



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

December 1, 2019

First Sunday of Advent

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:

Saturday at 5:00 pm, Sunday at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (2 nd):		NO MASS
Tues. (3 rd):	7:00 pm	+Arnella Scholz
Wed. (4 th):	9:30 am	+Mike Hornung
	2:30 pm	GLADSTONE SENIORS RES
		+Claude Slogocki
Thurs. (5 th):	9:30 am	Mary Citynski
Fri. (6 th):	9:30 am	Bishop Don Bolen
Sat. (7 th):	9:30 am	+Beth Werner
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	5:00 pm	Mass for the People
Sun. (8 th):		Second Sunday of Advent
	9:00 am	+Emeliana Hipolito
	11:00 am	Mass for the People

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation: Half-hour before Saturday morning and Saturday evening Mass, or anytime by appointment.

Infant Baptism: Please contact Fr. Louis at least one month prior to Baptism.

RCIA: Adults wishing to be received into the Catholic Church should contact Fr. Louis.

Matrimony: Please contact Fr. Louis at least 6 months prior to the time you would like to be married.

Anointing: Please contact Fr. Louis at any time.

For Anointing of the Sick and other emergencies, you may contact Fr. Louis at 306.621.8068



Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!

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

The Divine Mercy Devotion is prayed each Friday at 2pm

CONTACT US

Parish Office Hours: Monday 1pm-4pm; Tuesday-Friday 8am-noon, 1pm-4pm

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

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

Pastor.....	Fr. Louis Kim Nguyen	306.782.0323	louiskimnguyen@yahoo.com
		306.621.8068	
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		



Stay Connected Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, give me the courage to disarm my heart from the feelings of anger, resentment, and revenge that foster so much pain and division in my life. Instill in me a spirit of gratitude and joy that I may become your instrument of peace and reconciliation whenever conflicts arise.

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

St. Gerard Parish			
Income Statement January 1 to October 31, 2019			
REVENUE		Hall:	
Collections	224,685	Wages, Salaries, etc.	15,319
Other (Donations, rel. articles)	10,532	Catering	13,659
Perogies & cabbage rolls (net)	13,303	Administrative Expenses	<u>907</u>
Annual Fall Supper (net)	8,100	Total Hall	29,886
Catering	<u>38,172</u>		
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	294,793	Rectory	9,087
Building Fund Donations	8,502		
Refugee Family Donations	<u>3,615</u>	Family & Social	315
TOTAL REVENUE	306,910	Ecumenical	28
		Liturgy	7,438
EXPENSES		Stewardship	(no expense) 0
Pastoral	1,841	Religious Education	2,528
Parish Office	17,546	Social Justice	1,272
Diocesan Assessments	29,840	Youth	1,112
Pastor/Office Wages, Salaries, etc.	110,890	Community Life	94
Building:		Public Relations	(no expense) 0
Sask Energy	5,054	Pastoral & Finance Council	971
Sask Power	16,289	Refugee Family Committee (net)	18,897
Water	2,035	Cemetery Expense	<u>(no expense) 150</u>
Property Taxes	10,923	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	306,010
Insurance	18,215		
Parking Lot	4,138	NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$900
Garbage/recycling	2,076		
Repairs & maintenance	<u>15,385</u>		
Total Building	74,115	<i>Approved by Parish Finance Council</i>	

2020 GIVING PROGRAM

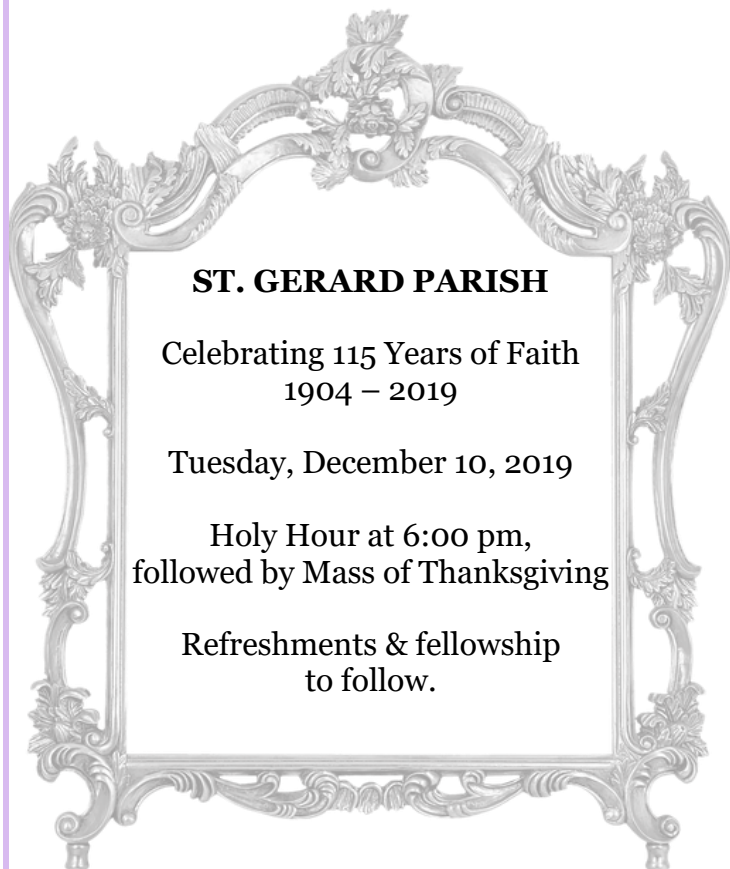
Within the next few weeks, the 2020 Sunday collection (offertory) envelopes will be in the Welcome Area for those who have contributed by this method in 2019. If you do not have envelopes and would like to receive a set for 2020, **please complete a Parish Registration Form (beige)**, located on the large glass table in the Welcome Area.

