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# 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](http://www.stgerard.ca) [office@stgerard.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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

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**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*

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## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 29, 2017

### Liturgical/Mass Schedule

Tues. (31<sup>st</sup>): 9:00 am- David Wanner  
Wed. ( 1<sup>st</sup>): 6:30 pm- +Shelley Kaspick  
Thurs. ( 2<sup>nd</sup>): *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord*  
9:00 am- +Adolph Sliwa  
Fri. ( 3<sup>rd</sup>): 9:00 am- +Gladys Molnar  
9:30 am- *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*  
10:30 am- *Benediction*  
7:00 pm- *Hour of Prayer with the Icon of the Holy Family*  
Sat. ( 4<sup>th</sup>): 9:30 am- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*  
10:00 am- +Orest Derkach

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6:30 pm- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*  
7:00 pm- +Mary Diakuw

### *Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Sun. ( 5<sup>th</sup>): 9:00 am- +Agnes Stokman  
11:00 am- Mass for the People

**Please remember the sick in your prayers:**

Jay Gustafson, Fran Semchuk



Lord, you dwell in the depth of my being. May your Spirit help me to seek and to know you with all my heart, mind, soul, and strength.

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

### Non-liturgical Schedule

Sun. (29<sup>th</sup>): 6:30 pm- *Come Join Us at the Table #2*  
Mon. (30<sup>th</sup>): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal  
7:00 pm- The First Spiritual Exercises  
8:00 pm- CWL Executive Meeting  
Wed. ( 1<sup>st</sup>): **7:00 pm**- Choir rehearsal for 9am Mass  
7:00 pm- CWL General Meeting  
7:30 pm- K of C Executive Meeting  
Fri. ( 3<sup>rd</sup>): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal

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### **The Story of the Presentation of the Lord**

At the end of the fourth century, a woman named Etheria made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Her journal, discovered in 1887, gives an unprecedented glimpse of liturgical life there. Among the celebrations she describes is the Epiphany, the observance of Christ's birth, and the gala procession in honor of his Presentation in the Temple 40 days later. (Under the Mosaic Law, a woman was ritually "unclean" for 40 days after childbirth, when she was to present herself to the priests and offer sacrifice—her "purification." Contact with anyone who had brushed against mystery—birth or death—excluded a person from Jewish worship.) This feast emphasizes Jesus' first appearance in the Temple more than Mary's purification. The observance spread throughout the Western Church in the fifth and sixth centuries. Because the Church in the West celebrated Jesus' birth on December 25, the Presentation was moved to February 2, 40 days after Christmas. At the beginning of the eighth century, Pope Sergius inaugurated a candlelight procession; at the end of the same century the blessing and distribution of candles which continues to this day became part of the celebration, giving the feast its popular name: Candlemas.

## Resolutions in the New Year

Make your New Year's resolution a reality. Do you want to grow in holiness? Do you want to experience God more in your life? Come and pray with The First Spiritual Exercises – **starting tomorrow.**

**The First Spiritual Exercises** – A four-week Retreat is offered at St. Gerard. Based on Ignatian Spirituality, it offers to deepen our relationship with God. Experience this extraordinary gift of Ignatius that will bring you into an intimate relationship with the Lord and companionship with others.

**What do you need to do?** Come on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm to Meeting Rooms A & B to find out about the exercises. Bring a notebook and a pen. Other materials and detailed explanations will be given at that time. We will meet four more Mondays to share our own experiences and conclude, in prayer, the First Spiritual Exercises on Monday February 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Catechism Theme: "The Beatitudes" (CCC 1716-1724)

The Beatitudes lie at the heart of Christ's teaching, for they describe our relationship to the Kingdom in three ways. First, these simple rules address our highest desire: happiness with God. For, only God can satisfy the heart. Second, they describe the path to God for us as individuals and together as a Church. Through the Beatitudes, we share God's very life (sanctifying grace) because we enter into his Kingdom. Finally, they challenge us to live moral lives by putting God first. If we want to know what it truly means to be a Christian, read the Beatitudes in Matthew.

