
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 6, 2015

Liturgical/Mass Schedule

Mon. (7th): 9:00 am- +Matilda Copan
Tues. (8th): 9:00 am- +Stephen Paydli
7:00 pm- “Year of Mercy” Celebration
(St. Henry Church, Melville)
Wed. (9th): 10:00 am- Aspen Villa
+George Biblow
2:00 pm- *Divine Mercy Devotion*
7:00 pm- +Don Ostafie
Thurs. (10th): 9:00 am- Marie Kostiuik
Fri. (11th): 9:00 am- +Doreen Mireau
Sat. (12th): 9:30 am- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
10:00 am- Ray Konesni

6:30 pm- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
7:00 pm- +Hedita Banzuela

Sun. (13th): *Third Sunday of Advent*
9:00 am- Stokman-VanStyn Family
11:00 am- Mass for the People
8:00 pm- *Liturgy of the Hours*

COMMUNION TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND

Aspen Villa: Dianne Laycock
Hospital: Liz Vossen
Nursing Home: Rosemarie Todos & Bernadette Kormos
Triplex: Leona Pinno

Please remember the sick in your prayers:
Rosemarie Massett, Brynleigh Yewsuk

The 2015-2016 (Cycle C) Sunday Missals are located on the table in the Welcome Area. Please pick up a copy today while quantities last!

Non-liturgical Schedule

Sun. (6th): 5:00 pm- Parish Family Christmas Social
Mon. (7th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm- *Conversion*
Tues. (8th): 7:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for 9am Mass
7:30 pm- Properties Committee Meeting
Wed. (9th): 7:30 pm- K of C Christmas Social
7:30 pm- Choir rehearsal for 11am Mass
Thurs. (10th): 7:00 pm- RCIA in CWL Room (lower level)
7:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for 8pm
Christmas Eve Mass
7:00 pm- Social Justice Committee Mtg.
Fri. (11th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir Rehearsal
Sat. (12th): 6:15pm- Choir rehearsal for 7pm Mass
Sun. (13th): 7:00 pm- *Come Join Us at the Table*
Parent Meeting

St. Gerard Parish Family Christmas Social

TONIGHT in the Parish Hall



Potluck Supper at 5:00 pm

All parishioners are welcome to attend!! Please bring your favourite dish to share with other families (we suggest servings for your family plus one person). **Bring the entire family for a great meal, Christmas carolling, and a surprise visitor!**

Sponsored by: Knights of Columbus Council #2031

December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016



YEAR OF MERCY

The “Jubilee of Mercy” will commence with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter’s on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2015, and will conclude on November 20, 2016 with the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

The Jubilee announcement had been made on the second anniversary of the election of Pope Francis (March 13, 2015). The opening of this next Jubilee will take place on the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council in 1965. This is of great significance, for it impels the Church to continue the work begun at Vatican II.

With the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis focuses attention upon the merciful God who invites all men and women to return to Him. The encounter with God inspires in one the virtue of mercy.

The initial rite of the Jubilee is the opening of the Holy Door. This door is one which is only opened during the Holy Year and which remains closed during all other years. Each of the four major basilicas of Rome has a Holy Door: Saint Peter’s, Saint John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls, and St. Mary Major. This rite of the opening of the Holy Door illustrates symbolically the idea that, during the Jubilee, the faithful are offered an “extraordinary pathway” towards salvation.

To mark the beginning of this special year in the Yorkton/Melville Deanery, there will be a **Celebration of the Eucharist at St. Henry Parish in Melville at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 8.**

Following the mass, there will be a time for gathering and fellowship in the parish hall. Everyone is invited to attend. Let us make this a real Deanery celebration that will set the tone for other celebrations to follow in the parishes of this deanery. - Father Hengen



The Salvation Army Needs Our Help! Volunteers are needed to tend the Salvation Army Kettles until December 24th. Volunteers will work two-hour shifts. If you are able to assist with their ministry, please contact 306.783.4650.



Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools News December 7 - December 11, 2015



	Sacred Heart	St. Alphonsus	St. Mary	St. Michael	St. Paul	St. Theodore
Mon.		•Public Health Dental Screenings	•Second Advent Service	•Advent Week 2 Celebration	•Advent Celebration	•2 nd Advent Celebration
Tues.	•Fall Sports Banquet	•Advent Celebration				
Wed.						
Thurs.		•CTCS Grade 7/8 Christmas Dance @ St. Paul	•Gr. 7/8 to Grand Slam •Gr. 7/8 Christmas Dance @ St. Paul	•CTCS Gr. 7/8 School Dance	•Gr. 7/8 Christmas Dance	
Fri.		•Pre-K Christmas Celebration			•12 Baskets of Christmas items due	

“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

~ COME JOIN US AT THE TABLE ~

The parish-based sacrament preparation program
for Confirmation & First Eucharist

INITIAL PARENT MEETING

December 13th @ 7pm in the Parish Hall

All parents of children aged Grade 2 and older who have not received the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or First Eucharist are asked to attend. **You may pre-register** your child/ren by phoning the Parish Office.



News from the CWL



The 2016 calendars are sold out.

The CWL December newsletter is now available at each entrance to the church.



News from the Knights of Columbus



- Dec. 6 - Carols at the Nursing Home
Parish family/children's Christmas Social
- Dec. 9 - Knights and wives plus widows Christmas Social. Phone/text Wayne at 306.783.7380 or email wex13@sasktel.net by December 6th if you are planning to attend.

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Brian @ 306.728.2109 after 5pm (or leave a message).

Each Monday at 7:30 pm in Advent...

Father Robert Barron's

CONVERSION

Following the Call of Christ

Conversion is a life-long process of turning our attention toward Christ and His call to change.