Have you considered switching from collection envelopes to Pre-Authorized Giving? NOW IS THE TIME!!

Pre-authorized Giving is convenient, assured, results in lower administrative costs, and assists our parish when budgeting for programs and services. **Please complete the Pre-Authorized Giving form (purple)** and submit it to the Parish Office. Forms are available on the large glass table in the Welcome Area.

ST. GERARD PARISH ~ 2019-2020 ~ PASTORAL AND FINANCE COUNCILS

Chairperson	-	Ernie Bobowski	Vice-chairperson-	Wayne Exner
Secretary	-	Jenny Baraoidan	Liturgy	- Carol Deters/Yvonne Turgeon
Religious Education-		Rene & Ophelia Adane	Social Justice	- Mark Bell
Community Life	-	Maureen Pankoski	Public Relations	- VACANT
Family & Social	-	VACANT	Youth	- Melinda Sevilla
Ecumenical	-	Carm Molnar	Stewardship	- VACANT
CWL Rep.	-	Linda Maddaford	K of C Rep.	- Jeff Krasowski
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Finance	-	Brian Kruger	Secretary	- Richard Dubois
Properties	-	VACANT	Member at Large-	Conrad Rodney
Hall	-	Lorne Wannier	Member at Large-	Dwight Guy



“115 Years of Faith” Stories

Do you have a favourite St. Gerard Parish story to tell? Can you recount a favourite story of your grandparents, great-grandparents, grandchildren? Have there been special moments at St. Gerard’s that have made a positive impact on your faith life or the faith life of your family? Do you have special memories of Baptism, Confirmation, First Eucharist, Weddings, Funerals? Has there been a priest who has left a lasting impression?

“I remember when.....” stories may be submitted to the Parish Office no later than Sunday, December 8th. Please drop off or email to office@stgerard.ca You may choose to remain anonymous, or provide a nickname if you like! Goal: 30 to 40 unique stories!

Stories will be compiled into a booklet that will be available to parishioners in December.

Enter into Joy:

Our Parish Family’s Advent Journey

An Advent Mini-mission

Saturday, December 14, 2019

at 7:00 pm

St. Gerard Church

Featuring:

*St. Gerard Youth Choir
St. Gerard YA/T Choir
St. Michael & St. Paul School Choirs
St. Gerard Adult Choir
St. Gerard Musicians*

*Youth Connect
St. Gerard Buddies Choir
St. Gerard Men’s Choir
St. Gerard East Indian Group
Vietnamese Choir (Regina)*



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas is special. The lights are up, trees are decorated, and everyone is busy getting ready. Anticipation is in the air.

Like everyone else, the Church gets ready for the coming of Jesus. But the Church celebrates the season differently. The Church waits for the coming of Jesus at the end of the world. And it waits for his coming at Christmas.

This time of waiting is called Advent. On the four Sundays before Christmas the Church prepares us for the coming of Jesus. In many churches, an Advent Wreath sits in the front of the church. The wreath has four candles. On each Sunday a different candle is light. On the first, second, and fourth Sundays the candles are colored purple, a color of anticipation. On the third Sunday, the candle is rose-colored, a color half way between the purple of Advent (the color of waiting) and the white of Christmas (the color of joy).

Times of the Church Year

Do you remember the story of Noah? God called on Noah to build a large Ark and fill it with animals. Many people laughed at Noah and lived their lives as if nothing would happen. Imagine if people treated the time before Christmas the same way! There would be no excitement, no joy, no anticipation! No one would care about the coming of Jesus!

