



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

December 30, 2018

Holy Family of
Jesus,
Mary & Joseph

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (31 st):		NO MASS
	7:00 pm	Denis Dierker
<i>The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</i> (Holy Day of Obligation)		
Tues. (1 st):	10:00 am	Mass for the People
Wed. (2 nd):	2:30 pm	GLADSTONE SR RES Special Intentions
	6:30 pm	+Eileen Griffith
Thurs. (3 rd):	9:30 am	+K.C. Kurivilla
Fri. (4 th):	9:30 am	+Donna Prout
Sat. (5 th):	9:30 am	Marianne Dierker



Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord

5:00 pm Mass for the People

Sun. (6th): Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 am +Bozsik family
11:00 am Mass for the People

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation: Half-hour before Saturday morning and Saturday evening Mass, or anytime by appointment.

Infant Baptism: Please contact Fr. Louis at least one month prior to Baptism.

RCIA: Adults wishing to be received into the Catholic Church should contact Fr. Louis.

Matrimony: Please contact Fr. Louis at least 6 months prior to the time you would like to be married.

Anointing: Please contact Fr. Louis at any time.

For Anointing of the Sick and other emergencies, you may contact Fr. Louis at 1.306.530.0126

CONTACT US

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

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

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

Pastor.....	Fr. Louis Kim Nguyen	306.782.0323	louiskimnguyen@yahoo.com
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		



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www.stgerard.ca



Lord, through your Word we receive the knowledge and wisdom of God. May your Spirit lead me to your sacred Word and guide me in my search for knowledge and truth.

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



ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF REGINA OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you as you celebrate our Lord's birth.

With Christians throughout the world, we gather with profound joy to ponder what God has done for us in the coming of Jesus.

Christians have always understood the birth of Jesus in relation to God's initial work of creation. Today pondering creation is an immersion into mystery, as science has come to an understanding that the universe came into being over 14 billion years ago, and our earth was created in the neighbourhood of 5 billion years ago. That vastness, both in terms of time and space, leaves us scratching our heads in wonder.

Equally beyond our imagining is how God, Master of the Universe, should become a part of that creation. When God created human beings, and the human condition, our faith tells us that God created us in God's own image and likeness. I find it helpful to think of this as God creating what was most personal, offering to that creation what was most generous, fashioning what was most beautiful.

The human condition has been a messy business from the outset. God's response was not rejection, but love beyond all telling. For God to then take the extraordinary decision to become one of us, for the creative Word in whom all things were created to become part of that creation, in order to redeem it – this is the incomprehensible mystery that we ponder today. What more could God do, what could be more loving, more extravagantly generous, more lavish in mercy, than that?

The Easter season provides the full answer to that question. For now, we are invited to come quietly, in awe and reverence, imaginatively placing ourselves before the Eternal Word, author of all that is. Not only has God taken flesh, but has come in powerlessness, in vulnerability, loving us into life, granting us hope, teaching us what it is to be human.

As St. Paul wrote, "O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!... For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen" (Rom. 11: 33, 36).

Dear brothers and sisters, let us rejoice before this great mystery. And let us seek to follow Him with all our heart and soul and mind and strength.

May God pour down abundant blessings on all of you, your loved ones, all those in need, and all you carry in your hearts! Merry Christmas!

✠ Donald 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



PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer.

(Pope Francis)

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” 1 John 3.1

During this season of giving, let us remember the most important gift we have received – being children of God. As God’s children, it’s important that we express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children and other family members that you love them, frequently.

~ Submitted by the Stewardship Committee ~

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS SEASON HOURS

Monday	Dec. 31 st	Closed
Tuesday	Jan. 1 st	Closed
Wednesday	Jan. 2 nd	1pm-4pm
Thursday	Jan. 3 rd	8am-noon/1pm-4pm
Friday	Jan. 4 th	8am-noon/1pm-4pm



News from the CWL



The 2019 CWL Memberships are now due. The fee is \$30.00. You can put your cheque or cash in an envelope marked “CWL” and drop it in the Sunday collection basket.

Also, if you are looking for a gift for your mother, daughter, granddaughter, (or friend), why not consider a CWL Gift Membership? For more information, contact Paulette 306.782.7923

CWL Newsletter – Pick up your copy today! Available on the large table in the Welcome Area.

Stitches of Love is beginning again on January 14 and 15. If you would like to take part in this wonderful sewing project, join us! Bring your own bag lunch and lots of enthusiasm and the seamstresses will find a task for you, even if you don't sew! We begin at 9:00 am.



News from the Knights of Columbus



- Jan. 2 Executive Meeting
- Jan. 9 General Meeting
- Jan. 12 Take down Keep Christ in Christmas signs at 9am
- Jan. 13 Sunday Brunch

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Brian @ 306.730.7083 or 306.730.7017 after 5pm (or leave a message). More info.: www.kofc-2031.ca

Knights of Columbus Sunday Brunch

The Knights of Columbus would like to invite you to attend Sunday Brunch after Mass on Sunday, January 13th. All proceeds from the Sunday Brunch go toward supporting our parish and community, so please come and have a great meal, socialize, and help to support good works.

