



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

January 12th, 2025

The Feast of the
Baptism of the Lord

Established December 11, 1904

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

PASTORAL TEAM

Father Sathi Antony, Pastor
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Rectory 306.782.0323
ansathisjb@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/sathy.antony>
Appointments to be arranged via the Parish Office

Sandra Archer, Office Administrator
Somi Paul, Caretaker

MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

- Altar Server Coordinator
Kathleen Bedard altarservers@stgerard.ca
- Baptism Team
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- Catholic Women's League
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- Centering Prayer
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- Knights of Columbus
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- Protocol for Responsible Ministry
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- Sacrament Coordinators
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- Social Action
Hector & Jenny Baraoidan
- Youth
Scott Hoffort 306.621.8291
Colleen Hoffort 306.621.7582

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.

ST. GERARD PARISH HOLY MASS & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE



*And a voice came from heaven,
"You are my Son, the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased."*

Mon. 13 th		NO MASS
Tues. 14 th	6:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Mass +Matthew & +Anne Pankoski Knights of Columbus General Mtg
Wed. 15 th	9:00 am 10:00 am 7:00 pm	Mass +Herman Capili Mass at Nursing Home (South) +David Christensen Social Action Meeting (<i>please use Parish Hall entrance</i>)
Thurs. 16 th	9:00 am 2:30 pm 7:00 pm	Mass +Charles Cook Mass at Yorkton Crossing Dan Dierker Baptism Preparation (2/3)
Fri. 17 th	8:00 am 9:00 am 7:00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Mass +Donald Blazeiko Family Prayer Night
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Sat. 18 th	5:00 pm	Mass for the People
Sun. 19 th	9:00 am 11:00am 2:00 pm	Mass for the People <i>followed by Parish Family Brunch</i> Mass for the People <i>followed by Parish Family Brunch</i> Youth Gathering (<i>Please us east entrance</i>)

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

(Based on Matthew 3.13-17)

John the Baptist preached and baptized people on the Jordan River. His fame spread far and near. His message was, "Turn your life back to God. Be baptized. Get ready for the Messiah!" People flocked to see John and to be baptized by him.

Soon, Jesus went to find John so he, too, could be baptized. The baptism of Jesus was his first act in public. Like many of his other actions in public, the baptism of Jesus foreshadowed his death and resurrection. When Jesus went into the water, we see his death. When he came out of the water and received the Holy Spirit, we see his resurrection.

How can we see the death and resurrection of Jesus in his baptism? Think about the power of water. It has the power to kill by drowning. And it has the power to restore life to the thirsty. Because of the power of water, we see our death with Christ in our baptism. And we see our rising to new life with him. Like Jesus, we receive the Holy Spirit in baptism and are called "children of God."

Our Baptism On one level, Baptism represents the message of John. In Baptism, we turn to God. And he forgives all of our sins. But, on another level, Baptism goes beyond John's words. In Baptism, we do not wait for the Messiah. We meet him, Jesus, the Christ. And we become one of his followers as members of the Church.

Can people be baptized more than once? Because Baptism puts someone in a special relationship with God, Father, Son, and Spirit, a person can only be baptized once. At baptism, the person receives a spiritual mark or character that says he or she belongs to God. No sin can erase it. That is why the Catholic Church recognizes the baptisms of many other churches and Christian communities.

Our Confirmation While we receive the Holy Spirit at Baptism, we receive it in a deeper way at Confirmation. We receive the gifts of the Spirit: courage, understanding, ability to give good advice, knowledge of the faith, wisdom, a good prayer life, and awe of God. God gives us these gifts for the good of others. And as a way to strengthen the Christian community.

Because Confirmation deepens the relationship between God and the believer that started at Baptism, Confirmation can only be received once. Like Baptism, the believer is marked with a special spiritual character. While Baptism makes us part of the Church, Confirmation focuses on what we are to do as members. In Confirmation, the Holy Spirit gives us the power to serve others and to spread the Good News of Jesus.

Our Call as Christians When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit rested in him. And God the Father called him "the Son that I love." Then, God said, "I really like what he is doing."

When we are baptized and confirmed, we receive the Holy Spirit. And God calls us his children. Then we are to go and do as Jesus did. Pray and worship God. Serve others. And spread the Good News.

