



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

December 17, 2017

Third 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

Sun.	(17 th):	7:30 pm-	<i>Prayer Vigil—Lorne Brazeau</i>
Mon.	(18 th):	11:00 am-	- <i>Funeral Mass - Lorne Brazeau</i>
Tues.	(19 th):	10:00 am-	<i>Funeral Mass-Colette Scott</i>
Wed.	(20 th):	10:30 am-	NURSING HOME (SOUTH) +Adella Nayko
Thurs.	(21 st):	9:30 am-	ST. PAUL SCHOOL +Tedeschi Family
		2:00 pm-	<i>Dierker-Gerhardt Wedding</i>
Fri.	(22 nd):	9:30 am-	+Jimmy Flavel
		2:30 pm-	YORKTON CROSSING Rev. Jim Ratcliffe
Sat.	(23 rd):	10:00am-	+Thresia Tedeschi

7:00 pm- Mass for the People

Sun. (24th): **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

10:00 am- +Mary Chillog

The Nativity of the Lord

(Holy Day of Obligation)

8:00 pm- +Joelle Bisschop Lucas

10:00 pm-

Mon. (25th): 10:00 am- Mass for the People

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
125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4 | www.stgerard.ca

Pastor.....	Fr. Louis Kim Nguyen	306.782.0323	louiskimnguyen@yahoo.com
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
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Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		
Parish Hall Manager.....	Jeff Krasowski	306.783.4255	hall@stgerard.ca



Stay Connected Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, you are the source of my strength, peace and joy. Send your Spirit to renew my trust and hope in you and give me peace.

- 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

Catechism Theme: John, precursor, prophet, and Baptist. (CCC 717-720)

John the Baptist stood alone against the hypocrisy of his time and all time. He told the truth, because he witnessed to God's Truth, the Christ.

John was the Elijah figure, filled with the fire of the Spirit. His ministry fulfilled the cycle of prophets, for John prepared his audience for coming of the Messiah. No Spirit-filled prophets were necessary in the time of the Messiah, because he would offer the Spirit to everyone.

John's message and ministry of a repentant baptism prefigured Christ's. John baptized in the spirit of hope. The baptism of Jesus realized that hope. Those baptized by John looked forward to a life with God. Those baptized by the Christ lived in God.

We are now half way through Advent. The closer Christmas comes, the stronger the pull to God and the crazier the season becomes. Anticipation became proclamation which is now witness. It's time to take stock. How strong was your witness this week? Was it personal? Was it honest?

Through his ministry, John the Baptist opened the way for Jesus of Nazareth. As Christians, we, too, prepare the way of the Lord for others. Our words, our example, our character need to be transparent, like John's. While the world may not understand us, it will never be able to charge us with duplicity or diversion. Our witness will be true and from the heart. And everyone will know who we follow, who we expect to soon arrive.

How can you be a little more honest (and authentic) this week? Reflect on your words, your actions, and your character. Pray and plan for this coming week.

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Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools News December 18 - December 22, 2017



	Sacred Heart	St. Alphonsus	St. Mary	St. Michael	St. Paul	St. Theodore
Mon.		•Christmas Concert @ 1pm and 7pm	•Third week Advent Service @ 9:30am	•Advent Service @ 9am •Red/White/Green Day	•Advent Celebration @ 12:30pm	•Christmas Concert at Health Centre
Tues.		•Advent Celebration @ 9am		•Ugly Sweater Day		•Christmas Concert @ 7pm
Wed.				•Christmas Concert @ 1pm & 7pm	•PJ Day •Writing Assembly	•Christmas Community Potluck Lunch @ 11:45am
Thurs.		•Advent Celebration @ 9am	•Fourth week Advent Service @ 9:30am	•Advent Service @ 9am •PJ Day	•Mass with Father Louis @ 9:30am	
Fri.	No School – Christmas Holidays begin					



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



ART & ENVIRONMENT

Decorating for Christmas
MONDAY 12noon – 3:30pm
Note time change

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

The **MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY** is integral to a welcoming Parish. **PLEASE consider serving in this ministry at the 8pm Christmas Eve Mass.**



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 (Holy Day of Obligation)

10:00 am



News from the CWL



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

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the CWL Christmas gathering such a success; the cooks, the decorators, and a special thanks to the men for washing dishes! Thank you to everyone who attended, brought items for our various charities, and made beautiful music together! Thank you, Fr. Louis, for beginning our evening with Mass. It was a great evening of fun and fellowship!



