



# St. Gerard

## Roman Catholic Parish

December 18<sup>th</sup>,  
2022

Fourth 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](http://www.stgerard.ca) | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca)

*St. Gerard Parish is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.*

Pastor.....	Fr. Louis Nguyen	306.782.0323	<a href="mailto:louisYorkton@gmail.com">louisYorkton@gmail.com</a>
		306.621.8068	Emergencies
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	<a href="mailto:office@stgerard.ca">office@stgerard.ca</a>
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

### MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (19 <sup>th</sup> )	6:00pm <i>Simbang Gabi</i>	
Tues. (20 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>9:00am</b> Agnes Swejda	
	6:00pm <i>Simbang Gabi</i>	
Wed. (21 <sup>st</sup> )	9:00am +Angeline Polegi	
	10:00am <b>NURSING HOME SOUTH</b>	
	Families of Hung & Mai, Chu Van Giap	
	6:00pm <i>Simbang Gabi</i>	
Thurs. (22 <sup>nd</sup> )	9:00am +Jean Kulcsar	
	2:30pm <b>BENTLEY SENIORS' RES.</b>	
	Families of Binh & Thao, Hong Hanh	
	6:00pm <i>Simbang Gabi</i>	
Fri. (23 <sup>rd</sup> )	9:00am Families of Thanh & Trang, Chi Mai Lin	
	6:00pm <i>Simbang Gabi</i>	
Sat. (24 <sup>th</sup> )	4:00pm Children of our Parish	
	7:00pm Mass for the People	
	10:00pm Special Intentions	



**The Nativity of the Lord**  
(Holy Day of Obligation)

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

### SACRAMENTS

**Infant Baptism:** Please phone the Parish Office to register for Baptism Preparation. 306.782.2449

**RCIA:** For adults wishing to be received into the Catholic Church, contact Father Louis. 306.782.0323.

**Matrimony:** Please contact Fr. Louis 12 months prior to the date when you would like to be married. 306.782.0323

**Reconciliation:** Saturday at 8:30am or anytime by appointment. 306.782.0323

**Anointing:** Please contact Father Louis at 306.621.8068.



Lord Jesus, so that the world may put away the weapons of war and embrace the ways of peace, love, and holiness, we pray – Be born in us, be born in our world.

-The Redemptorists

**Stay  
Connected  
Online!**

[www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca)

## Sunday Connection

### First Reading

*Isaiah 7.10-14*

Ahaz proclaims the sign that the Lord will give: a virgin shall give birth to a son, Emmanuel

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalms 24.1-2,3-4,5-6*

The Lord is the King of Glory who established the earth.

### Second Reading

*Romans 1.1-7*

Paul greets the community at Roma and declares himself a servant of Christ Jesus.

### Gospel Reading

*Matthew 1.18-24*

An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that.

Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

## FAMILY CONNECTION

Joseph and Mary are our models for family life and for service of God. Even when the circumstances seemed unclear, Joseph trusted God. Healthy family life is built upon trust, trust in God and trust of one another.

Spend some time talking as a family about the importance of trust in your family life, including the ways in which the children trust the adults in the family as well as the ways in which the adults trust the children. Then read today's Gospel. Talk about Joseph's trust of God and reflect together on how your family trusts in God.

Pray together that your family life will be built on trust, as was the family life of Joseph and Mary. Pray and sing together an Advent song, such as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."



### 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.



### BAPTISM

*The First Sacrament of Initiation*

The next Baptism Preparation Session is planned for early 2023. To register, please email the Parish Office. [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca)



**We welcome into our Catholic Christian Community those who were baptized recently at St. Gerard:**

Rochelle Singca

**May this child and her family experience joy and new life.**



**Divine Mercy Devotion**  
Wednesdays at 2pm  
(except the first Wed. of the month)

**Please sign up today for the Christmas and New Year's Masses: Lectors, Welcomers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Hospitality Ministers, Sacristans, Gate Keepers.**



### News from the CWL



2023 CWL Memberships are due now. Renew your membership by December 31st and your name will be entered in a draw for a free membership. Memberships are \$35. Cash or cheques, payable to CWL, can be put in the Sunday collection in an envelope marked 'CWL Membership'.



