
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 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

First Sunday of Advent – November 29, 2015

Liturgical/Mass Schedule

Mon. (30th): 9:00 am- +Hugh Ryan
Tues. (1st): 9:00 am- +William Van Styn
Wed. (2nd): 2:00 pm- *Divine Mercy Devotion*
5:30 pm- +Helen Flavel
Thurs. (3rd): 9:00 am- Maria Cattelaens
Fri. (4th): 9:00 am- +Treeske Holtkamp
9:30 am- *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*
10:30 am- *Benediction*
Sat. (5th): 9:30 am- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
10:00 am- +Janet Gress

6:30 pm- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
7:00 pm- Garnet Exner

Sun. (6th): *Second Sunday of Advent*
9:00 am- Mass for the People
11:00 am- +Joelle Lucas
8:00 pm- *Liturgy of the Hours*

COMMUNION TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND

Aspen Villa: Joan Cartwright
Hospital: Miles Shuya
Nursing Home: Claudette Tessier & Angela Ostapovich
Triplex: Alfred Labas

Please remember the sick in your prayers:
Rosemarie Massett, Brynleigh Yewsuk

The 2015-2016 (Cycle C) Sunday Missals are located on the table in the Welcome Area. Please pick up a copy today while quantities last! Also available are Advent Reflections and December daily missals.

Non-liturgical Schedule

Mon. (30th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm- Conversion
Tues. (1st): 7:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for 9am Mass
Wed. (2nd): 6:00 pm- CWL Christmas Banquet
7:00 pm- K of C Executive & General Mtg.
7:30 pm- Choir rehearsal for 11am Mass
Thurs. (3rd): 7:00 pm- RCIA in CWL Room (lower level)
Fri. (4th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir Rehearsal
Sun. (6th): 5:00 pm- Parish Family Christmas Social
(see page 4 for details!)

PARISH COUNCIL

Stewardship Corner

"St. Gerard's Pastoral Council seeks to celebrate the glory of God the Father and promote the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the precepts of the Church, building the Body of Christ and reaching out in love of the Holy Spirit."

The Council's main concern is to set goals and policy for the Parish Community and to encourage active involvement by the parishioners.

The Pastoral Council has a consultative vote, and is regulated by the norms laid down by the diocesan Bishop.

The Finance Council helps the parish priest in the administration of the goods of the parish, and is regulated by the norms laid down by the diocesan Bishop.

2016 Giving Program

Within the next few weeks, the 2016 collection envelopes will be available in the Welcome Area for those who have contributed by this method in 2015. Please use the new envelopes commencing January 1, 2016.

If you do not have collection envelopes and would like to receive a set for 2016, **please complete a Parish Registration Form (beige)**, located on the large glass table in the Welcome Area and at the south entrance.

Have you considered switching from collection envelopes to

“Pre-Authorized Giving”?

Now is the time!!

- Pre-authorized Giving is convenient.
- Pre-authorized Giving is assured.
- Pre-authorized Giving results in lower administrative costs.

Please complete the Pre-Authorized Giving form and submit it to the Parish Office. Forms are available on the large glass table in the Welcome Area and at the south entrance.

Re: Pre-authorized Giving & “special collections” – PA Givers may place special collection donations in an envelope with the name of the collection, and name, address & phone number.

Pope Francis has announced an **Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy** that will be celebrated from December 8, 2015, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, through to November 20, 2016, the Feast of Christ the King.

To mark the beginning of this special year in the Yorkton/Melville Deanery, there will be a celebration of the **Eucharist at St. Henry Parish in Melville at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 8.**

Following the mass, there will be a time for gathering and fellowship in the parish hall. Everyone is invited to attend. Let us make this a real Deanery celebration that will set the tone for other celebrations to follow in the parishes of this deanery.

