



St. Gerard's

Roman Catholic Parish

January 7th, 2024

The Solemnity of the Epiphany 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

Office 306.782.2449

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

Glenn Walz, Caretaker

MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

•Altar Server Coordinator

Kathleen Bedard

•Baptism Team

Trevor Baker tlbaker@sasktel.net

•Catholic Women's League

Deanna Pellatt pell@sasktel.net

Christine Shuya m.shuya@sasktel.net

•Centering Prayer

Ernie Bobowski 306.783.6014

Lori Zuzak 306.783.8063

•Divine Mercy

Adeline Oystreck

•Family, Community & Social

Anita Halliday

•Knights of Columbus

Keith Hayward

grand-knight@kofc-2031.ca

•Liturgical

Colleen Haider

•Protocol for Responsible Ministry

Richard Dubois

•Sacrament Coordinators

Rene & Ophelia Adane

adanerene@gmail.com

•Social Justice

Linda Maddaford

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'S PARISH HOLY MASS & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Mon. 8th

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

(last day of the Christmas Season)

7:00 pm **Mass** for the People

Tues. 9th

6:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:00 pm **Mass** Adamiak Family

Wed. 10th

9:00 am **Mass** +Tony Spykerman

Followed by Divine Mercy Devotion

7:00 pm Knights of Columbus General Meeting

Thurs. 11th

9:00 am **Mass** +Rhonda Kormos

7:00pm Centering Prayer *(use east entrance)*

Fri. 12th

9:00 am **Mass** +Jeannette Marie Johner

Sat. 13th

5:00 pm **Mass** for the People

Sun. 14th

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am **Mass** for the People

Followed by Parish Brunch

11:00 am **Mass** for the People

Followed by Parish brunch

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

SACRAMENTS OF FIRST EUCHARIST AND CONFIRMATION 2024

January 25	PARENTS MEETING (MUST ATTEND)
<u>January 27/28</u>	Enrolment Mass. Parents with candidates must attend one of the Masses at 5PM or 11AM.
February 08	God Chooses Me & The Holy Spirit Gives Me Gifts 1 st Session
February 22	Honouring Mary as the First Disciple 2 nd Session
February 29	Growing in Holiness Sunday is Special 3 rd Session
March 07	The Greatest Event on Earth & the Eucharist 4 th Session
March 14	The Word of God, Your First Communion 5 th Session
April 11	God's Family 6 th Session
<u>May 25</u>	RETREAT 10:00AM
<u>June 1</u>	REHEARSAL 2:00PM
<u>June 2</u>	CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION 2:00 PM

All the sessions will be 7-8:30PM unless otherwise specified. Please contact Rene & Ophelia, your Sacrament Coordinators: adanerene@gmail.com

The Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation Preparation will begin January 25th as you see in the schedule. Children who are in Grade 2 and above are invited to participate through their parents. For those who are not registered yet, please contact the Parish Office. If you have any questions, please contact Rene and Ophelia. Watch for your update links for further information on the program.

Many Blessings of the Lord Jesus to your Family as you are getting ready for these amazing Grace-filling sacraments for your children.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

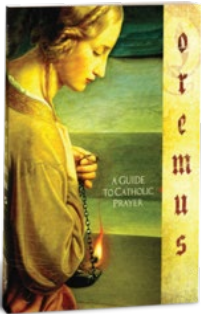
WHAT IS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REALLY ABOUT?

- 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 1st 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, 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.

St. Gerard Parish is hosting an RCIA session from February 1st to March 21st, every Thursday from 7PM to 8:30PM. Everyone is Welcome!

CENTERING PRAYER
Thursday, January 11th at 7pm
Lower Level
(please use east entrance)



**BIBLE STUDY “OREMUS”
(Let us Pray)**

Beginning February 7th to March 20th, the Bible Study “Oremus” will be held every Wednesday from 7PM to 8:30PM (except Ash Wednesday) for six weeks.

This is a great opportunity during the season of Lent. There will be a video presentation by Rev. Father Mark Touts, round table discussions, opportunity for questions and answers, and Prayers.

Do you find it easy to pray? Is prayer an integral part of your day? Do you hear God’s voice in your daily life and know how to respond accordingly? Father Mark will explain very well to us.

To cover the cost of books, materials and snacks, a fee of \$60 is to be paid when you register. Each individual will be given a copy of the Oremus book.

Please register for this session in advance so that the materials can be ordered. Registrations are being taken at the Parish Office.



The 2024 Sunday collection (offertory) envelopes are in the Welcome Area.

Please only use envelopes dated 2024 so that your donation is correctly credited to you.

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. Contact the Parish Office for more information.



News from the Knights of Columbus



- Jan. 7 Bingo – evening – 5.00
- Jan. 10 Combined Planning & General Meeting – 7.00
- Jan. 13 Take down Keep Christ in Christmas Signs – 9.00
- Jan. 14 Parish Brunch – 8.00

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.728.8664.

More info: www.kofc-2031.ca The website has been updated! Check it out!



**Bringing Home
the Word** +

Do You See What I See?

