

The Roman Catholic Parish of St. Gerard

Parish Office: 125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4
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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

Mary, The Holy Mother of God – January 1, 2017

Liturgical/Mass Schedule

Mon. (2nd): 9:00 am- +Rose Pasloski
7:00 pm- *Prayer Vigil – Noreen Skibinsky*

Tues. (3rd): 10:30 am- *Funeral Mass-Noreen Skibinsky*

Wed. (4th): 2:00 pm- *Funeral Mass - John Vidomski*
6:30 pm- +Agnes Mujinga Kanyama

Thurs. (5th): 9:00 am- +Orest Derkach
10:45 am- St. Theodore School
+Mary Olynyk

Fri. (6th): 10:00 am- +Adolph Sliwa
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to follow Mass
11:30 am- *Benediction*
7:00 pm- *Prayer Vigil – Thresia Tedeschi*

Sat. (7th): 9:30 am- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
10:00 am- Frances Mroczo
2:00 pm- *Funeral Mass -Thresia Tedeschi*

6:30 pm- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
7:00 pm- +Edward Yeroschak

Epiphany of the Lord

Sun. (8th): 9:00 am- +Tyler Dobko
11:00 am- Mass for the People

Please remember the sick in your prayers:
Art Scherr, MaryAnn Scherr, Fran Semchuk



Lord, your Spirit has been poured into my heart, making me a child of God. Help me to see every person as my brother and sister, and show deep respect and love.

— From *Joyful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

Non-liturgical Schedule

Mon. (2nd): *Parish Office Closed*
7:00 pm- CWL Executive Meeting

Tues. (3rd): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for 9am Mass

Wed. (4th): 7:00 pm- CWL General Meeting
7:30 pm- K of C Executive Meeting

Fri. (6th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal

*Father Francis
invites*

**ALL PARISHIONERS
TO ATTEND AN**

**OPEN HOUSE
AT THE RECTORY**

**JANUARY 1ST (New Year's Day)
FROM 3-10 PM**

Please stop in
for a beverage, treats
and a visit.



**Catechism Theme: Mary, the Mother of God
(CCC 502-507)**

Mary is called the "God-bearer" ("Theotokos" in Greek), for she bore the divine Son of God into the world as a man. In the virginal birth of her son, we can see God's revelation. When his Son was conceived in the Blessed Virgin Mary, God showed his complete initiative in that moment of salvation history. When the divine Son took on human flesh at the point of conception, he became the New Adam, the one who, filled with the Spirit, would give his followers that same Spirit; in this way, his followers would be given birth as children of God. When Mary said, "Let it be done to me according to your word," she gave herself completely to the will of God and became the first Christian, a symbol of the Church; in her "Yes," she is the most perfect realization of the Church, the assembly of followers who strive to the will of the Father.

How do you honor the Mother of God? How does a Marian devotion shape your prayer life?

Mary did treasure the words of the shepherds in her heart, for they were Good News. She was the vessel of God's providence; she conceived by the power of the Spirit. Her Son was Messiah and King. She was the first follower and a symbol for all of us, the Church.

As we reflect on this News Years Day, let us consider Mary's place in our hearts and on our faith journey. She is the Mother of God. She is our model for living the Christian life.

As you plan your New Years resolutions, ask for Mary's prayers in your efforts.

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Celebrating 100 years of Faith, Knowledge and Unity

Sacred Heart High School 1917-2017

Saturday, January 14th, 2017

1 pm – Divine Liturgy
St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Yorkton, Sask.

2:30-4:30 pm – Activities at Sacred Heart High School including:

School Tours
Coffee and Cookies
Display of Historic Yearbooks and other Memorabilia
Senior Girls Basketball Tournament

Tickets are \$30 per person for the following:

5:30 pm – Gathering
6 pm – Banquet
7:30 pm – Program
St. Mary's Cultural Centre

Friends, families and former students are invited to take part in this very special celebration.

Banquet tickets available at the Sacred Heart High School main office or online at www.eventbrite.ca until January 4, 2017.



Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools News January 2 - January 6, 2017



	Sacred Heart	St. Alphonsus	St. Mary	St. Michael	St. Paul	St. Theodore
Mon.	No School					
Tues.	No School					
Wed.		•Gr. 4 Swimming				
Thurs.					•One School One Book Kickoff	•Christmas Mass @ 10:45am
Fri.		•Christmas Mass @ 10am		•Gr. 4 Swimming		

"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

Contact the Parish Office at 306.782.2449 to register your child for sacrament preparation.

January 15 – *Come Join Us at the Table Session #1*



All are invited to the

*Week of Christian Unity
Prayer Service*

Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us

*St. Gerard Church
Monday, January 23rd @ 7pm*

Refreshments & fellowship to follow.

*Mary, Queen of Peace,
we entrust our lives to you.*

Shelter us from war, hatred and oppression.

*Teach us to live in peace,
to educate ourselves for peace.*

*Inspire us to act justly,
to revere all God has made.*

*Root peace firmly in our hearts
and in our world.*

Amen.