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REMINDER: WEEKEND HOLY MASS DURATION IS 75 MINUTES

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation:

Half-hour before daily Mass Tuesday to Friday, and by appointment

Anointing:

Please contact the Parish Office

After-hours Emergency 306.782.0323

Infant Baptism:

Please contact the Parish Office

RCIA:

Please contact the Parish Office

Matrimony:

Please contact the Parish Office 12 months prior to the marriage date

SIGNS of GRACE™

Confirmation

The Second Sacrament of Initiation

First Eucharist

The Third Sacrament of Initiation

In the Archdiocese of Regina, children in Grade 2 and older are invited to prepare to receive both the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Sacrament of First Eucharist at the same Holy Mass.

If you have not received a registration form, or for more information, please email the Parish Office office@stgerard.ca

Please return the completed registration form to the Parish Office as soon as possible so that the required number of resources may be ordered in early January.

The initial Parent Meeting (attendance is mandatory) is Thursday, January 30 at **6:30pm**. The registration fee is due at that time.

Lord, thank you for the gift of baptism.

Help us to follow Jesus' example
of love and service.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit so we can bring
hope and kindness to others. Amen.



Are you a Christian
(baptized in another
tradition besides Catholic)
interested in becoming a
Catholic Christian?

Are you baptized Catholic in need of celebrating Confirmation and/or First Holy Communion?

Are you not baptized yet have interest in the possibility of becoming a baptized Catholic Christian?

If you are not Catholic, we invite you to look deeper into the richness of what the Catholic Church teaches in an open and welcoming environment with our parish family. If you are a Catholic, are you still thinking of deepening your Faith?

If you have questions about the Church, God, and your faith, if you are struggling with doubts about God, if you are just curious about where God may be leading you, we would love to have you join us. Please contact the Parish Office for more information or to register.

There will be a "Meet and Greet" Thursday, January 30 at 7pm.

**Happy
New Year**

BRING YOUR FRIENDS

Welcome the New Year with Joy and Hope!

New Year, New Beginnings, Endless Possibilities

WHEN? Sunday, January 19, 2025

WHERE? St. Gerard's Parish at 2 pm
Use East Door to Youth Room

WHO? All Young Adults Grades 8 - 12



Taking Up Christ's Ministry

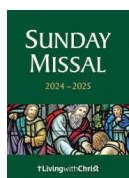
By St. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Before the Second Vatican Council, *ministry* was considered by many to be a Protestant word, and the religious leader who did it was called a *minister*. Catholics had priests and bishops who received and administered sacraments. Religious women did the Church's work in schools and hospitals. The council turned our understanding of Church ministry inside out. We've come to realize that with baptism—not ordination or religious profession—comes the responsibility of ministry. Catholics and Protestants alike understand that their commitment to justice and peace is a genuine ministry that seeks to establish God's reign in our world.

Many interpreters believe that the account of Jesus' baptism points to the inauguration of his own ministry. The theology expressed is certainly Trinitarian (the Voice, Jesus identified as Son, and the Dove). However, the revelation of his true identity occurs as he begins preaching and healing. Some say his baptism was meant to strengthen him as he began his public life. Others believe it was meant to strengthen his disciples.

Today, we maintain that by baptism, we are all children of God. Vatican II has enlightened us as to what this really means. Pope Francis has reminded us that by virtue of our baptism, we are missionary disciples (see *Evangelii Gaudium*, 120). In other words, as disciples, we follow Jesus, learning from him. As missionaries, we go out to spread his Good News to others. It is now for us to take up the ministry where he left off, to be faithful servants with whom God is well pleased.

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The **2024-2025 Sunday Missals** are available in the Welcome Area until the middle of January. Quantities limited. A \$5.00 free-will offering is appreciated.



Please pick up your 2025 offertory envelopes, available in the Welcome Area, when you are at Mass.

If you are unable to locate your envelopes, please contact the Parish Office.



News from the CWL



Jan. 7 General Meeting following 7pm Mass

Thank you to all who have already renewed their membership and to those who have chosen to become new members. A final Membership Drive for 2025 Memberships will be held on January 25/26 at each Mass. The fee remains \$35. Our local council subsidizes an additional \$7.50 per member, thanks to fundraising efforts and personal donations, to cover the yearly membership fees that are paid to the National council. Fees may be paid in cash or by cheque made out to St. Gerard CWL (can be dropped in the collection basket or at the office in a labelled envelope). Alternately, you can e-transfer to pell@sasktel.net. If your financial institution requires a security answer and question, please use What is this for? and CWLMembership.

