



# St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

December 25, 2022

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

## CONTACT US

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9am-noon/1pm-4pm (closed Friday)

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)

*St. Gerard Parish is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nēhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.*

Pastor.....	Fr. Louis Nguyen	306.782.0323	<a href="mailto:louisyorkton@gmail.com">louisyorkton@gmail.com</a>
		306.621.8068	Emergencies
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	<a href="mailto:office@stgerard.ca">office@stgerard.ca</a>
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

## MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (26 <sup>th</sup> )	NO MASS
Tues. (27 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>9:00am</b> Debbie & Keith Hayward
Wed. (28 <sup>th</sup> )	9:00am +Andy Woloschuk
	10:00am <b>NURSING HOME (NORTH)</b>
	Families of Lien, Bac
Thurs. (29 <sup>th</sup> )	9:00am +Joseph Paydli
Fri. (30 <sup>th</sup> )	9:00am +Lauretta Schwitzer
Sat. (31 <sup>st</sup> )	9:00am Denis & Marianne Dierker

5:00pm *Mass of Thanksgiving*

Sun. (1 <sup>st</sup> )	<b>THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</b>
	9:00am Mass for the People
	11:00am Special Intentions

## SACRAMENTS

**Infant Baptism:** Please phone the Parish Office to register for Baptism Preparation. 306.782.2449

**RCIA:** For adults wishing to be received into the Catholic Church, contact Father Louis. 306.782.0323.

**Matrimony:** Please contact Fr. Louis 12 months prior to the date when you would like to be married. 306.782.0323

**Reconciliation:** Saturday at 8:30am or anytime by appointment. 306.782.0323

**Anointing:** Please contact Father Louis at 306.621.8068.

*Today a Saviour  
is born to us!*



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Connected  
Online!

[www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca)



Lord Jesus, so that there may be peace among the nations, within communities and families, and in our hearts, we pray – Be born in us, be born in our world.

-The Redemptorists

## Sunday Connection (Mass During the Night)

### First Reading

*Isaiah 9.2-4,6-7*

To those in darkness, a child will be born who will have dominion over the earth.

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 96.1-2,3-4,11-12,13* Sing a new song to the Lord.

### Second Reading

*Titus 2.11-14*

God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

### Gospel Reading

*Luke 2.1-14*

Jesus is born in a manger in Bethlehem as the angel appears to the shepherds.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

During the Christmas season, our liturgy invites us to consider the birth of the Lord from many vantage points. As we begin this season, it is useful to remember that the stories of Jesus' birth and childhood are found in only two of our Gospels, Matthew and Luke. Throughout this season, we will hear stories from both Gospels. Those Gospels tell different but complementary stories about Jesus' birth, highlighting items of theological importance about the Incarnation and the salvation that Jesus brings.

On this day, the Feast of Christmas, we are given the details of Christ's birth as found in the Gospel of Luke. Here we learn about the census that brings Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where Jesus is born. We also hear about the angel's announcement of this good news to the shepherds. In these details, we find two of Luke's particular concerns: (1) to locate the coming of Christ in the wider framework of salvation history as good news for all people, Gentiles and Jews, and (2) to show the Lord's favor upon the poor and lowly.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is born as one of the poor. Laid in a manger in a stable, because there was no room at the inn, he comes into the world through obscure and surprising means. Yet, as the angel proclaims this good news to the shepherds, this infant is announced as the Messiah and Lord. In the song of the angels, all are invited to give glory to God for this miraculous birth, in which God comes to share our humanity.

The angels sing that Jesus' coming brings peace. Yet there is little in the details of this Gospel that gives evidence of peace. Jesus is born as a traveler away from home, born in a stable in a crowded city under the occupation of foreigners. The appearance of the angel to the shepherds frightens them. When the angels proclaim Jesus' birth as the harbinger of "peace on earth," the evangelist Luke clearly wants us to take the long view. The shepherds are invited to claim a faith that will enable them to see this infant as a sign God's promise of a messiah. It is through such faith that one finds the peace of which the angels sing.

## FAMILY CONNECTION

Christmas has come to be associated as a season of peace. This association and our familiarity with the Christmas story sometimes make us forget about the difficult circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth. As a family, gather around your nativity and carefully read Luke's story of Jesus' birth, Luke 2:1-14. Recall that the manger you see in the nativity set is not in a house, but a stable. The animals you see might have been noisy and may even have smelled unpleasant. Joseph and Mary were far from home in a city that was crowded and under the occupation of foreigners. The shepherds may have been unclean from their time in the fields. Invite each family member to say one thing about the Christmas story that makes an impression upon them.

Conclude by praying together for people in today's world who may experience circumstances like those found in the story of Jesus' birth. Pray for those who are far from home, those who live in fear, those who live in need. Sing together one or more Christmas hymns, such as "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" or "Angels We Have Heard on High."