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Today's Gospel answers this question quite definitively: No! Not everyone saw the guiding star in the sky. Not even those who, presumably, knew the prophecy found in the reading from Isaiah. That ancient prophet announced to the people of Jerusalem: “Your light has come” (Isaiah 60:1). In fact, he promised them they would be so embraced by that light, they themselves would shine brightly with its radiance. But when the time came, not everyone saw it. Or, having seen it, they did not recognize it.

The people of Jesus' time were not ignorant of these prophecies. They knew what they meant and to whom they referred. Consequently, when the stargazers who saw the light inquired about it, those to whom they inquired knew where to send them. So what was the problem? Why were those men in Jerusalem not excited about the star? A new king meant a rival king, and those who had power weren't eager to relinquish it.

We know that not everyone in Israel rejected Jesus. Shepherds had already thrilled at this birth. Someone in Bethlehem had opened his stable to this Child and his parents. Now we add the stargazers from another country. It seems the invitation to come to him is extended to all: political and religious leaders, the unsophisticated and marginalized, the established homeowner, the foreigners in our midst. They are all asked: “Did you see what I saw? What do you think of him?”

SUNDAY CONNECTION FOR THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

First Reading *Isaiah 60.1-6*
Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations.

Responsorial Psalm *72.1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13*
Every nation on earth shall worship the Lord

Second Reading *Ephesians 3.2-3a,5-*
Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 2.1-12*
The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod ..." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

FAMILY CONNECTION FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Gospel Reading *Mark 1.7-11*
Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist

In the story of Jesus' baptism, we hear the report of a significant moment in Jesus' life. By accepting baptism from John the Baptist, Jesus shows himself to accept solidarity with sinners. In the voice from heaven and the descent of the Holy Spirit, we know that God received this offering from Jesus and found it pleasing. In the passages that follow in Mark's Gospel, we learn that Jesus' baptism marks the beginning of his public ministry.

Although many of us may have already taken down our Christmas decorations, liturgically speaking, the Christmas season hasn't ended yet; today is the last day. Holidays like Christmas are highlights of our year, moments of great grace. This grace renews us and prepares us for our return to the season of Ordinary Time, to the continuing work of discipleship.

Gather as a family and discuss your feelings about the ending of the Christmas season. How does it feel to take down the Christmas decorations? Many of us experience a letdown after the excitement of Christmas; others may feel relieved that life is returning to normal. Liturgically, we end the Christmas season today by reflecting on the importance of Jesus' baptism. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 1:7-11. Jesus' baptism prepared him for his public ministry. What will we take from this Christmas season to carry us forward into Ordinary Time, to renew and strengthen our life of Christian discipleship? Conclude by praying together today's psalm response taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah, Isaiah 12:2-6, or pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Catechism Themes: The Mysteries of Christ's Infancy: Part 1 (CCC 527, 529)

Jesus' presentation at the Temple represents his unity with his people and his place as the First Born of the Father. As a circumcised Jew, Jesus was a true son of Abraham. He followed the Law, worshiped God in the Temple, and extended himself to his fellow countrymen.

Jesus was also the unique first born of his Father, the "light to the nations" and "the glory of Israel." But his status would come at a price. He would be opposed by the leadership and would suffer death, symbolized by the dagger in Mary's heart. Yet, the public nature of his death would be the sign of universal salvation, "in sight of all nations."

Have you ever experienced God in church, but in way unexpected? Has God ever caught you by surprise, yet in a way that gave new insight? Have children ever caused you to wonder? What happened?

In the place of God's dwelling, a child is presented and given a mission. In the experience of a child, God gave the world Good News. In the sight of a family, the world saw the presence of God with his people. Yes, the Spirit of the season lingers on. And it grows stronger as long as we hold the Christ Child close to us.

Take one or two spiritual gifts you have been given this season. Share them with a friend or two this week.

Catechism Theme: The Mysteries of Jesus' Infancy: Part II

The feast of Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Christ to the pagan nations. And it points to Israel's place as the source of God's revelation. The Magi came to seek the newly born King, the one who would be a light to the nations. Their encounter foreshadowed the evangelization success Christianity would have among pagan people who hungered for God's truth. Their encounter also acknowledged Israel as God's chosen people. They would be the source of God's blessing, a living fountain of God's revelation for all people. In the feast of the Epiphany, we rejoice in the worship of the first seekers. And we are reminded to honour God's people who gave us the great gift of Jesus, our Lord.

When have you searched for the Lord? When has that search encountered roadblocks, deception, or wrong turns? How has God kept you on track?

As we look back on the story of the Epiphany, let us remember who called, guided, and revealed himself to the Magi: God. The story was God-driven from the first verse. Let us not forget God himself calls us from the surface experience of daily living to seek something higher, something better. He is the one who turns us from those who expect experience into those who receive grace, pure gift, at every turn. In God, we find someone to give our hearts, our minds, and our lives to. We find the goal of our quest.

How has God called you this week? How has God graced you this week? How can you pass your call and your grace along to others?

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