
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

The Nativity of the Lord – December 25th, 2015

WELCOME VISITORS AND NEW PARISHIONERS!

If you would like more information about our parish please take home this bulletin, browse the information in the Welcome Area, or visit our NEW parish website www.stgerard.ca

Become a part of our parish family! If this is your spiritual home we invite you to register with the parish. Please complete a beige-coloured form located on the large table in the Welcome Area. You can drop it off at the Parish Office, or place it in the collection basket at Mass.

WELCOME BACK!

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” Mt 4.19-20

We are happy to have you join us!

~ Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord ~



The St. Gerard Parish Community Life Committee
invites you to share in the joy of Christ's birth!

Coffee and a Complimentary Continental Brunch

following the 10:00 am Mass Christmas morning

*“Lord, strengthen the places I find community in my life, especially my family,
my parish and my friendships.” - R. Rolheiser*





NEW YEAR'S DAY LEVÉE

*The faithful of the Archdiocese
are cordially invited to*

the Archbishop's New Year's Levée

*to be held at
Holy Rosary Cathedral
3125-13th Ave., Regina
January 1, 2016
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm*

*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.



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



Jesus, the Light of the World

As we celebrate your birth, may we begin to see the
world in the light of the understanding you give us.

As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to
receive the greatest news the world had ever known,
so may we worship you in meekness of heart.

May we also remember our brothers and sisters less
fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving.

Amen

Prayer in Front of the Crib

O Jesus, may your birth soften our souls in front
of the simplicity of the crib; what celestial and
pious emotion for our hearts: may it enliven in
us the desire to cooperate in the work of a
universal peace in front of You, divine author
and Lord of peace. (John XXIII)



ARE YOU IN GRADE 3 TO 12?

DO YOU LOVE TO SING?

ARE YOU EAGER TO SERVE THE LORD
AT SUNDAY MASS?

Please contact Maria Rica Adane, Parent Liaison
at 306-621-0093 for information about
registering your child/youth for the St. Gerard
Youth Choir!

Please note that the **deadline for 2015
contributions** is
12 noon Thursday, December 31st.

YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"A Child is Born to Us"

This Week...

The prophet proclaims a Wonder Person to come! A Counsellor, an Everlasting Holy One, the Bringer of Peace! We are told to live upright and godly lives as we await our blessed hope, the Messiah, our Saviour! How does he arrive? In a golden chariot, upon the clouds with a blast of trumpets? No, he comes as a baby, born in a cave, the newest member of a homeless family. He sleeps in the straw.

For Your Reflection

For people surrounded by department store decorations, commercials, Christmas carols, special foods, and the like, believing that today's Christmas celebration actually evolved from the humble story of a young woman giving birth in the straw is a stretch. It might help to focus on the characters involved.

- What do you think went through Joseph's mind as he witnessed Mary giving birth to a baby? What do you think went through Mary's mind as she struggled with the birth experience?

The Christmas story is full of symbols. Jesus, who becomes our bread and wine - our nourishment - is laid in a manger, the feeding trough for the animals. Jesus, who is the champion of poor people, is born into a homeless family. Poor shepherds were the first to welcome the Messiah that the Jewish people had been awaiting for generations. The symbol of angels singing, praising God, and flying madly all over the sky was a good clue that something out of the ordinary was happening. Modern Christmas stories use different symbols to make the same points: Rudolph, the "poorest" reindeer, becomes the champion; and Frosty, a snowman, transforms children's lives.

- What story from your own personal Christmas experiences has special meaning or symbolism?

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