **Sacristy**.
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Penitential Service



Wednesday, December 16th @ 7pm
(St. Henry, Melville)
Thursday, December 17th @ 7pm
(St. Gerard Church)

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.



News from the CWL



Receipts for the CWL 2016 memberships are in a small container on the glass table in the Welcome Area. Please pick your receipt up at your convenience.



News from the Knights of Columbus



If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Brian @ 306.728.2109 after 5pm (or leave a message).

Father Robert Barron's

CONVERSION

Following the Call of Christ

Conversion is a life-long process of turning our attention toward Christ and His call to change.

Take time each Monday at 7:30pm during Advent to explore biblical stories of ordinary people who did.



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

10:00 am

The 2015-2016 (Cycle C) Sunday Missals are located on the table in the Welcome Area. Please pick up a copy today while quantities last!

Good News!

December 13, 2015

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Zep 3:14-18a / Phil 4:4-7 / Lk 3:10-18

I love waterfalls. When I am out hiking, I will take any side path that leads to a waterfall. The first time I swam in a waterfall pool was memorable. I am not sure where this love came from, but there is something about the motion and sound of the water as it is falling that soothes my mind and enlivens my soul. I also know that waterfalls can be dangerous: The force of the water can sweep everything over the edge. Still, when Jesus refers to his living water in the encounter with the woman at the well (John 4), I immediately think of water falling into a pool and the abundant life that grows around the area.

For Christians, water signifies both life and death. At creation, God said, "Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures" (Genesis 1:20). God then used the waters of a flood to destroy wickedness on earth (while saving Noah and others). Water washes us clean and keeps us alive. On a recent trip to Israel, I had an opportunity to stand in the Jordan River and renew my own baptismal vows. I was struck by the power of the words and the coolness of the water. It also occurred to me that simply renewing my vows was not enough. Our promise, inherent in the Creed, is that we will live a life transformed by grace with the help of the Holy Spirit. That is both comforting and challenging. But Jesus, who is living water, whose Spirit brings us life and whose fire is ready to purify and make us ready, is with us now and forever.

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You are invited to a

Complimentary Continental Brunch

following the 10:00 am Mass
on Christmas morning

*Please join your fellow parishioners in a time
of community and sharing in the joy of
Christ's birth.*

Hosted by

St. Gerard's Community Life Committee



Come Celebrate

Simbang Gabi



What is Simbang Gabi? It is a series of nine "dawn" masses, rooted to an early tradition going back to the Spanish colonization of the Philippines, where it was known as the *misa de gallo* ("Mass of the Rooster").

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 5:00 am beginning Wednesday, December 16th and concluding Thursday, December 24th.

The masses will be celebrated primarily in the Tagalog language, with some English.

Refreshments will be served following each mass. Everyone welcome!

2016 Giving Program

The 2016 collection envelopes are available in the Welcome Area for those who have contributed by this method in 2015. Please use the new envelopes commencing January 1, 2016.

If you do not have collection envelopes and would like to receive a set for 2016, **please complete a Parish Registration Form (beige)**, located on the large glass table in the Welcome Area and at the south entrance.

Have you considered switching from collection envelopes to

"Pre-Authorized Giving"?

Pre-authorized Giving is convenient, assured, and results in lower administrative costs. 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 and at the south entrance.

Looking for a Christmas gift for a couple with children? Get them tickets to the Serena Sask. "Birds and Bees" social in Saskatoon February 6, 2016. Guest speaker and author of "Tough Crowd - My Adventures as a Chastity Educator", Shawna Sparrow, will share when and how to approach the topic of sexuality with our children. Come out from 6:30-9:30pm for a catered banquet, wine, entertainment, door prizes, and great fellowship. For tickets (\$25 each), email sask@serena.ca or call/text [306-934-8223](tel:306-934-8223).

PARISH CENTRE HAPPENINGS

306.783.4255 - Perogy Hotline - 306.783.4255

YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"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. 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