*Who is one Christian you know that is truly happy? Why are he or she happy?*

While there are many ideals for happiness, we Christians find ours in the Beatitudes. Guides to a Christians life. Ideals with the goal of the Kingdom. We might not be able to fully live the Beatitudes today. But that is not the point. Like any ideal of happiness, the road is as important as the destination. Striving to live the Beatitudes day by day opens us to God's lead and the way to his Kingdom.

*What can you do today to live out the Beatitudes this day?*

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## Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools News January 29 - February 3, 2017



	Sacred Heart	St. Alphonsus	St. Mary	St. Michael	St. Paul	St. Theodore
Mon.	•Semester 2 begins	•Curling Bonspiel				
Tues.		•Bball vs St. Mary	•Bball @ St. Alphonsus			
Wed.		•Gr. 4 Swimming				•SCC Meeting
Thurs.		•Bball vs Springside	•Bball @ MC Knoll			
Fri.		•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*

*The next Baptism Preparation class is Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>! To register for the classes, please contact the Parish Office at 306.782.2449 as soon as possible!*

### CONFIRMATION

*The Second Sacrament of Initiation*

### FIRST EUCHARIST

*The Third Sacrament of Initiation*

**~ COME JOIN US AT THE TABLE ~**

#### Session #2

**TONIGHT** Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm

**Altar Servers** – please pick up a copy of your schedule, available in the Sacristy (or check your email!).

The Liturgical Committee is cataloguing all items that have been donated to the church over the years.

If you have donated an item and it does not have a plaque on it, please contact:

Carol Deters                      306.782.1762  
Yvonne Turgeon                306.782.1055

## Jesus Is *in* the World Not *of* It

The Beatitudes offer us a self-portrait of Jesus. At first it might seem to be a most unappealing portrait - who wants to be poor, mourning and persecuted? Who can be truly gentle, merciful, pure in heart, a peacemaker, and always concerned about justice? Where is the realism here? Don't we have to survive in this world and use the ways of the world to do so?

Jesus shows us the way to be *in* the world without being *of* it. When we model our lives on his, a new world will open up for us. The Kingdom of Heaven will be ours, and the earth will be our inheritance. We will be comforted and have our fill; mercy will be shown to us. Yes, we will be recognised as God's children and truly see God, not just in an afterlife, but here and now (see Matthew 5:3-10). That is the reward of modelling our lives on the life of Jesus!

*Bread for the Journey*, by Henri J.M. Nouwen,  
©1997 Harper San Francisco

**REMINDER** – Deadline for bulletin submissions is **12 noon Wednesday** unless otherwise noted. Thank you!



## News from the CWL



The CWL is looking for gently used purses, scarves and jewellery! If you're cleaning your closets and find some of these items to pass on, please leave them by the CWL room. Items will be collected 'til the end of February. These will be part of a fundraiser for the refugee family. Thank you!



## News from the Knights of Columbus



**This is the Knights of Columbus "White Ribbon" weekend.** The White Ribbon campaign protests abuse towards women and children, and is all the more powerful because men began the campaign to send the message, loud and clear, that abuse will not be tolerated. Your support of the White ribbon campaign, and wearing a white ribbon, speaks out for wives, sisters, mothers, daughters. Thank you for your generosity. All proceeds go to Shelwin House.

Jan. 30                      Evening bingo  
Jan. 31                      Fraternal survey due  
Feb. 3                        Celebration of *the Holy Family Icon Prayer Service* followed by fellowship.  
All Knights please make this a "must-attend". Everyone is welcome.


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

## Baptized Stewards

*"John answered them all, 'I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...'" Luke 3.16a*

The Catholic Catechism states that "*Jesus' immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God's will.*" In other words, as baptized **Stewards** there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Once we surrender ourselves to God, we will know in our hearts what God calls us to do.

