



St. Gerard's

Roman Catholic Parish

December 3rd, 2023

First Sunday of
Advent

Established December 11, 1904

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

PASTORAL TEAM

Father Sathi Antony, Pastor

Office 306.782.2449

Rectory 306.782.0323

ansathisjb@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/sathy.antony>

Appointments to be arranged via the Parish Office

Sandra Archer, Office Administrator

Glenn Walz, Caretaker

MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

•Altar Server Coordinator

Kathleen Bedard

•Baptism Team

Trevor Baker tlbaker@sasktel.net

•Catholic Women's League

Deanna Pellatt pell@sasktel.net

Christine Shuya m.shuya@sasktel.net

•Centering Prayer

Ernie Bobowski 306.783.6014

Lori Zuzak 306.783.8063

•Divine Mercy

Adeline Oystreck

•Family, Community & Social

Anita Halliday

•Knights of Columbus

Keith Hayward

•Liturgical

Colleen Haider

•Protocol for Responsible Ministry

Richard Dubois

•Sacrament Coordinators

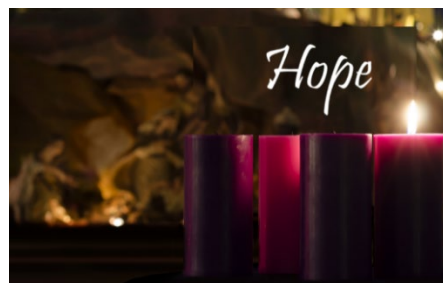
Rene & Ophelia Adane

adanerene@gmail.com

•Social Justice

Linda Maddaford

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



Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.

ST. GERARD'S PARISH HOLY MASS & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Mon. 4 th to Wed. 6 th		NO MASS
Wed. 6 th	4:30 pm 7:00 pm	Ladies of the Parish Potluck & Social Knights of Columbus Combined Planning/General Mtg.
Thurs. 7 th	9:00 am 7:00 pm	Mass +Julius Kormos Centering Prayer (use east entrance)
Fri. 8 th	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 7:00 pm	Mass for the People
Sat. 9 th	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Church-Cleaning Bee Mass for the People
Sun. 10 rd		Second Sunday of Advent
	9:00 am 11:00 am	Mass for the People Mass for the People

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation:	Half-hour before daily Mass Tuesday to Friday, and by appointment
Anointing:	Please contact the Parish Office <i>After-hours Emergency 306.782.0323</i>
Infant Baptism:	Please contact the Parish Office
RCIA:	Please contact the Parish Office
Matrimony:	Please contact the Parish Office 12 months prior to the marriage date



Holy Mass Schedule

Saturday	December 2	5pm	1 st Sunday of Advent	<i>Hope</i>
Sunday	December 3	9am & 11am	1 st Sunday of Advent	
Thursday	December 7	9am		
Friday	December 8	7pm	<i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	
Saturday	December 9	5pm	2 nd Sunday of Advent	<i>Peace</i>
Sunday	December 10	9am & 11am	2 nd Sunday of Advent	
Tuesday	December 12	7pm		
Wednesday	December 13	9am		
Thursday	December 14	9am		
Friday	December 15	6:30pm	Simbang Gabi	
Saturday	December 16	5pm	3 rd Sunday of Advent	<i>Joy</i>
Sunday	December 17	9am & 11am	3 rd Sunday of Advent	
		6:30pm	Simbang Gabi	
Monday	December 18	9am	Christmas Mass at St. Mary's School	
		6:30pm	Simbang Gabi	
Tuesday	December 19	9am	Christmas Mass at St. Paul's School	
		1pm	Christmas Mass at Sacred Heart High School	
		6:30pm	Simbang Gabi	
Wednesday	December 20	10am	Nursing Home (South Chapel)	
		6:30pm	Simbang Gabi	
Thursday	December 21	2:30pm	Yorkton Crossing Retirement Living	
		6:30pm	Simbang Gabi	
Friday	December 22	6:30pm	Simbang Gabi	
Saturday	December 23	5pm	4 th Sunday of Advent	<i>Love</i>
Sunday	December 24	10am	4 th Sunday of Advent	



THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Friday, December 8, 2023

Holy Mass – 7:00 pm

To be chosen by God for a particular task is an awesome thing. That is why we honour Mary, the one chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus. Yet we believe that each of us is chosen by God in particular and important ways, and each of us is given gifts and talents by God to share with the world. One of the tremendous responsibilities of parenting is helping our children determine the gifts and talents they have to share with others to serve the reign of God.

