



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday
of Advent

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	louisyorkton@gmail.com
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer		
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Tues.(8th) **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**
6pm *Holy Hour Devotion*
7pm +Steve Paydli

Wed.(9th) 9:30am Freda McCann

Thurs.(10th) 9:30am +Grace Skaluba

Fri. (11th) 9:30am +Garry Fletcher

Sat. (12th) **OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**
9:30am +Mark Banga

Sun. (13th) **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Live on Facebook at 10:00 am
Search "Filipino Catholic Community in Yorkton"

Mass for the People

Come to Mass during the week!

Although we are unable to meet on Sundays, Father Louis celebrates Mass during the week for 30 people. *No pre-registration required.*

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

- Max. of 30 people may attend weekday Mass.
- There will be no "in-person" Mass Saturday evening or Sunday morning until further notice.
- **Sunday Mass is live on Facebook at 10:00 am** (Search "Filipino Catholic Community in Yorkton")
- Masks are mandatory.
- Members of the same household may sit together at the marked seating.
- At least two-metres separation is required between households.
- Please arrive early so that you can provide your name and telephone number for contact-tracing purposes.
- 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



Stay
Connected
Online!
www.stgerard.ca



Lord, you are the compassion of God in the world. You never forget any of your people. Give me the courage to be the compassion of God for others.

- 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,

Today, as we start the second week of Advent, God speaks to us about doubt, discouragement, and hopelessness. He says that doubt, discouragement, or hopelessness will come to each of us, but don't let these feelings control you. He is saying to us, do not let yourself be afraid, because I am your God, and I have not forgotten about you!

We can see this in all three readings today. From the first reading, Isaiah talks about comfort to the people of God and reminds them that God is like a Shepherd who gathers the lambs of His flock in His arms.

Peter, in the second reading, reminds us that even if it seems that God is absent or has forgotten about us, we should know that He is just waiting for the right moment to send His grace. It is very interesting when Peter explains that for God “one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.” What seems like a long wait for us is, in reality, just a blink of an eye.

And finally, in the Gospel, we hear the voice of John the Baptist from the wilderness saying “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me”. He is coming! And He will not delay.

Indeed, Advent is a sacred time to remind us that God has not forgotten us, no matter how we may feel. In fact, he never stops being with us, working in us and through us, and leading us with care to our everlasting reward.

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

We are in pandemic time. The COVID-19 has been with us for many long months. The world, society and families are affected by it. It has become worse and worse, and for us, we are all suffering and are isolated. It seems we are losing our hope, and it seems that we may not have patience for ourselves and others. We may be experiencing doubt, discouragement, or hopelessness during this time. We experience these feelings because no matter what we do, we cannot seem to avoid the suffering, the painful things that just keep happening to us and those we love.

However, we are reminded that God has never forgotten us. He is coming to free us from our sins and to deliver us from the power of evil. He comes to free us of fear and to enable us to live in holiness and justice all the days of our lives. He comes to give us light when we are in darkness and the shadows of death surround us. He comes to guide our feet along the path of love, hope and peace.

The Lord opened the way to salvation for us. However, in order to get the salvation, we must strive to walk in His light and avoid being a source of darkness to anyone.

And as the prophet Isaiah says in the first reading, “*prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low...*” Each of us is invited to prepare ourselves and encourage each other for welcoming the Lord. He is coming, He has not forgotten us at all. He is coming to be with us and to strengthen us, to help us fight all evils, and to give us hope and joy.

Remember that God is saying to each of us: Do not let yourself be afraid, because I am your God, and I have not forgotten about you!

Have a beautiful weekend, full of God's blessings.

Fr. Louis Nguyen

Sunday Mass on Facebook (Live) Every Sunday at 10:00 am until further notice

Celebrated by Father Louis Kim Nguyen

- Search “Filipino Catholic Community in Yorkton” on Facebook
- Ask to be added as a member
- Encourage everyone you know to participate

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul.

