



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:
(Cancelled until further notice)

CONTACT US

The Parish Office is open reduced hours, but the doors remain locked. Please phone ahead. We continue to take the necessary precautions to keep our parishioners and employees safe & healthy. You may phone/email the office Monday to Thursday between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

www.stgerard.ca | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca

Pastor.....Fr. Louis Nguyen 306.782.0323 louisyorkton@gmail.com
Parish Office Administrator.....Sandra Archer
Caretaker.....Mario Guerra

MASS SCHEDULE

Tues. (1st) 7pm Freda McCann
Wed. (2nd) 9:30am Joan Kormos
Thurs. (3rd) 9:30am +Paul Cabana
Fri. (4th) 9:30am Jody Chupa
Sat. (5th) 9:30am Russell Griffith

Sun. (6th) **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*(Live on Facebook at 10:00 am -
Search "Filipino Catholic Community in Yorkton")*

Mass for the People



Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!

Eucharistic Holy Hour Devotion
at 6pm (prior to 7pm Tuesday Mass)

**There is a limited supply of
2020-2021 Sunday Missals available
The suggested free-will offering is \$5.00**



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Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, I have become distracted by the things of this world. Guide my steps and lead me safely back home to you. Help me to respond to the needs of others.

- From *Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas*,
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

- Beginning Friday, November 27th, **a maximum of 30 people may attend weekday Mass.** There will be no "in-person" Mass Saturday evening or Sunday morning until further notice.
- Sunday Mass will be live on Facebook at 10:00 am
- **Masks are mandatory.**
- **Members of the same household** may sit together at the marked seating.
- **At least two-metres separation** is required between households.
- **Please arrive early** so that you can provide your name and telephone number for contact-tracing purposes.
- **The following must stay home for the sake of the wider community:**
 - ❖ People with COVID-19 symptoms, who live with someone with COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
 - ❖ The sick, including those with a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath
 - ❖ Those who have travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days

A Note from Your Pastor.....

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Last weekend we celebrated the last Sunday in Ordinary Time and now we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent, the first Sunday of the new liturgical (church) year. Christmas is coming, and we prepare ourselves to welcome Christ by celebrating the season of Advent.

We focus on different aspects of this season which are of much benefit to our spiritual lives. In Lent we focus on the reality of sin and mercy and the need for repentance in each of us; during Easter we focus on the power of God and the Resurrection; during Ordinary Time we focus on the everyday life and teachings of Jesus; and now, during Advent, we focus on God's faithfulness.

St. Paul talks about this in the second reading: "*God is faithful*". We all know that God didn't abandon the human race after original sin. He didn't abandon us, but he promised to send a Savior. God fulfilled His promise on the very first Christmas, and, having not been done yet, He continued to promise that this Savior, Jesus Christ, will come again to bring our earthly exile to its completion.

We have four candles representing the four weeks of Advent, and today we light the first candle. This light represents Christ himself, who is the light of the world: his Word tells us how we should live, and his love, expressed especially in the Eucharist, fills our hearts with comfort. We light the candles slowly one by one on each of the Advent Sundays, because we know that the joy of salvation doesn't come fully into our lives all at once.

A Christian's life is a journey, a relationship with Jesus that has to be continually renewed, just as a candle is lit each week. If we are faithful to this friendship and don't pause along our journey, the fullness of joy will eventually be ours.

Today, from the first reading, we hear two times "*Lord, you are our Father*". This reminds us that God always fulfills His promises. Today's liturgy wants to put that same prayer in our hearts. Because God is our Father; he is always looking after us, protecting us, and loving us. Remember that, unlike our earthly fathers, God's fatherly love has no limits, no imperfections, and no blind spots.

Advent is meant to be a time when we renew our awareness of God's perfect Fatherhood in our lives. You and I can only experience it if we make time for it.

A good way to begin Advent is by making a commitment to spend a bit more time with God in prayer between now and Christmas. Personal, heart-to-heart and sincere prayer. Therefore, I have some suggestions for us all:

- Spend fifteen minutes in the morning or evening and read through one of the Gospels from the Living with Christ, or another good spiritual book, slowly, prayerfully. Try to get to know Christ, to experience Christ. Or
- Attend daily Mass a couple times during the week, to celebrate and receive Holy Communion and pray for ourselves and our loved ones. Or
- Spend half an hour per week in adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament, to be with the Lord, to acknowledge He is coming to fulfill God's promise.

My dear Sisters and Brothers, there are special graces and blessings in the air during Advent, graces that our Father wants to pour into our hearts. Today, as we begin this sacred season, let us clean up our hearts to save a room for Him so that we can enjoy His presence as we prepare for the great commemoration of Christmas Day.