Take time to explore biblical stories of ordinary people who did.



MINISTRY SCHEDULES



The new schedules are available for pickup from the large table in the Welcome Area. **Please pick up your copy today!**

★ ALTAR SERVERS ★

If you DID NOT receive the schedule by email, please pick up a copy in the Sacristy today.



St. Gerard Music Ministry Notes



The Christmas Liturgy Sign Up sheets are available on the table in the Choir Room.

Rehearsals for Christmas commence Thursday, December 10th.

All are welcome to sing at the Christmas Masses, however attendance at the rehearsals is expected in order for the choir to minister well as we lead the people in song.



Penitential Service

Thursday, December 17th @ 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.

Stop by the Parish Office

For Great Gift Ideas!

Open Mon.-Fri. 8-12/1-4

Christmas Nativity Characters, resin, 11 pce	\$27.75
Christmas Nativity Characters, porcelain, 11 pce	\$16.00
Christmas Nativity Scene Wall ornament	\$14.50
Holy Family Creche - glass	\$9.25
Catholic Women's Devotional Bible (soft)	\$20.00
Catholic Women's Devotional Bible (hard)	\$25.00
Catholic Gift Bible (leather-bound)	\$26.00
Extreme Faith Youth Bible	\$14.00
Catholic Youth Bible	\$25.00
Youcat (Catechism of the Catholic Church for Youth)	\$25.00
Catholic Prayer Book for Children	\$ 4.75
Pocket Book of Catholic Prayers	\$ 6.50

and many more items too numerous to mention!

Good News!

December 6, 2015

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Bar 5:1-9 / Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 / Lk 3:1-6

One of the most memorable questions I have ever been asked came out of a conversation with a spiritual director. During my marriage-preparation retreat, he asked about the upcoming wedding. I told him about all the preparations and how I felt like I was on top of things. He gently said, "I know you are prepared, but are you ready?" It was the first time I really thought about the difference. We were certainly prepared. The flowers had been ordered, the ceremony set, and the caterer knew exactly what we wanted. We were in control. But being ready for the great unknown of marriage, a lifelong vocation, was another thing altogether. Being ready suggested that we won't always be in control and that, no matter what happens, we were in it for life and would face whatever comes together.

The prophet Isaiah describes John the Baptist as the one who prepares the way of the Lord. He will do this by preaching to and baptizing those who come to him. The preparation for the coming Messiah is in his hands. He poses the question, "Are you ready for the one who is to come?" Thinking beyond our religious practices and Christmas preparations, what does that really mean for us? Maybe this year it means looking into our own hearts for the longing for Christ. Perhaps we will make a room for him in our busy lives and our busier thoughts. We might even stop our preparations long enough to remember just who is coming and invite him in. Are you ready?

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The **Giving Tree** is up and ready for you to pick a gift tag, purchase the gift and place it under the tree unwrapped (gift bags are okay) with the gift tag attached.

Gifts are to be under the tree by December 15th so that they can be sorted and delivered to the Safe Haven Salvation Army, Shelwin House, Whitespruce Provincial Training Centre and the Yorkton Transitional Homes for Youth.

Come Celebrate



Simbang Gabi

What is Simbang Gabi? It is a series of nine "dawn" masses, rooted to an early tradition going back to the Spanish colonization of the Philippines, where it was known as the *misa de gallo* ("Mass of the Rooster").

People firmly break the silence of the night and the routine of their lives so as to truly express their faith to God as they anticipate the Christmas joy.

At St. Gerard Church, the Simbang Gabi novena masses will be celebrated at 5:00 am beginning Wednesday, December 16th and concluding Thursday, December 24th, including Sunday, December 20th.

The masses will be celebrated primarily in the Tagalog language, with some English.

Refreshments will be served following each mass. Everyone welcome!

2016 Giving Program

The 2016 collection envelopes are available in the Welcome Area for those who have contributed by this method in 2015. Please use the new envelopes commencing January 1, 2016.

If you do not have collection envelopes and would like to receive a set for 2016, **please complete a Parish Registration Form (beige)**, located on the large glass table in the Welcome Area and at the south entrance.

Have you considered switching from collection envelopes to

"Pre-Authorized Giving"?

Pre-authorized Giving is convenient, assured, and results in lower administrative costs. Please complete the Pre-Authorized Giving form and submit it to the Parish Office. Forms are available on the large glass table in the Welcome Area and at the south entrance.

PARISH CENTRE HAPPENINGS

306.783.4255 - Perogy Hotline - 306.783.4255

******Perogy Bee******

MON. Dec. 7	9:30 am - Peeling potatoes, dough-making, & onion-chopping
TUES. Dec. 8	9:30 am - Pinching
WED. Dec. 9	9:00 am - Bagging

YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

“Thankfulness for Partnership”

This Week...

Saint Paul is beside himself with joy and thankfulness for the partnership of the wonderful people who help him spread the good news of the gospel message. Such people as Saint Paul are filled with joy and light; they are aware of the gift of salvation from our God. Such people will affect the world with peace and joy, beauty and justice.

For Your Reflection

Saint Paul is so thankful for his friends who are his “partners” in spreading the Gospel.

- Who are your partners in life? Do you have a best friend or a group of friends that partner you and one another through life’s ups and downs? Describe such a friend. Are you thankful for this special friendship? How do you show your thankfulness?

- Are you a thankful person in general? Do you write a lot of thank-you notes? Do you always remember to say thank you when you are given something? Do you often consider all the things you have to be thankful for? How can you improve in this area?

- What do you think it means to be a partner in spreading the Gospel? What would Gospel-spreading partners do?

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. 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