



St. Gerard's

Roman Catholic Parish

December 31st, 2023

The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary & Joseph

January 1st, 2024

The Solemnity of Mary,
the Holy Mother of God

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

•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

Sun. 31st 5:00 pm Mass for the People

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Mon. 1st 10:00 am Mass for the People

Tues. 2nd 7:00 pm **Mass** Todos Family

Wed. 3rd **7:00 pm Mass** Marianne Halliday,
in Thanksgiving

Thurs. 4th 9:00 am **Mass** Keith & Debbie Hayward

Fri. 5th 9:00 am **Mass** +Fred Neumeir

Sat. 6th 5:00 pm **Mass** for the People
Followed by Coffee Fellowship

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 am **Mass** for the People
Followed by Coffee Fellowship

11:00 am **Mass** for the People
Followed by Coffee Fellowship

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

Today's celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family highlights the importance of family in our religious life. We know that Mary and Joseph's faithfulness to God enabled them to cooperate in God's plan for our salvation by accepting the responsibility to raise God's Son, Jesus. From his parents, Jesus learned how to be a faithful believer in his Jewish tradition. Simeon's prophecy about Mary's sorrow alerts us to the importance of a family's commitment to one another, a commitment that is expressed in both good times and bad.

Gather as a family and recall times when your family showed its commitment to one another in good times and in bad. Recall times when your immediate family was supported by members of your extended family. Note that today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, and we see in the family of Jesus an example for our own family life. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 2:22-40. Joseph and Mary expressed their faithfulness to God through their observance of the Law of Moses. Simeon prophesied the grief that Mary would experience at the foot of Jesus' cross. One of the blessings of family life is our commitment to one another, sharing good times and supporting one another through difficult times. Conclude in prayer together thanking God for the grace expressed in your family's commitment to another. Write a prayer together, thanking God for your family life and asking God to strengthen your family's commitment to one another. Pray this prayer together.

www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection



THE HOLY FAMILY PRAYER

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.



Coffee Fellowship

after each Mass
Saturday, January 6th and
Sunday, January 7th

Donations of baking are appreciated. Please drop off in the kitchen prior to Mass. Thank you!



Bringing Home the Word

Family Values

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Some of the most popular television programs depict family interactions. Unfortunately, many of these families are dysfunctional, and those that are not often appear to be vapid, boring, even unrealistic. Today's readings offer examples of genuine family values and the kind of relationships for which most people yearn.

Sirach describes the tender care that bonds parents and children. First it is the parents who care for the children. Over the years the roles reverse, and adult children care for elderly parents. The family is the basic community, where one first learns the hard lessons of unselfishness and forgiveness. The psalm response also describes a model family. The husband will experience success in his work and enjoy the blessings of family life with his wife and their children. Paul provides a list of values to which family members should commit themselves: "compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another" (Colossians 3:12-13). Finally, the Gospel reading provides a glimpse into the lives of the Holy Family. Here they are—a refugee family with Joseph as the protector.

In a way, these are all "holy families." Prayer is important in the first reading; fear of the Lord is rewarded in the psalm; Paul calls the people "God's chosen ones" (Colossians 3:12). This feast is not meant to be only a look into the past at the Holy Family. It is an opportunity for us to look into the present and do our part to make our own families holy.

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News from the Knights of Columbus



Dec. 31	Bingo – afternoon – 12.00
Dec. 30-31	Consecration of the Holy Family
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!



Thank you to all for your donations this past year! Our parish depends upon your financial support, especially at this time of year when we incur larger expenses.

For anyone wishing to make additional donations at this time, we are most grateful!

Thank you again for supporting your parish!



The 2024 Sunday collection (offertory) envelopes are in the Welcome Area for those who have contributed by this method in 2023.

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.

**SUNDAY CONNECTION FOR THE
SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

Gospel Reading *Luke 2.16-21*

The shepherds find Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading is a continuation from the Gospel proclaimed at the Christmas Mass at midnight. In it the shepherds act upon the message they receive from the angel and go to find Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem. In their visit to the manger, the shepherds find things just as the angel had said. The shepherds' visit, therefore, is a moment of fulfillment, manifestation, and the beginning of the salvation we receive through Christ.

In the context of today's Solemnity, this reading also helps us focus on Mary as the Mother of God. The reading tells us at least three things about Mary as a mother. First, Mary is described as a reflective person, keeping the reports of the shepherds in her heart. Second, we are reminded of how obedient Mary was to God when she named the baby *Jesus* as the angel Gabriel had directed. Third, this reading shows Mary and Joseph faithfully observing their Jewish tradition by having Jesus circumcised.

Mary's faithfulness to God is evident in all three of these things. Her reflection upon the events in her life indicates that she was a person of prayer. This prayer made possible her obedience to God and God's will, even if the outcome was not clear. Finally, her faithfulness to a community of faith grounded her relationship with God and enabled her to participate in God's plan of salvation.

Because of Mary's faithfulness to God, she was able to receive the gift of God's Son and accept her role in God's plan for salvation. By doing so, she models for us the path of discipleship and is also called Mother of the Church.

Our call to discipleship also includes these three aspects. First, discipleship means prayer and reflection on the events of our lives that we might see God's presence and work in our lives. Second, discipleship means obedience to God and God's will. Third, discipleship includes fidelity to a community of faith.



**HOLY MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD
(and Mother of US!!)**

Catholics believe that worship is due to God alone. Catholics do, however, venerate Mary. In other words, we honour our Blessed Mother with great reverence and devotion because she is the Mother of God. Mary is the model of perfect love and obedience to Christ. God preserved Mary from sin, and she conceived our Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit, bringing Christ into our world. Catholics can't help but honour the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is full of grace, the Mother of God and our Mother, for her "yes" to God made the Incarnation possible. And without the Incarnation, we would not have salvation. Mary is the most beautiful model of total submission to the will of God. Catholics do not view Mary as equal to Christ, but rather venerate Mary because of her relationship to Christ. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, "Mary's role in the Church is inseparable from her union with Christ and flows directly from it" (CCC 964).

As Catholics, we pray that we can respond to God's call to holiness for our lives in the way that Mary did. [Saint] Mother Theresa prayed to emulate Mary's devotion to Christ:

"Mary, Mother of Jesus, give me your heart so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate, so full of love and humility that I may be able to receive Jesus in the Bread of Life, love Him as You loved Him, and serve Him as You served Him..."