



St. Gerard



Roman Catholic Parish

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



Lord, thank You for the gift of Jesus.
Help us to remember Your love and presence every day.
Guide us to live in Your love and share it with others.
May the joy of Christmas fill our hearts and homes. Amen.

Wishing you a truly joyous Christmas!

WELCOME VISITORS AND NEW PARISHIONERS! WELCOME HOME TO ST. GERARD PARISH!

We are so happy that you are here to celebrate the Holy Mass with us!

Become a part of our parish family! If this is your spiritual home, we invite you to register with the parish. Forms are located on a table in the Welcome Area. Once complete, you may drop it off at the Parish Office, or place it in the collection basket at Mass.

COME CELEBRATE AT ST. GERARD PARISH EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

The Sunday Holy Mass at St. Gerard Parish

Saturday	5:00 pm (Sunday anticipated Mass)
Sunday	9:00 am
Sunday	11:00 am

Father Antony is assisted by trained members of our parish in roles of Hospitality, Sacristan, Lector, Ministers of Holy Communion and Precious Blood, Altar Servers, Music Ministers, and Mass Coordinators. For more information, or if you wish to serve, please contact the Parish Office at 306.782.2449.

Weekday Holy Mass at St. Gerard Parish

Tuesday	7:00 pm
Wednesday to Friday	9:00 am

In addition to weekday Holy Mass at St. Gerard, Holy Mass is also celebrated at the Yorkton and District Nursing Home and at Yorkton Crossing Retirement Living. Check out our parish Holy Mass Schedule online at www.stgerard.ca

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday	6:00 pm
Friday	8:00 am

Confession

30 minutes prior to Holy Mass Tuesday to Friday, and by appointment (306.782.2449)

CELEBRATING 2025 YEARS OF JESUS



A Jubilee Year is a special year of grace and forgiveness, offering the faithful an opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence. The 2025 Jubilee will be centered on the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." *"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision."* ~ Pope Francis

PRAYER LIFE IN THE PARISH

The church is open Monday to Thursday from 9am to noon and 1pm to 4pm for private prayer (please use "Parish Hall" entrance). In addition, there are many opportunities to join together in prayer as a Parish family:

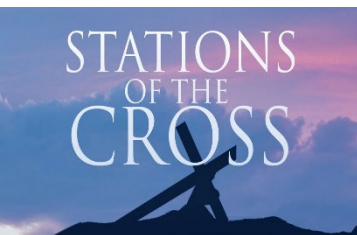


Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is an opportunity to pray to Jesus Christ before the Eucharist. Catholics believe the body, blood, soul and divinity are substantially present in the Eucharist. In other words, when you participate in Eucharistic Adoration, you pray and worship Jesus in a more intimate, present and real way.

Divine Mercy Devotion is a modern devotion to the attribute of God's infinite mercy that was promulgated by St. Faustina Kowalska in Poland, and later to the Universal Church by Pope St. John Paul II ("The Mercy Pope"). This devotion is multifaceted and has many different components: it involves a divinely inspired painting of Jesus with attached promises for its veneration, vocal prayers (the Divine Mercy chaplet and Divine Mercy Novena), a book (The Diary of Faustina Kowalska), a Holy Hour (3 o'clock), and a solemn feast day with attached indulgences (Divine Mercy Sunday). **At St. Gerard's Parish the Divine Mercy Devotion follows the 9am Wednesday Mass.**



Centering Prayer "is a receptive method of Christian silent prayer which deepens our relationship with God, the Indwelling Presence ... a prayer in which we can experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself." **The Centering Prayer group meets twice a month (Thursday evenings). For more information, contact Ernie 306.783.6014 or Lori 306.783.8063**



Stations of the Cross devotion is led by a different parish group each Friday at 7pm during the Season of Lent. Parishioners gather to pray the Stations of the Cross and journey with Jesus through the Paschal Mystery. **The Lenten Stations of the Cross begin Friday, March 7, 2025.**



Communal Rosary Prayer During May, the Month of Mary, and October, the Month of the Holy Rosary, the Rosary Prayer is prayed communally prior to the 9am Sunday Holy Mass and each Monday at 5:30pm (led by the Knights of Columbus). Throughout the year the Rosary is prayer prior to the 9am weekday Holy Mass.

COME CELEBRATE AT ST. GERARD PARISH! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

NAME TAG SUNDAY!



