



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

November 27th,
2022

First 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 Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (28th) NO MASS
 Tues. (29th) 7:00pm +Frank Halliday
 Wed.(30th) 7:00pm +Olga Duff
 Thurs.(1st) 9:00am +Joseph Paydli
 2:30pm **GLADSTONE SENIORS' RES.**
 +Olga Duff
 Fri. (2nd) 9:00am Agnes Swejda
 Sat. (3rd) 9:00am Mary Ryhorski

5:00pm +Marge Slugoski

Sun. (4th) **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 9:00am Mass for the People
 11:00am +Emil, +Doreen & +Kim Sereda

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.



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



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 the world may know of your presence among us,
we pray – be born in us, be born in our world.

-The Redemptorists

Sunday Connection

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

Isaiah describes his vision in which all nations are gathered together by God in peace.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 122:1-2,3-4,4-5,6-7,8-9

Rejoicing, let us enter the house of the Lord.

Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14

Be prepared, salvation is near.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus tells his disciples that the coming of the Son of Man will catch many people unprepared. Jesus tells his disciples that they are to always be ready for the day of the Lord.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A). In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70 A.D. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish community, but one that was no longer centered on the Temple in Jerusalem. These were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation: Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. There may have been Christians who believed that the events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory.

The passage from Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be.

The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this? Today's passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know *that* our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Jesus tells his disciples that the coming of the Son of Man will catch many people unprepared. Jesus tells his disciples that they are to always be ready for the day of the Lord. Many of us feel the pressure early in the holiday season to be ready for Christmas. But today's Gospel challenges us to be ready for something other than the gift-giving of Christmas.

Read together today's Gospel reading. As a family, talk about what it means to be ready for the day of the Lord. One of the roles of the family, the domestic church, is to be a school of faith leading one another to salvation. Reflect together as a family on how your family helps one another to be better Christians. Commit to one thing that your family will do this Advent season to help one another be better Christians. You might choose to write this commitment down and post it in a prominent place in your home, perhaps near your family's Advent wreath.

Pray together that God will help you in this Advent commitment. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm.

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



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.



CHURCH CLEANING BEE
Saturday, December 3rd @ 10am



News from the CWL



The **CWL CHRISTMAS SOCIAL & SUPPER** is Wednesday, December 7 with Mass at 5:30 pm and Supper at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$10 each and **MUST** be purchased by **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30**. Tickets will be available before and after Mass on November 26 & 27. Proceeds (after expenses) will be donated to Bruno's Place.

2023 CWL MEMBERSHIPS will be available before and after Mass on Saturday, November 26 & 27, and also December 3 & 4. Cheques, payable to CWL, or cash may be put in an envelope marked 'CWL Membership' and put in the Sunday Collection after December 4. Memberships fees are \$35. Renew your membership before December 31 and have your name entered in a draw for a free membership.



News from the Knights of Columbus



November 27 Evening bingo @ 5pm
December 2 Carolling at YDNH @ 2pm
December 3 Evening bingo @ 5pm
December 7 Combined Meeting @ 5:30pm
December 14 Christmas family social in chamber 6pm

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



Council #2031 is returning to the Yorkton & District Nursing Home (Melody Manor unit) for live Christmas caroling on **Friday December 2 at 2:00 pm**. Carollers (Knights and wives) are welcome to come out and spread Christmas cheer! The council will be providing snacks this year so no need to bring anything other than your voice.



The Knights of Columbus are selling 2023 Parish Liturgical Calendars after each Mass in November! Only \$5.00 each!

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues. (29th): 7:30pm- Finance Council Meeting
(Meeting Room A)
Wed. (30th): 7:30pm- Pastoral Council Meeting
(Meeting Room A)
Thurs. (1st): 6:00pm- Social Justice Committee Meeting (Meeting Room A)
Sat. (3rd): 10:00am- Church cleaning



Bringing Home the Word

God is Near

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

"Be prepared!" But for what? Since we're entering the season of Advent, we might think that we're called to prepare for the birth of Jesus. Advent is certainly the time to prepare for Christmas, but it's much more than that, for God comes into our lives in many different ways, even today. We see evidence of this when, working together, we rebuild not only cities, as Isaiah describes in the first reading, but relationships in families, parishes, and countries.