S	P	I	R	Y	P	A	H	A	E	HAPPY	POOR	SPIRIT
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G	R	N	F	P	O	I	R	D	E	PURE	HEART	REWARD
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## Bringing Home the Word

### The Beautiful Beatitudes

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

**To follow Christ** is to seek lowliness, humility, mercy, and righteousness. The Ten Commandments summarize God's teaching to his people. Jesus gives us a new law that builds on the old. Before it was, "You shall not..."; now it is, "Blessed are you when..." He calls us to greater happiness, greater blessing, but it comes with a challenge. Saint Augustine says that Jesus went up the mountain to preach the Beatitudes because he was preaching a higher moral doctrine: "greater precepts of righteousness."

The new law contradicts what our wounded human nature tends to think and feel. We are challenged to believe blessings can come from tears, meekness, and poverty.

"Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness" (Matthew 5:10). Appreciating these truths requires transforming our minds and hearts. Faith is required. Deeply desiring and living in the right does bring satisfaction. There is consolation in mourning the things that sadden Christ's heart.

If we live by the Beatitudes, many will treat us more generously. We know people who are merciful, and we are quick to show them mercy. When our hearts are clean, we can see God more clearly. Those who seek and create peace are considered by all to be children of God. They are not without trials and suffering, but they are blessed and happy. Christ calls us to store up treasures in heaven, spiritual blessings that cannot be taken away. Even if we experience difficulty, we will still receive the highest and greatest gift: the kingdom of heaven.

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**St. Gerard's Development & Peace Share Lent workshop:** The 2017 Share Lent theme is "*Women at the Heart of Change*". What does this mean in development work? Please join us in exploring this theme and preparing for the Share Lent campaign. Everyone is welcome! Sunday, February 26th at 1:30 pm. For further information, please call Dana at 306.890.0394 or D&P's regional office at 306.937.7675.

## World Day of the Sick

February 11<sup>th</sup>

The ministry of Jesus to the sick is central to the life of the Church. February 11 (Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes) highlights the healing ministry of the Church. It reminds us that service to the sick and suffering cannot be neglected. It recognizes the great efforts of doctors, nurses, health care institutions and pastoral care givers to restore health to those afflicted with illness and disease.

(ORDO, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, CCCB Publications, Ottawa)

### Ministry of Care Blessing

to mark the

World Day of the Sick

**All health care providers and personnel who work in health care** are invited to receive a prayer of blessing during Sunday Mass celebrations on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, to mark the World Day of the Sick, celebrated February 11<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

**The blessing at the Sunday liturgy** is offered to highlight the health care community and our sharing in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

The message for the 2017 World Day of the Sick from Pope Francis can be found online:

[https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/papa-francesco\\_20161208\\_giornata-malato.html](https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/papa-francesco_20161208_giornata-malato.html)

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

### VALENTINE TEA & BAKE SALE

Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>

2 pm to 4 pm

(in the lower hall)

Everyone Welcome!!



## YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

### "Humility"

#### **This Week...**

The message of humility is clearly expressed in all three of these readings. The humble ones are the ones who do not sin and who do not tell lies. The humble ones are those who shame the proud ones by their humility. The humble ones are the ones who are happiest and most blessed.

#### **For Your Reflection**

The verses of today's Gospel are called the Beatitudes. Sometimes they are called the "Be Attitudes" because they tell us the kind of attitudes we need to develop and the way we need to be.

- Do these Beatitudes sound like good news or bad news? Why?
- Who are the most peaceful and contented people you know? What do they have in common with the attitudes of the Beatitudes?
- What are the attitudes of consumerism and materialism? How do commercials and ads encourage people to buy products? How are these attitudes different from those of the Beatitudes?
- What attitudes would make a better world? What attitudes would make a more selfish and self-centered world?
- How could you rewrite the Beatitudes in language that most teenagers today would more easily understand?

Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle A for Ordinary Time*, 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](mailto: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.*



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## 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.

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## 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

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**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.

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## 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](http://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](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org), or email Bonnie at [r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net](mailto: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](mailto:diplomainministry@stfx.ca) or check the website:

[www.mystfx.ca/academic/continuinged/Ministry.html](http://www.mystfx.ca/academic/continuinged/Ministry.html)