



St. Gerard

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday
of Advent

Roman Catholic Parish

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:
(Cancelled 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 louis.yorkton@gmail.com

Parish Office Administrator.....Sandra Archer

Caretaker.....Mario Guerra

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Tues. (22nd) 6:00pm *Holy Hour Devotion*
7:00pm +Merv Krasowski
Wed.(23rd) 9:30am +Garry Fletcher
Thurs.(24th) 9:30am John Adamyk

VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

4:00pm

7:00pm

10:00pm

Fri. (25th) **THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

9:00am

11:00am

Sat. (26th) 9:30am +Divina Muyargas

5:00pm Russell Griffith

7:00pm +Alice Baumgartner

Sun. (27th) **HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

9:00am Mass for the People

11:00am Children of Stella Fulawka

5:00pm



INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

- **Pre-registration for Saturday/Sunday Mass is required.** Online at www.stgerard.ca Monday 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 so that you can "check in".
- 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



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Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, you have called us to be your instruments of peace and reconciliation in the world. Give me the courage to make peace with those who have hurt me and caused me pain.

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

A Note from Your Pastor.....

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

As the solemn celebration of Christmas approaches, the liturgy of the Church for the last Sunday of Advent reminds us that when Jesus was conceived in his Mother's womb two great mysteries connected with that day.

The first is the mystery of God becoming man: The Incarnation. God has loved us so much that He became one of us, so that He could save us from sin and the meaninglessness that sin brings, and show us the way to a meaningful life: "*The Glory of God is human being fully alive*" (St. Irenaeus).

The second mystery is that God doesn't work out that plan of salvation for us all by himself. Instead, He asks for our cooperation. We can see it in today's Gospel when God invites Mary to become the mother of the Saviour.

It is possible for Mary to say "No", to reject this invitation. Mary could say, 'Thanks for the invitation, I really wish I could do what you want, but I'm just not there yet'.

Mary knows that God's plans are always wise and wonderful. So she puts herself at His service: "*Here am I, the servant of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word*". By saying "Yes" she makes room for Christ in her womb to restore the fault of Adam and Eve.

Mary makes a complete gift of herself to God, and accepts the task God gives her even though she doesn't understand all the implications of it. She trusts that God would give her all the help she needs. She trusts so deeply in God that she is open to all possibilities. She gives up control over her future and allows God to use her in His plan.

I would say that we should follow Mary's example, making our contribution to God's work of salvation, however small it may be.

From now until Christmas, let's ask God for the grace to respond generously to His plan, as Mary did, especially during the Christmas season, so that our part in God's plan of salvation is sure to get done.

It is not always easy for us to keep a balance between doing our part and letting God do His part in his plan of salvation. As we prepare to welcome him into our hearts during Christmas, let's promise him that, through hard work and heartfelt prayer, we will always strive to do our part well.

Life imposes a lot of duties on us. Besides duties to ourselves, there are duties to others, and duties to God. Think about this: *Where would the world be if we just thought of ourselves and insisted on doing our own things, seeking our own freedom, happiness and fulfillment independent of God and others?*

The greatest thing in our life is: when "what we have to do" will be changed "what we want to do".

Have a blessed weekend and prepare yourself well to welcome the Lord. He is coming, He will not delay.

In Christ

Fr. Louis Nguyen

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



We welcome into our Catholic Christian Community those who were baptized recently at St. Gerard:

Keith De Chavez
Madysen Taylor

May these children and their families experience joy and new life.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The angel Gabriel calls Mary “full of grace”: in her there is no room for sin, because God chose her from eternity to be the mother of Jesus and preserved her from original sin.... We too are asked to listen to God who speaks to us, and to accept his will.... The Lord is always speaking to us!

- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2014

LAUDATO SI' REFLECTION

Ever-present, ever-loving God, May your gentle spirit surprise us, shatter our complacency and wake us from our dreams. May your urgent spirit send us out, and demand our courage; may we set forth the stories of truth in the face of the story of power. May world leaders listen to us.

May your comforting spirit turn us towards the discomfort of knowing, seeing and understanding. The hour has come to act. May your holy spirit burn through us, and call us to tell even those who aren't ready to listen that the world can't wait. Amen. CAFOD Prayer Resource

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee



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.

The C.W.L made the draw for their Raffle on Saturday, December 5th. The following were winners: 1st Prize - \$200 - Brittney Maddaford; 2nd Prize - Double Quilt & 2 Shams - Justin Flunder; 3rd Prize - Twin Quilt & Sham - Sheila Johnson. Thank you to all who sold tickets, bought tickets, and helped in any way to make this raffle possible. The amount of the proceeds to Palliative Care has not been finalized.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Dec. 21 Articles for "The Word" due

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

ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL
St. Gerard Parish Goal: \$43,905.83
Donations received to date: \$28,815.00 (65.6%)

ARCHDIOCESE OF REGINA CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASS LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 pm: Resurrection Parish
12:00 Midnight: Holy Rosary Cathedral

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 am: Resurrection Parish

NEW YEAR'S DAY

11:00 am: Holy Rosary Cathedral

Daily Mass

9:00 AM: Dec. 21 – Jan. 4

Will be livestreamed from the following parishes: St. Augustine, Wilcox; Our Lady of Peace and Resurrection Parishes, Regina

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



Bringing Home the Word

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

King David wants to build God a home! He had first built his own palace and afterward realized that he hadn't built a space for God—a place of worship and family communion.

