

St. Gerard's

Roman Catholic Parish

CONTACT US

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9am-noon/1pm-4pm (closed Friday)
125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4
www.stgerard.ca | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca



We wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas !

WELCOME VISITORS AND NEW PARISHIONERS!

If you would like more information about our parish please take home this bulletin or visit our 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. Forms are located on a table in the Welcome Area. Once complete, you may drop it off at the Parish Office, or place it in the collection basket at Mass.

WELCOME BACK!

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:13

We are happy to have you celebrate with us!

LITURGICAL LIFE

“Nevertheless the liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time, it is the font from which all her power flows. For the aim and object of apostolic works is that all who are made sons of God by faith and baptism should come together to praise God in the midst of His Church, to take part in the sacrifice, and to eat the Lord's supper.”

– Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy 1:10

The Sunday Holy Mass at St. Gerard's Parish:

Saturday	5:00 pm (Sunday anticipated Mass)
Sunday	9:00 am
Sunday	11:00 am

Father Antony is assisted by trained members of our parish in roles of Hospitality, Sacristan, Lector, Ministers of Holy Communion and Precious Blood, Altar Servers, Music Ministers, and Mass Coordinators. For more information, or if you wish to serve, please contact the Parish Office at 306.782.2449.

Weekday Holy Mass at St. Gerard's Parish:

Tuesday	7:00 pm
Wednesday to Friday	9:00 am

In addition to weekday Mass at St. Gerard's, Mass is also celebrated at the Yorkton and District Nursing Home (twice per month) and at Yorkton Crossing Retirement Living. Check out our parish Mass Schedule online at www.stgerard.ca

Parish Holiday Hours

The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday, December 26th until Tuesday, January 2nd. There will be no Weekday Holy Mass from December 26th, 2023 to December 29th, 2023.

PRAYER LIFE IN THE PARISH

There are many opportunities to join together in prayer with our community, or individually:

•Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

This is an opportunity for the faithful to pray to Jesus Christ before the Eucharist. Catholics believe the body, blood, soul and divinity are substantially present in the Eucharist. In other words, when you participate in Eucharistic Adoration, you pray and worship Jesus in a more intimate, present and real way. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is Tuesdays at 6pm prior to the 7pm Mass.



•Divine Mercy Devotion



The Divine Mercy devotion is a modern devotion to the attribute of God's infinite mercy that was promulgated by St. Faustina Kowalska in Poland, and later to the Universal Church by Pope St. John Paul II ("The Mercy Pope"). This devotion is multifaceted and has many different components: it involves a divinely inspired painting of Jesus with attached promises for its veneration, vocal prayers (the Divine Mercy chaplet and Divine Mercy Novena), a book (The Diary of Faustina Kowalska), a Holy Hour (3 o'clock), and a solemn feast day with attached indulgences (Divine Mercy Sunday).

At St. Gerard's Parish the Divine Mercy Devotion follows the 9am Wednesday Mass.

•Rosary

Prior to each weekday Mass, as well as at other times during the year when different styles of this devotion are prayed. During the months of May and October the Knights of Columbus lead the rosary prayer each Monday at 5:30pm

•Centering Prayer

"Centering Prayer is a receptive method of Christian silent prayer which deepens our relationship with God, the Indwelling Presence ... a prayer in which we can experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself."



The Centering Prayer group meets twice a month (Thursday evenings). For more information, contact Ernie 306.783.6014 or Lori 306.783.8063

•The Stations of the Cross

Each Friday at 7pm during the Season of Lent parishioners gather to pray the Stations of the Cross. The devotion is led by a different parish group each week, with each group choosing a unique resource. Of course, one may visit the church at any time to pray the Stations of the Cross.

•Private Prayer

Aside from daily and weekend Mass, the church is open for private prayer Monday to Thursday from 9am to noon and 1pm to 4pm. Please use the "Parish Hall" entrance.