Since I can not now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though You were already there, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You; permit not that I should ever be separated from You. Amen.

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

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-sorrow-directly-to-god-pope-says.cfm>

²https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/___P4C.HTM
#1441, 1442



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.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Dec. 2 Executive/General Meeting **CANCELLED**

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: \$24,370.00 (55.5%)

"Journey Through Advent"

A Video Series to Introduce & Reflect on the Season

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) announces a new online weekly video series created to help Canadian Catholic faithful to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Entitled Journey through Advent, the series is a joint project involving the CCCB's National Liturgy Office and the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis.

The initiative was developed as a way, through the modern method of video messaging, to offer a resource that enriches faith formation during a time of joyful anticipation for the coming of the Lord and Saviour into the world. This video series is especially relevant given the COVID-19 pandemic that places limitations on in-person gatherings for faith communities. It is hoped that Journey through Advent will be a source of deep spiritual solace and insightful preparation for all.

The videos will be available on the CCCB website each Monday in advance of the upcoming Sunday celebration (November 23, November 30, December 7 and December 14). <http://bitly.ws/aEq9>

Archdiocese of Regina Weekly Report

Sign up for our Free Archdiocese of Regina Weekly Report <https://archregina.sk.ca/news>



Bringing Home the Word

Waiting Expectantly
By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Most of us are not good at waiting. We want things right away and would rather arrive just on time than stand around uselessly. Few things are as annoying as waiting in a doctor's office, a government office, or being stuck in traffic.

Yet waiting can also be an exciting and busy time, like a bride and groom preparing for their wedding. There is no time to waste, since the date is approaching and there is so much to do in order for everything to be prepared perfectly. Advent waiting should be more like this expectant waiting.

John the Baptist was sent to point toward Christ and invite the people to their wedding with God. The divine spouse was coming back to his beloved and sent the groom ahead to let everyone know he was coming.

Thus, John preached preparation, conversion, and setting aside everything that would distract people from getting the heart ready for Jesus. Loving, active planning was as necessary for those who listened to John the Baptist as it is for us.

This means going up the mountain and into the desert. Set aside normal distractions and dedicate more time to think about Christ, preparing our hearts and minds for the big day of his arrival.

Advent isn't a nervous time of sitting around and hoping the line goes quickly. It is an active, engaged, and hopeful anticipation of one we eagerly await.

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STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - Mark 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. During this season of Advent, may we practice living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our time, talent and treasure. May our practice put us on the path to holiness and be an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others in our families, parish and community.

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

The **2020 Giving Tree Campaign** supports less fortunate families, children and needy individuals in our community with personal items, clothing or small presents to be provided for the Christmas Season. The Giving Tree has been a valuable service over the past number of years and follows the joy of giving to those in need at this special time of year.



- 1 Take an ornament off the Giving Tree.
- 2 Acquire the item(s) and place in a seasonal gift bag. Please do not wrap the items. Securely affix the colour-coded ornament to the gift bag so it will not fall off - string, ribbon seems to work best.
- 3 All items are to be returned to the base of the Giving Tree **at weekday Mass**, with the **deadline 11am Sunday, December 20th** 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.

Please support needy families and households in our community, especially at this time of year!



Feeding the Community

Non-perishable items may be placed in the wooden chest in the Welcome Area. All food items will be delivered to the Yorkton Food Bank at the Salvation Army.

Thank you!

- Submitted by the Social Justice Committee

**•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•
•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•**

PARISH FUNDRAISER

Friday, December 11th

3pm – 5pm

(while supplies last!!!)

Potato & onion perogies	\$35	(10 dozen)
Potato & cheddar perogies	\$40	(10 dozen)
Cabbage rolls	\$25	(5 dozen)
<i>(Rice with dill)</i>		
Special Cabbage rolls	\$20	(2 1/2 dozen)
<i>(Buckwheat with bacon)</i>		

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, perogies and cabbage rolls will be available drive-through only (no walk-ups). Enter at parking lot & turn into the driveway in front of the church. Please remain in your vehicle and someone will take your order. Please wear a mask!