### News from the Knights of Columbus



December 21 Evening bingo  
December 29 Evening bingo

*If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.782.8664. [www.kofc-2031.ca](http://www.kofc-2031.ca)*

### Ecumenical Prayer Service for those experiencing memory loss or depression

*Offering fellowship & support*

The third Wednesday of each month at 2:00pm  
The next Prayer Service is December 21<sup>st</sup>

**St. Henry's Roman Catholic Church**  
729 Main Street, Melville

For more information, contact Dave Hudy:  
306.728.5525



*Simbang Gabi is a devotional, nine-day series of Masses attended by Filipino Catholics in anticipation of Christmas.*

*It is similar to the nine dawn Masses leading to Christmas Eve practiced in Puerto Rico called Misa de Aguinaldo.*

*"All Parishioners" are invited to attend. Food and refreshment will be served after each Mass.*



# Bringing Home the Word

## He is One of Us

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

The Incarnation means God is one of us. He is made of our flesh and blood; he laughs, sings, and loves people. Though we believe he is God, he is still one of us. We can choose him to be on our team, trusting he will play to win.

When identifying ourselves, we normally tell others what we do. Societies like the one to which Jesus belonged usually identified themselves by tracing ancestry. As Isaiah tells us today, Jesus belonged to the house of David. Paul says that he was of David "according to the flesh" (Romans 1:3). The Gospel identifies Joseph as a "son of David" (Matthew 1:20). Since Jesus was considered Joseph's legal son, he also was a "son of David." Joseph is told that the child will be called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us" (Matthew 1:23). Thus, Incarnation means God is with us in a unique way in this man who is one of us. The Incarnation also gives extraordinary dignity to material creation, of which we are all a part and of which he is a part as well, for he is one of us. In other words, Emmanuel (God with us) is a Child of earth.

Like Joseph, we cannot fully comprehend what has happened. We can only stand with him in awe as this wondrous mystery unfolds before us. As we await Christmas, we wait for him to appear. When he comes, we will be amazed to see that he is really one of us.

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## News from the Archdiocese of Regina

### ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL

Parish Goal: \$46,774  
Amount Raised to Date: \$19,665 (42%)



### Christmas and New Year's Livestream Masses

December 25, 2022: Midnight  
January 1, 2023: 11:00 am

[www.youtube.com/ArchdioceseRegina](http://www.youtube.com/ArchdioceseRegina)

## 2023 GIVING PROGRAM

The 2023 Sunday collection (offertory) envelopes are in the Welcome Area for those who have contributed by this method in 2022. **IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FIND YOUR BOX OF SUNDAY COLLECTION ENVELOPES** please phone the Parish Office.

**Have you considered Pre-Authorized Giving? No need for cash or cheques!** Plus, Pre-authorized Giving is 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 or via the Sunday collection. Forms are available on the large glass table in the Welcome Area.

**OR you may e-transfer your donation instead!** Email [giving@stgerard.ca](mailto:giving@stgerard.ca) for more information.



Please pick up your 2023 offertory envelopes, available in the Welcome Area when you are at Mass.

Or stop into the Parish Office during regular office hours. Thank you!

**The deadline for 2022 donations (including e-transfers and the ANNUAL APPEAL) is Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. Thank you!**

## CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED?

Please email or phone the Parish Office if you have a change of address or a new phone number. This will help to keep our records current and ensure that charitable donation receipts go to the correct address. Thank you.

H	A	E	L	H	A	D	U	J	A	MARY	JUDAH	ZECHARIAH
E	A	T	O	T	M	B	O	W	D	ELIZABETH	CHILD	LEAPT
L	B	I	M	E	O	Y	J	R	E	WOMB	BLESSED	FRUIT
I	L	U	R	B	M	O	W	A	S	MOTHER	JOY	PROMISE
Z	E	R	O	A	L	A	T	H	S			
A	S	F	E	Z	H	E	R	C	E			
B	E	D	L	I	H	C	O	Y	L			
T	P	A	E	L	O	T	E	A	B			
M	O	T	H	E	R	S	O	Z	L			
D	E	S	I	M	O	R	P	M	E			