May God bless you all.

Father Louis Nguyen

INITIAL PARENT MEETING CONFIRMATION & FIRST EUCHARIST



There will be an initial meeting for parents who have registered their child to prepare to receive the sacraments of Confirmation & First Communion.

DATE: Sunday, Nov. 29
TIME: 3:00 pm
LOCATION: Church



Per Diocesan guidelines, there will not be an Advent Penitential Service this year.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available:

- 30 minutes before and after Weekday Mass (Tuesday – Friday)
- Saturdays at 9:00 am
- or by appointment. Phone: 306.782.2449

What if conditions do not allow me to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in church?

Pope Francis addressed this issue in his homily on March 20, 2020¹:

"Do what the Catechism (of the Catholic Church)² says. It is very clear:

If you cannot find a priest to confess to, speak directly with God, your father, and tell him the truth. Say, 'Lord, I did this, this, this. Forgive me,' and ask for pardon with all your heart." Make an act of contrition, the pope said, and promise God, "I will go to confession afterward, but forgive me now.' And immediately you will return to a state of grace with God."

¹<https://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2020/if-you-cant-go-to-confession-take-your-sorrow-directly-to-god-pope-says.cfm>

²https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/___P4C.HTM
#1441, 1442

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul.

Since I can not now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though You were already there, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You; permit not that I should ever be separated from You.
Amen.



News from the CWL



Memberships for 2021 It's that time of year to be thinking about renewing our 2021 CWL Membership. Membership fees are still \$30.00 and can be paid by cash or cheque and mailed to St. Gerard's C.W.L, 125 3rd Ave. N., Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4. If you feel comfortable paying by e-transfer, contact Paulette Cooper 306-782-7923. If you have any questions or concerns regarding memberships, contact Paulette. Even though our Council has not been active due to COVID, we are required to collect and submit membership fees to the National CWL Office. Any member can access the National website (www.cwl.ca) at anytime to learn more about the CWL of Canada. If you are not a member and would like to join our League, contact Paulette or any member of St. Gerard's Catholic Women's League.

Raffle Tickets We ask that you return all ticket books, sold or unsold "now". The draw will be made on Saturday, December 5th. Prize winners will be notified and a list of winners will be placed in the church bulletin



News from the Knights of Columbus



Dec. 2 Executive/General Meeting **CANCELLED**

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Keith Hayward @ 306.783.0963. www.kofc-2031.ca

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL

St. Gerard Parish Goal: \$43,905.83

Donations received to date: \$23,450.00 (53.4%)

"Journey Through Advent"

A Video Series to Introduce & Reflect on the Season

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) announces a new online weekly video series created to help Canadian Catholic faithful to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Entitled Journey through Advent, the series is a joint project involving the CCCB's National Liturgy Office and the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis.

The initiative was developed as a way, through the modern method of video messaging, to offer a resource that enriches faith formation during a time of joyful anticipation for the coming of the Lord and Saviour into the world. This video series is especially relevant given the COVID-19 pandemic that places limitations on in-person gatherings for faith communities. It is hoped that Journey through Advent will be a source of deep spiritual solace and insightful preparation for all.

The videos will be available on the CCCB website each Monday in advance of the upcoming Sunday celebration (November 23, November 30, December 7 and December 14). <http://bitly.ws/aEq9>



Bringing Home the Word

The Rumble Strips of Advent

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy! The sleepy apostles couldn't keep awake with Jesus and drifted off when he most needed them. I have only fallen asleep at the wheel once. During college, I worked the morning shift starting at 6 AM. After a late night with little sleep, I sluggishly got into my car. Comfortably driving down the highway at about 5:15 AM, I dozed for a few seconds before awakening to the noise of my tires vibrating on the warning tracks—just in time to straighten the wheel and avoid the cement divider.

Advent is like those rumble strips. You don't always need them, they are annoying when you accidentally run over them, but they are very important!

We can get tired, trying to keep our hearts awake and attuned to Jesus. The rhythm of life, the background music of the world, the distractions that fly by us—they all contribute to the danger of a passive heart. Running across Advent is like a wake-up call: "Stay awake! He is almost here."

As in driving, there are many distractions vying for your attention, but you learn to focus on what's important. You survey your surroundings, looking for hazards while keeping your eyes on the road. There are many signs to read, but only certain ones point you where you want to go.

Jesus says to be attentive to the signs; learn to interpret their meaning. Understand them, without being distracted by them. Be vigilant, pray for strength, and stay awake and alert. Thanks be to God for those rumble strips!

