

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, 2016

Liturgical/Mass Schedule

Mon. (26th): 9:00 am- +Bettie Alberts
Tues. (27th): 9:00 am- +Edward Yeroschak
Wed. (28th): 10:00 am- Nursing Home (North)
Rosella Wanner
Thurs. (29th): 9:00 am- +Mary Olynyk
7:00 pm- *Funeral – Mary Rose Bielinski*
Fri. (30th): 9:00 am- +Agnes Stokman
4:00 pm- *Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite*
Sat. (31st): 9:30 am- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
10:00 am- Frances Mroczo

Non-liturgical Schedule

Mon. (26th): *Parish Office Closed*
Tues. (27th): *Parish Office Closed*
Fri. (30th): *Parish Office Closed at Noon*

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
(Holy Day of Obligation)

6:30 pm- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
7:00 pm- +Gladys Molnar

Sun. (1st): 9:00 am- Mass for the People
11:00 am- +Orest Derkach

Please remember the sick in your prayers:

Art Scherr, MaryAnn Scherr, Fran Semchuk

PRAYER

Lord, you are the living Word of God who came to dwell in the hearts of all people. Increase my desire and strengthen my will to know the word of God.

—From *Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney



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 parish website: www.stgerard.ca

Become a member 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.

We are happy that you are celebrating
the birth of our Saviour with us!



Christmas Message 2016

...and Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger.... (Lk 2:7)

Dear brothers and sisters of Christ of the Archdiocese of Regina,

Warm greetings to each and all of you. In this holy season we enter into a mystery, the mystery of the God of all creation coming not in overwhelming display of power and majesty, but in vulnerability, in poverty, in an act of self-emptying which speaks of a boundless love. When we kneel before the Christ child, we kneel before the mystery of the Master of the Universe becoming small for our sake, the eternal Word becoming 'abbreviated,' so that we might see with our own eyes, and touch with our hands, the word of life.



Pope Francis invites us to think of the Incarnation as God going in search of us. With a loving weakness for those who are lost, the God revealed in Jesus is a God who searches us out, searches for us especially in our darkness, in order to lavish forgiveness on us, to pour out a cascade of consolation, of tenderness. God finds joy in this; the Lord is the Lord of consolation, the Lord of tenderness.

Early on in his pontificate, Pope Francis used an image to speak of the birth of Jesus which totally caught my imagination. He said it was to have hands that God became human. "God meddles in our miseries, he approaches our wounds and heals them with his hands; it was to have hands he became human."

This reminded me immediately of the sublime poem 'somewhere i have never travelled', by the American poet E. E. Cummings. He speaks about the gentle subtlety of God's presence in our midst, with the line "nobody, not even the rain, has such small hands."

What do we learn from this? It tells us that God loves what is human; loves human life, loves this human condition that we so often struggle with. God loves what he has created, loves so much as to become what he has created; to become one of us, to draw so near. God loves this created world, loves us stumbling human beings, loves us enough to give himself to redeem us.

In the Incarnation we learn of the great dignity of what it is to be human, for being human is the language God uses to speak his very self. We learn that the designs and dreams of God are woven into the fabric of what it is to be human. We come to God, God draws us to himself, through our humanity, in our living and in our dying.

So come, let us kneel in a moment of silent wonder before the God who comes in search of us, who loves us into life. And let us kneel too, in a different way, before the vulnerable and the wounded in our midst, mindful of our own great need for God's mercy, and for the holy calling of bringing God's gentleness and mercy to others, pouring out a cascade of tenderness on the lonely, the strangers in our midst, the longing souls, the suffering. Let us find God's own joy by being bearers of that joy and hope to others.

Wishing each and all of you a blessed celebration of the Lord's birth, and every good blessing in the New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Bolen".

*Donald J. Bolen
Archbishop of Regina



SACRAMENTS of INITIATION PREPARATION



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

CONFIRMATION

The Second Sacrament of Initiation

FIRST EUCHARIST

The Third Sacrament of Initiation

Contact the Parish Office at 306.782.2449 to register your child for sacrament preparation.



