



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

December 23, 2018

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (24th): NO MASS



8:00 pm +Joelle Bisschop-Lucas
10:00 pm Mass for the People



The Nativity of the Lord
(Holy Day of Obligation)

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

Wed. (26th): 9:30 am +Donna Prout
Thurs. (27th): 9:30 am +Doris Krepakevich
Fri. (28th): 9:30 am +Rose Hickie
Sat. (29th): 9:30 am +Barb Neumeier

5:00 pm Special Intentions

Sun. (30th): **The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

9:00 am Mass for the People
11:00 am +Ann Bisschop

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

Parish Office Hours: Monday 1pm-4pm; Tuesday-Friday 8am-noon, 1pm-4pm

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

www.stgerard.ca | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca

Pastor.....Fr. Louis Kim Nguyen 306.782.0323 louiskimnguyen@yahoo.com
Parish Office Administrator.....Sandra Archer 306.782.2449 office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....Mario Guerra



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www.stgerard.ca



Lord, your Word gives me life, joy, hope, and peace. May your Word find a home in me and inspire me to live a life rooted in Gospel values.

- 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.....

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We are nearing the Christmas season – the season of peace, love and joy. I would like to send my greeting and prayer for God’s blessings upon all of you and your families.

May the Holy Child of Jesus give you peace, joy, and love.

Also, as we near the end of the year 2018, I encourage you to take time for yourself, and reflect on your life events throughout the past year. Offer to God your grateful thanks for what He has given you and your family.

As one more year is almost finished, I want to take this opportunity to reflect and say that we have done many great things in our parish community. Throughout the year 2018 we have built up love, unity and friendship. I see many more people coming back to practice their faith. We have more young people, and more communion with each other in our parish. We have had wonderful celebrations such as my installation, Confirmation, CWL and K of C conventions with our Archbishop Don Bolen present. In August we welcomed the refugee family and continue to support them. We recently had a wonderful celebration with St. Gerard choirs and musicians (adults and youth), youth group, and students from St. Paul School.

These are only a few of the examples where we have worked together to build up our faith community.

Thank you to each of you for all the good that you offer to our parish. Your presence, your love, your time, and your talents – all are great signs to say that you love God and His Church.

I am looking forward to serving you in the New Year coming. I ask you to cooperate and work together to continue to build up a strong community of faith, a community of love, a community of peace, a community of unity, and a community of friendship.

May God bless all of us and our parish.



With my love and prayers,

Rev. Louis Kim Nguyen
Pastor of St. Gerard's



SACRAMENTS of INITIATION PREPARATION



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

CONFIRMATION

The Second Sacrament of Initiation

FIRST EUCHARIST

The Third Sacrament of Initiation



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

Destynee Manalili

Hasley Eiffert

May these children and their families
experience joy and new life.



Choir Rehearsals for Christmas



10am Christmas Day Mass

Rehearsal is **TODAY, December 23rd @ 1:00 pm.**



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:

Saturday, Dec. 15	- 7:00pm
Sunday, Dec. 16 to Friday, Dec. 21	- 5:30pm
Saturday, Dec. 22	- 7:00 pm
Sunday, Dec. 23	- 5:30pm

The Sunday offering envelopes are available in the Welcome Area for those who contributed by this method in 2018. The personalized boxes may be picked up until December 23rd, and again on December 30th. Please use these in 2019.



News from the CWL



The 2019 CWL Memberships are now due. The fee is \$30.00. You can put your cheque or cash in an envelope marked "CWL" and drop it in the Sunday collection basket.

Also, if you are looking for a gift for your mother, daughter, granddaughter, (or friend), why not consider a CWL Gift Membership? For more information, contact Paulette 306.782.7923

CWL Newsletter – Pick up your copy today! Available on the large table in the Welcome Area.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Dec. 30	Fifth Sunday rosary before 9am Mass Afternoon Bingo
Jan. 2	Executive Meeting
Jan. 9	General Meeting

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

INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING AND LAND FOR SALE BY THE ARCHDIOCESE

The Archdiocese is selling the building and land at 1855 2nd Ave North, Regina, SK. Sealed Bids or Sealed Offers to Purchase will be accepted up until Tuesday Dec. 18th at 3:00 pm. An Information Package is available at the Archdiocese Office, 445 Broad St North, Regina, is on the Archdiocese website www.archregina.sk.ca, or by contacting Garry Oledzki, oledzki@sasktel.net or 306-585-1816. The Property is being sold "As Is. Where Is." and the Archdiocese reserves the right to accept or reject any Sealed Offer or Sealed Bid. We thank all interested parties.

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, 2019
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.



Bringing Home the Word

Time for Joy: The Lord's Coming
By Mary Katharine Deeley

Not long ago, I had the great opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Israel with a group. We began our journey each day in prayer. We visited many holy sites; we walked where Jesus walked. Each day our chaplain celebrated the 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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The last day to contribute to St. Gerard Church is Sunday, December 30th @ 12 noon.

*****Please note that all donations received at the 7pm Mass on New Year's Eve will be processed as 2019.*****

•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•PEROGIES• PARISH FUNDRAISER

Thursday, **JANUARY 3RD**
from 3pm to 6pm

Cabbage rolls \$25 (5 dozen bag)
Potato & onion perogies \$35 (10 dozen bag)
Potato & cheddar perogies \$40 (10 dozen bag)



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

7:00 pm

Jan. 1 – The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

10:00 am

“For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy.” Luke 1:44

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading each Sunday, do you “leap for joy?” If not, it might help to prepare for Mass each week by reading the Sunday readings and looking for ways in which we can be of service to others. We are called to be active participants, not passive bystanders.

~ Submitted by the Stewardship Committee ~

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS SEASON HOURS

Monday	Dec. 24 th	Closed
Tuesday	Dec. 25 th	Closed
Wednesday	Dec. 26 th	Closed
Thursday	Dec. 27 th	1pm-4pm
Friday	Dec. 28 th	8am-noon/1pm-4pm
Monday	Dec. 31 st	Closed
Tuesday	Jan. 1 st	Closed
Wednesday	Jan. 2 nd	1pm-4pm
Thursday	Jan. 3 rd	8am-noon/1pm-4pm
Friday	Jan. 4 th	8am-noon/1pm-4pm

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun. (23rd): 1:00 pm- Choir Rehearsal for Christmas Day & Dec. 30th (9am Mass)
Sat. (29th): 4:30 pm- Choir Rehearsal (5pm Mass)

YOUTH REFLECTION

"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?

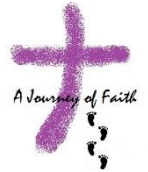
Excerpt adapted from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter*- St. Mary's Press, 2004



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. 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 Regina 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