



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

December 8th, 2024

Second 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. 9 th		NO MASS
	7:30pm	Youth Music Ministry Rehearsal
Tues. 10 th	9:00 am	Perogy Bee
	6:00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	7:00 pm	Mass +Hubert Schneider
Wed. 11 th	9:00 am	Mass +Mark Banga
	6:00 pm	Knights of Columbus Christmas Family Social
Thurs. 12 th		Nat'l Day of Prayer
		in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples
	9:00 am	Mass +Donna Olszewski
	7:00 pm	Advent Penitential Service
Fri. 13 th	8:00 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	9:00 am	Mass +Joan Kormos
Sat. 14 th	11am-1pm	Cabbage Roll & Perogy Fundraiser
		Third Sunday of Advent
Sat. 14 th	5:00 pm	Mass for the People
Sun. 15 th	9:00 am	Mass for the People
	11:00am	Mass for the People
	6:30pm	Simbang Gabi Novena Mass +Henry Kuruliak

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation:	Half-hour before daily Mass Tuesday to Friday, and by appointment
Anointing:	Please contact the Parish Office <i>After-hours Emergency 306.782.0323</i>
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	December 7	5pm	2 nd Sunday of Advent	<i>Love</i>
Sunday	December 8	9am & 11am	2 nd Sunday of Advent	
Monday	December 9	NO MASS		
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	

Christmas & New Year's Eve Holy Mass Schedule

The Nativity of the Lord

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

5:00 pm (*incense*)
8:30 pm

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day
(*Holy Day of Obligation*)

10:00 am (*incense*)

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve

5:00 pm

Jan. 1 – New Year's Day
(*Holy Day of Obligation*)

10:00 am (*incense*)



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.

News from the CWL

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

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 Knights of Columbus

December 11 Family Christmas Social-6.00
If you are planning to attend please call Keith by the end of the day. Phone 306.783.0963.
Email kdhayward@msn.com

December 13 Caroling at YDNH-2.00
December 15 "Keep Christ in Christmas" posters and colouring sheets for children will be handed out to parishioners following each Holy Mass.
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

Reminder: **Please return all Giving Tree gifts, unwrapped with gift tags to the parish by Sunday, December 15th at 12 noon.**



Parish Goal: \$44,216

Raised to date: \$14,320

CONGRATULATIONS to the children of our parish who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time! May you continue to receive God's love and grace!



A BIG THANK YOU from Father Antony to all who helped prepare our parish children to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time:

Ophelia & Rene Adane (Catechists), Sandra Archer (Retreat Leader), Rose Marchinko, Kathleen Bedard & Maita Kolebaba, Rosemarie Todos & Lorraine Slogocki. And especially parents, who are the first teachers.



Bringing Home
the Word **+**

And the Word Was Made Flesh

By St. Dianne Bergant, CSA

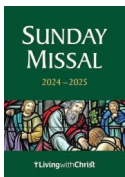
Many of us grew up thinking that this life doesn't amount to much. It's full of pitfalls and enticements that threaten our eternal salvation. Such disdain often boils over into contempt for the world. According to this thinking, it is only the next life that is important, which will unfold in a much better place. Today's readings challenge such extreme thinking. They assure us that the glory of God is partially revealed to us even within this life. They astound us by insisting that God speaks to us through life's events—events that often appear to be quite mundane.

Baruch tells of Jerusalem, the city loved passionately by every Israelite. This was a city like so many other cities. However, God dwelt there, and wherever God dwells is, for that reason, a holy city—be it is Jerusalem, Munich, or Detroit. God dwells in our midst, right here, right now. Hence, this imperfect life and this damaged world are holy.

The gospel situates John the Baptist in the middle of the ancient Near Eastern world. It was a Roman world controlled by Caesar and a Jewish province ruled by Herod. John stated that it was to that place at that time that the Promised One would come, and it was up to John to "prepare the way of the Lord" (Isaiah 40:3; Luke 3:4).

Most importantly, we must never forget that God took on the troubles and sins of this world and entered our life, making it his life. This is the real reason this world is holy.

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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.



Please pick up your 2025 offertory envelopes, available in the Welcome Area, when you are at Mass.

If you are unable to locate your envelopes, please contact the Parish Office.

St. Gerard's Youth Ministry assists with Salvation Army's

CHRISTMAS TOY HAMPERS

On Sunday Dec 15, 2024 after 11am Mass

Young adults can help spread joy and love this holiday season by assisting The Salvation Army in building toy hampers for children. Let's bring smiles to many faces.

Call or text if attending or just show up!
Scott Hoffort 306-621-8291
Colleen Hoffort 306-621-7582

Who can Help?
Do you want to bring joy to others?
Do you want to have FUN?
Do you enjoy PIZZA?
Everyone from Grades 8 to 12 are invited!

What to Bring:
All friends are welcome!
Bring your appetite!
Enjoy FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, FOOD and FUN!



**Love to sing and lead others in song?
Do you play an instrument and want to share your talent?**

St. Gerard Parish invites all youth Grades 4-12 to join the Youth Music Ministry.

The Youth Music Ministry will be leading St. Gerard's in song once a month. Musicians welcome.