GIVING TO YOUR PARISH

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.

Please note that this is a secure transfer deposited directly to the church's account.

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!

Online through CanadaHelps

Credit card donations may be made through CanadaHelps by clicking [here](#).

Mail envelopes to the church

You may mail cheques (not cash), enclosed in your offertory envelope to:

St. Gerard Parish
125 Third Ave N
Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

Note: Please mail donations by December 20th to ensure that it is received by 4:00 pm Wednesday, December 30th.

National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, **December 12th**, is a *National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples.*



All are invited to join their Indigenous sisters and brothers in a special way this day through prayers and acts of solidarity.

Let us pray:

O God, Great Spirit and Faithful Creator, with humility we your children acknowledge the relationship of all living things.

For this we thank you, we praise you and we worship you.

We call on you, Great Mystery, the Word made Flesh – our teacher, prophet and brother - to open our hearts to all our brothers and sisters, and with them to grow in the wisdom, honesty, courage and respectfulness shown in The Sacred Teachings. Give us the honesty to recognize that the Earth provides us with life sustaining breath, nourishment and healing, and give us the strength to proclaim by our words and actions that the Earth is a blessing for all peoples. May we avoid the sins of exploitive personal power and profit. May we seek the righteous way of love, service, and healing in all things.

Father, as we walk our journey on this Earth, may your life-giving Spirit protect and guide us with your Wisdom so that we might live in right relationship and harmony with all humanity. May we pass on to future generations this Earth and all your gifts as you have provided them to us. +Amen

Explaining the Immaculate Conception to Children



What the Immaculate Conception is not

Let's start by clearing up a common misconception about the Immaculate Conception: It is not, as many Catholics believe, the virginal conception of Jesus Christ in Mary. Nor is it the virginal birth of Jesus by Mary.

The Immaculate Conception means Mary was always free of original sin

Instead, the Immaculate Conception refers to the doctrine that Mary, from the very moment of her conception, was never stained by original sin. The word *immaculate* literally means pure, or without blemish.

Here's how Blessed Pope Pius IX defined the doctrine in his proclamation of December 8, 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin."

How original sin fits in

So the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is connected to another commonly misunderstood doctrine, the doctrine of original sin.

In the simplest terms, original sin refers to the fact that all of humanity was harmed by the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve. (See Genesis 3 for the biblical account.) None of us are *personally* responsible for their

sin. But because of the unity of the human race (*Catechism* 360), we all "inherited" an injured or faulty human character. As a result, all people have a fundamental tendency to repeat the sin of Adam and Eve by trying to take God's place (Genesis 3:5) in one way or another.

Mary is immaculate because of Jesus

It's important to note that Mary was not "immaculate" by any merit of her own, but by the saving ("sanctifying") grace of Jesus Christ, her savior. That's the same grace that washed your kids free of the stain of original sin at their baptism. But in the case of Mary, the saving grace of Jesus Christ preserved her from being stained by original sin in the first place. She was conceived with the same original innocence, holiness, and justice that Adam and Eve possessed before they broke away from God. She was, as the angel Gabriel declared, "full of grace" (Luke 1:28).

Mary still experienced the earthly effects of original sin, such as death or sadness, just as Christians experience these effects even after being washed clean in the waters of baptism. However, she did not experience the same desire to place herself over God that other human beings do.

Why would God preserve Mary from original sin?