Thank you to all who supported the Christmas Pudding Project – approximately \$1600 was raised, and the CWL Raffle which raised approximately \$850. Winners were as follows: Gloria Lozinski – quilt and shams, Catherine Dierker – Golf Clubs, and Rose Marchinko – Mary and Child art piece.



News from the Knights of Columbus



- Jan. 14 General Meeting - after Mass
- Jan. 17 Family Prayer Night – 7.00
- Jan. 18 Bingo – afternoon – 12.00
- Jan. 19 Parish Family Brunch – 8.00

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.728.8664 More info: www.kofc-2031.ca The page has been updated. Check it out.



**Love to sing and lead others in song?
Do you play an instrument and want to share your talent?**

St. Gerard Parish invites all youth Grades 4-12 to join the Youth Music Ministry.

The Youth Music Ministry will be leading St. Gerard's in song once a month. Musicians welcome.

Our next Mass is on **January 19th at 11:00.**

For more information, please contact:

- Scott Hoffort - 306-621-8291 or
- Rita Hilbig - 306-621-6552



On the Baptism of the Lord Year C, we reflect on the baptism of Jesus. This event reveals Jesus' humility, marks the start of his mission, and shows the Trinity. By looking at Jesus' baptism, we can understand more about our own baptism and the call to serve and love others.

A Sign of Love and Humility Jesus, though sinless, chose to be baptized by John the Baptist, who called people to repent. Why did Jesus, who had no need to repent, decide to be baptized?

One reason is that Jesus wanted to show his support and understanding for us. He wanted to share in our humanity and weaknesses. By being baptized, Jesus stood with those who were seeking forgiveness and a new start. He showed that he was not distant from us but very close, sharing in our struggles.

Another reason is that Jesus' baptism was a way to begin his mission. It was a public sign that he was ready to do God's work. The heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit came down like a dove. A voice from heaven said, "You are my beloved Son; with you, I am well pleased." This showed that Jesus was chosen by God for a special purpose.

Through Jesus' baptism, we see how much God loves us. Jesus showed that he is with us in our joys and our difficulties. He came to save us and to show us the way to God. By being baptized, Jesus showed that he was one of us, sharing in everything we go through.

A Call to Serve and Love The day Jesus was baptized marked the beginning of his important work. When Jesus came out of the water, he prayed, making it clear that this was a special moment in his life. The Holy Spirit came down on him like a dove. This is similar to how the Spirit empowered the disciples at Pentecost for their mission.

Jesus' baptism prepared him to spread the good news, heal broken hearts, and set people free. He was ready to do God's work and to show God's love to everyone. Jesus cared for people like a shepherd cares for sheep. He was gentle, kind, and always ready to help those in need.

When we think about Jesus' baptism, we should also think about our own baptism. Our baptism prepares us to share in the work of Jesus. We are called to care for one another, to help those in need, to show mercy and love, and to guide others toward God's goodness. Baptism makes us part of God's family and gives us a mission to share God's love with others.

Just as Jesus was empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are also given the strength to do good in our lives. We can bring hope to those who are sad, help those who are struggling, and show kindness to everyone we meet. Through our actions, we can show the love of God in the world.

A Glimpse of the Trinity In the Baptism of the Lord Year C, we see a special moment where the Trinity is revealed. The baptism of Jesus shows us the presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This gives us a glimpse into the Trinitarian nature of God.

As Jesus is baptized, the heavens open, and the Holy Spirit comes down like a dove. At the same time, a voice from heaven speaks, saying, "You are my beloved Son; with you, I am well pleased." Here, we see the Father speaking from heaven, the Son being baptized, and the Holy Spirit descending. This moment shows us how the three Persons of the Trinity are present and working together.

This scene helps us understand that God is a community of love. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are united and share in the work of salvation. Jesus' baptism marks the beginning of his mission to bring God's love to the world. The Holy Spirit empowers him, and the Father's voice affirms him.

When we think about the Trinity revealed at Jesus' baptism, we are reminded that our own baptism also connects us to this loving relationship. We are invited to share in the life of the Trinity and to spread God's love to others. Just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in love and mission, we are called to live in love and to serve others in our daily lives.

Reflecting on the Baptism of the Lord Year C helps us see Jesus' love, the beginning of his mission, and the unity of the Trinity. It reminds us of our own baptism and our call to live in love and service. We are invited to join in Jesus' mission and share God's love with everyone.

www.young-catholics.com