



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

January 8, 2023
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
		306.621.8068	Emergencies
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (9 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (10 th)	7:00pm +Tony Spykerman
Wed. (11 th)	10:00am ASPEN VILLA Agnes Swejda 7:00pm +John Jason Himpe
Thurs. (12 th)	9:00am +Rose Gress 2:30pm LAKESIDE MANOR +Joseph Paydli
Fri. (13 th)	9:00am +Olga Duff
Sat. (14 th)	9:00am +Lauretta Schwitzer
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	5:00pm +Rita Herchuk
	6:30pm <i>Mass following Sacrament Preparation Session</i>
Sun. (15 th)	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9:00am +Adeline Kolodziejak 11:00am Mass for the People

SACRAMENTS

Infant Baptism: Please phone the Parish Office to register for Baptism Preparation. 306.782.2449

RCIA: For adults wishing to be received into the Catholic Church, contact Father Louis. 306.782.0323.

Matrimony: Please contact Fr. Louis 12 months prior to the date when you would like to be married. 306.782.0323

Reconciliation: Saturday at 8:30am or anytime by appointment. 306.782.0323

Anointing: Please contact Father Louis at 306.621.8068.



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 Jesus, so that our homes may be havens of peace, our families a source of joy, our children safe, and our elders respected, we pray – Be born in us, be born in our world.

-The Redemptorists

Sunday Connection

First Reading

Isaiah 60.1-6

Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 72.1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13

Every nation on earth shall worship the Lord.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3.2-3a,5-6

Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2.1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod ..." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

FAMILY CONNECTION

The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is thought by some to be rooted in the gift giving of the Magi. In many cultures, gifts are not exchanged at Christmas, but rather on the feast of the Epiphany. Whenever you exchange your Christmas gifts, take some time to reflect on this tradition of gift giving at Christmas. Think of the best gift you have received. What was it? What made it special? Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you?



Read today's Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12. The gifts of the Magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—have come to be understood as symbols of Christ's royalty, divinity, and eventual suffering and death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledge who Jesus was to be: our Savior. We pray that we will acknowledge Jesus as Savior in all that we do and say. Conclude by singing together "We Three Kings."



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

The next Baptism Preparation Session is planned for early 2023. To register, please email the Parish Office as soon as possible. office@stgerard.ca



Divine Mercy Devotion
Wednesdays at 2pm
(except the first Wed. of the month)



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

**8 Days of online Biblical Reflection,
January 18-25, 2023**

An online Bible study led by a diverse selection of ministers 12:15-1:00 pm daily (Saskatchewan time) except Sunday, Jan. 22 which will be at 3 pm

Please be sure to register using this link:
<https://bit.ly/WPCU-2023-Bible-Study>

This Bible Study series will also be available on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@PrairieCentreforEcumenism>

The 2023 theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, "Do good; seek justice" (Isaiah 1:17), was prepared by the Minnesota Council of Churches. The themes for each day should be familiar to everyone who lives in Canada. The issues facing the churches in the United States affect us because of their proximity to our borders and as they relate to our present situation in Canada.

Although Canadians often speak of building a diverse, inclusive, and just society, we know that racism is deeply embedded in our society and that we have seen great violence against people of colour and against ethnic and religious minorities. As we undertake these Bible Studies, let us bring the honest questions and reflections that come when the light of the gospel illuminates the truth of both our past and our present. As we seek greater unity, may it be in service to the love and justice God has revealed in Jesus.



News from the Knights of Columbus



January 11 Combined planning & general meeting @ 7pm
January 14 Take down Keep Christ in Christmas Sign @ 9am
January 15 Parish brunch

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.782.8664. www.kofc-2031.ca

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

On Monday, January 9, 2023, we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. When talking about this celebration in 2006, Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher to the Papal household, declared: "Was it that Jesus also needed to be baptized, as we do? Of course not. With that gesture, he wanted to show that he had become one of us. Above all, he wanted to put an end to the baptism of 'water' and inaugurate that 'of the Spirit.' It was not the water in the Jordan that sanctified Jesus, but Jesus who sanctified the water. Not only the water of the Jordan, but that of all fonts of the world."