PARISH LIFE AND OUTREACH

St. Gerard's Parish encourages and supports spiritual growth, works of charity, socialization, and educational opportunities for adults by supporting many groups and activities. Included in these are:

•Adult Faith Formation

Learning about our faith does not end after we receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. In fact, it is the beginning of our life-long journey of ongoing conversion and catechesis. Various programs and sessions are offered throughout the year to assist adult parishioners to develop their spiritual life. Watch for dates in the parish bulletin or online at www.stgerard.ca

•Family, Community and Social Activities

This committee serves funeral lunches for our bereaved families, organizes a Coffee Fellowship following each Mass the first weekend of the month, plans and organizes receptions following the conferral of the Sacraments, and organizes other parish social activities.



•Social Action

The Social Action Committee assists our parish to come to understand the relationship between Jesus Christ and his teaching in the political, economic, and social realities of day:



It encourages donations of non-perishable food items to the Salvation Army and, most recently, to the Soup Haven.

It also assists the Salvation Army with its annual Christmas Kettle Campaign.

It supports the Soup Haven by sponsoring a community supper at least once per year.



The Social Action Committee just completed a very successful Giving Tree Campaign where parishioners selected a tag from the tree and purchased that particular gift. This project supports clients of many local agencies by helping to make their Christmas a bit brighter.

The Social Action Committee also promotes awareness of The Canadian Catholic Organization for the Development and Peace and its programs. For more information check out www.devp.org/en/



Look at what's happening in January!!

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| Jan. 6 & 7 | •Coffee Fellowship after each Mass |
| Jan. 14 | •Knights of Columbus Parish Brunch following the 9am and 11am Masses |
| Jan. 16 | •Liturgical Committee Meeting |
| Jan. 18 | •Beginning of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity |
| Jan. 21 | •CTTCS Ministers at the 11am Mass |
| Jan. 25 | •Parent Meeting for Sacrament Preparation (First Eucharist and Confirmation) |
| Jan. 27 | •Vision & Mission Workshop for Parish Leaders |
| Jan. 27 & 28 | •Knights of Columbus White Ribbon Campaign |
| Jan. 30 | •Finance Council Meeting |
| Jan. 31 | •Pastoral Council Meeting |

SACRAMENTAL LIFE AT ST. GERARD

Foremost among the various aspects of our Christian Community life is the celebration of Mass, the Eucharist. - our "thanksgiving" to God for the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ on behalf of each of us. We prepare for the celebration through preparation for the Sacraments.

The Sacraments of Initiation

"The sacraments of Christian initiation - Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist - lay the foundations of every Christian life." (CCC 1212)

By Baptism, we share in Christ's death and resurrection. By Confirmation, we share in the gift of Pentecost. In Eucharist, we share in the food of heaven. This is why they are called sacraments of initiation - we are initiated into the community that holds the paschal mystery as its very life.

Baptism - The First Sacrament of Initiation

Through Baptism, God enables us to participate in his life in Jesus Christ and makes us his children. It is through this sacrament that we receive the Holy Spirit and become members of the People of God, of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. Baptism becomes our commitment to grow in this new life and to strive to acquire spiritual maturity. By baptism, God purifies us from sin.

Baptism is the sacrament of faith which has the Risen Christ as its source, and it is the offer of salvation for all people. Intimately linked to Confirmation and to Eucharist, Baptism is, with these two sacraments, Christian Initiation. The child is baptized in the faith of his/her parents, of his/her godparents and of the Church.

Baptisms are celebrated following Sunday Mass, or at another time. Parents and godparents engage in a series of preparatory sessions to enrich and support their role as primary teacher of their children. There are several opportunities during the year for preparation classes. Please contact the Parish Office to register for the next session.

Confirmation - The Second Sacrament of Initiation

In the Archdiocese of Regina, children prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation when they are in Grade 2. If your child has yet to be confirmed, please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible. Sacramental preparation will commence with a Parent Meeting January 25th, 2024.

First Eucharist -The Third Sacrament of Initiation

Children who are in Grade 2 also prepare to receive their First Communion through the parish commencing with the Parent Meeting January 25th, 2024. Please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible to register. Children will receive the sacrament of Confirmation followed by the sacrament of First Communion at a parish celebration in May/June.

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 the Parish Office.