Remarkable changes take place in our lives when, as Paul bids us, we "throw off the works of darkness" (Romans 13:12). God comes to us every day with the power we need to improve ourselves and our world. God often comes quietly in ways so ordinary we might miss them. That is the point of Jesus' insistence to "stay awake" and "be prepared" (Matthew 24:42, 44).

God certainly came long ago as a human being. That was a one-time- only event. We believe that God will come again at the end. That, too, will happen only once. But God comes every day to help us be our better selves. This is what the Advent readings tell us.

What can we do? How are we to prepare for God's coming? Today's readings tell us. We must work for the peace that Isaiah describes; we must throw off the works of darkness as Paul instructs; and we must do as Jesus tells us: stay awake, and be prepared.

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2023 GIVING PROGRAM

In the not-too-distant future, the 2023 Sunday collection (offertory) envelopes will be in the Welcome Area for those who have contributed by this method in 2022. **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.

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL

Parish Goal: \$46,774
Amount Raised to Date: \$11,010 (23.5%)

Write for the Archdiocese of Regina archregina.sk.ca/news/

Archdiocese of Regina News welcomes article submissions from a variety of sources and locations, with preference given to Saskatchewan voices. We are seeking:

- Good news stories on parish events and activities.
- Stories featuring Catholics making a difference in their communities both within and outside of the parish.
- Stories that help people experience God at work in their lives deepen their spiritual life and broaden people's understanding of sacred scripture.
- Articles introducing and explaining the richness of our Catholic tradition and faith.

Contact Director of Communications, Deacon Eric Gurash, at egurash@archregina.sk.ca for a copy of our submission guidelines.

100th Finale

DECEMBER

18

5:00 PM

St. Anthony's Parish Hall Christmas Dinner & Musical Featuring Fr. Andrew Sowa & Len Gadica

Pre-book by December 2nd to reserve a spot and qualify for a gift basket of Christmas cheer!!

EVERYONE WELCOME!

MENU:

turkey with all the trimmings
ham
cranberry sauce
mashed potatoes and gravy
cabbage rolls
nalysnyky (cheese rolls)
corn
3 salads
pickles
buns
beverage
dessert

COST:

Age 13 and up: \$20
Ages 8-12: \$5
Age 7 & under: NO charge



Contact Elaine Olson at 593-4412 or email: elaineceo@sasktel.net or Mary Kowalshyn at 593-6120 or email: maryjoe@sasktel.net

Advent 2022

The Giving Tree

Saint Basil

“When someone steals another's clothes, we call them a thief. Should we not give the same name to one who could clothe the naked and does not? The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry; the coat unused in your closet belongs to the one who needs it; the shoes rotting in your closet belong to the one who has no shoes; the money which you hoard up belongs to the poor.”

Why Give?

We should give because when we see and hear about the poor we should think, “there but for the grace of God go I.” That could be me or my loved one or the person sitting next to me. It only isn't because it's not God's will. Therefore, if it could be us then should we not give to them as we would hope someone give to us? We need the poor as much as they need us.



Saint Basil

“A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.”

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is found in the foyer at St. Gerard’s Catholic Church every year at Advent. Our parish family is invited to pick ornaments off the tree containing gifts to purchase for the poor -and in a way for Jesus. The gifts are returned to the tree by **December 18th** and then given to those in need.

You Can Do More

By fundraising or by individual donations additional funds can be used to purchase any lacking items that still needed or to provide gifts cards for an extra special support.