The newly baptized is a new creature, reborn by water and Spirit. He or she is a child of God, member of the Body of Christ, the Church, and a temple of the Holy Spirit.

Our Heavenly Father pronounces over every child or adult emerging from the baptismal font the same words he pronounced as Jesus emerged from the Jordan: "This is my beloved son or daughter, in whom I am well pleased."

Heavenly Father, may we appropriate the words that you said during Jesus' baptism, so we may know in our hearts that we are your beloved sons and daughters. Amen.

T	N	A	E	D	V	O	I	E	C	JESUS	JORDAN	JOHN
S	I	D	R	O	J	F	A	R	A	BAPTISM	FITTING	DEMANDS
U	D	R	O	J	I	R	N	T	S	WATER	HEAVENS	SPIRIT
E	M	S	I	T	P	A	B	A	S	DOVE	VOICE	SON
S	C	S	T	P	D	T	A	W	D			
E	E	I	U	R	S	D	A	W	N			
J	N	N	O	S	O	T	N	H	A			
G	O	J	I	V	E	M	O	O	M			
T	O	H	E	R	E	J	E	J	E			
E	S	N	E	V	A	E	H	E	D			





Bringing Home the Word

A Christ for Every Nation By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

“Go back where you came from!” What if the Magi heard this when they came to the place where the Child was and heeded that derisive message? The “signs of the times” that they read told them a king had been born. They might not have known exactly where to look, but they knew what they were looking for, and they recognized that king when they found him. These righteous men were not Israelites, yet God revealed this great mystery to them. Furthermore, there is no indication that they eventually became Israelites. Rather, “they departed for their country” (Matthew 2:12). God really does not play favorites.

Then how are we to understand the claim of being God’s Chosen People, whether ancient Israelites or the Christian community? What’s the point of being chosen if you are not the favorite? While acknowledging God’s special love for his Chosen People, both Isaiah and Paul answer this question. The prophet claims that “nations will walk by your light, kings by the radiance of your dawning” (Isaiah 60:3), and Paul writes, “the stewardship of God’s grace...was given to me for your benefit” (Ephesians 3:2). In other words, some have been chosen by God to bring the light of God’s love to others.

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates two important realities—the revelation of God to all people and the responsibility to reveal that astounding mystery to others. The Magi personify both realities. They were men of another faith tradition to whom God revealed the mystery of the Incarnation, and they returned home and probably proclaimed to others the wonder of that mystery.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

- Wed. (11th): 7:00pm- K of C Combined and Planning Meeting
- Sat. (14th): 5:00pm- Sacrament Prep (*Parish Hall*)
- Sun. (15th): Parish Brunch after 9am & 11am Mass



Please pick up your 2023 offertory envelopes, available in the Welcome Area when you are at Mass.

Or stop into the Parish Office during regular office hours. Thank you!

The 2022 annual charitable donation (“tax”) receipts will be available for pick up by the end of February.

2023 GIVING PROGRAM

The 2023 Sunday collection (offertory) envelopes are in the Welcome Area for those who have contributed by this method in 2022. **IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FIND YOUR BOX OF SUNDAY COLLECTION ENVELOPES** please phone or email the Parish Office.

Have you considered Pre-Authorized Giving? No need for cash or cheques! Plus, Pre-authorized Giving is 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 or via the Sunday collection. Forms are available on the large glass table in the Welcome Area.

OR you may e-transfer your donation instead! Email giving@stgerard.ca for more information.

Camp O’Neill has been offering spiritual growth to young people for over 50 years!



The camp is hoping to continue to do good things in the future but we need help. We need people to help us discern our future and to possibly join our board of directors. Please consider helping kids who may not otherwise be able to enjoy a camping experience or, even more importantly, may not have a chance to be exposed to the treasures of our faith. We also are looking for ways to help adults enrich their faith.

Please contact Deacon Dave Hudy if you have any thoughts, ideas, or if you are thinking of joining the Camp O’Neill board:

dave@stphilomena.ca or 306.728.5525