



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

December 15th & 22nd,
2024

Third & Fourth
Sundays of Advent

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

Somi Paul, Caretaker

MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

•Altar Server Coordinator

Kathleen Bedard altarservers@stgerard.ca

•Baptism Team

Trevor Baker tlbaker@sasktel.net

•Catholic Women's League

Deanna Pellatt pell@sasktel.net

•Centering Prayer

Ernie Bobowski 306.783.6014

Lori Zuzak 306.783.8063

•Children's Liturgy Coordinator

Sarah Prost prost.litz@hotmail.com

•Family, Community & Social

VACANT

•Knights of Columbus

Jonathan Rosas grand-knight@kofc-2031.ca

•Liturgy

Colleen Haider

•Protocol for Responsible Ministry

Richard Dubois

•Sacrament Coordinators

Rene & Ophelia Adane

adanerene@gmail.com

•Social Action

Hector & Jenny Baraoidan

•Youth

Scott Hoffort 306.621.8291

Colleen Hoffort 306.621.7582

St. Gerard Parish is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.

ST. GERARD PARISH HOLY MASS & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Mon. 16 th	6:30pm	Simbang Gabi Novena Mass +Rosalie Woloschuk
Tues. 17 th	6:30pm	Simbang Gabi Novena Mass +Olga Duff
Wed. 18 th	10:00am	Mass at Nursing Home (South) +Maurice Purcell
	6:30pm	Simbang Gabi Novena Mass +Donald Blazeiko
Thurs. 19 th	2:30pm	Mass at Yorkton Crossing +Maxine Paydli
	6:30pm	Simbang Gabi Novena Mass +Ken Olson
Fri. 20 th	10:45am	Mass at St. Theodore School +Gabrielle Hamilton
	6:30pm	Simbang Gabi Novena Mass +Rhonda Kormos

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sat. 21 st	5:00 pm	Mass for the People
Sun. 22 nd	9:00 am	Mass for the People
	11:00am	Mass for the People
	6:30pm	Simbang Gabi Novena Mass +Harvey Fleury
Mon. 23 rd	6:30pm	Simbang Gabi Novena Mass +Wendell & +Evelyn Dreher

Nativity of the Lord

Tues. 24 th	5:00pm	Christmas Eve Mass (<i>incense</i>)
	8:30pm	Christmas Night Mass
Wed. 25 th	10:00am	Mass of Christmas Day
Thurs. 26 th & Fri. 27 th		NO MASS

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Sat. 28 th	5:00 pm	Mass for the People
Sun. 29 th	9:00 am	Mass for the People
	11:00am	Mass for the People



Holy Mass Schedule

Saturday	December 14	5pm	3 rd Sunday of Advent	<i>Love</i>
Sunday	December 15	9am & 11am 6:30pm	3 rd Sunday of Advent Simbang Gabi	
Monday	December 16	6:30pm	Simbang Gabi	
Tuesday	December 17	6:30pm	Simbang Gabi	
Wednesday	December 18	10am 6:30pm	Nursing Home (South Chapel) Simbang Gabi	
Thursday	December 19	2:30pm 6:30pm	Yorkton Crossing Retirement Living Simbang Gabi	
Friday	December 20	6:30pm	Simbang Gabi	
Saturday	December 21	5pm	4 th Sunday of Advent	<i>Peace</i>
Sunday	December 22	9am & 11am 6:30pm	4 th Sunday of Advent Simbang Gabi	
Monday	December 23	6:30pm	Simbang Gabi	

Christmas & New Year's Eve Holy Mass Schedule

The Nativity of the Lord

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

5:00 pm (*incense*)
8:30 pm

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day
(*Holy Day of Obligation*)

10:00 am

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve

5:00 pm

Jan. 1 – New Year's Day
(*Holy Day of Obligation*)

10:00 am (*incense*)

A NOTE ABOUT PARKING... When parking in the lots, please park as straight as you can in the parking spot so that others may safely park beside your vehicle. Parking is available on the EAST side of Third Ave (no parking on the west side as marked), the NORTH side of Duncan St, the SOUTH side of Fifth Ave, and both sides of Darlington. *The DRIVETHROUGH in front of the church is intended for pick ups and drop offs only (no parking).* Thanks!

