

The Roman Catholic Parish of St. Gerard

Parish Office: 125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4
Phone: 306.782.2449 Fax: 306.782.8566
www.stgerard.ca office@stgerard.ca

Parish Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8-12/1-4

Rectory: 122 Fourth Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1A7
Phone: 306.782.0323

Parish Hall: 125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4
Phone: 306.783.4255 hall@stgerard.ca



Pastor: Father Francis Hengen
Parish Hall Manager: Jeff Krasowski
Caretaker: Mario Guerra

Parish Office Administrator: Sandra Archer
Office Clerk (casual): Mary Bybliw

SUNDAY MASS TIMES: Saturday 7:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am & 11:00 am
Sacrament of Reconciliation every Saturday at 6:30 pm & by appointment

Second Sunday of Advent - December 4, 2016

Liturgical/Mass Schedule

Tues. (6th): 9:00 am- Frances Mroczo
Wed. (7th): 2:00 pm- *Divine Mercy Devotions*
5:30 pm- +Agnes Stokman
Thurs. (8th): 9:00 am- Special Intentions
Fri. (9th): 9:00 am- +Adolph Sliwa
Sat. (10th): 9:30 am- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
10:00 am- Lorraine Flunder

6:30 pm- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
7:00 pm- +Shelley Kaspick
Sun. (11th): *Third Sunday of Advent*
9:00 am- +Gladys Molnar
11:00 am- Mass for the People

Non-liturgical Schedule

Sun. (4th): 2:00 pm- K of C Carolling (NH South)
3:30 pm- CJUT Planning Meeting
Mon. (5th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm- CWL Executive Meeting
Tues. (6th): 6:30 pm- Stewardship Committee Mtg
7:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for 9am Mass
7:30 pm- *Pivotal Players*
Wed. (7th): 6:30 pm- CWL Christmas Social
7:00 pm- K of C Executive Meeting
7:30 pm- K of C General Meeting
Fri. (9th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal
Sat. (10th): 6:15 pm- Choir rehearsal for 7pm Mass
Sun. (11th): 7:00 pm- *Come Join Us at the Table*
Parent Meeting

Please remember the sick in your prayers:

Mary Rose Bielinski, Art Scherr, MaryAnn Scherr, Fran Semchuk

The 2016-2017 **Sunday Missals** are located in the Welcome Area. Please pick up a copy today while quantities last! Also available are **Advent Reflections**.

PRAYER

Lord, you have created me for goodness, love, compassion, and peace. Help me to make good use of the gifts you have given me to make a difference where I am today.

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



A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,

And a branch shall grow out of his roots.

Isaiah 11.1

Bailey's Funeral Home Continuing Care Services invites you to attend our
Christmas Service of Remembrance
TODAY, Sunday, December 4 at 2:00pm
 Yorkton Memorial Gardens Family Centre (Hwy #10 E)

This is a non-denominational candle-lighting service to remember loved ones who have passed on. The service will include special music, words of comfort, time for reflection and suggestions for experiencing peace and hope during the holidays. All are welcome. Contact Crystal Bailey for more information (306) 783-7552



SIMBANG GABI 2016
9-day Novena in Preparation for Christmas

December 15-23 @ 5:30pm -6:30pm
 December 17 @ 7:00pm

Followed by light snack

St. Gerard Church
 125 3rd Ave. N Yorkton, SK

Keep the Tradition Alive!



Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools News
December 5 - December 9, 2016



	Sacred Heart	St. Alphonsus	St. Mary	St. Michael	St. Paul	St. Theodore
Mon.		•Advent Celebration @ 9:30am •Gr. 7/8 Christmas Dance	•Second Advent Celebration •Gr 7/8 Christmas Dance @ St. Alphonsus	•Advent Celebration @ 12:30pm	•Week Two Advent Celebration @ 9am	
Tues.	•Choir Concert	•St. Nicholas Feast Day			•Saint Nicholas Day •SCC Meeting @ 7pm	
Wed.	•Band Concert					
Thurs.				•Christmas concert @ 1pm & 7pm		
Fri.		•Gr. 5&6 Carolling at The Bentley		•Pyjama Day		

"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

CONFIRMATION

The Second Sacrament of Initiation

FIRST EUCHARIST

The Third Sacrament of Initiation

ATTENTION PARENTS OF ALL CHILDREN GRADE 2 AND OLDER

The **Sacraments of Confirmation & First Eucharist Initial Parent Meeting** will be held **December 11th @ 7:00 pm**. **IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE PARISH** please contact the Parish Office at 306.782.2449 ***Please note that preparation for receiving the sacraments occurs at the Parish only***



Penitential Service

Monday, December 19th @ 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.

The **Christmas & New Year Ministries sign-up sheets** are in the Welcome Area **THIS WEEKEND** for:

Welcomers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, & Hospitality Ministers.

Altar Servers please sign up in the Sacristy.



ALL ARE WELCOME TO SING AT THE CHRISTMAS MASSES

Choir rehearsals (all at 7pm)
are as follows:

Thurs.	Dec. 15 th	For 10pm Christmas Eve
Tues.	Dec. 20 th	For 10am Christmas Day
Wed.	Dec. 21 st	For 8pm Christmas Eve



News from the CWL



The Catholic Women's League of Canada (CWL) is a national organization rooted in gospel values calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God. Have you considered becoming a member? Please call Linda Maddaford at 306.783.3924 for more information about the CWL and our activities in the parish.

