



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

December 25, 2020

The Nativity of the Lord

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:
By pre-registration only until further notice

CONTACT US

The Parish Office is open reduced hours, but the doors remain locked. Please phone ahead.
We continue to take the necessary precautions to keep our parishioners and employees safe & healthy.
You may phone/email the office Monday to Thursday between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

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

Pastor.....Fr. Louis Nguyen 306.782.0323 louisYorkton@gmail.com

Parish Office Administrator.....Sandra Archer
Caretaker.....Mario Guerra

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Thurs. (24th) **VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**
 4:00pm
 7:00pm
 10:00pm

Fri. (25th) **THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**
 9:00am
 11:00am
 5:00pm

Sat. (26th) 9:30am +Divina Muyargas

5:00pm Russell Griffith
 7:00pm +Alice Baumgartner

Sun. (27th) **HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**
 9:00am Mass for the People
 11:00am Children of Stella Fulawka
 5:00pm

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

- **Pre-registration for Saturday/Sunday Mass is required.** Online at www.stgerard.ca Monday to Thursday at 12 noon.
- **Maximum 30** people may attend Mass.
- Each household must register separately.
- Masks are mandatory. This includes from the time you leave your vehicle until you return to your vehicle after Mass.
- Members of the same household may sit together at the marked seating.
- At least two-metres separation is required between households at all times, even with masks on. **Please arrive early.**
- The following must stay home for the sake of the wider community:
 - ❖ People with COVID-19 symptoms, who live with someone with COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
 - ❖ The sick, including those with a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath
 - ❖ Those who have travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days



Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca

Christ born in a stable is born in me; Christ accepted by shepherds accepts me; Christ receiving the wise men receives me; Christ revealed to the nations be revealed in me; Christ dwelling in Nazareth You dwell in me; Christ, grant that people may look at me and see Your Presence.

Amen.

A Note from Your Pastor.....

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

Warm greetings in the Lord! I trust that you and all your family members are doing fine, especially when most of us are having a hard time dealing with the extra pressure, anxiety and depression due to COVID-19.

This Christmas season might look different than in years past, but we are still making sure that the true meaning of Christmas is not forgotten.

As your priest, and as a member of your family, I am sharing with you all worries, fear and suffering... Because of the COVID-19, we may feel isolated from God and others. But remember Jesus comes to gather us together. We all know that He comes into this world to save us, to give us freedom from the slavery of sin, to bring us back to the Father and to one another.

This year even though we have five services for Christmas, most of us will celebrate Christmas at home. The pandemic has changed things dramatically in our personal and professional lives. This time has caused many of us to reflect and ponder what we are to “focus” on. In this time of being so isolated from family and friends we are coming to realize the importance of support from our community and each other.

The Lord comes to reconcile and to heal us. He is the Prince of Peace. He is the source of Hope and Joy. Therefore, do not lose your hope and joy. I encourage you to allow Him to be born in your heart, in your mind and in your own home.

May the Child Jesus bless you and keep you all in His love and care. Now together we are looking forward to welcoming a New Year with love and hope.

I wish all of you a blessed Christmas within your family and in your soul. I would say it will be time that will bring healing, change and a renewed sense of hope. I love you all. Please be aware that you are always in my prayers.


I leave you with this prayer, adapted form “Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family” (CCCB). I would ask you, if possible, to say this prayer at least one time by yourself or with others in your family.

God in heaven, with a mother’s tender embrace you love and nurture me (us); with a father’s strength you save and protect me (us). I (We) praise you for showing this great love in the birth of Jesus your Son. He had compassion for the poor and needy, comforted the sick, and cried with those who mourned. Out of love for me (us) he died upon the cross, but you raised him to new life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Look upon me/my family and keep me (us) close to you. Grant that I (We) may be like Jesus and support, comfort and help one another. Give me (us) a love like Mary’s that I (We) may nurture the presence of Jesus in each other and in all your people. Give me (us) a faith like Joseph’s that I (We) may care for one another and help those in need.

