



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

December 4th, 2022
Second Sunday of Advent

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES
Saturday at 5:00 pm, Sunday at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

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

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

Pastor.....	Fr. Louis Nguyen	306.782.0323	louis.yorkton@gmail.com
		306.621.8068	Emergencies
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (5 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (6 th)	7:00pm +Don Kent
Wed. (7 th)	3:00pm <i>Prayer Service for those Experiencing Loss and Grief</i>
	5:30pm Agnes Swejda
Thurs. (8 th)	9:00am +Julius Kormos
	2:30pm LAKESIDE MANOR
	Families of Mai Van Phuc, Thu Tam
Fri. (9 th)	9:00am Families of Thang & Lien, Son & Phuong
Sat. (10 th)	9:00am Denis Dierker
<hr/>	
	5:00pm Mass for the People
Sun. (11 th)	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
	9:00am +August & +Curtis Burant
	11:00am +Henry Kuruliak

Divine Mercy Devotion

Wednesdays at 2pm
(except the first Wed. of the month)



SACRAMENTS

Infant Baptism: Please phone the Parish Office to register for Baptism Preparation. 306.782.2449

RCIA: For adults wishing to be received into the Catholic Church, contact Father Louis. 306.782.0323.

Matrimony: Please contact Fr. Louis 12 months prior to the date when you would like to be married. 306.782.0323

Reconciliation: Saturday at 8:30am or anytime by appointment. 306.782.0323

Anointing: Please contact Father Louis at 306.621.8068.



Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!

Eucharistic Holy Hour Devotion
at 6pm (prior to 7pm Tuesday Mass)

Stay Connected Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord Jesus, so that by our words and our actions we may point the way to you, we pray – Be born in us, be born in our world.

-The Redemptorists

Sunday Connection

First Reading

Isaiah 11.1-10

A descendent of Jesse will usher in a time of peace.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 72.1-2,7-8,12-13,17

The Messiah will bring justice and peace to the nations

Second Reading

Romans 15.4-9

Both Jews and Gentiles glorify God for the salvation found in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3.1-12

John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching a message of repentance.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

FAMILY CONNECTION

We do many things to get ourselves ready for our celebration of Christmas: purchase gifts, prepare Christmas cards, decorate our homes. John's call of repentance in preparation for Jesus reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of Christmas. Parish communities often offer a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Advent season. Your family might choose to participate in the communal celebration of the sacrament, or you might seek out the sacrament on an individual basis.

Read together today's Gospel. Talk about how John reminds the people that they prepare for the reign of God by reforming their lives. As a family, prepare a simple reconciliation service in preparation for Christmas such as the following: Gather in a prayerful space, perhaps around your family Advent wreath. Read again today's Gospel: Matthew 3:1-3. Invite each family member to pray silently, asking God to forgive their sins. Pray together an Act of Contrition. Then celebrate God's forgiveness by sharing a Sign of Peace with each other.



Penitential Service

Monday, December 12th @ 6pm

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

Four priests will be in attendance.

Ecumenical (Non-denominational) Prayer Service

for those experiencing grief and loss

The first Wednesday of each month at 3pm.

St. Gerard Church
125 Third Ave N, Yorkton

Fellowship and refreshments to follow.
Everyone welcome!

The next Prayer Service will be December 7th.

LITURGY WORKSHOPS

Monday, December 5th @ 7:00 pm

Lectors Welcomers Cantors
Musicians Sacristans
Ministers of Holy Communion (at Mass)
Hospitality Ministers (Ushers)

ALL ministers are asked to attend, either as a refresher or to learn more about your ministry.



The **2022-2023 Sunday Missals** are available in the Welcome Area. A \$5.00 free-will offering is appreciated.

The **Christmas & New Year Ministries sign-up sheets** will be in the Welcome Area NEXT WEEKEND.



News from the CWL



2023 CWL Memberships are due now. Renew your membership by December 31st and your name will be entered in a draw for a free membership. Memberships are \$35. Cash or cheques, payable to CWL, can be put in the Sunday collection in an envelope marked 'CWL Membership'.



News from the Knights of Columbus



December 7 Combined Meeting @ 5:30pm
December 14 Christmas family social in chamber 6pm
December 21 Evening bingo
December 29 Evening bingo

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.782.8664. www.kofc-2031.ca



The Knights of Columbus are selling 2023 Parish Liturgical Calendars after each Mass. Only \$5.00 each! While supply lasts.

