



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:

Saturday at 7:00 pm, Sunday at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (4 th):	9:30 am-	+Doris Krepakevich
Tues. (5 th):	9:30 am-	+Jimmy Flavel
	7:00 pm-	<i>Penitential Service</i>
Wed. (6 th):	9:30 am-	+Norbert Soyka
	2:30 pm-	GLADSTONE SENIORS RES.
		+ Thresia Tedeschi
Thurs. (7 th):	9:30 am-	+Valeria Woloschuk
Fri. (8 th):		Immaculate Conception
		of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	9:30 am-	+Adella Nayko
Sat. (9 th):	10:00am-	+Maria Cattelaens
<hr/>		
	7:00 pm-	+Emiliana Hipolito
Sun. (10 th):		Second Sunday of Advent
	9:00 am-	Mass for the People
	11:00 am-	+Joelle Bisschop Lucas

•*Commencing Monday, November 27th, Daily Mass will be at 9:30 am (the Holy Rosary Devotion will begin at 9:10 am.)*

•*The Divine Mercy Devotion is prayed each Friday at 1pm (except the first Friday of the month).*

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

Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca | Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-noon, 1pm-4pm
125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4 | www.stgerard.ca

Pastor.....	Fr. Louis Kim Nguyen	306.782.0323	louiskimnguyen@yahoo.com
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Parish Office Assistant.....	Mary Bybliw		
Music Ministry Coordinator.....	Diana Hornung		choir@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		
Parish Hall Manager.....	Jeff Krasowski	306.783.4255	hall@stgerard.ca



Stay Connected Online!
www.stgerard.ca



Lord, I have become distracted by the things of this world. Guide my steps and lead me safely back home to you. Help me to respond to the needs of others.

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

Catechism Theme: Hope of a New Heaven and a New Earth (CCC 1042-1050)

Hope is the basis for a watchful and vigilant spirit. The Lord will come. And in the blink of an eye, God will change everything. We will truly become the "body of Christ," risen and glorified together, for we will live forever with the Father. As God renews us, he will also renew the universe to its pristine state. The Father will transform both humanity and nature to the way he intended them to be from the first moment of creation--free from sin, sickness, and death--free from the consequences of evil.

In our anticipation for the Lord's coming, we hope that our faith will help reveal the Kingdom and prepare others for eternity. Our efforts alone will not bring about the Kingdom, as if we humans can progress or evolve to a higher plane by ourselves. But, God, acting through us, will reveal and realize the Kingdom. Then, we act according to his will, we add our contribution to his activity.

What is your greatest hope for the holidays? How does your hope match God's? Explain.

Obviously, our anticipation for the Lord cannot be reduced to a plan or process that will guarantee a certain result. God has his own ways. If we wish to participate in the Lord's plan, anticipate his coming, we need the virtue of patient vigilance. To watch for the Lord in this way requires prayer, reflective discernment, and the gifts and fruits of the Spirit, those charisms that serve others. Prayer opens us to God's will. Reflective discernment helps point us the way of his will. And the gifts God gave us for the good of others help us to realize the Lord in others. When we can see a glimpse of the Lord in our service, we will be able to recognize his return and celebrate it in joy.

What do you want for Christmas? Take a piece of paper and divide it into two columns. Mark one column "Mine" and the other "God's." Now make an honest list of your wants and desires for the holidays. You may be surprised how many things you list under "God's" column. Pray over your list as you prepare for the Christmas. And get ready for the coming of the Lord.

Permission for use. All materials found in www.word-sunday.com are the property of Larry Broding (Copyright 1999-2017).



Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools News December 4 - December 8, 2017



	Sacred Heart	St. Alphonsus	St. Mary	St. Michael	St. Paul	St. Theodore
Mon.		•Advent Celebration @ 9:30am	•Advent Service @ 9:30am	•Advent Week 1 Celebration @ 9am	•CP Holiday Train •SCC Meeting	
Tues.		•Band Concert @ SHHS @ 7pm	•Christmas Band Concert @ 7pm (SHHS)	•Christmas Band Concert @ 7pm (SHHS)	•Advent Celebration @ 9am •Band Concert @ SHHS	
Wed.			•Gr. 1/2 to the Museum		•Gr. 1 to WDM •Division One Basketball Sessions	
Thurs.				•Gr. 2 to WDM •After School Curling Program		
Fri.		•SCC Family Lunch		•Advent Week II Celebration @ 9am		

"Praise you, Lord, for the blessing of learning."

~Catholic Prayers for Every Day and All Day~



SACRAMENTS of INITIATION PREPARATION



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

The next baptism session will be held Sunday, January 28th @ 6:30 pm. Please contact the Parish Office to register – 306.782.2449

CONFIRMATION

The Second Sacrament of Initiation

FIRST EUCHARIST

The Third Sacrament of Initiation

We look forward to meeting all parents of children who will be preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation & First Holy Communion. **Parent Information Meeting is TONIGHT at 7:00 pm** in the Parish Hall.



FIRST RECONCILIATION

We look forward to seeing all parents of children who will be preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. **Parent Meeting is TONIGHT at 6:30pm** in the Parish Hall.

The 2017-2018 Sunday Missals are located on the tables in the Welcome Area. Please pick up a copy today while quantities last! Also available are a limited supply of Little Books Advent & Christmas Reflections (blue).



Penitential Service (St. Gerard Church)

Tuesday, December 5th @ 7pm

With the celebration of Reconciliation (in sacrament and in Penance celebrations), our Advent practices allow us to be closer to Christ and to improve our life.

The one-half hour Penitential Service will be celebrated communally with individual absolution (Form B) to follow. Several priests will be in attendance.



SCRUBBING IS SPIRITUAL!!

On Tuesday, December 5th at 10:00am and Saturday, December 9th at 10:30am, join other ladies and gentlemen of the parish as they prepare the church for Christmas. Please bring your favourite cleaning tools!



News from the CWL



December 6 Executive Meeting
December 11 CWL Christmas Gathering

Mass: 6:00 pm/Supper: 6:45 pm (approx.) For CWL and their spouses. There is no charge for the supper, but please bring along mitts or toques for ages 5-9 OR mitts or toques or socks for ages 14-18 OR a non-perishable food item.



News from the Knights of Columbus



December 3 Carolling at YDNH

We will be continuing the tradition of carolling at The Yorkton & District Nursing Home at 2pm at the Melody Manor (First South) wing. Please come out for an hour of Christmas song and cheer that will lift the spirits of the residents. Each family is asked to bring a small plate of dainties to share with the residents when we have coffee together.

December 6 General Meeting (note change)
December 12 Evening bingo
December 13 Christmas family social

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

2018 Giving Program

This weekend the 2018 collection envelopes will be available in the Welcome Area for those who have contributed by this method in 2017.

Please use the new envelopes commencing January 1, 2018.

If you do not have collection envelopes and would like to receive a set for 2018, **please complete a Parish Registration/Census form (yellow)**, located on the large glass table in the Welcome Area and at the south entrance.

Have you have considered switching from collection envelopes to “PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING”?

Please complete the Pre-Authorized Giving form (green) and submit it to the Parish Office. Forms are available on the large glass table in the Welcome Area and at the south entrance.

Pre-authorized giving is convenient and it's assured (even if you are away on vacation or are sick, your offering will be made ensuring the continued ministry of the church).



Bringing Home the Word **+**

Getting Ready for Christ

By Mary Katharine Deeley

When my mother became pregnant with my youngest sister, I was old enough to be involved with the preparations for her birth. We added a crib to the room she would share, and we gathered clothes and toys suitable for an infant. I wasn't sure we'd get everything ready in time, and it seemed like forever before she arrived.

We didn't know exactly when Mom would go into labor, but when she did, we each had a job to do at home while my father took her to the hospital. I was overjoyed when my mother brought my sister home just before Christmas.