Cost: Adults \$10.00 Under 6 \$5.00 Family \$25.00

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

The faithful of the Archdiocese are cordially invited to

Archbishop’s New Year’s Levée

to be held at
Holy Rosary Cathedral
3125-13th Ave., Regina
January 1, 2019
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.



Bringing Home the Word **+**

The Holy Family's Example for All Families

By Mary Katharine Deeley

An old joke portrays an Irish couple with several children listening to the priest extolling the obedience of Jesus, the patience of Mary and Joseph, and exhorting his congregation to be just like them. When the Mass was ended, the couple turned to each other and one muttered to the other, "Sure to heaven, they were patient—they and their one." The joke highlights one struggle for many parents: keeping patience while children learn the lessons of life. It's a job that may seem easier with one than with many.

Today, though, the Holy Family offers an example that applies to all families, whether large or small. Since Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph knew that one day he was going to have to follow his own path. They couldn't choose it for him; they could only prepare him as best they could. After they found him in the Temple and he told them, "I must be in my Father's house" (Luke 2:49), which can also be translated as "I must be about my Father's work", they knew he was growing into adulthood and that his time was coming. However, Jesus returned with them because it was not yet time for him to leave, and he remains obedient to them as he always is to his heavenly Father.

All of us who are parents know that we cannot dictate what our children can or should be. We can only help them discern what God has called them to be. In the meantime, we give them the best foundation we can give by praying with them, talking to them, and modeling our own response to God's call.

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Catechism Theme:

Mary, the Mother of God (CCC 502-507)

Mary is called the "God-bearer" ("Theotokos" in Greek), for she bore the divine Son of God into the world as a man. In the virginal birth of her son, we can see God's revelation. When his Son was conceived in the Blessed Virgin Mary, God showed his complete initiative in that moment of salvation history. When the divine Son took on human flesh at the point of conception, he became the New Adam, the one who, filled with the Spirit, would give his followers that same Spirit; in this way, his followers would be given birth as children of God. When Mary said, "Let it be done to me according to your word," she gave herself completely to the will of God and became the first Christian, a symbol of the Church; in her "Yes," she is the most perfect realization of the Church, the assembly of followers who strive to the will of the Father.

How do you honor the Mother of God? How does a Marian devotion shape your prayer life?

Mary did treasure the words of the shepherds in her heart, for they were Good News. She was the vessel of God's providence; she conceived by the power of the Spirit. Her Son was Messiah and King. She was the first follower and a symbol for all of us, the Church.

As we reflect on this News Years Day, let us consider Mary's place in our hearts and on our faith journey. She is the Mother of God. She is our model for living the Christian life.

As you plan your New Years resolutions, ask for Mary's prayers in your efforts.

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•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•PEROGIES• PARISH FUNDRAISER

Thursday, **JANUARY 3RD**
3pm to 6pm

- Cabbage rolls \$25 (5 dozen bag)
- Potato & onion perogies \$35 (10 dozen bag)
- Potato & cheddar perogies \$40 (10 dozen bag)

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Wed. (2nd): 7:00 pm- K of C Executive Meeting
- Fri. (4th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm- RCIA
- Sat. (5th): 4:30 pm- Choir rehearsal for 5pm Mass

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Family Life"

This Week...

Although Nazareth had no junior high schools, Jesus was junior high age when his parents lost him. His parents were traveling with extended family, and they could not find Jesus among any of the relatives. Frantic, they walked a day's journey back to Jerusalem and searched all over the city for him. After three days they found him in the Temple, where he was discussing matters of faith with the teachers. His parents could not understand how he could be so calm about the matter - didn't he realize what they had been through looking for him? And he did not seem to understand why they hadn't expected to find him there at the Temple. A typical case of parent-teen miscommunication. The Holy Family was a lot like most other families! How comforting!

For Your Reflection

Picture yourself in Jesus' situation. You have been sightseeing with our parents at the festival in the big city, and your parents are on their way home. They have been traveling for a day and cannot find you. They turn around, walk back to the city, and search for you for three days before they find you talking to the priests in a church!

What would your parents say to you? What would you say to them? How much trouble would you be in? Where would you have stayed for those days you hadn't seen them? What would you have been thinking?

Is it fun to think that Jesus "got in trouble" with his parents too? Sometimes we get so hung up on Jesus as Almighty God that we forget about Jesus as a human being. What other things do you think Jesus must have done as he grew up - things we don't usually think about, things not recorded in the Bible?

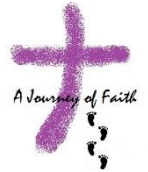
Excerpt adapted from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter*- St. Mary's Press, 2004



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. 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 or check the website:

www.mystfx.ca/academic/continuinged/Ministry.html