



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

December 1st, 2024

First Sunday 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. 2 nd		NO MASS
Tues. 3 rd	9:00 am	Cabbage Roll Bee
	6:00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	7:00 pm	Mass +Christopher Gray
	7:30 pm	Knights of Columbus General Mtg.
Wed. 4 th	9:00 am	Mass +Frank Halliday
	4:30 pm	CWL Christmas Social
Thurs. 5 th	9:00 am	Mass Sylvia Marquette
	6:30 pm	Celebration of First Reconciliation
Fri. 6 th	8:00 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	9:00 am	Mass +Julius Kormos
Second Sunday of Advent		
Sat. 7 th	5:00 pm	Mass for the People
Sun. 8 th	9:00 am	Mass for the People
	11:00am	Mass for the People

Lord Jesus, so that we may enter into the peace of this season and be a source of peace to others, we pray: Be born in us, be born in our world.

- The Redeptorists

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



Holy Mass Schedule

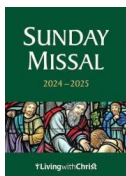
Saturday	November 30	5pm	1 st Sunday of Advent	<i>Hope</i>
Sunday	December 1	9am & 11am	1 st Sunday of Advent	
Tuesday	December 3	7pm		
Wednesday	December 4	9am		
Thursday	December 5	9am		
		6:30pm	Celebration of First Reconciliation	
Friday	December 6	9am		
Saturday	December 7	5pm	2 nd Sunday of Advent	<i>Love</i>
Sunday	December 8	9am & 11am	2 nd Sunday of Advent	
Monday	December 9	7pm	<i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	
Tuesday	December 10	7pm		
Wednesday	December 11	9am		
Thursday	December 12	9am		
		7pm	Advent Penitential Service	
Friday	December 13	9am		
Saturday	December 14	5pm	3 rd Sunday of Advent	<i>Joy</i>
Sunday	December 15	9am & 11am	3 rd Sunday of Advent	
		6:30pm	Simbang Gabi	
Monday	December 16	6:30pm	Simbang Gabi	
Tuesday	December 17	6:30pm	Simbang Gabi	
Wednesday	December 18	10am	Nursing Home (South Chapel)	
		6:30pm	Simbang Gabi	
Thursday	December 19	2:30pm	Yorkton Crossing Retirement Living	
		6:30pm	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	4 th Sunday of Advent	
		6:30pm	Simbang Gabi	
Monday	December 23	6:30pm	Simbang Gabi	



Advent Penitential Service

Thursday, December 12th @ 7pm

Several priests will be in attendance.



The **2024-2025 Sunday Missals** are available in the Welcome Area until the middle of January. Quantities limited. A \$5.00 free-will offering is appreciated. What is a Sunday Missal? It includes the Order of Mass, Sunday scripture readings, and prayers.

REMINDER: WEEKEND HOLY MASS DURATION IS 75 MINUTES



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.

SIGNS of GRACE™

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

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



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.



News from the CWL



Christmas Potluck Social on Wed., Dec. 4 in the parish hall for CWL Members, Spouses/Significant others, and Widowers of Members who have passed. Social hour will begin at 4:30, supper at 5:30 with a program to follow. Sign-up sheets for attendance and potluck dishes are in the Welcome Area of the church.

Membership drive weekends on Nov. 23/24 and Nov. 30/Dec. 1. Fees will remain at \$35 for the year. Our local council subsidizes an additional \$7.50 per member, thanks to fundraising efforts and personal donations, to cover the yearly membership fees that are paid to the National council. Fees may be paid in cash, by cheque made out to St. Gerard CWL, or e-transfer to pell@sasktel.net. If your financial institution requires a security answer and question, please use What is this for? and CWLMembership.

CWL Raffle tickets are currently being sold with an opportunity to win a large handmade quilt and shams, a golf set, and a framed Mother Mary with the Child Jesus art piece – all displayed in the welcome area of the church. The tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The draw will be made on Dec. 15 following the final weekend Mass. Members, please consider taking one or more books to sell. This will assist with our fundraising efforts to support various charities and initiatives. Each sold book will add \$25 to the overall amount raised.