Why would God go to all this trouble? If you listen carefully to the prayers the priest says during the Eucharistic liturgy, you might hear him say that God preserved Mary from original sin in order to "prepare a worthy Mother for your Son and signify the beginning of the Church, his beautiful Bride without spot or wrinkle." Let's break those two down:

Mary: A worthy mother for the Son of God

You might remember from the Old Testament that people who encountered God would often lay on the ground prostrate or otherwise cover their faces. The expectation was that they would die, because how could something (or someone) tainted by evil continue to exist in the presence of the holy God? In fact, many of the Jewish laws about diet and worship were concerned with how to maintain the purity of the worshipper so that he or she could be worthy to encounter God. It makes sense, then, that Mary would be made pure in order to prepare her to carry the Son of the Living God in her womb for nine months.

Mary: The beginning of the Church

Besides being made a worthy mother for the Son of God, Mary was also made pure in order to be a sign of the beginning of the Church. We can say that she is the beginning of the Church because she is the first person to be redeemed by the saving sacrifice of her Son, Jesus Christ. She is the first fruits of the “new creation,” a kind of “sneak preview” or foreshadowing of what all of the faithful will become in Christ. So all of the good and wonderful things we say about Mary ultimately describe our own destiny!

Young children and the Immaculate Conception

“There is no way I can explain all that to my kids!”

That’s right, at least when it comes to young children or older kids just beginning their faith journey. The Immaculate Conception is a good, meaty doctrine that you can circle back around to year after year on the feast day.

When first introducing this concept to young children (ages 3-6), keep it super simple: “God was with Mary in a special way that helped her to do only what was good, instead of making bad choices. That made her a really good mom for the baby Jesus. Most moms and dads make bad choices sometimes, but not Mary! When we say ‘yes’ to God like Mary did, then God helps us to be just as good and holy as Mary.”

Of course, you can adjust this script to fit your own kids’ faith development. Kids who have already been introduced to the concept of sin (perhaps through their sacramental prep class) might get a similar script but with *sin* replacing “bad choices.”

Celebrating with your family

Make a Mary Candle

This is a great day to make or set out your Mary Candle. You’ll need a large white pillar candle. Decorate it with symbols of Christ, such as a *chi rho* (the first two letters of Christ’s name in Greek; it looks like a large letter P with an X across the bottom part of the stem). Place it in your family oratory and cover it with white cloth or lace for the remainder of Advent. The candle represents Christ, and the white cloth represents Mary. At Christmas, remove the cloth to reveal Christ, and light the candle all through the Christmas season.

Eat something white

At our house, we’ll celebrate with a white cake with a blue M (for Mary) on it, along with vanilla ice cream. We also usually eat perogies, a potato-filled Polish pasta...very white!

Listen to music about Mary

Here’s a YouTube channel that you can play in the background during your dinner.

Pray a Marian prayer

There are many Marian prayers that you can pray with your kids on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Ave Maria Stellis is a beautiful song that is traditional to this feast. The Hail Mary and Hail, Holy Queen are basic Marian prayers that are good for Catholic kids to know by heart. And the Magnificat, Mary’s own prayer and her longest speaking part in the Bible, is a wonderful prayer for any Marian feast day.

<https://teachingcatholickids.com/celebrate-the-feast-of-the-immaculate-conception-with-your-kids/>

Keeping Christ in Christmas

Greetings!

If you've noticed that the Christmas season comes earlier each year, you are not alone. Before the Halloween candy is off the shelves at local stores, the green and red decorations are up, the holiday sales are being announced, and the path to December 25th is laid bare. How do we keep Christ in Christmas when for months every aspect of the secular celebration of Christmas is fighting for our attention and that of our families?

A powerful first step in keeping Christ in Christmas is to take the time to observe Advent. In these weeks, the days get darker, and we journey to the birth of Christ, the Light of the World. We can light an Advent wreath, use an Advent calendar, or create a Jesse Tree.

Make Christmas about giving, not getting.

