



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

December 27, 2020

The Holy Family of
Jesus,
Mary & Joseph

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:

By pre-registration only 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/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (28 th)	9:30am Russell Griffith
Tues. (29 th)	9:30am +George Hunter
Wed.(30 th)	9:30am +Freda McCann
Thurs.(31 st)	9:30am Denis Dierker
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Fri. (1 st)	7:00pm Mass of Thanksgiving THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD 9:30am
Sat. (2 nd)	11:00am Mass for the People 9:30am +Donna Olszewski
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Sun. (3 rd)	5:00pm +Art Scherr 7:00pm +Joan Kormos EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 9:00am Mass for the People 11:00am +Darlene Bernath 5:00pm

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

- **Pre-registration for Saturday/Sunday Mass is required.** Online at www.stgerard.ca Monday morning to Thursday at 12 noon.
- **Maximum 30** people may attend Mass.
- Each household must register separately.
- Masks are mandatory. This includes from the time you leave your vehicle until you return to your vehicle after Mass.
- Members of the same household may sit together at the marked seating.
- At least two-metres separation is required between households at all times, even with masks on. **Please arrive early.**
- 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

*The deadline for the January 3rd bulletin is
12 noon Tuesday, December 29th.*



Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, Mary and Joseph helped you to grow in love and wisdom. Surround me with loving and caring people to help me to be a wise, loving and caring person.

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

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP DONALD BOLEN

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, dear friends,

Warm greetings in the Christ child. Christmas can be a difficult time of year for people at the best of times, and in this most unusual of years, a covid Christmas brings challenges for all of us. A parishioner in one of our city parishes recently posted that a lot of people seem to be trying to 'save Christmas,' and by 'saving Christmas,' she notes, trying to evoke or create the expected and desired seasonal feelings, relationships, and surroundings. She adds, 'Just want to point out that it's Christmas that saves YOU, no matter how you feel, whom you're with, where you are, or what you have.'

That insightful facebook post helps frame a set of questions worth pondering. In what is for many the most difficult and lonely Christmas in living memory, how do we find our way to the joy and hope that the season brings? When our usual ways of gathering and celebrating are largely taken away or seriously diminished, how do we attend to what God is doing for us, so that we can receive this good news at the depths of our being and live this moment as well as possible? There are no universal answers, but here are a few thoughts.

What the deepest theology reflects upon, and the simplest carols proclaim, is this: God comes to us as and where we are. We tend to think of Christian life as a long walk towards God, but the real story that our faith relates is that on this road of human history, God comes to find and meet us - in many ways, but in the Incarnation, does so by embracing the human condition and this earthly life in the most tender and vulnerable way imaginable.

Last week someone sent me a quote from St Augustine's Confessions (book 10, chapter 8), where he writes, "Human beings go abroad to admire the heights of mountains, the mighty waves of the seas, the broad tide of rivers, the vast compass of the oceans, the circular motions of the stars; and yet they pass over the mystery of themselves without a thought." What was true 1,600 years ago is true today.

The Incarnation points us back to our most fundamental human experience, because it tells us that God meets us precisely there.

This past Summer, with the generous help of many people, I was able to have an old farmhouse renovated, and in October, was able to move out of Regina and onto the wide open spaces of Canadian prairie, though only 10 minutes from the city. If you love prairie walking, dramatic skies, and putting our lives and their problems in perspective by pondering the vastness of things, this is a great place to be.

I have a nephew who visited with a very good camera that was able to produce time lapse videos, which gave an extraordinary view of the sheltering sky at dawn, the winter winds of the day, the shifting landscape at dusk, and the moon rising at night. Breathtaking beauty is all around us, every day.

One thing that covid has done for some of us, and a covid Christmas in particular, is that it has slowed life down. I really like the time lapse videos; but even better, though requiring a little more patience, is the sunrise, moonrise, clouds in the sky, as they happen. Not sped up. But as God gives them to us each moment of each day.

Into the rhythms of our days and our lives, God enters, enters into time, and into the wondrous, amazing, at times appalling frustrating, beautiful experience of being alive. The creation account in Genesis tells us that God breathed life and wills us, whole and entire, to live this human life. And Jesus' birth tells us more. At the Second Vatican Council, the Church put it this way: "by His incarnation the Son of God has united Himself in some fashion with every person. He worked with human hands, thought with a human mind, acted by human choice and loved with a human heart."

We struggle in so many ways with being human. But as we ponder the angel Gabriel coming to Mary and telling her of God's extraordinary plan, as we kneel before a creche and look at the Christ child wrapped in swaddling cloths, as we sing our most loved Christmas carols (even if only to ourselves), let us remember this: this human condition that we experience in all its complexity and brokenness is dearly loved by God. And we ourselves, in all the chaos and contradictions of our lives, are loved by a boundless love, a relentless and transforming love, a redeeming love. See it in the sheltering sky, and in the face of the baby Jesus, and in the face of each human being in our lives.

Friends, whatever discouragement you carry within you this Christmas, whatever darkness has beset the lives of your family or loved ones, take courage. God's plan is bigger and more wondrous than all the obstacles we face today. The Word has taken flesh. Christ is born. Rejoice, and find rest for your souls there.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



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



Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!