Next general meeting is January 7, 2025



News from the Knights of Columbus



- December 3 General Meeting-after Mass
- December 8 Family Brunch at St. Mary's hall-10.00
- December 11 Family Christmas Social-6.00

The council will be hosting our annual Christmas party at the Yorkton & District Nursing Home (Melody Manor unit) with Christmas caroling on **Friday December 13 at 2:00 pm**. Carollers (Knights and wives) are welcome to come out and spread Christmas cheer! The council will be providing snacks this year so no need to bring anything other than your voice. You do not have to be able to sing! The music is part of the event, but so is the company and socializing for the residents. So please join us if you are available.

December 15 "Unthinkable"-Sacred Heart-3.00

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

FINANCIAL REPORT TO NOV. 30, 2024

Offertory Collection in November	\$19,940.52
Prorated year-to-date offertory budget	\$255,788.57
Actual year-to-date offertory revenue	\$255,605.20
Offertory Collection Deficit @ 11/30	\$183.37



Bringing Home
the Word **+**

Birth Day

By St. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Our *birth day* is not the anniversary of our birth—that is our *birthday*. Our birth day is the actual day of our birth. However, we do have a second birth day, and it is this day to which this Sunday's readings refer. We might call it our final birth day—the day when we are born into fulfillment. Jeremiah assures us that will be the day when God's promises will be fulfilled in us. We will finally have a righteous leader; the nation will be safe; and the place where God dwells amid the people will be secure.

In the Gospel, Jesus is probably speaking figuratively about the end of the world—at least the end of the world as it is known to humans. However, it is not the end of everything, for after cosmic destruction takes place, "then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" (Luke 21:27). Something new will appear; we will see that our redemption is at hand. We will be born into a new life in a new world.

Advent is the time to look forward to this new birth day of fulfillment. We do not simply await the anniversary of Jesus' human birth day, for that day announced the coming of the final birth day of each of us. *His* birth announces *our* new birth.

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The Social Action Committee is thrilled to present once again, *The Giving Tree*, ready to bring holiday cheer to those most in need.

We invite you to select a tag—or several—and shop for the listed items. When returning your unwrapped gifts, please attach the tag and feel free to use one of our gift bags for an extra touch. Your kindness will bring joy and hope to others this Christmas. Thank you for being a beacon of light in our community this holiday season!

Christmas in November Another Great Success

On behalf of the organizing team, I would like to thank all the individuals and households that supported our 3rd annual Christmas in November Raffle and Bake Sale either by supplying your wonderful baked goods, working on the perogy / cabbage roll assembly line or by buying these decadent items for the Christmas season.

I would like to thank the CWL, Knights of Columbus and all the donators of the raffle items for stepping forward with your generosity and support. It was another outstanding success for our parish.

Mark Bell, Committee Chairperson

Archbishop's Appeal: Alternate Donation Options Amid Canada Post Strike

We recognize that the ongoing Canada Post strike may impact your plans to contribute to this year's Archbishop's Appeal, especially as we near the end of the year when many wish to ensure their donations count toward 2024 charitable giving.

To ensure your generous gifts are received in a timely manner, we encourage you to consider alternate donation methods, which can be found online at archregina.sk.ca/grouppage/donate-archbishops-appeal

If you are paying by cheque, please issue it to "St. Gerard Church" and place in the collection basket at Mass or drop off during regular office hours. The amount will be included in your 2024 annual charitable donation receipt.



Parish Goal: \$44,216
Raised to date: \$11,305



The 1st Sunday of Advent Year C marks the beginning of a new liturgical year and a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus. The readings for this Sunday call us to watchfulness, prayer, love, holiness, and trust in God's promises.

TRUSTING IN GOD'S PROMISES In the first reading, Jeremiah speaks about God's promise to bring forth a righteous branch from David's line. This branch represents Jesus, who brings justice and righteousness. This promise shows us that God is faithful and keeps His word.

Jeremiah's message is a source of hope. Even in difficult times, we can trust that God is working for our good. His promises give us strength and courage. When we feel uncertain or afraid, we can remember that God has a plan for us, just as He did for the people in Jeremiah's time.

The theme of trusting in God's promises is also found in the Gospel reading for the 1st Sunday of Advent Year C. Jesus tells us to stand up and lift our heads because our redemption is near. This means we should not be afraid but trust that God will fulfill His promises. Jesus will return, and we need to be ready.

As we begin Advent, let's focus on trusting in God's promises. Are we placing our hope in Him? Are we confident that He will guide us and fulfill His word? By trusting in God's promises, we can prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus and find peace in His faithfulness.

GROWING IN LOVE AND HOLINESS In the second reading, Paul prays for the Thessalonians to increase in love and to live in holiness. This message is important as we begin Advent. We are called to love more and live better lives.

