

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 18, 2016

Liturgical/Mass Schedule

Mon. (19th): 5:30 pm- *Simbang Gabi*
7:30 pm- Penitential Service

Tues. (20th): 9:00 am- Frances Mroczo
5:30 pm- *Simbang Gabi*

Wed. (21st): 10:00 am- Nursing Home (South)
+Frank Haas
5:30 pm- *Simbang Gabi*
7:00 pm- *Penitential Service (Melville)*

Thurs. (22nd): 9:00 am- +Adolph Sliwa
5:30 pm- *Simbang Gabi*

Fri. (23rd): 9:00 am- Sharon Dauk
5:30 pm- *Simbang Gabi*

Sat. (24th): 9:30 am- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
10:00 am- Bill Hamilton

Non-liturgical Schedule

Mon. (19th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal
Tues. (20th): 7:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for
10am Christmas Day Mass
Wed. (21st): 7:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for
8pm Christmas Eve Mass
Thurs. (22nd): 9:30 am- Decorating the Church
Fri. (23rd): *Parish Office Closed at Noon*

Please remember the sick in your prayers:
Mary Rose Bielinski, Art Scherr, MaryAnn Scherr, Fran Semchuk

The Nativity of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)

8:00 pm- +Tyler Dobko
10:00 pm- +Agnes Stokman

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



Lord, you are Emmanuel,
"God with us." Open the eyes
and ears of my heart that I
may see your presence in
every person I meet and hear your voice in the cry
of the poor.

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



Emmanuel – "God is with Us"

Matthew 1.23

ST. GERARD PARISH 2016-2017 PASTORAL AND FINANCE COUNCILS

PPC	Chairperson - Trent Senger	Vice-chairperson- VACANT
	Secretary - Rita Rodney	Liturgy - Carol Deters/Yvonne Turgeon
	Religious Education- Lori Zuzak	Social Justice - Jeannette Tremblay/Kathy Fedorchuk
	Community Life - Rose Marchinko	Public Relations - VACANT
	Family & Social - VACANT	Youth - VACANT
	Ecumenical - Debbie Hayward/Keith Hayward	Stewardship - Christine Shuya
	CWL Rep. - Donna Olshewski	K of C Rep. - Ted Osicki

PFC	Finance - Brian Kruger	Secretary - Richard Dubois
	Properties - Matt Bernat	Member at Large - Conrad Rodney
	Hall - Don Reed	Member at Large - Dwight Guy



**Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools News
December 19 - December 20, 2016**



	Sacred Heart	St. Alphonsus	St. Mary	St. Michael	St. Paul	St. Theodore
Mon.	•Jr. Boys Bball @ SHHS	• Christmas Concert @ 1pm & 7pm	•Advent Celebration @ 9:30am	•Advent Celebration @ 9:15am	•Christmas Liturgy @ 9:30am	•Manger Tales Christmas Concert @ 7pm
Tues.		•Advent Celebration @ 9am •PJ Day		•Red/White/Green Day		•Christmas Community Potluck Lunch @ 11:45am

Classes resume Wednesday, January 4, 2017

**"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



News from the CWL



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

2017 CWL Membership Fees are due now. To all new and renewing members please remit your \$25 membership dues as soon as possible. Make cheques payable to St. Gerard CWL and give to one of the Executive or put them into the collection basket in an envelope marked CWL Membership.



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.



News from the Knights of Columbus



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).

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.

Nothing is Impossible with God

By Patricia Mathson

The Gospels this week center on how God works through people. These Gospels tell us the stories of Joseph, Mary, and Elizabeth, who cooperate with God's plan for the Chosen People. They are an example of faith for all of us.

"The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her'" (Matthew 1:20).

We see that Joseph does the will of God by going ahead with his marriage to Mary. He places his trust in God, even though he is worried. We, too, are to trust in God in the difficult times of our lives. It makes all the difference.

Have you ever been scared? We know that God is always with us, but sometimes we are still afraid. We, too, are called to trust God in our lives. During Advent we look forward to the celebration of Christmas. This season is not so much about what we do but about what God has done for us. We remember all that God has done for us as individuals and as a family. We have much for which to be thankful this season, especially for God's love for each of us.



ART & ENVIRONMENT

Decorating for Christmas
THURSDAY @ 9:30AM



ALL ARE WELCOME TO SING AT THE CHRISTMAS MASSES

Choir rehearsals (all at 7pm) as follows:

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

In Canada, there are two Holydays of Obligation:

January 1, Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God;

December 25, Solemnity of The Nativity of the Lord
(Christmas)



Bringing Home the Word

Slave of Jesus

By Mary Katharine Deeley

Lately I've come to appreciate Joseph in ways that belie his rare appearance in Scripture. We know very little about him. At Christmas, he's the husband who didn't abandon Mary when Jewish law told him he could. In Christian art, he's frequently the "third wheel" in pictures of the Nativity focused on Mary and Jesus.

In today's readings, we have one of the three Joseph stories that appear in Matthew's Gospel. After reading all of them, I've concluded that Joseph never got a full night's sleep and was remarkably attentive to messages conveyed by angels, because in each story he's awakened from a dream and told what to do. And then he does it. I envy his absolute confidence in God's unusual form of communication and admire the care he exhibits for his wife and adopted son. So many times we spend energy trying to be the center of attention. We want to control our lives and dictate the path we'll follow. Joseph is our reminder that they serve God who simply do his will without question.

Paul talks about service in a different way. He calls himself a slave of Jesus', in whose service he gladly preaches and even suffers. And Paul reminds us we're called to holiness, which has nothing to do with being the center of attention. Holiness is aligning ourselves with God's will and being willing to change course when the angel of the Lord comes in with a different plan.

Maybe the question for us this Advent is, "Where is God calling us to holiness now?"

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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

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.

PLEASE CHECK THE NAME ON THE LABEL OF YOUR BOX OF 2017 ENVELOPES. SOME BOXES HAVE BEEN PICKED UP IN ERROR!!! If you have a box that has someone else's name, please phone the Parish Office at 306.782.2449 as soon as possible!!

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

****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.

Joseph reminds us that we serve God when we do His will without question.


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H	T	R	I	B	D	R	E	A	R
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BETROTHED
HONOUR
DREAM
SON

CHILD
DIVORCE
WIFE
PROPHET

HUSBAND
ANGEL
BIRTH
HOME



YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"Dreaming and Waking"

This Week...

Joseph was troubled because his wife-to-be was pregnant. He went to sleep thinking that he might not marry her, when a dream assured him that Mary's pregnancy was from the Holy Spirit and that her son would be the Saviour. He went to sleep upset, but because of his dream, he awoke resolved and committed. The son of the woman he loved would be the Chosen One Joseph had learned about from studying the prophets.

For Your Reflection

You might never have thought about this, but Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a pregnant, unwed teenager. The man she was to marry knew that he was not the father of her child. It is an astonishing story - astonishing because it happened and because Joseph came to

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