## 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.



## News from the CWL



2023 CWL Memberships are due now. Renew your membership by December 31st and your name will be entered in a draw for a free membership. Memberships are \$35. Cash or cheques, payable to CWL, can be put in the Sunday collection in an envelope marked 'CWL Membership'.



## News from the Knights of Columbus



December 29 Evening bingo

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.782.8664. [www.kofc-2031.ca](http://www.kofc-2031.ca)

### ST. GERARD PARISH 2022-2023 PASTORAL COUNCIL

Chairperson	Mark Bell
Vice-chairperson	Wayne Exner
Secretary	Joanne Geysen

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Liturgy	Colleen Haider Marie Kruger (A)
Religious Education	Rene & Ophelia Adane
Social Justice	Luke Nicholson (A)
Community Life	Rose Marchinko
Public Relations	Jonathan Rosas (A)
Family & Social	VACANT
Youth	Melinda Sevilla
Ecumenical	Carm Molnar
Stewardship	Linda Maddaford
CWL Rep.	Paulette Cooper
K of C Rep.	Keith Hayward

### ST. GERARD PARISH 2022-2023 FINANCE COUNCIL

Chairperson	Nathan Bewcyk
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#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Properties	Gary Colbow (A)
Hall	Nick Andrusyk (A)

(A) – Appointed by Pastor



### BAPTISM

*The First Sacrament of Initiation*

The next Baptism Preparation Session is planned for early 2023. To register, please email the Parish Office. [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca)



### Divine Mercy Devotion

Wednesdays at 2pm

(except the first Wed. of the month)



### Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!

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

### Ecumenical Prayer Service

*for those experiencing grief and loss*

The first Wednesday of each month at 3pm  
(St. Gerard Church)

**The next Prayer Service is Wednesday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Fellowship and refreshments to follow.

## WELCOME VISITORS AND NEW PARISHIONERS!



If you would like more information about our parish, visit our 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.



## Bringing Home the Word

### The Gift that Gives Forever

By Ron Rolheiser, OMI

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord” (Luke 2:10–11).

The fact of a savior born for us does not bring us immediate festive joy. Our world remains wounded; wars, selfishness, and bitterness linger. Our hearts remain wounded; pain lingers. For a Christian, just as for everyone else, there will be incompleteness, illness, death, senseless hurt, broken dreams, cold, hunger, lonely days of bitterness, and a lifetime of longing.

The Incarnation does not promise heaven on earth. It promises heaven in heaven. Here on earth, it promises us something else—God’s presence in our lives. This presence redeems because knowing that God is with us is what ultimately empowers us to give up bitterness, to forgive, and to move beyond cynicism and bitterness. When God is with us, then pain and happiness are not mutually exclusive, and the agonies and riddles of life do not exclude deep meaning and deep joy.

We need to celebrate Christmas heartily. Maybe we won’t feel the same excitement we once felt as children—when we were excited about tinsel, lights, Christmas carols, and special gifts and special food. But something more important is still available, namely the sense that God is with us in our lives, in our joys as well as in our shortcomings.

The word was made flesh. That is an incredible thing. It should be celebrated with tinsel, lights, and songs of joy. If we understand Christmas, then carols will flow naturally from our lips.

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### New Year’s Livestream Masses

January 1, 2023: 11:00 am

[www.youtube.com/ArchdioceseRegina](http://www.youtube.com/ArchdioceseRegina)

## News from the Archdiocese of Regina

### ARCHBISHOP’S APPEAL

Parish Goal: \$46,774  
Amount Raised to Date: \$22,440 (48%)

**The deadline for 2022 donations (including e-transfers and the ANNUAL APPEAL) is Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. Thank you for your financial support!**

### 2023 GIVING PROGRAM

The 2023 Sunday collection (offertory) envelopes are in the Welcome Area for those who have contributed by this method in 2022. **IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FIND YOUR BOX OF SUNDAY COLLECTION ENVELOPES** please phone or email the Parish Office.

**Have you considered Pre-Authorized Giving? No need for cash or cheques!** Plus, Pre-authorized Giving is assured, results in lower administrative costs, and assists our parish when budgeting for programs and services. **Please complete the Pre-Authorized Giving form** and submit it to the Parish Office or via the Sunday collection. Forms are available on the large glass table in the Welcome Area.

**OR you may e-transfer your donation instead!** Email [giving@stgerard.ca](mailto:giving@stgerard.ca) for more information.



Please pick up your 2023 offertory envelopes, available in the Welcome Area when you are at Mass.

Or stop into the Parish Office during regular office hours. Thank you!



## Message for Christmas 2022

*“Let us join in the singing and praising God  
with the choirs of Angels”*

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Christmas celebration gives us an opportunity to sing, and to praise God for the gift of Jesus Christ to the world. Luke tells the spectacular story about how the Angels appeared to shepherds by night to announce the birth of Jesus in a manger: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men..." (Luke 2:14). The Angels sang and danced and the shepherds did as well - it was the most beautiful news ever!