Saint John Paul II



News from the CWL



- Jan. 2 Executive Meeting
- Jan. 4 Installation of Officers at Mass, followed by General Meeting
- Jan. 15 CWL Membership Drive & Ministry Weekend

The December Newsletter is available for pick up in the Welcome Area.

2017 CWL Membership Fees are due now. To all new and renewing members please remit your \$25 membership dues as soon as possible. Make cheques payable to St. Gerard CWL and give to one of the Executive or put them into the collection basket in an envelope marked CWL Membership.

Start off the new year with a cozy project! The next sessions for **Comfort Cushions Sewing Bees** will be January 10-11; January 17-18; and January 24-25. Please mark these dates on your calendars! Remember, you don't have to know how to sew to help with this very special project! Just come with a willing heart and be part of something wonderful!



News from the Knights of Columbus



- Jan. 4 Executive Meeting
- Jan. 8 Parish Brunch
- Jan. 11 Initiation Degree
General Meeting
Bingo (evening)

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

ATTENTION: WELCOMERS, LECTORS, & MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (AT MASS)

If your phone number has changed, or if you plan to be away for an extended period of time, please contact Connie, Ministry Scheduler, at 306.782.0865.

Thank you.

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**



Bringing Home the Word **+**

Mary: Like the Morning Star

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For the first four centuries following Jesus' ascension, Christians grappled with how to understand how his humanity and divinity commingled in his person. His humanity was evident to all who walked and talked with him. His divinity was also evident to his disciples because of the miracles he worked, not least his death and resurrection. In short, they knew he was fully human, and they knew he was fully God, but how could he be fully both at the same time?

The Council of Ephesus in 431 settled the issue definitively. The Church declared that in the one person of Christ there are two natures: one divine and one human. This same council also declared, as a natural consequence, that the holy virgin is the Mother of God (*Theotokos*), since she conceived and gave birth to the Word of God. So today's feast is one of the oldest, shared by all Christians from the earliest times.

When Mary said "yes" to the Incarnation and gave birth to the Savior, all of us could bask in his divine light. She is like the morning star that first breaks the horizon and mirrors the light of the sun that she both foretells and follows. In loving Mary, we truly honor her Son. God was the first to praise her through Gabriel - "Hail, favoured one!"- and the one who blessed her beyond all other creatures. We are merely following his example.

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St. Gerard's Christmas Spirit Raffle

(Refugee Family Fundraiser)

Winner of the hand-crafted child's table & chair set,
donated by Premier Cabinets:

Adeline Markham

Winner of the designer shelf entertainment unit,
donated by Home Hardware:

David Korb

Thank you to all who purchased/sold tickets,
and to our sponsors!



In the Icon, Mary is Teacher and Evangelist

By Br. Daniel Korn

The icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help is a *Hodergetria* icon, meaning, "One who shows the Way." This perfectly describes Mary's role in revealing to us the message of the gospel.

She stands before us looking intently out to those before her with her right hand pointing toward the Child she's holding. In this icon, Mary is teacher and evangelist. Mary's mission is to lead others to Christ, and, in the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, we encounter Mary as the "Way Shower" – the sign that proclaims the mystery of Christ to the world.

The whole image of Our Mother of Perpetual Help is about Jesus Christ and Mary's role as his mother. When we look at this icon, we're invited to read what's contained in the image. We're invited to read the icon as we would read a page in Scripture. This reading of the icon leads us into an experience of Mary that deepens our devotion to her. Through reading the signs and symbols presented in the icon, we're led into a deeper experience of God.

The icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help is the gospel in image form. Stand before this icon, read the elements that present themselves to you, and allow the holy presence of God to embrace you. Mary will provide this for all who come before her icon with humility and faith. She will form Jesus in us. This is her mission.

- Source: *Catholic Update*, January 2016© Liguori Publications

Have you seen the Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in the church?

St. Gerard Parish was founded by the Redemptorist Fathers, who served our parish until 1990. Since 1866, the Redemptorists have spread devotion to Mary under the icon and title of Mother of Perpetual Help.

YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"The Wonder of it All"

This Week...

The first day of each year is a day to honour Mary, the mother of Jesus. It is a day to look ahead to a brand new year, as Mary looks ahead to a brand new life. It can also be a day to look back on the past year, on its struggles and hurts as well as its successes and celebrations. With both the looking ahead and the looking back, it is appropriate to be aware of our blessings, and to make use of our ability to bless. Native [Canadians] of many tribes bless themselves and one another with the holy smoke from burning sage and sweet grasses. Often a feather is used to guide the smoke in the direction of the person being blessed.

For Your Reflection

The beginning of a new year is a time when TV shows, radio shows, and magazines look back at the year that has just passed. Mary, too, spent time reflecting upon all the happenings surrounding the birth of her son.

- What events of the past year do you think were most significant in the political world? In the sports world? In the entertainment world? In your family life? In your personal life? In your spiritual life?

- The first of the year is also a time for making yearly predictions. Lots of celebrities like making predictions for the year ahead. What do you predict for the political world? For the sports world? For the entertainment world? In your family life? In your personal life? In your spiritual life?

- Who has been a real blessing to you this past year?

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