At the start of Advent, read the story of the birth of Jesus in Luke 2:1-14 and Matthew 1:18-2:12. Then, set up your Christmas crèche early. Place it in a prominent place, and add the figures as they emerge in the story of Jesus' birth. At the start, the stable is empty except for the figures of the ox and the cow. Mary and Joseph arrive next, and then the baby Jesus. Next, the shepherds and their flocks arrive. Let the Wise Men travel around the house from the very start. Make it a game to see where they are in their journey. Maybe today they are on a windowsill, tomorrow on the top of a dresser!

Try to decrease the focus on Santa and increase the focus on Jesus. Find an age-appropriate Advent daily or weekly reflection book and incorporate it into family life. This can be done by taking turns reading after a short prayer, or in the quiet of the evening as bedtime approaches. If you find there's a lot of Santa talk, read about Saint Nicholas and celebrate his day with the humble gifts brought to shoes.

Supplement the media consumption that inundates your household. Rent a movie such as *The Nativity Story*. Or watch classic movies such as *It's a Wonderful Life*, *A Christmas Carol*, or *Joyeux Noel*, and talk about the Christian values they display, such as selflessness and generosity.



Families can ask themselves what they put before Christ during the season.

Make Christmas about giving, not getting, by volunteering or baking for elders. Consider choosing a gift as a family that will serve someone in need, such as a donation to a local agency or an animal from an organization such as Heifer International. Go caroling, or sing carols as a family. Have a birthday cake for Jesus on Christmas. Hang a stocking for Jesus, and ask each family member to place in it a note with a gift they will give to him in the year ahead. Read these before opening presents.

We don't need to put Christ back into Christmas; we simply need to remove the clutter we have placed over him.

Your St. Gerard Parish COVID-19 Questions Answered

On March 18, 2020, Archbishop Donald Bolen, in keeping with the Code of Canon Law no. 87, granted to all the Catholic faithful dispensation from their Sunday obligation. This is still in effect.

What does this mean? As Roman Catholics, we have an obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Until further notice, Archbishop Don has granted an exemption from this obligation. For those who are unable or choose not to attend Sunday Mass at this time, you do not have to. Other ways to participate in Sunday Mass is to watch it on television or watch the YouTube Mass online, courtesy of Resurrection Parish & Christ the King Parish (Regina) and the Archdiocese of Regina.

Why do I need to wear a mask? All those who attend both daily and Saturday/Sunday Masses are required to wear a mask. The parish has a small supply of masks for those who do not have one. Please remember to put your mask on before exiting your vehicle prior to entering the church. A mask protects you and others!

Why do I need to register each time that I arrive to attend Mass? In the event that someone who has attend Mass develops COVID-19, it is necessary for the parish to have the names and phone numbers of all in attendance for contact-tracing purposes.

Have questions? Please email the Parish Office: office@stgerard.ca

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Be Comforted"

This Week...

We are to be comforted by the promise that the day will come when valleys, hills, and hiding places that separate and divide humankind will be removed, and we will live in unity with another and God. We are called to comfort people with this hope, and to help prepare this way for our God even in the midst of the pain and suffering that is still with us.

For Your Reflection

Waiting for Christmas is hard. It is hard to wait for anything. But it is especially frustrating to wait for something when you don't know how long it will take or what is holding it up - for example, driving along on a busy highway and coming upon a traffic jam that cannot be explained. As far as you can see there is no accident, no construction, no reason for all four lanes to be at a standstill. But if you have been in such a situation long enough, you have seen what almost always happens. Sooner or later people start trickling out of their cars to talk to one another. They start sharing food, telling stories, getting acquainted, and cracking jokes. Suddenly the waiting doesn't seem like such torture. Why? Because people begin to comfort one another. And who usually starts it? Young people!

- How does attitude affect waiting and even pain. How does comfort affect attitude?
- When have you been comforted by a friend or a family member? What words helped? What actions helped? What did he or she try to do for you? Have you ever been able to be of comfort to another? What have you done or said? What happened?

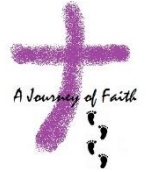
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter* - St. Mary's Press, 2004



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

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