As a family, identify some of the gifts and talents that God has given each person in the family. Talk about the ways in which these gifts and talents might be used in the service of others. Recall that Mary was given a special task by God. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 1:26-38. Reflect upon Mary's humble response to God's call. Pray as a family that each person will be like Mary and respond to God with a resounding yes by using their gifts and talents to serve others in both large and small ways. Conclude by praying together the Hail Mary, or perhaps pray a decade of the Rosary, reflecting upon the Joyful Mystery, the Annunciation.



Advent Penitential Service

Thursday, December 14th @ 7pm

Several priests will be in attendance



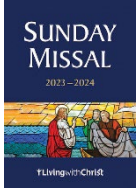
News from the CWL



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.

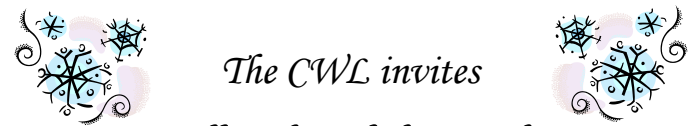
The **CWL Membership Drive** continues until Sunday, December 10. If you are a current member, stop by and renew your membership after Saturday/Sunday Mass. If you are not a member, please consider joining us! The 2024 membership fee is \$35.00.

There will be a draw for a free membership for all who have paid their memberships before December 31st.



The **2023-2024 Sunday Missals** are available in the Welcome Area until the middle of January. Quantities limited. A \$5.00 free-will offering is appreciated.

Liturgical Ministers - Will you be celebrating Christmas and/or New Year's at St. Gerard's this year? **PLEASE** sign up as soon as possible on the sheets on the Liturgical Ministries table. Many ministers are needed as we welcome visitors from far and near. Thank you!



The CWL invites

All Ladies of the Parish

*to the CWL Potluck Christmas Social
Wednesday, December 6th
4:30pm to 7:30pm*

No Charge

Please sign-up on the sheets in the Welcome Area.

Door Prizes, Christmas Sing-a-long

Please bring a non-perishable hamper item



Saturday, December 9th @ 10am

2025 - HOLY JUBILEE YEAR - 2025

Every 25 years, the Universal Church celebrates a Holy Jubilee Year. The next one is in 2025 with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope."

Bishop Stephen Hero and Fr. Maurice Fiolleau, the Vicar General of the PA Diocese, will be leading a Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi from Dec. 10-18, 2025.

If you are interested in participating in the ZOOM presentation Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 7pm, contact tom.brothwell@caask.ca to receive the link to the meeting.



News from the Knights of Columbus



- Dec. 6 Combined Planning & General Meeting – 7.00
- Dec. 9 Bingo – afternoon – 12.00
- Dec. 10 Bingo – afternoon – 12.00

The Knights will again have for sale Liturgical Calendars. They will once again be \$5.00.

St. Gerard's Knights of Columbus will be promoting "Keep Christ in Christmas" during the weekend of December 9 and 10. Stop by our display in the Welcome Area and pick up a "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster to display in your home. Kids can also receive a special colouring sheet to help them learn about the 'reason for the season'. There is no charge for either of these items.

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.728.8664.

More info: www.kofc-2031.ca The website has been updated! Check it out!



Bringing Home
the Word **+**

Hurry Up and Wait!

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

We've all had this experience. We rush to get ready...and then we wait: at the doctor's office, for a train, at a restaurant. For what do we hurry up and wait this Sunday? Some might say we are waiting for the birth of Jesus. But today's readings don't say this.

The first reading describes people waiting for relief from the guilt of their sinfulness. Paul talks about waiting for "the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ" at the end time (1 Corinthians 1:7). The people in the Gospel are waiting for the return of the householder to settle accounts. There's no waiting for Christmas—yet.

What should we wait for if not for Christmas? Isaiah tells us to hurry up and change our lives of pettiness, selfishness, and arrogance, and then to wait for the graciousness of God to "rend the heavens and come down" (Isaiah 63:19). Paul tells us to hurry up and embrace "the grace of God bestowed on [us] in Christ Jesus" (1 Corinthians 1:4), and then to wait for the final revelation of his glory. The Gospel tells us to hurry up, be alert and ready for Christ's return, and then to wait for it to happen.

If we don't prepare ourselves for the coming of God in the reality of our own lives, we might not recognize this salvation when it comes. We're not waiting for an event that happened in the past; we are waiting for the grace of God that is calling us into the future. So, hurry up and wait!

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SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

Giving Tree

- A St. Gerard's Social Action Project -

Please take a gift request tag or tags from the Giving Tree in the Welcome Area and shop for the items requested. Bring the unwrapped gifts back, with the tag included. You are invited to use one of our gift bags.

