



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

January 2nd, 2022

The Epiphany
of the Lord

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES
Saturday at 5:00 pm, Sunday at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

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

St. Gerard Parish is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nēhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.

Pastor.....	Fr. Louis Nguyen	306.782.0323	louisyorkton@gmail.com
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (3 rd)	NO MASS
Tues. (4 th)	7:00pm +Ambrose Wolfe
Wed. (5 th)	9:00am Irwin & Alexandra Mihalicz
Thurs. (6 th)	9:00am +Mel Newans
	2:30pm GLADSTONE SENIORS' RES
	+Mary Witow
Fri. (7 th)	9:30am +Donna Olshewski
Sat. (8 th)	9:00am +Debra Churko

5:00pm +Teena Gibney

Sun. (9 th)	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
	9:00am Mass for the People
	11:00am +Tony Spykerman
	1:00pm Sacrament preparation <i>beginning with Mass</i>

WELCOME!

Please note the following per the **Archdiocese of Regina guidelines** (effective July 11, 2021) and the **Government of Saskatchewan Interim Health Order** (extended until January 31, 2021):

- **Masks must be worn at all times until further notice**
- Masks & hand sanitizer are provided.
- **Please sit in the pews that have hymnals and maintain two metres between households**
- The choir and singing has resumed
- Holy water will not be available in the Baptismal font at this time
- We will not shake hands when we share the sign of peace
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection continues

Please come! Everyone is welcome!

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



Saturdays at **8:30 am** or by appt.



Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!

Eucharistic Holy Hour Devotion
at 6pm (prior to 7pm Tuesday Mass)

Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, your light gives us strength and shows us the way to God. Remove my blindness that I may see the light of goodness, peace, and love within myself and 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 in Christ,

We now celebrate the first Sunday of 2022 and it is The Epiphany Sunday. We celebrate it as the first appearance of Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the Three Magi coming from distant lands. They come to pay homage to a newborn king. It gave a sudden insight into the deeper meaning of the Messiah because the word “epiphany” originally meant an appearance of something, often a divine being.

Christ was revealed as the Saviour, not for a select group of people, but for all people. The Epiphany is a beautiful feast because it brings everybody together. All now share the same inheritance; they are a part of the same body. (Ephesians 3.6)

God sent Jesus into the world to reconcile people with him and with one another. As people who reconcile with God through Jesus, we all have been given the ministry of reconciliation.

It is exactly what St. Paul says today in the second reading: *“In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel”*.

Paul reminds us that people of all nations, not just Israelites, would be able to benefit from the promises Our Lord has made through the Gospel.

The Israeli people thought for a long time that salvation was reserved for them alone and that the Messiah would only come to save and lead them. We would see in the early Church how they struggled with understanding that the Gospel was not just for the Jews, but for Gentiles as well.

According to Paul, in Christ, the divisions between Jews and Gentiles would end. All of humanity was called to his light. The Three Magi in today’s Gospel is the first sign of that fact.

Therefore, what we celebrate today invites us to see that the light of Christ extends farther than we could ever imagine. When we, as people, reconcile with God through Jesus, we have been given the ministry of reconciliation.

As believers, we have been drawn to the light of Christ, and we now bear it and can bare it to others. God wants to fill us with his mercy, and for that to happen, we need to open our treasures to him. We need to be a star to lead others to the Lord, to share our salvation with one another.

Pope Paul VI, in his splendid Apostolic Exhortation from 1975, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, wrote: *“Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses”* (n. 41).

My dear sisters and brothers, we have come and seen. We know how great is the love and mercy of God. Now we are called to proclaim it in our lives. Let us pray that each of us will be a brightly shining star to lead others to come to be with Him, our Saviour.

Happy New Year to all of you and may the blessing of God be with you always.

In Christ,

Fr. Louis Nguyen



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

In the Archdiocese of Regina, Baptism Preparation is required prior to your child's baptism.

To register for the next Baptism Preparation session, please contact the Parish Office 306.782.2449.



Are you planning a marriage in 2022? Congratulations!!

Please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible to make arrangements to meet with Father Louis.



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.

The **2021-2022 Sunday Missals** are available in the Welcome Area. A \$5.00 free-will offering is appreciated.



News from the CWL



2022 memberships are \$30.00 and can be placed in an envelope marked 'CWL' and put in the collection basket, or mail to CWL, 125 3rd Ave N, Yorkton, S3N 1C4. For other arrangements please call Paulette 306.782.7923.



News from the Knights of Columbus



January 2	Evening Bingo
January 5	Planning & General Meeting @ 7:00pm
	Note the change
January 8	Take down Keep Christ in Christmas sign @ 9.00am
January 13	Evening Bingo

If you are able to work bingos, please give Gary a call 306-783-6328.

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



St. Gerard Parish Goal	-\$45,768
Giving to Date	-\$29,150
% of Goal to Date	- 63.69%

A Word from Pope Francis...