I (We) praise and bless you, Lord God, through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

In the Child Jesus Christ,



Fr. Louis Nguyen



The Sacrament of Reconciliation



- 30 minutes before and after Weekday Mass (Tuesday – Friday)
- Saturdays at 9:00 am
- or by appointment. Phone: 306.782.2449



Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!

Eucharistic Holy Hour Devotion
at 6pm (prior to 7pm Tuesday Mass)

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.

Although the RCIA process is intended for those who are non-baptized, at St. Gerard we also prepare adults for the Rite of Reception of Baptized Christians (including Catholics) 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 the Parish Office at 306.782.2449.



News from the CWL



Memberships for 2021 It's that time of year to be thinking about renewing our 2021 CWL Membership. Membership fees are still \$30.00 and can be paid by cash or cheque and mailed to St. Gerard's C.W.L., 125 3rd Ave. N., Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4. If you feel comfortable paying by e-transfer, contact Paulette Cooper 306-782-7923. If you have any questions or concerns regarding memberships, contact Paulette. Even though our Council has not been active due to COVID, we are required to collect and submit membership fees to the National CWL Office. Any member can access the National website (www.cwl.ca) at anytime to learn more about the CWL of Canada. If you are not a member and would like to join our League, contact Paulette or any member of St. Gerard's Catholic Women's League.



News from the Knights of Columbus



If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Keith Hayward @ 306.783.0963. www.kofc-2031.ca

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

ARCHDIOCESE OF REGINA CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASS LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 pm:

Resurrection Parish

12:00 Midnight:

Holy Rosary Cathedral

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 am:

Resurrection Parish

NEW YEAR'S DAY

11:00 am:

Holy Rosary Cathedral

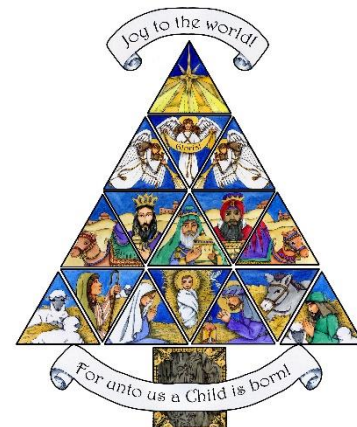
Daily Mass

9:00 AM:

Dec. 21 – Jan. 4

Will be livestreamed from the following parishes:
St. Augustine, Wilcox; Our Lady of Peace and Resurrection Parishes, Regina

Visit: www.youtube.com/ArchdioceseRegina or
www.archregina.sk.ca/live



GIVING TO YOUR PARISH

The deadline for 2020 donations is Wednesday, December 30th at 4:00 pm. All donations received after this time will be processed as 2021.

Thank you to those who are able to contribute by one of the following methods:

Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)

After downloading the [Pre-Authorized Giving Form](#), please complete it, attach a void cheque, & mail it to:

St. Gerard Parish
125 Third Ave N
Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

Interac e-Transfer

- 1 Log into your online banking account.
- 2 Find **e-Transfer** and add giving@stgerard.ca to your recipient list.
- 3 Enter the desired amount.
- 4 A question, answer, or password is not required by St. Gerard Church, however it may be required by your financial institution. If so, please email the question and answer to giving@stgerard.ca with your name, mailing address and telephone number so that we can ensure your contribution is recorded properly.

If you have an envelope number, your donation will be reflected in your annual charitable donation receipt. All others will receive a receipt by mail, so PLEASE include your mailing address in the follow-up email. Thanks!

Mail envelopes to the church

You may mail cheques (not cash) to:

St. Gerard Parish
125 Third Ave N
Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4



Infant Jesus,

*Hold us to you with the power
of a newborn's vulnerability.*

*Draw us to care for your people with the
same desire we have to calm a crying baby.*

*Teach us to seek and find your life in all
things.*

Amen.



On behalf of our Parish Pastoral Council, I would like to extend to all a very Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

In this time of pandemic, we have encountered many challenges. Father Louis must be thanked for coping as best as he has. And thank you to all who have assisted him making a holy and blessed parish community!

*Ernie Bobowski, Chairperson
Parish Pastoral Council*

Greetings!

On behalf of St. Gerard's, thank you for continuing to contribute to our parish. Your financial support is greatly appreciated!