– Father Hengen



Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools News November 30 - December 5, 2015



	Sacred Heart	St. Alphonsus	St. Mary	St. Michael	St. Paul	St. Theodore
Mon.		•Advent Celebration			•Advent Celebration •Gr. 3 to WDM •SCC Meeting	
Tues.	•Gr. 10 Retreat	•Band Concert @ SHHS @ 7pm		•Chess Club begins •CTCS Band Concert	•Gr. 1&4 to WDM •Band Christmas Concert	
Wed.		•Gr. 7&8 to SHHS musical		•Wk 1 Advent Celebrations •Gr. 7&8 to SHHS musical	•Gr. 7&8 to SHHS musical	•Gr.6/7/8 to SHHS musical
Thurs.				•Disability Awareness Resource Fair		•SCC Meeting @ 7pm
Fri.	•Musical	•SCC Family Lunch		•Gr. 7/8 YRHS Curling Bonspiel		
Sat.	•Musical			•Gr. 7/8 YRHS Curling Bonspiel		
Sun.	•Musical					

Sacred Heart’s Drama Club is performing the musical **Fiddler on the Roof** on Dec. 4 & 5 at 7pm and Dec. 6 at 2pm. Tickets are \$15 and are available at SHHS office.

“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

~ COME JOIN US AT THE TABLE ~

The parish-based sacrament preparation program
for Confirmation & First Eucharist

INITIAL PARENT MEETING

December 13th @ 7pm in the Parish Hall

All parents of children aged **Grade 2 and older** who have not received the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or First Eucharist are asked to attend. **You may pre-register** your child/ren by phoning the Parish Office.



We welcome into our Catholic Christian Community

Aaliyah Brightnose
Ashah Brightnose

Carter Spence Isabelle Spence
Olly Gibson Aubrey Johnson Lexi Niefer
Brylee Senchuk Trista Tuing
Shayna Niedzielski

May these children and their families
experience joy and new life.



MINISTRY SCHEDULES



The new Welcomer, Lector, and Minister of Holy Communion (at Mass), and Hospitality Minister schedules are **available for pickup from the large table in the Welcome Area. Please pick up your copy today!**



St. Gerard Music Ministry Notes



The Christmas Liturgy Sign Up sheets are available on the table in the Choir Room.

Rehearsals for Christmas commence Thursday, December 10th.

All are welcome to sing at the Christmas Masses, however attendance at the rehearsals is expected in order for the choir to minister well as we lead the people in song.



News from the CWL



"Love in the Kitchen" – the St. Gerard CWL 50th Anniversary Cookbook - is available for sale after Mass this weekend. \$15 each or 2/\$25.

Calendars (\$5.00) also available. While supplies last!



The CWL invites



All Ladies of the Parish

to the Annual CWL Christmas Banquet

Wednesday, December 2nd

Mass at 5:30 pm Supper at 6:00 pm

Cost: \$15.00 – Advance Tickets Only

Tickets available to purchase before & after Mass TODAY!

Each lady is asked to bring a personal item to donate to the Salvation Army (e.g., socks, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.) For more info. contact: Rosella Wanner 306.782.7042



News from the Knights of Columbus



Dec. 2 - Executive & General Meeting
Note change

Dec. 6 - Carols at the Nursing Home
Parish family/children's Christmas Social

Dec. 9 - Knights and wives plus widows Christmas Social. Phone/text Wayne at 306.783.7380 or email wex13@sasktel.net by December 6th if you are planning to attend.

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Brian @ 306.728.2109 after 5pm (or leave a message).

Each Monday at 7:30 pm in Advent...

Father Robert Barron's

CONVERSION

Following the Call of Christ

Conversion is a life-long process of turning our attention toward Christ and His call to change.

Take time to explore biblical stories of ordinary people who did.

Good News!

November 29, 2015

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Jer 33:14–16 / 1 Thes 3:12—4:2 / Lk 21:25–28, 34–36

We begin this Church year as we left the last one—with a description of the signs that will come before Christ appears. But where Mark warns of the coming judgment for the enemies of God, Luke, with great subtlety, shifts the nuance so that people will hear the hope of salvation. "Stand erect and raise your head," he calls out. At the end of the Church year, we meditate on Christ's coming in glory to judge the living and the dead. In the beginning, we remember the Incarnation: God's emptying himself to become fully human and to come into the world. Both events are heralded by and will mean great change for us and for the world.