All gifts need to be returned to the parish by Dec. 17th for delivery that week. Your gift will brighten Christmas Day for many individuals in our community! Thank you.

FAMILY CONNECTION

In family life, we try to prepare ourselves for many future things: our next vacation, our children's education, our retirement. We are careful not to allow ourselves to be caught by surprise so that we can handle any challenges our family may face. Today's Gospel reminds us that we are called to be just as attentive and alert to the coming of the Son of Man so that it will not catch us unprepared. This means attending to our family's spiritual life as carefully as we attend to other important family matters.

As you gather as a family, talk about a time when you received surprise visitors at your house, perhaps a neighbour who stopped by or a relative who arrived unannounced. Was your household prepared to receive this unannounced guest? What might your family have done differently if you knew ahead of time that this visitor was going to arrive? Jesus told his disciples that no one knows when the Son of Man will return, except the Father. Read with your family what Jesus told his disciples in today's Gospel, Mark 13:33-37.

During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also check to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again. Talk about how your family can recommit to daily prayer, reading Scripture, and staying faithful to God's commandments. Pray together that through this Advent season your family will be more prepared to receive Jesus when he comes again. Read as a concluding prayer Paul's words to the Corinthians found in today's second reading, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, or pray the Lord's Prayer.

www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection



To date, our parish has raised \$15,370.00. Our goal is \$42,373.00.

We are so grateful for your generous support. In the coming weeks, as our Archbishop's Appeal comes to a close, we ask that you prayerfully consider making a one-time donation or consider giving monthly.



Christmas in November Raffle & Bake Sale a success.

The second annual Christmas in November Raffle and Bake Sale was well attended and successful. Held on Saturday November 25th, the event saw more than 300 attendees looking for delicious baking and entrees to serve during the Christmas season.

A very special thank you to all of the bakers, crafters, cabbage roll makers, spring roll makers and volunteers who helped with the many details in putting on this annual event. With your support and the support of the many families in our parish and our community who came out to purchase these festive treats, St. Gerard's enjoys the second annual "Christmas in November"! Thank you to all!

Raffle draw winners were:

- Hugh Dominguez
- Shirley Pierce
- Stella & Joseph Chupa
- Neil Parisloff
- Dawson Pozniak

The event raised an estimated \$10,000 which will assist St. Gerard's Parish in planning for future hall repairs and upgrades as well as planned building improvements.

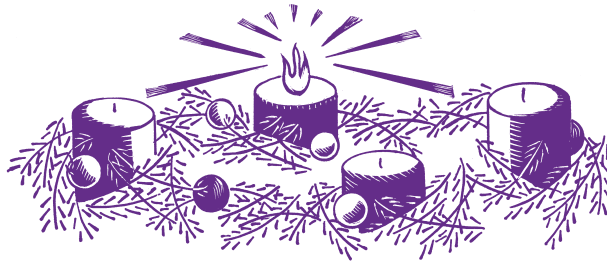


Awaiting the Light

Greetings as we begin embracing winter!

The season of Advent lasts four short weeks. Nevertheless, it offers wonderful opportunities for us to center ourselves, find stillness, and prepare to welcome Christ into our midst.

Creating time for peace and quiet is challenging in our plugged in, on-the-go culture. The classic home observance of Advent—the lighting of our



The candles remind us that although we are journeying to the darkest nights of the year, . . . Jesus has brought light and life into the darkness.

family wreath—can be one place of silence and peace in the midst of holiday, consumer hubbub.

Your wreath can be simple or elaborate. You can use a circlet of evergreen boughs, holly, or mountain laurel or a ready-made, artificial green wreath. The color reminds us that while the earth has become dormant and quiet and the leaves have fallen, our life is everlasting in Jesus Christ. If you don't have a wreath, have the chil-

dren draw a picture of a wreath on a large piece of paper that can serve as a placemat on which you will place the candles in candle holders.

The four candles represent the four Sundays, and a lit candle is added each week. There are

three violet candles and one rose candle for “Gaudete” Sunday, in which we are reminded in the liturgy to “Rejoice in the Lord always.” The candles remind us that although we are journeying to the darkest nights of the year, we believe that Jesus has brought light and life into the darkness.

Find a prayer to recite together, or alternate as the prayer leader, as your family lights the candles each night. Consider using the short prayer called the “Collect” that starts the Mass each week. Sing a verse of the traditional hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” trying a different one each week. Light your wreath as a table grace to start your meal, or as an evening activity around which the family can gather as the day comes to a close.

Notice how the light increases as we add candles with each passing week. How is this light growing in us? “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!” and enlighten us as we wait for you.