But the readings, the songs, and the color of Advent focus our attention on Jesus' arrival. The first two Sundays concentrate on his coming in glory. The last two focus on his birth. Along the way, we meet the people who helped prepare others for the Jesus: John the Baptist, Mary, and Joseph.

Because this time prepares us for Christmas, Advent marks the beginning of the Church year, called the liturgical year. Unlike the calendar year or the school year, the liturgical year celebrates the events in the life of Jesus and the early Church. The season of Advent and Christmas celebrates the coming of Jesus. The season of Lent and Easter (during springtime) celebrates his death and resurrection. The time between these two seasons is call "Ordinary Time."

The colors in our churches change with the church seasons. Like Advent, the color of Lent is purple. Lent reminds us of Jesus death and our need to always turn to God. Like Christmas, the color of Easter is white. Easter reminds us Jesus is risen from the dead and is truly alive! But, during Ordinary Time, the color is green to remind us that the Church is always growing, like a healthy plant. On two special Sundays in the year, the color is red to remind us that Jesus shed his blood for us (Passion Sunday, one week before Easter) and that we might suffer for our faith (Pentecost, 50 days after Easter).

For now, the color in our church is purple. Why? Because we wait for the coming of Jesus!

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Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools News December 2 - December 6, 2019



	Sacred Heart	St. Alphonsus	St. Mary	St. Michael	St. Paul	St. Theodore
Mon.			•Advent Week 1 Celebration	•Advent (Hope) Celebration •Gr. 1/2F, 2/3F & 2/3 E to museum for Celebrate Christmas Past •Curling	•Advent Celebration	
Tues.				•Chess Club •SCC Meeting		•Math Wizard Day
Wed.	•Gr. 11 Retreat				•Kinsmen Press Conference	
Thurs.						•Christmas Plant Fundraiser
Fri.					•Christmas Sweater Day	

Christmas Band Concert - Thursday, December 6th @ 7pm - Sacred Heart High School



**SACRAMENTS of INITIATION
PREPARATION**



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

CONFIRMATION

The Second Sacrament of Initiation

FIRST EUCHARIST

The Third Sacrament of Initiation



**Come Celebrate
Simbang Gabi!!**

Traditionally, Christmas Day in the Philippines is ushered in by the nine-day masses that start on the evening of December 15th or on the dawn of December 16th. Known as the Misa de Gallo (Rooster's Mass) in the traditional Spanish, these masses are also more popularly known as Simbang Gabi, or "Night Mass". 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:

Sunday	Dec. 15	- 4:00 pm
Monday	Dec. 16	- 6:00 pm
Tuesday	Dec. 17	- 5:30 pm
Wednesday-Friday,	Dec. 18-20	- 6:00 pm
Saturday	Dec. 21	- 5:00 pm
Sunday	Dec. 22	- 4:00 pm
Monday	Dec. 23	- 6:00 pm



**Advent Mini-mission
Choir Rehearsals**



Adult Choir

Mon.	December 9 th	5:30 pm
Thurs.	December 12 th	5:30 pm

Men's Choir

Sat.	December 7 th	10:15 am
Sat.	December 14 th	10:15 am

Buddies Choir

Fri.	December 6 th	6:00 pm
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YA/T Choir

Fri.	December 13 th	7:00 pm
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News from the CWL



It's membership renewal time. If you missed renewing your membership after mass you can send in your dues for 2020 through the offertory basket. The dues for 2020 is \$30 which includes the Fall, Winter and Spring issues of the League magazine. Make cheque payable to St. Gerard CWL, mark the envelope CWL Membership.

Please give Paulette a call at 306.782.7923, if you have moved, changed your phone, cell number or email information.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Dec. 4	Executive & General Meeting
Dec. 5	Afternoon Bingo
Dec. 11	Christmas Family Social
Dec. 14	Assist with Mini-mission @ 5pm
Dec. 15	Carolling at the Nursing Home @ 2pm
Dec. 17	Evening Bingo

*If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Rejean Houle @ 306.641.5430 or houle_r@yahoo.fr
More info.: www.kofc-2031.ca*

**Have you celebrated your
10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, 65th or 70th
Wedding Anniversary in 2019?**

Couples who celebrated a Jubilee Anniversary and who register their anniversary with the Parish Office by December 13th will receive a special blessing at Sunday Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family (Saturday, December 28th at 5pm and Sunday, December 29th at 9am and 11am).

Phone 306.782.2449 or stop by the Parish Office Tuesday to Friday, 8am-noon and 1pm-4pm.

