



# St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

**January 1, 2023**  
**The Solemnity of  
Mary, the Holy  
Mother of God**

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](http://www.stgerard.ca) | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: [office@stgerard.ca](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:louisyorkton@gmail.com">louisyorkton@gmail.com</a>
		306.621.8068	Emergencies
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	<a href="mailto:office@stgerard.ca">office@stgerard.ca</a>
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

## MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	NO MASS
Tues. (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	10:30am <i>Funeral Mass-Helen Rupchan</i> 7:00pm +Joseph Paydli
Wed. (4 <sup>th</sup> )	9:00am Family of Joseph 3:00pm <i>Ecumenical Prayer Service for those experiencing grief and loss</i>
Thurs. (5 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>9:30am</b> Family of Toan Khong 2:30pm <b>GLADSTONE SENIORS' RES</b> Michael & Uyen Mai Family
Fri. (6 <sup>th</sup> )	9:00am +Leonard Sharkey 10:30am <b>ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL</b> Family of Dinh Mai
Sat. (7 <sup>th</sup> )	9:00am Family of Dinh <hr/> 5:00pm +Jean Kulcsar
Sun. (8 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b> 9:00am Mass for the People 11:00am +Joseph Paydli

## 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](http://www.stgerard.ca)



Lord Jesus, so that we may imitate your mother and say yes to all God asks of us, we pray – Be born in us, be born in our world.

-The Redemptorists

## Sunday Connection

### First Reading

*Numbers 6.22-27*

God gives a blessing for the Israelites.

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 67.2-3,5,6,8*

All the people sing praises to God.

### Second Reading

*Galatians 4.4-7*

God sent his Son to make us children of God.

### Gospel Reading

*Luke 2.16-21*

The shepherds find Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading is a continuation from the Gospel proclaimed at the Christmas Mass at midnight. In it the shepherds act upon the message they receive from the angel and go to find Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem. In their visit to the manger, the shepherds find things just as the angel had said. The shepherds' visit, therefore, is a moment of fulfillment, manifestation, and the beginning of the salvation we receive through Christ.

In the context of today's Solemnity, this reading also helps us focus on Mary as the Mother of God. The reading tells us at least three things about Mary as a mother. First, Mary is described as a reflective person, keeping the reports of the shepherds in her heart. Second, we are reminded of how obedient Mary was to God when she named the baby Jesus as the angel Gabriel had directed. Third, this reading shows Mary and Joseph faithfully observing their Jewish tradition by having Jesus circumcised.

Mary's faithfulness to God is evident in all three of these things. Her reflection upon the events in her life indicates that she was a person of prayer. This prayer made possible her obedience to God and God's will, even if the outcome was not clear. Finally, her faithfulness to a community of faith grounded her relationship with God and enabled her to participate in God's plan of salvation.

Because of Mary's faithfulness to God, she was able to receive the gift of God's Son and accept her role in God's plan for salvation. By doing so, she models for us the path of discipleship and is also called Mother of the Church.

Our call to discipleship also includes these three aspects. First, discipleship means prayer and reflection on the events of our lives that we might see God's presence and work in our lives. Second, discipleship means obedience to God and God's will. Third, discipleship includes fidelity to a community of faith.

## FAMILY CONNECTION

In today's Gospel, we learn that Mary honoured her commitment to God by naming her child Jesus, the name given to him by the angel Gabriel. In Matthew's Gospel, Joseph is told to name the child Jesus because he will save the people. The name Jesus means "God saves." Even in his name, Jesus announces the mission he came to accomplish.

Your family might use today's feast as an opportunity to talk about names. Reflect together on the name of each member of the family. What does each name mean? Why was each person so named?

Read together today's Gospel, Luke 2:16-21. Recall that the name Jesus means "God saves." Think about how Jesus fulfilled the mission that his name suggests. Pray as a family that each family member will fulfill their mission to be faithful followers of Jesus, in whom we find our salvation. Pray for Mary's help by praying together the Hail Mary or singing together, "Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly."



## 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. Louis at 306.782.2449 or 306.782.0323.



## HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (and Mother of US!!)

Catholics believe that worship is due to God alone. Catholics do, however, venerate Mary. In other words, we honour our Blessed Mother with great reverence and devotion because she is the Mother of God. Mary is the model of perfect love and obedience to Christ. God preserved Mary from sin, and she conceived our Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit, bringing Christ into our world. Catholics can't help but honour the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is full of grace, the Mother of God and our Mother, for her "yes" to God that made the Incarnation possible. And without the Incarnation, we would not have salvation. Mary is the most beautiful model of total submission to the will of God. Catholics do not view Mary as equal to Christ, but rather venerate Mary because of her relationship to Christ. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, "Mary's role in the Church is inseparable from her union with Christ and flows directly from it" (CCC 964).

As Catholics, we pray that we can respond to God's call to holiness for our lives in the way that Mary did. [Saint] Mother Theresa prayed to emulate Mary's devotion to Christ:

*"Mary, Mother of Jesus, give me your heart so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate, so full of love and humility that I may be able to receive Jesus in the Bread of Life, love Him as You loved Him, and serve Him as You served Him...."*

[www.catholicscomehome.org](http://www.catholicscomehome.org)



### BAPTISM

*The First Sacrament of Initiation*

The next Baptism Preparation Session is planned for early 2023. To register, please email the Parish Office as soon as possible. [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca)



### Divine Mercy Devotion

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

### Ecumenical Prayer Service

*for those experiencing grief and loss*

The first Wednesday of each month at 3pm  
(St. Gerard Church)

**The next Prayer Service is Wednesday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>**

Fellowship and refreshments to follow.



### World Day of Peace January 1<sup>st</sup>

The World Day of Peace was established by Pope Paul VI in 1968 who asked that "every year, this commemoration be repeated as a hope and as a promise, at the beginning of the calendar year which measures and outlines the path of human life in time, that Peace with its just and beneficent equilibrium may dominate the development of events to come." Each year has a specific theme, chosen by the Holy Father.

This year's theme is "*No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace.*"



# Bringing Home the Word

## Like the Morning Star

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For the first four centuries following Jesus' ascension Christians grappled with understanding 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 and his 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 settled the issue definitively in 431. 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 Saviour, 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 honour 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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Please pick up your 2023 offertory envelopes, available in the Welcome Area when you are at Mass.

Or stop into the Parish Office during regular office hours. Thank you!

The 2022 annual charitable donation ("tax") receipts will be available for pick up by the end of February.



## 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 or email 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](mailto:giving@stgerard.ca) for more information.

## MARY, MOTHER OF OUR LORD

Pope Paul VI reminded us that "the ultimate purpose of devotion to the Blessed Virgin is to glorify God and lead Christians to commit themselves to a life which is in absolute conformity to his will". We continue to follow Christ as Mary did: hearing the word of God, keeping it in our hearts and doing the will of the Father. Jesus tells us that we are his friends when we do what he commands us; Mary's life is example of the fulfilment of that command.

*All glory is yours, almighty Father:  
you have given us your Son to save us.*

*We praise you  
for choosing Mary to be his mother,  
for teaching her to believe your message,  
for helping her to accept your holy will.*

*Strengthen us by your Spirit to be like Mary:  
to ponder your word in our hearts,  
to obey your will,  
to love your Son,  
to sing your praises each day.*

*Father,  
we praise you through Jesus your Son  
in the love of your Spirit,  
for ever and ever. Amen!*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us.*