*Brian Kruger, Chairperson
Parish Finance Council*



Natale hilare

Joyeux Noël

Glædelig Jul

Gayayr Nwel

Feliz Navidad

Wesolych Swiat

Geseënde Kersfees

Fröhliche Weihnachten

Sung Tan Chuk Ha

Chuc Mung Giang Sinh

З Різдовом Христовим

En frehlicher Grischtdaag

Mitho Makosi Kesikansi

Kellemes karácsonyi ünnepeket

Gun Tso Sun Tan'Gung Haw Sun

Maligayang Pasko

Merry Christmas!

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Dear God, I know that it is Christmas and I am supposed to be focused on the birth of Jesus, but once again Advent came and went and all I did was focus on so many other things.

So, this Christmas, please help me remember a few simple things, even if I am stressed from shopping and travel, lonely from a lack of friends and family, sick from a difficult illness or poor from the lack of work or a living wage.

This Christmas, please help me remember a few simple things.

Help me remember that when you became human, you came into the world in the most vulnerable way possible—as an infant. That meant that you were totally dependent on Mary and Joseph to care for you. And when you left this world, naked on a cross, you were vulnerable, too. That shows what you were willing to do just to love me.

You were vulnerable for me.

Help me remember that when you came into this world, it was not into some powerful clan in Galilee, not into some great ruling family of Judea and certainly not into a royal dynasty in Rome. You could have come in power and exercised that power as a scholar, a soldier, a king or an emperor. Instead, you came with no earthly power at all.

You were powerless for me.

Help me remember that you came into the world in the most vulnerable way possible—as an infant.

Help me remember that you could have entered the world in a wealthy family. There was no need for you to be born to a young, probably illiterate woman who was married to a simple carpenter and who lived in a town so insignificant that one of your disciples would make a joke about it. But you chose not only to enter a poor family but to toil for many years as a laborer yourself.

You were poor for me.

Help me remember that you spent most of your life in obscurity in Nazareth, living an everyday life and working as a carpenter alongside Joseph. You were not well known. You did not set out to make a big name for yourself. In fact, the Gospels barely mention your hidden life in Nazareth, the place you spent your first 30 years. That is how simple, obscure and uneventful most of your life was.

You were unknown for me.

Help me remember that when you became human you took on a human body. That means that you experienced everything that anybody does. You had stomach aches and headaches, got colds and the flu, experienced hunger and thirst, and grew weary at the end of a long day. It also means that you experienced joy and sadness, frustration and anger, and all the emotions that any human being does, even in your divinity.

You were human for me.

Help me remember that your entire life, from your birth to your death on a cross, was spent in love. You loved Mary and Joseph and your whole extended family. Later, you loved your friends, disciples and followers. You loved even your enemies and persecutors. And you had a special love for anyone who was poor, sick, lonely, misunderstood or marginalized in any way. Your entire life was poured out as one great offering of love.

You were love for me.

Help me remember that you offered yourself without counting the cost. You preached the good news to the poor, healed the sick and shared the coming of the reign of God with everyone. Not everyone wanted to hear your message, but you kept proclaiming it until your death. You gave your whole self for humanity, even when we rejected you. You gave up even your body and spirit on the cross.

You were everything for me.

Help me remember that Christmas is only the beginning of the story.

Help me remember that Christmas is only the beginning of the story. After your death, you returned as the Risen One, never again to die, offering hope in the face of despair, love in the face of hate and life in the face of death. Your rising on Easter Sunday revealed the same message that the angel told your mother when he announced the coming Christmas: Nothing is impossible with God!

You are life for me.

Dear God, I know that I don't always remember these things at Christmas. There are so many emotions swirling in my head this time of year. But I want to remember them. And I trust that the desire to remember them is itself a good thing and comes from you.

This Christmas, give me the gift of memory,

And I will remember that you became love for me,

So that I can become love for others.

- Rev. James Martin, S.J.



YOUTH REFLECTION

"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?

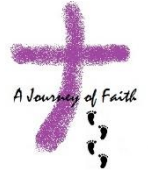
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter*, St. Mary's Press, 2004



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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