**PERMANENT P/T
OFFICE MANAGER POSITION**

St. Mary's Parish Church (Yorkton)

Duties to include: Manage the church office and prepare material for worship and other materials as required. Will have strong secretarial skills and have a familiarity with Microsoft Office and Quark Xpress. The successful candidate will perform various duties using computer technology and software (but not budgeting or finance), will network various church communications within various media channels. Graphic design and writing skills are a plus. Must have good oral communication skills and the ability to maintain absolute confidentiality. Will work independently and with supervision. Training is available.

For further information contact Doreen Rathgeber, Chair of the Finance Committee at 306.621.1522.



Bringing Home the Word

Get Ready to Encounter Jesus
By Mark Haydu, LC

Staying awake is a frequent and important Advent theme. Jesus mentions being awake in today's Gospel and again in Matthew 25:13 and 26:38. In Jesus' time on earth, it was common to have a servant posted at the door to protect you through the night and to watch over the house in your absence.

We are to ready ourselves to encounter Jesus at our personal judgment and again in the Final Judgment. Like a watchman who stands over the city or a guard who protects the entry gate, we are to be vigilant, "for you do not know on which day your Lord will come."

Begin your Advent preparations by receiving Christ in the Eucharist, "for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11). Jesus is not far away but very near. He enters our hearts in the form of bread and wine. Are you ready, or will he catch you by surprise?

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- What can I do to prepare myself and my family for Christ's coming on Christmas?
- How do I prepare for Christ's coming in the Eucharist, and at other times in my life?

•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•PEROGIES• PARISH FUNDRAISER

The next fundraising day is
Thursday, December 5th
3pm to 6pm

Cabbage rolls	\$25 (5 dozen)
Buckwheat cabbage rolls	\$20 (2 1/2 dozen)
Potato & onion perogies	\$35 (10 dozen)
Potato & cheddar perogies	\$40 (10 dozen)

St. Gerard's Giving Tree Campaign

Last year, through the generosity of parishioners, more than 90 individuals and households received need items. The needs of families and individuals will be printed on each tree ornament. If you can commit, please take an ornament and provide an item for someone in need. Thank you!



PARISH FUNDRAISER

Ladies Ladies Ladies

Please come for pie-making & fun on Friday, Dec. 6th at 10 am and Saturday, Dec. 7th at 10 am.

This is a fundraiser for our parish.

We will be selling the pies after all Masses Dec. 7th and 8th.

As our weather turns colder please remember those who go on with less food.

The food bank needs your constant support especially during the season of Christmas.



THE WEEK AHEAD

- Sun. (1st): 5:00 pm- Sacrament Preparation
(Main Hall)
- Mon. (2nd): 9:00 am- Perogy Bee (dough)
4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal
6:30 pm- Bible Study
(Lower Level)
- Tues. (3rd): 9:00 am- Perogy Bee (pinching)
5:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for 9am Mass
7:30 pm- Liturgical Committee Mtg
(Meeting Room B)
- Wed. (4th): 7:00 pm- K of C Exec. & General Mtg.
(Lower Level)
- Thurs. (5th): 7:00 pm- Centering Prayer
(Meeting Room A)
- Fri. (6th): 10:00 am- Pie-making Bee
4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal
6:00 pm- Buddies Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm- RCIA Group 1
(CWL Room – Lower Level)
- Sat. (7th): 10:00 am- Church Cleaning Bee
10:00 am- Pie-making Bee
10:15 am- Men's Choir rehearsal
4:30 pm- Choir rehearsal for 5pm Mass
- Sun. (8th): 9:30 am- RCIA Group 2
(CWL Room – Lower Level)

YOUTH REFLECTION

"The Plowshare"

This Week...

The time is here for us to prepare for the coming of Jesus - for his first coming in Bethlehem and for his final coming at the end of time. Both comings encourage us to reject sin and the ways of darkness, and to embrace goodness and the ways of light. To become ready for the coming of Jesus is to turn our destructive habits into constructive habits.

For Your Reflection

Heaven is surely the place without war and tools of destruction. Why can't earth also be such a place? Why can't swords and spears and tools of war and violence be turned into plowshares and pruning hooks and tools for growing things and cultivating life? It would be the best way to get ready for Jesus.

- Name some personality traits that could be thought of as "swords and spears," such as gossiping or using sarcasm and put-downs. Are there "swords and spears" in your personality?
- How can you cultivate spiritual life and growth in your own personality?

The world seems to be getting more violent. Our country has so many murders each day that all of them do not even make the news. Hearing that a human being killed another human being is "no big deal"! We see it all the time on television.

- Why has the world gotten so violent?
- What do you think are the contributing factors to the attitude that violence is an acceptable way to respond to conflict?
- How can a group of young people concerned about violence affect their neighbourhood or school?

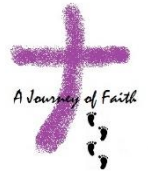
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter*, St. Mary's Press, 2004



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