Change happens when God breaks into the world, regardless of the time. In account after account in the Bible, we watch as God visits people and changes their names (Abraham and Peter), their lives (Jeremiah, the apostles, the woman at the well), and heals their separation and brokenness (the blind man, the paralytic, and Lazarus). Also, sinners are punished (Dives and Jezebel) and landscapes are altered (Isaiah's vision of valleys lifted up and mountains laid low). This saving action continues throughout history, especially within the Church and among the saints.

Advent is a time to remember that Christ came to change the world and each of us. Have we allowed ourselves to be changed? Are we willing to be shaped by the hand of God, called by a different name, and given a place in Christ's mission? Let's hope so because, ready or not, here he comes.

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The **Giving Tree** is up and ready for you to pick a gift tag, purchase the gift and place it under the tree unwrapped (gift bags are okay) with the gift tag attached.

Gifts are to be under the tree by December 15th so that they can be sorted and delivered to the Safe Haven Salvation Army, Shelwin House, Whitespruce Provincial Training Centre and the Yorkton Transitional Homes for Youth.

Come Celebrate

Simbang Gabi



What is Simbang Gabi? It is a series of nine "dawn" masses, rooted to an early tradition going back to the Spanish colonization of the Philippines, where it was known as the *misa de gallo* ("Mass of the Rooster").

People firmly break the silence of the night and the routine of their lives so as to truly express their faith to God as they anticipate the Christmas joy.

At St. Gerard Church, the Simbang Gabi novena masses will be celebrated at **5:00 am beginning Wednesday, December 16th and concluding Thursday, December 24th.**

The masses will be celebrated primarily in the Tagalog language, with some English.

Refreshments will be served following each mass. Everyone welcome!

St. Gerard Parish Family Christmas Social

Sunday, December 6th, 2015
in the Parish Hall



Potluck Supper at 5:00 pm

All parishioners are welcome to attend!! Please bring your favourite dish to share with other families (we suggest servings for your family plus one person).

Bring the entire family for a great meal, Christmas carolling, and a surprise visitor!

Sponsored by: Knights of Columbus Council # 2031

PARISH CENTRE HAPPENINGS

306.783.4255 - Perogy Hotline – 306.783.4255

Perogies for sale Wednesday & Thursday
1pm to 5pm
(or by appointment)



December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016

YEAR OF MERCY

The “Jubilee of Mercy” will commence with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter’s on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2015, and will conclude on November 20, 2016 with the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

The Jubilee announcement had been made on the second anniversary of the election of Pope Francis (March 13, 2015). The opening of this next Jubilee will take place on the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council in 1965. This is of great significance, for it impels the Church to continue the work begun at Vatican II.

With the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis focuses attention upon the merciful God who invites all men and women to return to Him. The encounter with God inspires in one the virtue of mercy.

Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.
Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.
Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:
“If you knew the gift of God!”

You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.
You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy,
you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

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To mark the beginning of this special year in the Yorkton/Melville Deanery, there will be a **Celebration of the Eucharist at St. Henry Parish in Melville at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 8**. Following the mass, there will be a time for gathering and fellowship in the parish hall. Everyone is invited to attend. Let us make this a real Deanery celebration that will set the tone for other celebrations to follow in the parishes of this deanery. – Father Hengen

YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"The Branch Springing Forth"

This Week...

The branch that springs from David's family tree is Jesus. God's promise made to Israel and Judah is kept when Jesus, the Chosen One, comes. While waiting for Jesus, we need to be watchful, prayerful, and strong. We know that Jesus is our brother and part of our family, and that is enough to fill our hearts with holiness and innocence.

For Your Reflection

- Have you ever tried to draw your family tree? How many uncles and aunts do you have? How many cousins do you have? How many grandparents do you remember knowing? Are any of them still alive? If so, what are they like? Do you have any older relatives that you really admire? What country or countries are your relatives from?

- Luke and Matthew want us to know that Jesus was born in King David's family. How would you feel if you found out that one of your ancestors was a king or queen?

- What do you think your children and grandchildren might be like? Where do you think they might live? What country do you hope they will live in? What do you hope for all people living in the world by the time your children or grandchildren are grown?

Excerpt adapted from *In Touch With the Word, 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