



# St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

December 25, 2019

The Nativity of the Lord

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:

Saturday at 5:00 pm, Sunday at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

## A Note from Your Pastor.....

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am so grateful for this past year, serving you and being with you. I am grateful for so many people sharing their time and talents with the parish. No job is too big or too small – all is greatly appreciated!

We are a multi-cultural parish. Continue to be open and welcoming to others who are new to our community and our beloved country, Canada.

Thank you to the parents of the young children for bringing them to church and for encouraging them to build their relationship with God and with our parish community.

Thank you to all teachers, staff and students of Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools for ministering the first Sunday of every month during the school year. Your presence is significant.

December 10, 2019 we celebrated 115 years of faith as the Parish of St. Gerard. You and I, we continue to create history. Each of us has a special role to build up our parish community.

May the great joy of God's love fill your hearts with peace and love at Christmas and throughout the new year.

I love you all. You are always in my prayers. May God bless you with good health, peace, happiness and success in 2020.

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

### WELCOME VISITORS AND NEW PARISHIONERS!

If you would like more information about our parish please take home this leaflet, browse the information in the Welcome Area, or visit our parish website [www.stgerard.ca](http://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 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.

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

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)



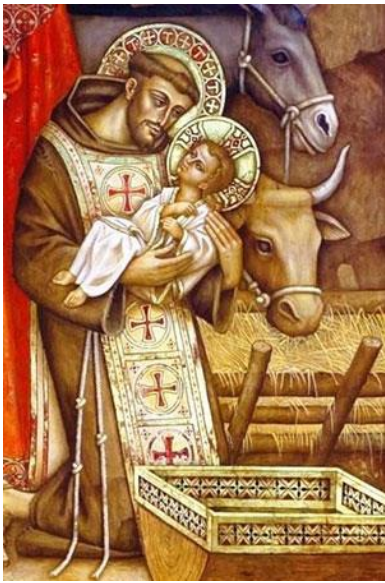
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### Christmas 2019

A few days ago, at the beginning of December, Pope Francis travelled to Greccio, half way between Rome and Assisi, to the shrine of the nativity, the place where back in 1223, Saint Francis invited locals to help recreate the setting of the birth of Jesus: a manger, an ox, a donkey. Saint Francis's biographer writes that all those present were filled with an "indescribable joy."



Now 800 years later, Pope Francis has offered a meditation on nativity scenes, speaking of them as being "a living Gospel" that draws us into the mystery of the Incarnation - God born in human flesh, coming to dwell with us. Setting up a Christmas crèche helps us to imagine the scene. From the manger, God, eternal one, enters into the poverty of our human lives, the brokenness of our world, launching what the Pope refers to as a "revolution of tenderness." The source from which all life comes, became life. As the letter of John relates, in Jesus, this life was revealed, this life appeared (cf. 1 Jn 1:2).

Christ comes quietly into our noisy world.

Mary is there in the nativity scene, the mother "who contemplates her child and shows him to every visitor;" Joseph too, the guardian who protects his family as he ponders the mystery; also the cast of characters found in most every crèche - the angels heralding good news, the shepherds who are privileged witnesses, the sheep, the donkey; eventually too the magi, who teach us that people "come to Christ by a very long route."

Pope Francis goes on to note that children, and adults too, love to add other figures to the nativity scene - each bringing their lives, bearing their burdens, carrying their treasures - poor though they be. Each, he says, "show that in the new world inaugurated by Jesus there is room for whatever is truly human, and for all God's creatures." "They too have every right to draw near to the Infant Jesus: no one can evict them or send them away..."

Into this quiet place, before the Christ child, we too are invited to come: to learn to walk with each other in our woundedness; to learn to be vulnerable, and to show tenderness; to let ourselves be made small so that we can reflect a little of the light that comes when God embraces powerlessness. And in that quiet place we hear God say: *I am with you. To stay. It is your world I have come to dwell in. Your broken heart and wounded soul I have taken for my home. My love will light the darkness. So, friends, light the candles, and open your hearts. It is Christmas.*

Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord! Merry Christmas, everyone!

✠ Donald Bolen  
Archbishop of Regina