Our Liturgy Committee, with the help of all other Ministries observe **Name Tag Sunday** the first weekend of every month. This is an opportunity to build up a Family of Faithful, gathering together to celebrate One Body of Christ. Knowing other Parish Family members by name makes a difference when celebrating Holy Mass, praying for one another, and fulfilling the Commandments of God - "Love of Neighbour". All are invited after Mass for fellowship and refreshments.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Holy Mass with the Rite of Burning Palms

The day before Ash Wednesday the Knights of Columbus host a pancake supper. Following the supper is the Rite of Burning Palms. Parishioners are encouraged to bring palms from the previous Palm Sunday to add to the brazier fire located in the drive-through. Holy Mass follows. Mark your calendar! Shrove Tuesday is March 4, 2025.



This past fall we held an eight-week **Bible Study** - "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible" – which received a great response! The fall study program will continue in 2025.

Watch the bulletin in early 2025 for an opportunity to register for a five-week **Faith Study** which will take place during the Season of Lent!



The **World Day of Prayer** is a global ecumenical movement that brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year. Through preparation and participation in the worship service, we can learn how our sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the Biblical passages in their context. We can hear their concerns and needs and can join in solidarity with them as we pray with and for them. In this way, it is possible to enrich our Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international, ecumenical expression.

The 2025 WDP program "I Made You Wonderful" (written by the WDP Committee in the Cook Islands) invites us into the knowledge that each one of us was made with care and love by God. When we can receive this profound truth, everything in our life changes and we begin to radiate and shine from within. We also learn how to treat every other person as made wonderful by God.

In the City of Yorkton, numerous churches take turns hosting the event. St. Gerard Parish will host in 2025 (Friday, March 7). For more information, contact Linda Maddaford 306.783.3924



All Souls' Day Annual Memorial Mass

Each November 2nd we honour our deceased loved ones with a special Holy Mass. You are invited to light a candle in memory of your departed loved one.

PARISH LIFE AND OUTREACH

St. Gerard Parish encourages and supports spiritual growth, works of charity, socialization, and educational opportunities by supporting many groups and activities. Included in these are:

YOUTH MINISTRY

F The St. Gerard Youth Ministry is a
A group that focuses on grade 8 to 12
I students, offering them a feeling of
T belonging in our parish and an
H opportunity to connect with other
youth.

F We focus on four F's - Faith,
E Fellowship, Food and Fun. Through
L these four F's we hope to engage the
O future of our church in developing
W their own faith, putting their faith into
S action and building bonds with others.
H Our goal is to have one youth event
I per month.

F These events may take on many
O formats: speakers, charitable work,
D games nights, adoration nights, music
ministry, movie nights, bible studies
and many more activities to help our
youth grow in their faith and develop
connection to our parish and
community.

Our next event, a New Year's Celebration, is on Sunday, January 19th, after the 11 am mass following the Parish Family Brunch.

YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRY



A Youth Music Ministry has started which invites all youth from grade 4 to 12 to take on music leadership for one Holy Mass per month. We know that our parish youth have talent to share and we want to engage this rich resource.

Call Scott Hoffort 306-621-8291 or Colleen Hoffort 306-621-7582 if you have any questions or want to join.

Children's Liturgy

Our parish is blessed with a wonderful Children's Liturgy Team who teach each Sunday during the 11am Mass. Each week children are engaged in age-appropriate bible stories and activities by our trained leaders.

Thank you to the leaders and assistants for leading our children to Jesus!

SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY



Throughout the year parishioners are encouraged to donate non-perishable food items which we provide to the Salvation Army.

We also assist the Salvation Army with its annual Christmas Kettle Campaign.



The Social Action Committee extends its **heartfelt thanks** to all the parishioners and friends who took the time to select gift tags from the Giving Tree and generously donated gifts to those in need this holiday season.

Your kindness and compassion have made a real difference in the lives of many.

We also appreciate the children who took the time to create and share Christmas cards, spreading joy and warmth with their thoughtful messages.

Your acts of love and giving embody the true spirit of Christmas, and we are deeply grateful for your support. Merry Christmas!

SACRAMENTAL LIFE AT ST. GERARD

The Sacraments of Initiation

"The sacraments of Christian initiation - Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist - lay the foundations of every Christian life." (CCC 1212)

By Baptism, we share in Christ's death and resurrection. By Confirmation, we share in the gift of Pentecost. In Eucharist, we share in the food of heaven. This is why they are called sacraments of initiation - we are initiated into the community that holds the paschal mystery as its very life.