Advent is the Church's time to prepare for new birth. My family had nine months to get ready for my sister. The Church calendar gives us only four short weeks to make our hearts ready to receive Christ. How do we do that? The Scriptures help us by recalling both the promise of his coming and the exhortation to stay awake because we don't know when it will happen.

How odd, we might think. Christmas is always on December 25—of course we know when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. What we have to remember is that while Christmas honors Jesus' birth at a particular time and place more than two thousand years ago, it also reminds us that Christ is alive today, waiting for us to open our hearts to him. It reminds us that Christ is coming again and that we don't want to be caught napping when he does.

We also prepare by taking extra time to pray, to practice kindness and service, and to remember those in need.

Where will Christ be born in you this Christmas? Will you be ready?

© 2017 Liguori Publications. Used with permission.

Congratulations Father Louis on the Anniversary of your Ordination

Friday, December 8th

(Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

"The love of Christ impels us" – 2 Cor. 5:14

Have you celebrated your 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, 65th or 70th Wedding Anniversary in 2017?

Couples who celebrated a Jubilee Anniversary and who register their anniversary with the Parish Office by December 15th will receive a special blessing at Sunday Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family (Saturday, December 30th at 7pm and Sunday, December 31st at 9am and 11am).

Phone 306.782.2449 or stop by the Parish Office Monday to Friday, 8am-noon and 1pm-4pm.

The deadline for the Giving Tree is Sunday, December 10th (next Sunday) so that the gifts can be sorted and delivered to Safe Haven, Salvation Army, Shelwin House, Yorkton Transitional Homes, White Spruce Provincial Training Center, Independent Living, and Geriatric Resource and Intervention. Please remember to put the gift under the tree unwrapped (gift bags are okay) with the gift tag attached.



Do you know that the food items that are placed in the wooden chest in the Welcome Area are delivered regularly to the Salvation Army?

There is a great need in our local community! Please give generously!!

PEROGY HOTLINE – 306.783.4255

Cabbage rolls (rice & dill) - \$25 (5 doz. bag)
Perogies (potato & onion) - \$30 (10 doz. bag)
Perogies (potato & cheddar) - \$35 (10 doz. bag)

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Sun. (3rd): 6:30 pm- First Reconciliation Parent Meeting
7:00 pm- Confirmation & First Communion Parent Meeting
- Mon. (4th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm- Stewardship Committee Mtg
- Tues. (5th): 10:00 am- Church cleaning
- Wed. (6th): 7:00 pm- K of C General Meeting
7:00 pm- CWL Executive Meeting
- Thurs. (7th): 6:30 pm- Pastoral Care Workshop for Communion Ministers to the Sick & Homebound
7:00 pm- Choir rehearsal -11am Mass
- Fri. (8th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal
- Sat. (9th): 10:30 am- Church cleaning
5:00 pm- Buddies Rehearsal
6:15 pm- Choir rehearsal -7pm Mass

YOUTH REFLECTION

"The Potter and the Clay"

This Week...

We need to be alert to God's calling; we need to be watching for what God wants us to do. We need to be clay for our God to shape and mold so that we can be remade, again and again, in God's image. If we are willing to accept God's way, then God will be with us through it all. We will never be alone, and for that we rejoice and are thankful.

For Your Reflection

It is hard to be the clay and to let God be the potter. That's like praying, "Whatever you ask of me, God, I'm willing to do it. I'm all yours. Point the way, and I'm walking it."

It is easier to be the potter and want God to be the clay. That's like praying, "God, please do this and do that; please give me this and give me that."

- When did you pray as if you were the potter? What happened? How did you feel?
- Did you ever pray as if you were the clay? If so, what happens? How do you feel? If not, why not? What might happen? And how could you feel?
- What is the hardest challenge God might ask you to accept? What is so hard about it?

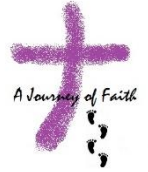
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter*, St. Mary's Press, 2004



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 our city 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