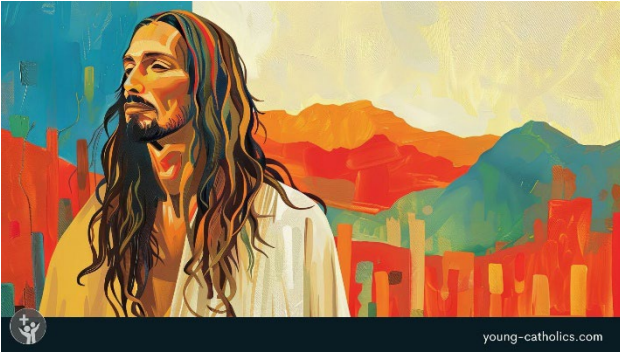
Our next Mass is on

December 15th at 11:00.

Please come to a practice on **Monday, December 9th @ 7:30 at St. Gerard's Church.** (Come in the side door.)

If you are unable to attend practice, please still come to sing and play on Sunday.

For more information, please contact
Scott Hoffort - 306-621-8291 or
Rita Hilbig - 306-621-6552



The 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C calls us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Through the readings, we are invited to reflect on themes of joyful return, partnership in the gospel, and clearing the path for Jesus. These reflections guide us in our spiritual journey, encouraging us to remove obstacles, grow in faith, and support one another.

RETURNING TO JOY AND HOPE In the first reading Baruch speaks of a joyful return to God. Baruch invites the people to take off their garments of sorrow and put on the beauty of God's glory. This symbolizes a transformation from despair to hope. It reminds us that God is always ready to restore us, no matter how far we have strayed.

Baruch speaks of God leading His people back with mercy and justice. This journey back to God is not just a physical return but a spiritual one. As we prepare for the coming of Christ, we are called to examine our hearts and return to God with joy and trust. This theme of restoration is central to the 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C, emphasizing that Advent is a time for spiritual renewal and hope.

God promises to make the path smooth and fill the valleys, making the journey easier. This imagery shows that God removes the obstacles that hinder our return to Him. As we reflect on this reading, we can be encouraged that no matter the mountains or valleys in our lives, God is ready to help us overcome them. The 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C reminds us of God's faithfulness and His desire to bring us back to Him in joy and hope.

JOYFUL PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL In the second reading, Paul begins by thanking God for the Philippians' faith and their partnership in spreading the gospel. This gratitude is a reminder of the joy that comes from working together in faith. It shows that our journey towards God is not meant to be walked alone but with the support and encouragement of others.

Paul expresses confidence that God, who began a good work in the Philippians, will bring it to completion. This assurance can comfort us, reminding us that God is always at work in our lives. Even when we face challenges, we can trust that God is guiding us and helping us grow in faith. This theme is essential for the 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C, as we reflect on how we can allow God's work to continue in our hearts.

Paul's prayer for the Philippians is that their love may abound more and more, filled with knowledge and insight. As we prepare for Christ's coming, we too should pray for growth in love and understanding. This prayer encourages us to deepen our relationships with others and with God. The 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C calls us to be active partners in the gospel, supporting one another and growing in faith and love.

CLEARING THE PATH FOR CHRIST The 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C invites us to prepare our hearts for Jesus. In the Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to make our paths straight, which means removing anything that stands between us and God. We all face different challenges, such as pride or comfort, which can hinder our spiritual journey. This Advent, we are called to address these obstacles and make room for the Lord.

John the Baptist's message was compelling because people were overwhelmed by the difficulties of their time. He offered them hope by announcing that change was coming and they needed to be ready. This preparation wasn't passive; it required active effort. John's call to baptism was a call to leave behind old habits and prepare for something new. It was about transforming their hearts and lives to welcome Jesus.

As Christians, we share in the prophetic mission through our baptism. John the Baptist proclaimed God's work, and we are also called to reveal God through our lives. Our actions and words should reflect our faith and help others encounter Jesus. However, to do this effectively, we must first confront and overcome our own obstacles. The 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C reminds us that by actively preparing our hearts and lives, we can better guide others towards Christ.

PRAYER Lord, help us prepare our hearts for Your coming. Guide us to remove obstacles that keep us from You. Strengthen our love and faith as we journey together. Amen.

www.young-catholics.com

FAMILY CONNECTION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:1-6 John preaches repentance and baptizes in the region of the Jordan.

During the season of Advent, we choose to add many activities to our family's schedule to prepare for our celebration of Christmas. John the Baptist reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of Christmas. Parish communities often offer a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Advent season. Your family might choose to participate in the communal celebration of the sacrament, or you might seek out this sacrament on an individual basis.

Read together today's Gospel, Luke 3:1-6. Talk about how John the Baptist called upon the people to prepare the way of the Lord through repentance. Together as a family, prepare a simple reconciliation service in preparation for Christmas. Gather in a prayerful space, perhaps around the family Advent wreath. Read again from today's Gospel, Luke 3:1-6. Invite each family member to pray silently, asking God to forgive his or her sins. Pray together the Act of Contrition. Then celebrate God's forgiveness by sharing the sign of peace with one another.

www.loyolapress.com

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:

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