News from the Knights of Columbus



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

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

The faithful of the Archdiocese
are cordially invited to

Archbishop's New Year's Levée

to be held at
Holy Rosary Cathedral
3125-13th Ave., Regina
January 1, 2018
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

*And to receive the Archbishop's blessing
for the beginning of the New Year*

Please come and meet the Archbishop and exchange New Year's greetings. Refreshments in the parish hall.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL OFFICE

Give the Gift of Hope this Christmas - Hope for the sick - Hope for our youth - Hope for those in prison.

These are just a few of the ministries supported by the Archbishop's Appeal.

If you have not already donated to the 2017 Archbishop's Appeal, it is not too late! You may donate online at our website www.archregina.sk.ca or call our office at 306.352.1651 ext. 210. We are so grateful to those who have already given. Thank YOU!

*Please note that there will only be ONE
Sunday Mass on December 24th at 10:00 am*



Bringing Home the Word

Proclaiming Our Joy

By Mary Katharine Deeley

Today is Gaudete (GOW de tay) Sunday. The name comes from the Latin word that begins the introit (opening antiphon) of the day's liturgy. It means, simply, "rejoice." When I think about the many times I've rejoiced, I'm usually very moved. When I graduated college and graduate school, when my husband and I married, when our daughters were born, and when they married—all of these were periods of great rejoicing marked by parties, congratulations, and the sweet feeling that something wonderful had taken place and that our lives were richer for it.

This third Sunday of Advent is our liturgical reminder that we have much to rejoice about. God didn't become incarnate just for the people who lived a long time ago. The Word became flesh in Jesus Christ for all of us living today and for all the generations to come. He came for sinners and saints and for those who haven't yet had an opportunity to know him.

Why do we rejoice? Because what Scripture said is true: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Something wonderful has taken place for everyone, and we join St. Paul, the prophet Isaiah, the psalmist, and John in proclaiming our joy. It's a good day to look up from what we're doing and rejoice at the great gift of faith we've been given, even while we continue our own prayer and preparation.

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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)

The last day to contribute to St. Gerard Church is Sunday, December 31st @ 12 noon. *Please note that donations received at the 7pm Mass on New Year's Eve will be processed as 2018.*****



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.

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



The Christmas Mass on TV



For those who cannot make it to church, please join the Catholic Community this Christmas.

Watch the Daily TV Mass:

Christmas Eve on VisionTV at 6:00 pm PT/ 7:00 pm MT/ 8:00 pm CT

Christmas Day at 8:00 am and 12:00 pm ET on VisionTV/ 11:00 am ET on Salt + Light.

You can also watch on the web at

www.dailytvmass.com

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Mon. (18th): 12 noon- Decorating the church
4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal
- Thurs. (21st): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for **8pm Eve**
- Sat. (23rd): 1:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for **10pm Eve**

YOUTH REFLECTION

"A Year of Favour"

This Week...

In Isaiah's time, every seventh year was a year of favour during which all debts were cancelled and captives were released. The year of favour reflected the mercy and forgiveness of God. The time of the coming of Jesus as the Messiah is also a year of favour, likewise bringing God's mercy and forgiveness. The First Letter to the Thessalonians tells us to rejoice, pray, and give thanks constantly - a fitting response to the goodness of God, and to God's mercy and forgiveness in the coming of Jesus.

For Your Reflection

You have probably heard of political prisoners being captured and released. In your local newspapers, you have probably seen pictures of men and women getting married. You have probably seen gardens all over your town. This sounds like the year of favour that Isaiah was talking about.

- Do you think it is? Why or why not?
- Are there plenty of things to be thankful for and to rejoice about? Name some.

When Jesus came, he fulfilled these Scriptures of Isaiah. Jesus comes for us again and again every year at Christmas time. During Advent we do our best to prepare for Jesus in our hearts - to get ourselves ready to help Jesus make this year a year of favour.

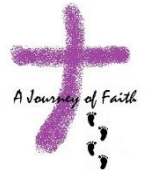
- How can you help make this a year of favour in your school? in your neighbourhood? in your family?



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