News from the CWL



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.

Start off the new year with a cozy project! The next sessions for **Comfort Cushions** Sewing Bees will be January 10-11; January 17-18; and January 24-25. Please mark these dates on your calendars! Remember, you don't have to know how to sew to help with this very special project! Just come with a willing heart and be part of something wonderful!



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 at 306.621.0093 for information about registering your child/youth for the St. Gerard Youth Choir! We rehearse twice a week and minister the third Sunday of every month!

New singers welcome!



News from the Knights of Columbus



If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Brian @ 306.730.7083 or 306.730.7017 after 5pm (or leave a message).

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, 2017

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.

A Word from Pope Francis

The grace which was revealed in our world is Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, true man and true God. He has entered our history; he has shared our journey. He came to free us from darkness and to grant us light. In him was revealed the grace, the mercy, and the tender love of the Father: Jesus is Love incarnate.

He is not simply a teacher of wisdom, he is not an ideal for which we strive while knowing that we are hopelessly distant from it. He is the meaning of life and history, who has pitched his tent in our midst.

—Homily, December 24, 2013 (Midnight Mass)

Midnight Mass at Holy Rosary Cathedral, celebrated by Archbishop Donald Bolen, will be live-streamed at <https://archregina.sk.ca/live>





Bringing Home the Word **+**

Where We Come From

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

There has been a renewed interest in genealogy these days as many seek to understand who their ancestors were, where they came from, and whether or how they were successful. Websites make it easier than ever to track down our ancestry and answer the universal human question: "Where did I come from?"

Jewish and Christian tradition also values ancestors and highlights the roots of Jesus' heritage. The Messiah was to come from the royal line of David, and his roots reach all the way back to Abraham, the father of the Chosen People.

As we listen to each of the strange and unknown names of Jesus' ancestry, consider that behind each person there is a story, a family, God's action mingled with the person's hopes and failures. Each individual life flows and unites into one strong tree. And God, in his providence, watches over each and every one, preparing for the person of his Son. Each individual, with his or her problems and gifts, commingle to form the long human lineage of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God. Today we celebrate this plan reaching its culmination. Jesus Christ, our Savior, is born today in Bethlehem!

This protracted lineage invites us to look back and up: back on all the events that have filled the tapestry of our personal and family history, and up to see that through it all, God has brought us to know him and to accept his salvation. His providence works in and through it all to bring us to him.

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Please note that the **deadline for 2016 contributions** is 12 noon Friday, December 30th.

PARISH CENTRE HAPPENINGS

306-783-4255 - Perogy Hotline - 306-783-4255

**Perogy & cabbage rolls sales
will resume in the New Year.**

Celebrating 100 years of Faith, Knowledge and Unity

Sacred Heart High School 1917-2017

Saturday, January 14th, 2017

1 pm – Divine Liturgy
St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Yorkton, Sask.

2:30-4:30 pm – Activities at Sacred Heart High School including:

- School Tours
- Coffee and Cookies
- Display of Historic Yearbooks and other Memorabilia
- Senior Girls Basketball Tournament

Tickets are \$30 per person for the following:

- 5:30 pm – Gathering**
- 6 pm – Banquet**
- 7:30 pm – Program**
St. Mary's Cultural Centre

Friends, families and former students are invited to take part in this very special celebration.

Banquet tickets available at the Sacred Heart High School main office or online at www.eventbrite.ca until January 4, 2017.

Let us dance with delight in the Lord
and let our hearts be filled with rejoicing,
for eternal salvation
has appeared on the earth, alleluia.
Liturgy of the Hours

*Father Francis
invites*

**ALL PARISHIONERS
TO ATTEND AN**

**OPEN HOUSE
AT THE RECTORY**

JANUARY 1ST (New Year's Day)
FROM 3-10 PM

Please stop in
for a beverage, treats
and a visit.

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