CWL Membership Renewal reminder: We will be collecting membership annual dues at the CWL Christmas Party on Dec. 7th. Dues for 2017 are \$25.

CWL Christmas Party for all Ladies of the Parish and Guests

Wednesday, December 7th

Mass: 5:30 pm

Supper: 6:30 pm

Please bring a personal care item for the Salvation Army. (e.g., shampoo, deodorant, Kleenex, toothpaste)

Tickets are \$15.00 each and will be available after each Mass the weekends of November 26/27 and December 3/4.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Dec. 4
Dec. 7

Carolling at the Nursing Home
General Meeting

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Brian @ 306.730.7083 or 306.730.7017 after 5pm (or leave a message).



Experience Christ through human beings **both ordinary and extraordinary!** Become acquainted with saints, mystics, artists and theologians – “Pivotal Players” who shaped the church and changed the course of civilization.

Tuesday, December 6th @ 7:30 pm, meet Saint Catherine of Siena (1347-1380), the only lay woman ever proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI on October 4, 1970. Her writings, letters and prayers are contained in the book popularly known as “The Dialogue”.

An Adult Faith Formation evening, organized by the St. Gerard Religious Education Committee



Bringing Home the Word **+**

Welcoming the Stranger

By Mary Katharine Deeley

About this time of year, nearly everyone is preparing to visit or be visited as families gather for traditional Christmas preparations, concerts, and meals. At our house, we also make way for those who have no one to visit—whether because of distance or circumstance.

I wonder, though, whether we'd welcome a stranger or someone who challenged the way we live or think about things. Paul tells everyone to welcome one another and to glorify God with one voice. That's easier when everyone thinks alike. Not all of us want to reflect on the possibility that we may be wrong.

This is the issue facing the religious leaders when John the Baptist bursts onto the scene, calling on everyone to repent and prepare for the kingdom of God. John recognizes that they came to him for show—not because they sought repentance for sin. He wastes no time demanding evidence of the "good fruit" repentance brings and warning about the consequences if it's not forthcoming.

John is a challenging guest for us as well. Sometimes we want to dictate the outcome of our discussion and our lives, but John demands that we show the fruit of our efforts. It's not enough to go through the motions of living faithfully—we must give our very selves over to the will of God and the conversion of our lives. Only then can we welcome everyone in love and in the praise of God.

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The **GIVING TREE**

Is here until Dec. 11th!

1. Pick a gift tag from the tree
2. Purchase that gift
3. Place the **NEW, UNWRAPPED** gift under the tree with the gift tag attached (gift bags are okay).

Gifts are to be under the tree **by December 11th**, so that they can be sorted and delivered to the Safe Haven, Salvation Army, Shelwin House, White Spruce Provincial Training Center, and Transitional Homes for Youth.

2017 Giving Program

The 2017 collection envelopes are available in the Welcome Area for those who have contributed by this method in 2016. Please use the new envelopes commencing January 1, 2017. Also, please note that some envelope numbers have changed.

****If you do not have collection envelopes and would like to receive a set for 2017, please complete a Parish Registration Form, located on the large glass table in the Welcome Area and at the south entrance****

****NEW FOR PAG**** Due to requests for "Special Collection" envelopes by those who contribute by Pre-Authorized Giving, envelopes will be supplied in 2017. Please pickup your personalized envelope from the table in the Welcome Area.

Do you know that donations to St. Gerard Church are income tax-deductible? Contact the Parish Office for details. 306.782.2449



Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve
8:00 pm 10:00 pm

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day
10:00 am

Dec. 31 - Eve of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
7:00 pm

Jan. 1 - The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
9:00 am 11:00 am

PARISH CENTRE HAPPENINGS

306-783-4255 - Perogy Hotline - 306-783-4255

***** Cabbage Roll Bee *****

Monday Dec. 5th 9:00am

YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"The Animal Kingdom"

This Week...

The time will come when truth and justice will reign over wickedness. Even in the animal kingdom there will be peace, with no animal trying to kill another. John the Baptizer tells us to repent and to prepare the way for God, and that means changing disharmony to harmony and hostility to acceptance.

For Your Reflection

Human beings are supposed to be more "civilized" than animals. We have jobs. We have hobbies. We celebrate holidays. Yet we can learn from animals. When we see a pride of lions stalking a cape buffalo on television, we don't think badly of the lions - lions are supposed to hunt and kill. It is in their nature. But what about people? The pride of people can also kill, even when stomachs aren't empty. You won't see lions doing that.

- What can we "civilized" people learn from the animal kingdom?
- If you were an ambassador for the United Nations, what would you do in order to stop countries from fighting? How would you prevent one people's pride from causing the killing of other people? How would you encourage world peace? What plans would you present?

Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle 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. Francis Hengen, or if you would like more information contact the RCIA Co-ordinator, Mary Bybliw, through the parish office at 306-782-2449 or email office@stgerard.ca

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. Please see the brochures at the entrances of the church, or visit on line at www.sttherese.ca

Rachel's Vineyard: a psychological and spiritual journey for healing after abortion.

If you are experiencing post abortion distress symptoms such as; depression, flashbacks, nightmares, anger, denial, suicidal urges, eating or sleeping disorders, drug or alcohol abuse, inability to bond with your live children, spiritual divorce from God, or avoiding relationships you can receive help and healing by attending a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekend. For more information please check out our website at www.rachelsvineyard.org, or email Bonnie at r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net, or call 1-306-480-8911.

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