Some of the Organizations We’re Supporting This Year Include:

- The Salvation Army (Children aged Newborn to 14yrs)
- Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbours (Families of Domestic Violence)
- Bruno’s Place (Emergency Shelter for adults)



Archdiocese of Regina November 27, 2022

Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent



Journey Through Advent

Sign up for a weekly Advent series with Reflections by Fr. Christian Lindenbach, music, prayer, resources and other activities to enhance your Advent Journey. These weekly reflections will be emailed each week during Advent. To sign up, email mgurash@archregina.sk.ca

CSA Education Committee

Over the last two years, many of the educational events that the Core Working Group has provided have been done through zoom. Although the pandemic is still with us, we are now in a position to meet in person. To this end, the Core Working Group has re-established an educational committee to oversee, coordinate and arrange workshops and presentations on a variety of topics around clergy sexual abuse. Should you have any questions or would like to discuss potential opportunities, we would invite you to contact the education committee at csaeducation@archregina.sk.ca

Ecumenical Advent Series: What Are We Waiting For?

As Christmas and the holidays approach, Christians experience the season of Advent as a time of expectant waiting and preparation. This year, there will be a special ecumenical series of Advent meditations and conversations on the question: "What are we waiting for?" with Canadian church leaders. On each Thursday in Advent (Dec. 1, 8, 15, and 22), listeners are invited to join a live discussion at 6:00 pm, via Zoom, with one of the leaders on that week's Advent theme. Attendees will be able to ask questions during the online conversation. Also, each Monday during Advent, the church leaders will release an ecumenical Advent meditation focused on one of the four Advent themes and will address challenges and opportunities facing the Canadian churches. Find out more and register at presbyterian.ca/2022/11/08/ecumenical-advent/

Archbishops Appeal

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the time of anticipation to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The readings are full of the language of anticipation. Isaiah's vision shows the coming of the Lord, and challenges us to walk in the light of life. Saint Paul's letter to the Romans shows us that to properly prepare for the coming of Christ is to live in the ways of the Spirit.

Jesus tells us in the Gospel that He is indeed coming, and we should have the spirit of awareness and preparation in our lives: aware of our relationship with Christ and preparing our lives in such a way that whenever we see Jesus, we will be ready.

The Annual Appeal directly supports catechesis and education. These offices provide resources to parishes and schools to have the skills and tools to prepare us to know Christ deeply and enable us to prepare ourselves in the best way we can. As we prepare to welcome the Child Jesus, let us support the appeal's commitment to education with our contributions. For more information or to donate, visit archregina.sk.ca/grouppage/archbishops-appeal/



TF324: The Feast of Christ the King with Brett Fawcett - Part 1

Thinking Faith welcomes returning guest Brett Fawcett to discuss what has been called the "Crowning Glory of the liturgical year"; the Feast of Christ the King. Show Snippet: "When he (Pope Pius XI) talks about nations and societies and peoples recognizing the Kingship of Christ, it's really important to know what he meant by that and what he didn't mean by that, and one of the things we can see he meant by it is some of the things he recommends for the economy..." thinkingfaith.libsyn.com/the-feast-of-christ-the-king-with-brett-fawcett-part-1

Stewardship Bulletin Bit

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." Matthew 24:42

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily, and you begin to see God's active presence in your life. You grow in gratitude, each day for all that we have been given.

The Archdiocese of Regina is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.

BULLETIN BOARD

itwewin Corner (itwewin is the Cree word which means 'the word' or 'as it is said...')

Fr. John Weckend, Archdiocese of Regina Truth and Reconciliation Healing Committee.

Did you know... The term "Cree" is derived from the French renderings (Kristineaux, Kiristinous, Kilistinous) of the Ojibway term Kinistino. The proper term in the Plains Cree language is nêhiyawak. The Cree occupy a large area of Saskatchewan, from the northern woodlands areas to the southern plains. While being one people, there is a great variation amongst the different regional groups. One of the main differences is in terms of dialect, of which there are three main ones: "th" Woodlands, "y" Plains, and "n" Swampy Cree. Retrieved from teaching.usask.ca/indigenoussk/import/cree.php 11/06/22

LESSON SIX The Catechism: It's no secret!