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



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 First 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. Please contact the Parish Office for more information or to register.

There will be a "Meet and Greet" Thursday, January 30 at 7pm.



Simbang Gabi is a devotional, nine-day series of Masses in anticipation of Christmas, a tradition of Filipino Catholics.

At St. Gerard Parish, all parishioners are encouraged to attend the daily devotional Mass. Refreshments will be served following each celebration by our Filipino Catholic brothers and sisters.



Parish Goal: \$44,216
Raised to date: \$14,970

The deadline for donations to the Archbishop's Appeal is Tuesday, December 31st at 12 noon at the Parish Office.



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

All parents who would like to bring their children for baptism are asked to register for the Baptism Sessions by contacting the Parish Office. **The next Preparation Sessions will be held in January.**

SIGNS of GRACE™

The Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation Preparation will begin in the New Year.

Children who are in Grade 2 and above are invited to participate. If you have not received a registration form, please email the Parish Office office@stgerard.ca

Please return the completed registration form to the Parish Office as soon as possible so that the required number of resources may be ordered in early January. Thanks.

The initial Parent Meeting (attendance is mandatory) is Thursday, January 30 at 6:30pm. The registration fee is due at that time.

If you have any questions please contact Rene and Ophelia (Catechists) at adanerene@gmail.com



Joy to the World!

By St. Dianne Bergant, CSA
(Third Sunday of Advent)

This is the Sunday of joy, Gaudete Sunday. In the first reading, the people are told to "Shout for joy" because "the Lord is in your midst" (Zephaniah 3:14-15). In response to the first reading, we sing, "Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel." The second reading directs us to "Rejoice in the Lord always" because "The Lord is near" (Philippians 4:4-5). In the gospel, we see that "the people were filled with [messianic] expectation," even wondering "whether John might be the Messiah" (Luke 3:15). All John could say was that "one mightier than I is coming" (Luke 3:16).

So what are we waiting for this Sunday, and how is God present? We know that God is already present with us in many ways: in the Church and sacraments, in the lives of good people we know, in the depths of our hearts. And so, we rejoice. We also know that the story of salvation is unfinished. There are still so many evils from which we must be saved. When you think of them, what's at the top of your list?

We are eager for God to come into our lives anew to comfort us and strengthen us. We know we cannot do it alone. Even as we wait for the day of salvation to dawn, we rejoice, for we know that it came before and will come again. That's why we sing "Joy to the World."

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Are We There Yet?

By St. Dianne Bergant, CSA
(Fourth Sunday of Advent)

It's not only children who are impatient with the lo-o-o-o-ong ride that takes them to a party or an amusement park. Adults can hardly contain themselves as they await the announcement of a winner, the return of an absent loved one, or the birth of a baby. This is the kind of excitement found in today's readings. Micah describes the long-awaited leader promised by God. He will be even more than the people could have imagined: firm, strong, and dependable. They must have asked, "When is he coming?"

By the time the gospel was written, Jesus' followers knew a lot about him, so they were able to embellish stories a bit—the way we often do to emphasize the greatness of someone. They believed he was so extraordinary that his greatness was recognized even before he was born. His pregnant mother was told, "Blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:42). She must have been asked frequently, "When are you due? When is he coming?"

The reading from Hebrews does not provide specific details of Jesus' coming. Rather, it tells us why he came: "I come to do your will, O God" (10:7). That is what the people of Micah's era were really longing for—not simply a leader, but one who did God's will and who would lead them to do it too. We're now on the threshold of the fulfillment of that promise. Are you excited? Are we there yet?