Paul's prayer reminds us to focus on our relationships. Increasing in love means caring for others, helping those in need, and showing kindness. These actions reflect God's love in our lives. By loving more, we prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming.

Living in holiness means following God's teachings. It means avoiding sin and striving to do what is right. Paul urges us to live in ways that please God. This can be challenging, but it is important for our spiritual growth. Holiness helps us to be ready for Jesus.

As we start Advent, the 1st Sunday of Advent Year C encourages us to examine our lives. Are we growing in love? Are we living in holiness? By focusing on these themes, we can prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus and deepen our faith.

WATCHFULNESS AND PRAYER Jesus warns about signs in the sun, moon, and stars. These signs can seem scary, but Jesus tells us not to be afraid. Instead, we should stand tall because our redemption is near. This teaches us to be ready for Jesus' return.

Being watchful means staying alert and paying attention to how we live. We should avoid things that distract us from God. Instead, we should focus on prayer and good deeds. Jesus calls us to live in a way that pleases God. This makes us ready for His coming.

FAMILY CONNECTION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-28,34-36 Jesus teaches his disciples to be vigilant so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes in glory.

In today's Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples against the fatigue that can emerge if one becomes consumed by the anxieties of daily life. Many families are too familiar with the kind of fatigue Jesus refers to here. We may be concerned about a family member's health, our job security, our children's education, or any number of other concerns. All these are important matters. Jesus does not promise an end to daily worries and fears, but he does teach his disciples that they will have the strength to withstand anxiety if they stay focused on him, remaining vigilant for his return and praying for strength to endure all tribulations. Through prayer, God helps us stay focused on that which is most important in our lives.

As you gather as a family, recall the tradition of making New Year's resolutions in preparation for the new calendar year. Observe that today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is the beginning of the new Church year. During the season of Advent, our Gospel readings ask us to consider what is most important to us as we prepare for Jesus' coming, at his birth and at the end of time. Read today's Gospel, Luke 21:25-28,34-36. Jesus describes signs that may disturb many people, but he says that these should not disturb his disciples. Why? (because these signs indicate that redemption is near) What does Jesus say that his disciples should do? (Be vigilant and pray for strength.) At this start of the new Church year, consider as a family what "Advent resolutions" your family might make to help you stay focused so that you will be prepared to receive the salvation we celebrate at Jesus' birth and anticipate at Jesus' second coming. Pray together for God's help in following through on these resolutions. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 25.

St. Gerard Parish Holy Mass & Activity Calendar

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Sunday Advent 9am Mass 11am Mass 	2	3 9:00am Cabbage Roll Bee 6pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 7pm Mass 7:30pm Knights of Columbus General Mtg	4 9am Mass 4:30pm CWL Christmas Social	5 9am Mass CELEBRATION OF FIRST RECONCILIATION	6 8am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9am Mass	7 5pm Mass
8 2nd Sunday Advent 9am Mass 11am Mass 	9 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 7pm Mass	10 9:00am Perogy Bee 6pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 7pm Mass	11 9am Mass 6pm Knights of Columbus Christmas Social	12 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES 9am Mass 7pm Penitential Service	13 8am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9am Mass	14 Missionary Families of Christ Christmas Party 5pm Mass
15 3rd Sunday Advent 9am Mass 11am Mass 6:30pm Simbang Gabi Novena Mass 	16 6:30pm Simbang Gabi Novena Mass	17 6:30pm Simbang Gabi Novena Mass 7:30pm Parish Finance Council Meeting	18 10am Mass at Nursing Home (South Chapel) 6:30pm Simbang Gabi Novena Mass	19 Happy Anniversary Father Antony! 2:30pm Mass at Yorkton Crossing 6:30pm Simbang Gabi Novena Mass	20 6:30pm Simbang Gabi Novena Mass	21 5pm Mass
22 4th Sunday Advent 9am Mass 11am Mass 6:30pm Simbang Gabi Novena Mass 	23 6:30pm Simbang Gabi Novena Mass	24 5pm Christmas Eve Mass (with incense) 8:30pm Christmas Night Mass	25  10am Mass of Christmas Day	26 NO MASS	27 NO MASS	28 5pm Mass
29 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY 9am Mass 11am Mass	30	31 EVE OF THE SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD 5pm Mass	<i>God of Love, Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us. He is a sign of your love. Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent, as we wait and prepare for his coming. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Saviour. Amen.</i>			

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.