It is admirable that David wants to give back, but do we have to take care of God or, rather, is it God who cares for us? Obviously, God doesn't need David to build him a house. The whole world is his. Didn't God build up David all along, bringing him to a place where he might consider offering God something in return? It is like children who want to give their parents a gift. First, they ask a parent for money or a gift idea. On their own, they cannot give.

God turns the tables on David, saying God will build David a house—an everlasting lineage to rule over the people. God will build something much bigger than anything David had ever dreamt of. He will build David a kingdom that will become a nation and give birth to a worldwide universal Church.

In the painting, *The Annunciation with City by the Sea* by Marco Palmezzano, Mary stands in front of an ornate house. She stands like us, at the entrance, welcoming God's coming. It was her yes that allowed the master builder to enter into our world to begin building this house, which became a Church.

Like Mary, we await Jesus. With her, let us say yes to him, celebrating the one who has established that house where we celebrate today!

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The deadline for the December 27th bulletin is 12 noon Tuesday, December 22nd. The deadline for the January 3rd bulletin is 12 noon Tuesday, December 29th. Thank you.

The **2021 Sunday offering envelopes** are available for pickup in the Welcome Area. Special collection envelopes for Pre-Authorized Giving have been mailed.

2020 GIVING TREE CAMPAIGN

All items are to be returned to the base of the Giving Tree **TODAY BY 11:00 AM** so the gifts can be delivered in time for Christmas.



Thank you in advance for your generosity and for bringing joy and the spirit of giving to those who are less fortunate.

GIVING TO YOUR PARISH

The deadline for 2020 donations is Wednesday, December 30th at 4:00 pm

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

Please mail your donation by December 20th to ensure that it is received by 4:00 pm Wednesday, December 30th. Thank you! (All donations received after 4pm Wednesday, December 30th, will be processed as 2021).

The Church has always honored Mary, for she was the first to receive the Good News. Through Mary's "yes," God lived among his people. Mary gave herself completely to the work of the Spirit within her. And, implicitly, she gave herself to the person of her Son and his mission. Her obedience enabled her Son to save all humanity.

Mary is the "mother of Jesus" through her humanity. But, she is truly "Mother of God" because of God's paternity. Mary is the God-bearer ("Theotokos" in Greek), the one who bore the Second Person of the Trinity into the world. In her and through her, the world realized the mystery of the Incarnation, God made flesh.

Catholics have honored Mary since the beginning of the Church. Do you have a Marian devotion? Have you ever meditated on the meaning of the Hail Mary? How has Mary's "yes" inspired you?

Human honour is, indeed, fleeting. But God's honor stands forever, even in the face of criticism. Mary accepted, even proclaimed, God's will in her life. She placed her future in the hands of the Father. Her example should inspire us to stand firm as Christians in today's ever-changing fads and fancies. Remember, the words of others may sting, but the Spirit of God burns within. The divine fire can withstand the darts others fling toward us.

Reflect on the sacrifice of others so you could receive the faith. Think of your parents and family and friends. How have they withstood criticism and prejudice for your sake? How can you honor them for their "yes?" How can you help pass on the faith, despite the cost?

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What if conditions do not allow me to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in church?

Pope Francis addressed this issue in his homily on March 20, 2020¹:

"Do what the Catechism (of the Catholic Church)² says. It is very clear:

If you cannot find a priest to confess to, speak directly with God, your father, and tell him the truth. Say, 'Lord, I did this, this, this. Forgive me,' and ask for pardon with all your heart." Make an act of contrition, the pope said, and promise God, "I will go to confession afterward, but forgive me now.' And immediately you will return to a state of grace with God."

¹<https://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2020/if-you-cant-go-to-confession-take-your-sorrowdirectly-to-god-pope-says.cfm>

²https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENGO015/___P4C.HTM #1441, 1442

YOUTH REFLECTION

"The Angel"

This Week...

Gabriel visits Mary and her life is changed forever. She agrees to be the mother of the Saviour of the world, and her son is to be born in the house and lineage of David. This miracle is just the beginning of many more to come - and all miracles give glory to God.

For Your Reflection

Lots of paintings, movies, and TV specials have shown Gabriel visiting Mary. Usually, it is dramatic and fascinating.

How do you think the visitation really happened? Do you think Gabriel flew through the window or just appeared out of thin air? Do you think Gabriel was really there or is the angel just a literary symbol? How else could Mary have received her message? What do you suppose Mary was thinking?

Angels are popular decorations, and they appear as characters in TV programs, movies, and stories. Their appeal has increased recently.

Why do you think people are so interested in angels? Do you believe in angels? Do you believe you have your own guardian angel? If not, why not? If so, what do you think your guardian angel does?

What do you think the purpose of angels is? What can angels do that people cannot? Do you think you can communicate with angels? Why or why not?

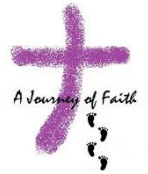
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter* - St. Mary's Press, 2004



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