(Does the Catechism contain a methodology for its use by the faithful?)

No. The Catechism does not include a methodology. It is a complete and accurate explanation of Catholic doctrine. The Directory for Catechesis provides an over-all guide, but the procedure for transferring the faith depends on a variety of factors and it should be customized to reflect the circumstances and culture and local needs of those engaged in catechesis. Many diocese have created local guidelines for instruction.

What are miracles? Que sont les miracles ?

3 Minute Video: archregina.sk.ca/group/catechetical-support-parishes/

Text: Read, CCC#s 547-50

Sacred Scripture: with numerous accounts of miracles performed by Jesus and the Apostles, Sacred Scripture describes miracles as those which glorify God, come from a righteous source and is of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8.9, Matthew 24.24, Acts 13.10).

Pope Francis: That persistent prayer can lead to miracles "because prayer goes directly to the heart of the tenderness of God." General audience May 12, 2021.

Advent Calendar

Looking for ways to prepare your hearts for Christmas? Let your family journey along this path towards a meaningful Christmas with this year's Advent Calendar and its daily activities. Available in English and French. Download, share, and print! archregina.sk.ca/group/retreats-and-spiritual-resources/ Remember it's not about the presents, but His presence!

Write for the Archdiocese of Regina

Archdiocese of Regina News (archregina.sk.ca/news/) welcomes article submissions from a variety of sources and locations, with preference given to Saskatchewan voices. We are seeking;

- Good news stories on parish events and activities.
- Stories featuring Catholics making a difference in their communities both within and outside of the parish.
- Stories that help people experience God at work in their lives deepen their spiritual life and broaden people's understanding of sacred scripture.
- Articles introducing and explaining the richness of our Catholic tradition and faith.

Contact Director of Communications, Deacon Eric Gurash, at egurash@archregina.sk.ca for a copy of our submission guidelines.

An Advent Dialogue

This Advent, join in a Baptist-Catholic dialogue on Christian experience. Join us on Zoom for this unique ecumenical journey with a series of five small-group theological reflection workshops. In each session, participants from the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada will join together with participants from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina to faithfully explore the experience of sacred Scripture in our daily lives. So, grab your coffee cup, and let your hair down, and begin a journey with friends old and new this Advent season.

Group #1 - Wednesday evenings 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. (CST), November 23rd - December 21st, or

Group #2 - Friday afternoons 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (CST), November 25th - December 23rd/ To register, or for further information contact: lynda.theeworkshops@usask.ca

Archdiocese of Regina Employment Opportunity - Receptionist Permanent - Full-Time

This position works in a fast-paced team environment to ensure the smooth daily operations of the Pastoral Center. This individual must be able to represent the Archdiocese of Regina with the highest level of professionalism and welcome in all interpersonal interactions, internal and external.

Please send cover letter and resume to:

Leona Burkhart at lburkart@archregina.sk.ca by December 23rd, 2022.

For more information on this position, please contact Leona Burkhart at lburkart@archregina.sk.ca or 306-352-1651 ext 6730.

For full job listing please visit our Employment page at

archregina.sk.ca/employment/

Discovering Light Amidst Darkness

Campion College Campus Ministry is offering a three-session, non-credit, online Advent scripture course called 'Discovering Light Amidst Darkness.' Presented by Professor Fr. Scott Lewis SJ over Zoom on Tuesday mornings from 10:00-11:00 AM from November 29th - December 13, 2022. The course is free for Campion students, staff, and faculty. Others: Suggested donation of \$20

To inquire or register contact: Kelly Bourke in Campus Ministry at kelly.bourke@uregina.ca or text/call (306) 550-5293

Archdiocese of Regina Social Media and Catholic News

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ArchRegina Weekly Report: Signup for weekly Catholic News at

archregina.sk.ca/news/

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