
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 20, 2015

Liturgical/Mass Schedule

Mon. (21st): 5:00 am- *Simbang Gabi*
9:00 am- +John Nagy
Tues. (22nd): 5:00 am- *Simbang Gabi*
9:00 am- +Doreen Mireau
Wed. (23rd): 5:00 am- *Simbang Gabi*
10:00 am- Nursing Home (North)
+Matilda Copan
7:00 pm- +Jais V. Jacob
Thurs. (24th): 5:00 am- *Simbang Gabi*
9:00 am- +Joelle Lucas

Non-liturgical Schedule

Mon. (21st): 7:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for 8pm
Christmas Eve Mass
7:30 pm- *Conversion*
Tues. (22nd): 9:30 am- Decorating for Christmas
6:30 pm- Choir rehearsal for 10am
Christmas Day Mass
7:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for 9am Mass
Wed. (23rd): 9:30 am- Decorating for Christmas
7:30 pm- Choir rehearsal for 10pm
Christmas Eve Mass
Sat. (26th): 6:15pm- Choir rehearsal for 7pm Mass

The Nativity of the Lord

8:00 pm- +Treeske Holtkamp
10:00 pm- +Bruce Wonchulanko
Fri. (25th): 10:00 am- Mass for the People

Sat. (26th): 10:00 am- +Mathew Abraham

6:30 pm- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
7:00 pm- +Bernard Wozniak

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sun. (27th): 9:00 am- +Helen Flavel
11:00 am- Mass for the People

COMMUNION TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND

Aspen Villa: Clara Krakalovich
Hospital: Jerome Niezgodna
Nursing Home: Rosella Wanner & Lorne Wanner
Triplex: Rose Anweiler

Please remember the sick in your prayers:
Rosemarie Massett, Brynleigh Yewsuk



You are invited to a



Complimentary Continental Brunch

following the 10:00 am Mass
on Christmas morning

*Please join fellow parishioners in a time of
community, and share in the joy of Christ's
birth!*

*Hosted by
St. Gerard's Community Life Committee*



Social Justice Youth at St. Gerard's Parish Group

If you are in Grades 7 - 12 and are interested in joining a group of enthusiastic youth who want to make a change in our world, come join us.
Newcomers are always welcome!

Next session: Sunday, January 3rd at 7:00 pm



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 were 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)



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*



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).

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**.



ART & ENVIRONMENT

Decorating for Christmas

Tuesday, Dec. 22nd at 9:30 am &
Wednesday, Dec. 23rd at 9:30 am

All are welcome to come out to help!!!!

Stop by the Parish Office

For Great Gift Ideas!

Open Mon.-Fri. 8-12/1-4

Catholic Prayer Book for Children	\$ 4.75
Pocket Book of Catholic Prayers	\$ 6.50
Holy Family Creche - glass	\$ 9.25
Hockey pendant necklace – silver finish	\$10.00
Football pendant necklace – silver finish	\$10.00
Extreme Faith Youth Bible	\$14.00
Christmas Nativity Scene Wall ornament	\$14.50
Christmas Nativity Characters, porcelain, 11 pce	\$16.00
Catholic Baby's First Bible (board book)	\$16.00
Faith/Hope/Love silver-plated pendant	\$17.50
Crucifix- gold metal with silver metal corpus	\$19.50
Catholic Women's Devotional Bible (soft)	\$20.00
Catholic Women's Devotional Bible (hard)	\$25.00
Catholic Youth Bible	\$25.00
Youcat (Catechism of the Catholic Church for Youth)	\$25.00
Catholic Gift Bible (leather-bound)	\$26.00
Catechism of the Catholic Church	\$26.25

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 20, 2015

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Mi 5:1– 4 / Heb 10:5–10 / Lk 1:39– 45

Not long ago, I had the great opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Israel with a group of people. We began our journey each day in prayer. We visited many holy sites; we walked where Jesus walked. Each day our chaplain celebrated liturgy in one of the many churches that mark the location of significant stories in the Bible: where Jesus was born, where he died, where he celebrated his first miracle, at Cana. The prayer was profound, and the members of the group quickly became friends. We still greet each other with gladness and affection.

One of the more moving experiences was a visit to the Church of the Visitation. Located at the top of a small hill, the church welcomes visitors with a wide plaza and a wrought-iron entryway. Immediately to the right of the courtyard is a tall bronze statue of Mary and Elizabeth greeting each other. The figures are slender and visibly pregnant. The artist captured their joy with a slight arch in their backs, their arms beginning to ascend, and their heads lifted up as though laughing in delight. The statue made us smile.

I think about that statue now and believe this is how we should always greet the Lord—with delight, joy, and an understanding that we are pregnant with his grace and presence. We are called to reveal that presence to the whole world. In these last few days before Christmas, reflect on the ways you will show your joy in the Lord's coming.

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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

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.

Have you checked out the NEW St. Gerard website??

It is easy to use and is compatible with new devices like smart phones and tablets. Our "Home" page provides a quick overview of what's happening in our Parish without requiring you to "dig" for our most current information. Our Mass Schedule for the upcoming 7 days is now available on every page of our website. Parish events have been organized into our new Events Calendar. You will also find information about our Faith in our new Ministries, Education, and Sacraments sections. www.stgerard.ca

PARISH CENTRE HAPPENINGS

306.783.4255 - Perogy Hotline – 306.783.4255

YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"Blessed is the Fruit of Your Womb"

This Week...

In the tiny town of Bethlehem the saviour of all humanity is to be born - a tiny helpless infant. This infant appears just like any other - a blessing to a mother, a joy to other members of the family, and a miracle. When Elizabeth greets Mary, her joy is so complete that even Elizabeth's own baby feels it. This instance of cousin meeting cousin, pregnant woman meeting pregnant woman, represents the will of God in the flesh.

For Your Reflection

When Elizabeth and Mary met, they were both pregnant, and they were both filled with joy and hope. But sometimes when a woman finds she is pregnant, it isn't always good news. Sometimes it takes quite an adjustment, and sometimes difficult decisions must be made.

- Do you know anyone who has been pregnant? Do you know what kind of an experience it was for her? What do you see as the joys and the challenges of being pregnant?
- Have you ever played with a baby? Have you ever held a newborn? Have you ever changed a baby's diaper? Have you ever fed a baby? How much time have you spent with babies? How do you feel about babies?

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