The Sacraments of Healing

First Reconciliation - Preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (also known as Penance) for the first time is an exciting time. It is a time for focus on God's mercy, how we forgive amongst our family, friends, and community, and how we celebrate forgiveness. At St. Gerard's Parish, once a child has received the Sacrament of First Eucharist, s/he will prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Reconciliation - Parish Penitential Services are scheduled during Advent and Lent. All baptized Catholics should receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once each year and upon returning to the practice of the faith. At St. Gerard's individual confessions take place one-half hour prior to daily Mass and by phoning the Parish Office to make an appointment.

Anointing of the Sick - Whenever someone is very or chronically ill or elderly, the reception of the Sacrament of Anointing is appropriate. Opportunities for receiving this sacrament are by contacting the Parish Office to make an appointment with Father Antony.

The Sacraments of Vocation

Matrimony - Couples preparing for Marriage participate in an extended preparation process. Please contact the Parish Office 12 months prior to the marriage date. In the Archdiocese of Regina, engaged couples are required to participate in a Marriage Preparation Program. These programs are offered in Regina, Saskatoon, and Muenster, and occasionally at St. Gerard's!

Holy Orders - Please contact Father Parker Love, Vocations Director at 306.352.1651



PARISH GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

St. Gerard's Parish Catholic Women's League



The Catholic Women's League encourages us to live the life intended by Christ and exemplified by Mary. Membership in the League is a gift that provides the opportunity to care for one another and dedicate ourselves to a life of faith, service, and social justice. It is a wonderful way to develop relationships and friendships with our CWL Sisters.

To learn more about the Catholic Women's League please contact:
Deanna pell@sasktel.net or Christine m.shuya@sasktel.net

St. Gerard's Parish Knights of Columbus Council No. 2031

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, Family, Fraternal Service Organization that includes charitable service and financial aid to our communities, parishes, families and members. It strives to build the Catholic Church by developing the spiritual growth of themselves and their families, serving parishes, building communities, and by evangelizing all people according to the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.



If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.728.8664.
More info: www.kofc-2031.ca



Missionary Families of Christ

Defending Faith, Family & Life

The Missionary Families of Christ (MFC) is a gathering of Christian believers having evangelization and family life renewal as its main focus. MFC is a missionary body, and the families that make up this association are to be families that will be instruments of the Holy Spirit in renewing the face of the earth.

MFC reaffirms that the movement is Global, Holistic and Catholic.

Global means MFC is an evangelizing and missionary community, serving the universal church.

Holistic refer to MFC being a family life renewal movement, with womb-to-tomb support environment.

Catholic means MFC is an integral part of the life and mission of and a servant within the Roman Catholic Church.

Although it is based in the Philippines, the membership is also spread throughout the world having members in all continents.

For more information, contact Jonathan Rosas 306.516.0286

IS ST. GERARD'S ON YOUR GIFT LIST?

Your donation at Christmas means a great deal to St. Gerard's Parish. Our parish depends upon your financial support, especially at Christmas, to meet its larger expenses. We are very grateful for all your donations this year.

For anyone wanting to make additional donations to be included in your 2023 tax receipts, we are reminded by CRA that donations must be received by December 31st.

We can accept cash or cheques up to the 10:00 am Mass on December 31st. Please note that cheques dated for 2023 but received after this Mass will be included in your 2024 donations.

E-transfers must be completed prior to 12:00 pm December 29th. Thank you again for supporting St. Gerard's Parish.

A Christmas Reflection & Blessing for You

As we gather around the Nativity Scenes in our homes and in our parish, may this be the message in all of our hearts:

God of joy and celebration,
God of love and mercy,
God of peace and righteousness,
we sing aloud and dance with the angels.

The Ruler of all worlds,
the Shepherd of creation,
Jesus Christ, has entered our world.

Our Saviour Christ has come into the world,
not in power, not in might,
but in the tenderness of love.
He comes as the promise of life
hidden in a mother's womb.

In this season of God-With-Us we celebrate with the angels,
we are graced by the wonder of God's presence,
we are filled with the tenderness of Christ's love.

This Christmas, we pray that the hope and light of the First Christmas will be a constant source of peace for you and for your families.

May the light of God the Father shine on you
May the love of Christ the Son shine in you
May the life of God the Spirit shine through you.