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

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.

Although the RCIA process is intended for those who are non-baptized, at St. Gerard we also prepare adults for the Rite of Reception of Baptized Christians (including Catholics) 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 the Parish Office at 306.782.2449.



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.



News from the Knights of Columbus



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

ARCHDIOCESE OF REGINA NEW YEAR'S MASS LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE

NEW YEAR'S DAY

11:00 am:

Holy Rosary Cathedral

Visit: www.youtube.com/ArchdioceseRegina or
www.archregina.sk.ca/live



*Jesus, Son of God, and of Mary and of Joseph,
brother of us all,*

*You became a member of the human family so we
could all be members of God's eternal family.*

Make our families schools of love.

*Heal our wounds and draw us deeper into your
grace.*

Amen.



Bringing Home the Word

Family Peace

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

In his painting, *Rest on the Flight into Egypt* by Federico Flori, the artist captures detail of the Holy Family's escape. Although they are refugees in a dramatic, stressful situation, he chooses to show the delightful communion among them. Mary sits comfortably in the center of the family, busily collecting water. Perhaps she will wash the cherries or the toddler's dirty hands. Her face, full of serenity and joy, is lost in thoughts that go beyond the work of the present. She is the model of so many mothers who, in spite of challenging circumstances, focus their energy on loving their children and creating an oasis of peace.

Saint Joseph stands behind the Madonna and reaches up into the tree to pull off a branch for the child Jesus. His strong arm and hand extend straight down toward the child as they both grasp the wood from opposite ends—one giving and the other receiving. This simple domestic gesture of providing for the son is strongly symbolic of what so many husbands and fathers do on a daily basis. Alongside their wives, they care for their families with hard work.

Jesus is next to Mary and reaches out to Joseph. He receives love from both parents while returning that love with joy and gratitude.

The Holy Family reflects the divine family. One day the heavenly Father will also extend a piece of fruit—this time the bitter passion and the wood of the cross. Although it costs his human nature, Jesus accepts it, thanks in part to the strength he finds in Mary.

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God who sent your Son to Mary and to all of us, you have blessed us and made us your own.

Teach us to treasure your blessings and your call for our lives.

May we marvel at the mystery of how you call and complete us. Amen.

GIVING TO YOUR PARISH

The deadline for 2020 donations is Wednesday, December 30th at 4:00 pm. All donations received after this time will be processed as 2021.

Thank you to those who are able to contribute by one of the following methods:

Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)

After downloading the [Pre-Authorized Giving Form](#), please complete it, attach a void cheque, & mail it to:

St. Gerard Parish
125 Third Ave N
Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

Interac e-Transfer

- 1 Log into your online banking account.
- 2 Find **e-Transfer** and add giving@stgerard.ca to your recipient list.
- 3 Enter the desired amount.
- 4 A question, answer, or password is not required by St. Gerard Church, however it may be required by your financial institution. If so, please email the question and answer to giving@stgerard.ca with your name, mailing address and telephone number so that we can ensure your contribution is recorded properly.


If you have an envelope number, your donation will be reflected in your annual charitable donation receipt. All others will receive a receipt by mail, so PLEASE include your mailing address in the follow-up email. Thanks!

Mail envelopes to the church

You may mail cheques (not cash) to:

St. Gerard Parish
125 Third Ave N
Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

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E	E	L	I	L	A	G	N	A	A	EGYPT	HEROD	MOTHER
M	H	P	E	S	O	J	E	R	L	ISRAEL	ARCHELAUS	JUDEA
E	A	E	R	D	R	O	L	C	E	AFRAID	GALILEE	NAZARETH
H	T	E	R	A	Z	A	N	H	G			
E	D	H	D	L	E	F	E	E	N			
R	R	R	E	U	S	R	G	L	A			
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YOUTH REFLECTION

“Blessings for Families”

This Week...

Part of God's plan for parents and children is for them to love and serve one another. When Mary and Joseph were performing their purification ritual at the Temple, they were approached by two people. Simeon was assured by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he saw the Christ. And Anna was a prophet who lived at the Temple, fasting and praying, day and night. They both recognized that this baby was the One they had been waiting for, and they told his parents wondrous things about him.

For Your Reflection

No doubt Mary and Joseph were surprised and pleased, and perhaps even a bit spooked, when these complete strangers approached them at the Temple to praise their baby.

- Has your parent ever been surprised and pleased, or even spooked, when someone else came and told them some wonderful thing about you? What was it? What do you do that your parent (stepparent, grandparent, or guardian) is proud of?

Just as parents love to hear good things about their sons and daughters, they also love to hear good things from their sons and daughters.

- In what way can you affirm your parent (stepparent, grandparent, or guardian) about her or his role in your life? Besides Mother's Day or Father's Day or a birthday, when do you take time to really express your love and appreciation for your parents as people, and for their sacrifices and their parenting? How might you improve in this area?

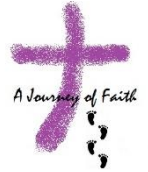
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter* - St. Mary's Press, 2004



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