2023 GIVING PROGRAM

The 2023 Sunday collection (offertory) envelopes are in the Welcome Area for those who have contributed by this method in 2022. **IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FIND YOUR BOX OF SUNDAY COLLECTION ENVELOPES** please phone the Parish Office. **Have you considered Pre-Authorized Giving? No need for cash or cheques!** Plus, Pre-authorized Giving is assured, results in lower administrative costs, and assists our parish when budgeting for programs and services. **Please complete the Pre-Authorized Giving form** and submit it to the Parish Office or via the Sunday collection. Forms are available on the large glass table in the Welcome Area. **OR you may e-transfer your donation instead!** Email giving@stgerard.ca for more information.

Copies of the **revised St. Gerard Constitution & Bylaws** are located on the shelves at the east and west entrances to the church.



The Salvation Army Needs Our Help!

Volunteers are needed to tend the Salvation Army Kettles **Saturday, December 17th** (St. Gerard Church's day to assist). Sign up sheets (with locations and times) are located in the Welcome Area. Or you may contact 306.621.9337.



Bringing Home the Word **+**

Creating God's Kingdom

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

At times, God's presence among us is so unspectacular that we need someone else to point it out—someone with a loud voice. That seems to have been the role of John the Baptist. His lifestyle and his message certainly caught everyone's attention. But when he caught their attention, he directed it away from himself to the kingdom of heaven.

He called it a kingdom because that was the government people of his time knew. (Jesus, too, often spoke of his kingdom.) However, the kingdom John referred to is not one of military power and privilege but a "peaceable kingdom," where animals that are normally feared as predators live with each other in peace. A beautiful picture, but is it a possibility or just fantasy? The people believed that some day one would be born who would rule this way, thus enabling them to become a genuine peaceable kingdom. This kingdom would not be made of animals but of women and men of different races, cultures, and beliefs; women and men who would recognize each other's God-given uniqueness and would create genuine unity from this diversity.

John the Baptist declared that this kingdom "is at hand." Is it? Do we strive to live peacefully with the great diversity of people of our world? Or are we smug as we proclaim: "We have Abraham as our father" (Matthew 3:9), so we are right and you are wrong. The people of John's time should have known better. We should, too. John cries out to them—and to us: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2).

© 2022 Liguori Publications. Used with permission.

A PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Give me eyes to see and ears to hear. I know there is light in the darkness that makes everything new. I know there is new life in suffering that opens a new earth for me. I know there is a joy beyond sorrow that rejuvenates my heart. Yes, Lord, I know that you are, that you act, that you love, that you indeed are Light, Life, and Truth. People, work, plans, projects, ideas, meetings, buildings, paintings, music, and literature all can only give me real joy and peace when I can see and hear them as reflections of your presence, your glory, your kingdom.

Let me then see and hear. Let me be so taken by what you show me and by what you say to me that your vision and hearing become my guide in life and impart meaning to all my concerns.

Let me see and hear what is really real, and let me have the courage to keep unmasking the endless unrealities, which disturb my life every day. Now I see only in a mirror, but one day, O Lord, I hope to see you face to face. Amen.

"You are the Beloved" by Henri J.M. Nouwen © 2017 by The Henri Nouwen Legacy Trust. Published by Convergent Books

National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples

Dec 12th is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, when the Church in Canada celebrates The National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. This initiative, coordinated since 2002 by the CCCB Advisory group, the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council, marks this feast as a day of prayer, solidarity and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron of the Americas and the Philippines, appeared in Mexico in 1531 as an Indigenous woman to St Juan Diego, whose Indigenous name was Cuauhtlatoatzin ("Eagle Who Speaks"), and spoke to him in his Indigenous language of Nahuatl. She is wearing the black sash around her waist, which is an Aztec Maternity Belt that Mexican women would wear to indicate they were with child. At a time when colonizing powers in the Americas were showing little respect for Indigenous ways, language, and culture, the mother of Jesus, comes as an Indigenous woman to this land, affirming her special love, indeed her identification with and embrace of Indigenous Peoples and culture. God walks with Indigenous Peoples, and has always walked with Indigenous Peoples.

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL

Parish Goal: \$46,774
Amount Raised to Date: \$11,280 (24.1%)

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Mon. (5th): 7:00pm- Liturgical Ministries Workshop (Church)
- Tues. (6th): 9:30am- Cabbage Roll Bee (Social Hall)
- 7:30pm- Fundraiser Committee Mtg. (Meeting Room A)