# 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

122 Fourth Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1A7 Rectory:

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

#### <u>Liturgical/Mass Schedule</u>

Mon.  $(19^{th})$ : 5:30 pm- Simbang Gabi

7:30 pm- Penitential Service

Tues.  $(20^{th})$ : 9:00 am- Frances Mroczko

5:30 pm- Simbang Gabi

Wed. 10:00 am- Nursing Home (South) (21<sup>st</sup>):

+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.  $(23^{rd})$ : 9:00 am- Sharon Dauk

5:30 pm- Simbang Gabi

Sat. (24<sup>th</sup>):9:30 am- Sacrament of Reconciliation

10:00 am- Bill Hamilton

### The Nativity of the Lord

(Holy Day of Obligation)

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

10:00 am- Mass for the People Sun. (25<sup>th</sup>):



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 McSweeny

### **Non-liturgical Schedule**

 $(19^{th}):$ 4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal Mon.

(20<sup>th</sup>): Tues. 7:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for

10am Christmas Day Mass

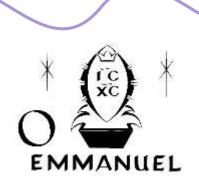
Wed. (21<sup>st</sup>):7:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for

8pm Christmas Eve Mass

Thurs. (22<sup>nd</sup>): 9:30 am- Decorating the Church Fri. Parish Office Closed at Noon (23<sup>rd</sup>):

#### Please remember the sick in your prayers:

Mary Rose Bielinski, Art Scherr, MaryAnn Scherr, Fran Semchuk



Emmanuel – "God is with Us"

Matthew 1.23

#### ST. GERARD PARISH 2016-2017 PASTORAL AND FINANCE COUNCILS

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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

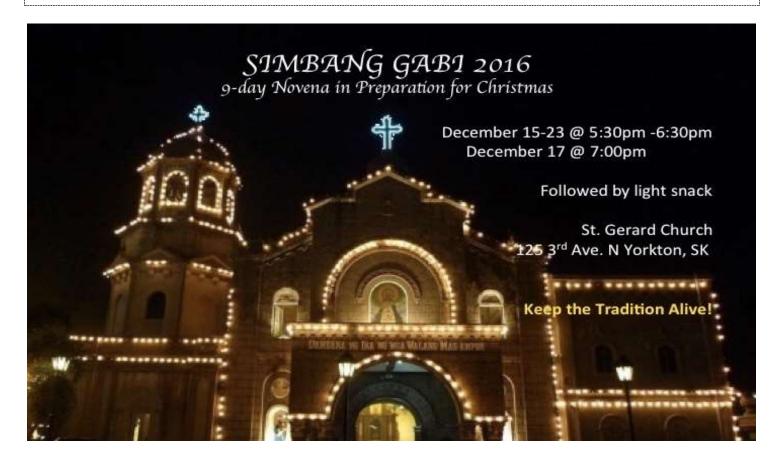
Family & Social - VACANT Youth - VACANT

Ecumenical - Debbie Hayward/Keith Hayward Stewardship - Christine Shuya

CWL Rep. - Donna Olshewski K of C Rep. - Ted Osicki

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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	•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



# SACRAMENTS of INITIATION PREPARATION



#### **BAPTISM**

The First Sacrament of Initiation

#### **CONFIRMATION**

The Second Sacrament of Initiation

#### FIRST EUCHARIST

The Third Sacrament of Initiation



#### **Penitential Service**

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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.

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.



### 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. 20th For 10am

Christmas Day

Wed. Dec. 21st 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)



#### 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.



#### **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).

### 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.



#### 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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#### 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

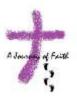
Excerpt from In Touch With the Word, Cycle Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, St. Mary's Press, 2004



**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 <a href="https://www.sttherese.ca">www.sttherese.ca</a>

#### 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 <a href="www.rachelsvineyard.org">www.rachelsvineyard.org</a>, or email Bonnie at <a href="r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net">r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net</a>, 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