At St. Gerard Parish, our catechists journey with each family and provide guidance and support.



Baptism - The First Sacrament of Initiation

Through Baptism, God enables us to participate in his life in Jesus Christ and makes us his children. It is through this sacrament that we receive the Holy Spirit and become members of the People of God, of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. Baptism becomes our commitment to grow in this new life and to strive to acquire spiritual maturity. By baptism, God purifies us from sin.

Baptism is the sacrament of faith which has the Risen Christ as its source, and it is the offer of salvation for all people. Intimately linked to Confirmation and to Eucharist, Baptism is, with these two sacraments, Christian Initiation. The child is baptized in the faith of his/her parents, of his/her godparents and of the Church.

Baptisms are celebrated following Sunday Mass, or at another time. Parents and godparents engage in a series of preparatory sessions to enrich and support their role as primary teacher of their children. There are several opportunities during the year for preparation classes.

*****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 January 9, 16 and 23rd.** Childcare is provided. *****



Confirmation - The Second Sacrament of Initiation First Eucharist - The Third Sacrament of Initiation

In the Archdiocese of Regina, children in Grade 2 and older are invited to prepare to receive both the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Sacrament of First Eucharist at the same Holy Mass.

If you have not received a registration form, or for more information, 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.

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



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, are you 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. *****

The Sacraments of Healing

First Reconciliation - At St. Gerard Parish, once a child has received the Sacrament of First Eucharist, s/he may prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The First Reconciliation Preparation program is held each fall.

Reconciliation - Parish Penitential Services are scheduled during Advent and Lent. All baptized Catholics should receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once each year and upon returning to the practice of the faith. At St. Gerard's individual confessions take place one-half hour prior to daily Mass and by phoning the Parish Office to make an appointment.

Anointing of the Sick - Whenever someone is very or chronically ill or elderly, the reception of the Sacrament of Anointing is appropriate. Opportunities for receiving this sacrament are by contacting the Parish Office to make an appointment with Father Antony.

If you have a loved one or friend who is hospitalized, please contact the Parish Office or phone Father Antony directly at 306.782.0323. The parish is no longer able to obtain a list of Roman Catholics who are hospitalized.

The Sacraments of Vocation

Matrimony - Couples preparing for Marriage participate in an extended preparation process. Please contact the Parish Office 12 months prior to the marriage date. In the Archdiocese of Regina, engaged couples are required to participate in a Marriage Preparation Program. These programs are offered in Regina, Calgary, and Muenster.

Holy Orders - Please contact Father Parker Love, Vocations Director at 306.352.1651





THANK YOU to the following members of our Parish Family who joyfully and beautifully decorated our Parish Home for Christmas:

- Colleen Haider, Marie Kruger, Angela Brown & their team
- Michelle Quinto who designed & created the beautiful Advent boxes

And **THANK YOU** to the Sacristans, Hospitality Ministers, Altar Servers, Mass Coordinators, Lectors, Ministers of Holy Communion and Precious Blood, and our dedicated Music Ministry who served at the Christmas liturgies. May God bless you abundantly for your service to His Holy People!

Father Antony

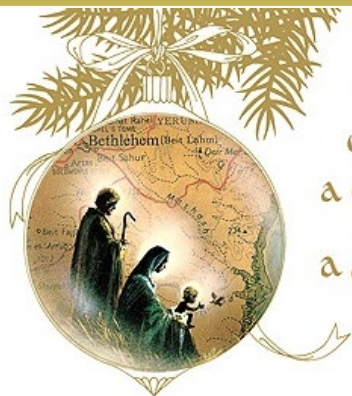
IS ST. GERARD PARISH ON YOUR GIFT LIST?

Your contribution 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**. Please note that cheques dated for 2024 but received after the deadline will be included in your 2025 donations. **E-transfers** must be completed prior to 12 noon December 31st. Email giving@stgerard.ca Thank you for your continued support of St. Gerard Parish!!

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY 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>



FOR
UNTO US
A CHILD IS BORN.
UNTO US
A SON IS GIVEN.

*May the peace and blessings
of Christmas be yours;
and may the coming year
be filled with happiness.*

Merry Christmas!

Father Antony, Sandra and Somi