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Please pick up your 2025 offertory envelopes, available in the Welcome Area, when you are at Mass.

If you are unable to locate your envelopes, please contact the Parish Office.



News from the CWL



Next general meeting is January 7, 2025



News from the Knights of Columbus



- December 15 "Unthinkable"-Sacred Heart-3.00
- December 19 Bingo-evening-5.00
- December 22 Articles for "The Word" due
- December 26 Bingo-evening-5.00
- December 28/29 Consecration of The Holy Family

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.728.8664 More info: www.kofc-2031.ca



Veronica Zaharia (90)
Alfred Labas (85)
Father Antony



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all parishioners and parish groups who responded to my request to financially support the purchase and installation of the digital system in the church. The required funds have now been raised!

Because of your generous Love, we will be able to enjoy your Gift of the heart for the propagation of evangelization many years to come.

May you and your family be rewarded abundantly!

SUCCESSFUL "CHRISTMAS IN NOVEMBER"

Our third annual "Christmas in November" event, held on November 23, had many shoppers in search of their Christmas sweet treats, preserves, famous Filipino spring rolls, and delectable St. Gerard perogies and cabbage rolls - finding them all at our one-stop shopping spot, St. Gerard Parish Hall.

A very special and grateful thank you to all whom, in any way, contributed to make our annual "Christmas in November" event successful.

Congratulations to all the raffle winners!

\$15,150.18 (net) was raised at this event. This will be integral in keeping our St. Gerard Parish vibrant while fulfilling good works.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe Christmas season. Thank you.

In gratitude,

*Father Antony
On behalf of your St. Gerard Parish Family*

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOURS

Monday	Dec. 23	9am-noon/1pm-4pm
Tuesday	Dec. 24	9am-noon
Thursday	Dec. 26	<i>Closed</i>
Friday	Dec. 27	<i>Closed</i>
Monday	Dec. 30	9am-noon/1pm-4pm
Tuesday	Dec. 31	9am-noon
Thursday	Jan. 2	<i>Closed</i>
Friday	Jan. 3	<i>Closed</i>

IS ST. GERARD PARISH ON YOUR GIFT LIST?

Your donation at Christmas means a great deal to St. Gerard Parish. Our parish depends upon your financial support, especially at Christmas, to meet larger expenses. We are very grateful for all your donations this year.

Do you own a business? Are you a parishioner who would like to top up your annual contribution? Please consider making additional donations to be included in your 2024 tax receipt. We are reminded by CRA that donations must be received by December 31st. The Parish Office will be open until 12 noon December 31st.

We can accept cash or cheques until 12 noon December 31st at the Parish Office (see Parish Office hours above). Please note that cheques dated for 2024 but received after this time will be included in your 2025 donations.

E-transfers must be completed prior to 12 noon December 31st. Thank you again for supporting St. Gerard Parish!!

2025 SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Jan. 1	New Year's Day
Feb. 2	The Needs of the Canadian Church
Apr. 6	Development & Peace
Apr. 17	Papal Charities
Apr. 18	Needs of the Church in the Holy Land
May 11	Education of Seminarians
June 8	Catholic Missions in Canada
Oct. 19	Propagation of the Faith
Dec. 7	Christmas Hampers (Salvation Army)
Dec. 25	Christmas Day

All boxes of Sunday offering envelopes include Special Collection envelopes (blue). If you give by another method, please note the Special Collection, and your full name and address on a plain envelope and place it in the collection basket at Holy Mass. Thanks!

2025 Parish Giving Program

THE SUNDAY OFFERING

The weekly collection humbly expresses the community's faith. The silent routine accompanies the spirit of selflessness that unites believers. Whether your gift is large or small, the collection expresses what we have in common – a desire to share.

In the Mass, the collection occurs at the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Its placement is significant. It is not an admission fee to get into the building. It is part of the heart of the Mass. Every Mass celebrates the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. That sacrifice unfolds before our eyes as the gifts we bring, the bread and wine, are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ and offered to God.