How many stars there are in the sky! And yet the Magi followed a new and different star, which for them shone all the more brightly.... They listened to a voice deep within, which led them to follow that light. It was the voice of the Holy Spirit, who works in all people.

– Homily, Epiphany of the Lord, January 6, 2016



O God,

*who by a star guided the wise men to the
worship of your Son;*

*we pray you to lead to yourself the wise and
great of every land,*

*that unto you every knee may bow,
and every thought be brought into captivity,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



Bringing Home the Word

Herod Was Correct
By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

King Herod, the most powerful man in the region, was greatly troubled to hear about the birth of a king. Why would a reigning king fear a little child? Perhaps because he believed if word spread that a future messiah had been born, the Jews would be harder to control. They were easier to dominate when they were without hope, without a leader.

Herod was correct. Wise men from the East looking for the King of the Jews fulfilled prophecies that foretold all nations would come to Israel looking for a messianic leader.

Herod was also troubled because, if indeed this newborn was a king, he had a pretender and a competitor right under his royal nose. King Herod was correct again.

Although Jesus did not pretend to overthrow the Romans, he did come with authority and would upend the existing order. Jesus would preach to the heart and demand that no one sit on that throne except God his Father.

The painter, Pseudo Domenico di Michelino, in *Adoration of the Kings*, presents the arrival of the Magi as a procession of vassals showing homage to their king. Kneeling, bowing, and standing erect with gifts in hand, authorities from far away are reverencing the newborn royalty who sits on Mother Mary's lap. His royal hall is the hillside, his scepter a baby finger, his royal family is Joseph and Mary.

These Gentile kings were the first to do what all of creation and all of history have been doing since then—bending their knee to the King of the Universe. Herod was right to worry.

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2022 Giving Program

The 2022 Sunday collection (offertory) envelopes are in the Welcome Area for those who had contributed by this method in 2021. If you do not have envelopes and would like to receive a set for 2022, **please complete a Parish Registration Form**, located in the Welcome Area.

Have you considered Pre-Authorized Giving? Pre-authorized Giving is convenient, assured, results in lower administrative costs, and assists our parish when budgeting for programs and services. **Please complete the Pre-Authorized Giving form** and submit it to the Parish Office. Forms are available in the Welcome Area.

Catechism Theme: The Mysteries of Jesus' Infancy

The feast of Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Christ to the pagan nations. And it points to Israel's place as the source of God's revelation. The Magi came to seek the newly born King, the one who would be a light to the nations. Their encounter foreshadowed the evangelization success Christianity would have among pagan people who hungered for God's truth. Their encounter also acknowledged Israel as God's chosen people. They would be the source of God's blessing, a living fountain of God's revelation for all people. In the feast of the Epiphany, we rejoice in the worship of the first seekers. And we are reminded to honor God's people who gave us the great gift of Jesus, our Lord.

When have you searched for the Lord? When has that search encountered road blocks or deception or wrong turns? How has God kept you on track?

As we look back on the story of the Epiphany, let us remember who called, guided, and revealed himself to the Magi: God. The story was God-driven from the first verse. Let us not forget God himself calls us from the surface experience of daily living to seek something higher, something better. He is the one who turns us from those who expect experience into those who receive grace, pure gift, at every turn. In God, we find someone to give our hearts, our minds, and our lives to. We find the goal of our quest.

How has God called you this week? How has God graced you this week? How can you pass your call and your grace along to others?

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BETHLEHEM
EAST
INFANT
KING
STAR
HOMAGE
LEADER
DATE
CHILD
DELIGHT
GOLD
MYRRH



YOUTH REFLECTION

"Following the Star"

This Week...

Isaiah foretold that nations would gather to follow the light and offer gifts. The story of the Magi has glamour, danger, and courage. It is a story of accepting the journey to an unknown place: following the star because of faith. And it is a story of Gentiles coming to visit Jews, bringing gifts, and being welcomed.

For Your Reflection

The astrologers in the Magi story went through quite a journey in search of the baby Jesus. They obviously believed in him and had faith in the star.

- Have you ever "followed a star"?
- Have you ever gone after a dream or an ideal you believed in?
- Are you still going after it?
- What gives you the energy to keep going?
- How do you know it is worth it?

The gifts brought by the Magi have significance. *Gold* is a symbol of wealth and fidelity. *Frankincense* is burned to purify the atmosphere by releasing an aromatic and pleasing smell. For centuries, Native Americans have burned holy smoke in order to bless and purify themselves, and monks have watched incense rise to the sky as a symbol of their prayers ascending to God. *Myrrh* is a kind of resin or oil used for anointing and embalming. It is a symbol of comfort and soothing but it is also a foreshadowing of death.

- How were these gifts symbolic for Jesus?
- What three gifts would be symbolic of you and your life so far?

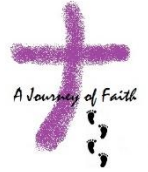
Excerpt adapted from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter*- St. Mary's Press, 2004



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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