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STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." - Matthew 25:13

Many of us have put off doing something because we think we are too busy. We've all said, "I'll do it later when I have time." Unfortunately, too many of us apply this attitude to our Faith. Jesus' call is urgent, in the here and now, in your current circumstances. Don't delay. How is God calling you to use your gifts today? Help us Lord we pray, to observe this Advent Season with a lively Faith.

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

The **2020 Giving Tree Campaign** has begun! The program supports less fortunate families, children and needy individuals in our community with personal items, clothing or small presents to be provided for the Christmas Season. The Giving Tree has been a valuable service over the past number of years and follows the joy of giving to those in need at this special time of year.



- 1 Take an ornament off the Giving Tree.
- 2 Acquire the item(s) and place in a seasonal gift bag. Please do not wrap the items. Securely affix the colour-coded ornament to the gift bag so it will not fall off - string, ribbon seems to work best.
- 3 All items are to be returned to the base of the Giving Tree at weekday Mass, with the **deadline 11am Sunday, December 20th** so the gifts can be delivered in time for Christmas.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and for bringing joy and the spirit of giving to those who are less fortunate.

**•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•
•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•**

PARISH FUNDRAISER

Friday, December 4th

3pm – 5pm

(while supplies last!!!)

Potato & onion perogies	\$35	(10 dozen)
Potato & cheddar perogies	\$40	(10 dozen)
Cabbage rolls	\$25	(5 dozen)
<i>(Rice with dill)</i>		
Special Cabbage rolls	\$20	(2 1/2 dozen)
<i>(Buckwheat with bacon)</i>		

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, perogies and cabbage rolls will be available drive-through only (no walk-ups). Enter at parking lot & turn into the driveway in front of the church. Please remain in your vehicle and someone will take your order. Please wear a mask!

Sunday Mass on Facebook (Live) beginning December 6th

Celebrated by Father Louis Kim Nguyen

- Search "Filipino Catholic Community in Yorkton" on Facebook
- Ask to be added as a member
- Encourage everyone you know to participate

Every Sunday at 10:00 am until further notice.

Your St. Gerard Parish COVID-19 Questions Answered

On March 18, 2020, Archbishop Donald Bolen, in keeping with the Code of Canon Law no. 87, granted to all the Catholic faithful dispensation from their Sunday obligation. This is still in effect.

What does this mean? As Roman Catholics, we have an obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Until further notice, Archbishop Don has granted an exemption from this obligation. For those who are unable or choose not to attend Sunday Mass at this time, you do not have to. Other ways to participate in Sunday Mass is to watch it on television or watch the YouTube Mass online, courtesy of Resurrection Parish & Christ the King Parish (Regina) and the Archdiocese of Regina.

Why do I need to wear a mask? All those who attend both daily and Saturday/Sunday Masses are required to wear a mask. The parish has a small supply of masks for those who do not have one. Please remember to put your mask on before exiting your vehicle prior to entering the church. A mask protects you and others!

Why do I need to register each time that I arrive to attend Mass? In the event that someone who has attend Mass develops COVID-19, it is necessary for the parish to have the names and phone numbers of all in attendance for contact-tracing purposes.

Have questions? Please email the Parish Office: office@stgerard.ca

YOUTH REFLECTION

"The Potter and the Clay"

This Week...

We need to be alert to God's calling; we need to be watching for what God wants us to do. We need to be clay for our God to shape and mold so that we can be remade, again and again, in God's image. If we are willing to accept God's way, then God will be with us through it all. We will never be alone, and for that we rejoice and are thankful.

For Your Reflection

It is hard to be the clay and to let God be the potter. That's like praying, "Whatever you ask of me, God, I'm willing to do it. I'm all yours. Point the way, and I'm walking it."

It is easier to be the potter and want God to be the clay. That's like praying, "God, please do this and do that; please give me this and give me that."

- When did you pray as if you were the potter? What happened? How did you feel?
- Did you ever pray as if you were the clay? If so, what happens? How do you feel? If not, why not? What might happen? And how could you feel?
- What is the hardest challenge God might ask you to accept? What is so hard about it?

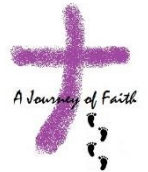
Excerpt from In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, St. Mary's Press, 2004



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. Louis at 306.782.2449 or 306.782.0323.

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 Regina 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. Visit on line at www.sttherese.ca

Rachel's Vineyard: a psychological and spiritual journey for healing after abortion.

Are you hurting because of an abortion? **Rachel's Vineyard** is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. For more information, please contact Elaine at 1.306.480.8911 or email r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net

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