This sacrificial action begins when we carry bread and wine to the altar during the preparation of the gifts. They represent our offering to God and our communion with God. Just as the Body and Blood of Christ bring heavenly nourishment to our community, so the collection brings material aid. That material aid is no small matter. Your church depends on your gift.

The charity which underlies the collection results from faith. We believe that what we have comes from God, and we know it was given for the enjoyment of all. A habit of giving comes from the heart that has learned the satisfactions of generosity. A habit of giving offers us peace in that we are doing our part to make the world a better, more generous place.

It is our responsibility to contribute generously for the priceless gift that we receive at the Holy Eucharist.

ONLINE GIVING - PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

What is a Pre-Authorized Giving Program? It is a way to financially support the parish through semi-monthly or monthly contributions from your personal bank account. There is NO cost to participate. Pre-authorized Giving is assured, results in lower administrative costs, and assists our parish when budgeting for programs and services.

How does it relate to the use of weekly envelopes? If you participate in the Pre-Authorized Giving Program, it replaces the use of weekly envelopes. Envelopes for special appeals are available to you. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

How do I sign up? For those wanting to utilize the Pre-Authorized Giving Program you may complete the form located on the table in the Welcome Area and return it to the Parish Office by mail, email, or through the Sunday collection basket.

ONLINE GIVING – E-TRANSFER

How do I e-transfer a contribution? Email giving@stgerard.ca for more information.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Sunday offertory envelopes are available. If you have not had offertory envelopes in the past, please complete the New Parishioner Registration form and return it to the Parish Office by mail, email, or through the Sunday collection basket. You may include cash or cheque in the Sunday offertory envelope.

NOTE: If you have Sunday offertory envelopes dated 2024, there will be a box for you to pick up for 2025. Once the date has passed, please do not use the offertory envelopes as envelope numbers change each year. For example, if you have envelopes dated 2021, please recycle.

All contributions made by one of the above methods will be included in a charitable donation receipt which is issued annually before the end of February.

ADVENT FAMILY PRAYER SERVICE



Advent is a special time in the Church. It is when we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. During these weeks, we light candles, offer prayers, and think about how Jesus brings hope and joy. This season helps us focus on the coming of Christ, both at Christmas and at the end of time.

A simple family prayer service can be a good way to celebrate Advent. It doesn't have to be long or complicated, especially if young children are involved. The goal is to gather together, pray, and think about the meaning of the season. Everyone in the family can participate.

This prayer service begins with a reading from the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah spoke of the coming of a Saviour. It reminds us of the hope that Jesus brings. The service also includes petitions. Each person in the family can offer a special prayer for others or themselves.

The service ends with a traditional Hail Mary prayer. This reminds us of Mary's important role in the story of Jesus' birth. As we pray together, we ask Jesus to come into our hearts and bring His peace.

This Advent Prayer Service helps children understand that Advent is not just about waiting for Christmas, but about preparing our hearts for Jesus.

In catechesis, the themes of Advent are important. They show God's faithfulness and His plan to save us. This service gives families a way to talk about these themes at home. It helps children understand that God's love and mercy are meant for everyone. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: *"When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming"* ([CCC 524](#)). This service supports this teaching by encouraging active waiting and prayer.

In Isaiah chapter 9 we hear

For a son has been born for us, a son has been given to us, and dominion has been laid on his shoulders; and this is the name he has been given, Wonder-Counselor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace

Lord Jesus, we ask you to prepare us during this holy Advent season as we get ready for your arrival. We look forward to the peace and joy you bring into our world. Help us to keep focused on your love and grace during this season.

With this in mind, we ask that you hear our petitions. Please reply *"Come into our hearts Lord Jesus"* to each petition. *(Each family member offers one or more petitions. Each petition is concluded with "We pray to the Lord" to which everyone responds "Come into our hearts Lord Jesus".)*

Let us conclude our prayer service with a Hail Mary:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.