We rejoice at the fulfillment of what the angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Luke 1: 35). Our joy is full because God comes down to us: "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given..." (Isaiah 9:6). What a fantastic reason to celebrate the season!

Since that most Holy Night in Bethlehem, hymns have accompanied the worship of Christ. We too are called to gather in worship at Christmas and always, singing with the angels in praise of He who is born for us. Don't miss out on joining in the worship songs for Christmas and thereafter. Let our celebration go on, go on endlessly...

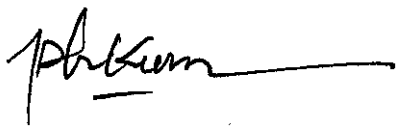
As we celebrate Christmas, I would like to wish you and all your family members a very Blessed Christmas. I also wish you all of God's special protection of Mary when the angel said to her: "The Holy Spirit will 'come upon you' and 'overshadowed you' (Luke 1: 35).

Let the Lord use you for His purpose so that you will be able to say, like Mary, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord." (Luke 1: 38) and You would have found favour with God" (v.30).

As pastor, I would like to thank all of you. I thank you for supporting to build up the church and being together as a family. I thank you for your faithful trust in the Lord Jesus as we await the second coming.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy and prosperous New Year to you all.

You are in my prayers. Love you all.



Fr. Louis Nguyen, Pastor



## Christmas Greetings from Don Bolen, Archbishop of Regina

Each year in preparing to celebrate the Lord's birth, one of the greatest sources of inspiration comes from Advent and Christmas carols, so many of which have rich yet simple imagery to recount the extraordinary event of God, creator of all things, choosing to take flesh as one of us. Christmas carols are such a powerful way of wrapping our minds around the mystery of the Incarnation, often contrasting the creative and saving power of God with the humbleness of the nature, surroundings and circumstances of Jesus' birth. The heart of the nativity is so beautifully expressed in carols such as *In the Bleak MidWinter*, which began not as a carol but as a poem by Christina Rossetti.

The second verse begins by acknowledging the glory of God:

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him  
Nor earth sustain,  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign.  
But then it turns to the reality of the Incarnation:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty —  
Jesus Christ.

In the third verse, that contrast between the all-powerful and the poverty of his birth is beautifully set forth:

Enough for Him, whom cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk  
And a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom Angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.

The carol goes on to draw us in, just as the Incarnation does. We are part of the story, and are invited in, in an intimate way, to ask what we can bring the Christ child:

What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am? —  
If I were a Shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man  
I would do my part, —  
Yet what I can I give Him, —  
Give my heart.

This is what we celebrate at Christmas. A Creator who chooses the most extraordinary way to reveal a boundless love to his creation. The poet Gerard Manley Hopkins uses

a beautiful expression to speak of the Incarnation. He speaks of "God's infinity dwindled to infancy," who Mary welcomes "in womb and breast, birth, milk, and all the rest." Infinity dwindled to infancy is what the Gospels speak of when they tell us of the Incarnate Word "wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12).

And this is God's way of engaging with a wounded and struggling world. On his recent visit to Kazakhstan, Pope Francis reminded his hearers of God's "response to the spread of evil in the world: he gave us Jesus, who drew near to us in a way we could never have imagined."

In this Christmas season, we are invited to immerse ourselves in the joy and life that come from God's drawing near, from God's way of drawing near to us. We are invited to enter into the story, too. When God takes on human flesh, it is to our human home that God comes. The Incarnation tells us that God's entry point into the world is not fundamentally through an exercise of power, though that is there — it is there in Creation, it is there at the Resurrection, it is there at Pentecost; but most fundamentally God's entry point is revealed in the way he chose to come among us in the flesh, in the way he lived, in the way he died: in complete vulnerability, in poverty, entrusted to the Father, entrusted to us human beings.

And of course the challenge that comes with all of this is expressed concisely by Jesus when he says to his disciples, and to us, "go and do likewise." During his visit to Canada, Pope Francis commented, "One cannot proclaim God in a way contrary to God himself. And yet, how many times has this happened in history! While God presents himself simply and quietly, we always have the temptation to impose him, and to impose ourselves in his name. It is the worldly temptation to make him come down from the cross and show himself with power... Brothers and sisters, in the name of Jesus, may this never happen again in the Church."

This Christmas let us allow the tenderness and mercy of God to soften our hearts, to touch our souls, so that we might dare to walk a little more as Jesus walked, to come into the lives of others as he came into ours. In humility, in vulnerability, exercising authority by placing ourselves at the service of others, honouring the dignity of each and every person we meet, knowing how deeply loved by God that each one of us is. For God has made a home with us, and walks with us in the tangle and turbulence of our lives. Christ is born, Christ dwells with us. Come let us adore him!

Merry Christmas!