

November 28th, 2020 – December 5th, 2020



ST. GERARD PARISH

Contact Us

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Phone: 204-667-0523

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Website: www.stgerardwinnipeg.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St.GerardParishWpg/>

Parish office hours: Tuesday - Thursday: 9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Tuesday & Friday: 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Mass Times

All public Masses in Manitoba are suspended until further notice.

We will be livestreaming private Masses from our church weekdays at 7:00 p.m.,
Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. and Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Sacraments & Other Ministries

Confession: Contact the parish office, or speak with Fr. Janusz directly to schedule a time.

Baptism: Please contact the parish office to request the Sacrament.

Holy Matrimony: Please contact the parish office to request the Sacrament.

Anointing of the Sick: Please contact the parish office to request the Sacrament.

Funerals: Please contact the parish office, or use the emergency number on our website.

Communion for the Sick: Everyone willing to take communion to family members who are homebound or sick, please contact the parish office.

Fr. Janusz Maroń,
OFMCap.

Pastor

Tom Kennedy

Deacon

Jeannette Kasprick

Secretary

Teresita Balagtas

Accountant

Alycia Walichnowski

Communications

Dolores Matthews

Parish Pastoral

Council

Peter Ahi

Finance Council

Joan & Joyce Santos

Couples for Christ

Romy de Leon

El Shaddai Prayer

Group

Jean Gilbert

St. Gerard School

Principal

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stgerard@shaw.ca

School Gym Rental

204-667-4862

A Message from Fr. Janusz

Dear sisters and brothers,

“Paratus sum ad adventum Domini”

God, through the Church, is giving us another beautiful season. The season of Advent. A time of the preparation for the coming of the Lord. This season is more intense than the others because we more closely see the tension between “already” and “not yet”. We

may compare this to the time of pregnancy, when the child exists already, but is not yet with us. The mother can feel the child’s presence and movements. The people around her notice some changes in the mother’s life. They live with the tension of expectation, hope and joy for the moment of delivery. The same is true of us. The kingdom of God, the life of Jesus Christ, is already present among us. But we are waiting for the moment of the full manifestation, like the mother awaiting the birth of her child. So knowing that, we are eagerly preparing to welcome the Lord, not only at Christmas, but throughout our lives. We are asked by the Lord to keep awake, be vigilant and active in our Faith.

To aid us in this, we receive motivation from the letter of St. Paul, who assures us of the grace given to us through Christ. His assurance of the sufficiency of any favours received are twofold. First, Grace leads us to fellowship with Jesus Christ. The Greek term used here is *koinonia*, fellowship or communion. In this case, communion with Jesus. We need this communion because Christ has what we lack. In Him, there is love that we do not possess. He is the peace we need. When we feel threatened, He gives a sense of security. He is good when we want to destroy everything that does not serve us. He is patient when we want to force what seems right in the moment. In Him there is the ability to die to give life, an ability which we lack. To be in communion with Christ is to experience the effectiveness of His gifts.

Secondly, our complaints about the inadequacy of the favours we receive stem from the egocentric conviction that we know best. Which graces Christ should give to us, and when He should give them. What His Church should look like and what His pastor should be like. Being so focused on our reasoning and desires makes us blind to what God is doing in our lives. We may complain that we have no talent to sing, but God has provided us with the ability to speak. Instead of using what we have been given, we resent God for not giving us what we would like to have. There is also a more serious difficulty that comes with the experience of losing what we consider definitively ours. When we lose our health and ability due to illness and age, we cannot accept it. We are convinced that we have been wronged by God. The pinnacle of this harm comes when we lose loved ones. This is why we need to hear with new strength



the apostolic assurance of St. Paul, “You have been enriched in everything... and you are not lacking any grace... He will also strengthen you to the end... God is faithful, who called you to communion with his Son...” (1 Corinthians 1:3-9). Let this assurance change your way of thinking, let it be a true *metanoia*, in the deepest layers of our thoughts, feelings and desires.

May you have a wonderful, strong, joyful and challenging Advent.

-Fr. Janusz

Sunday, November 29th is the First Sunday of Advent. The use of the Advent wreath in our homes draws attention to the light that Christ brings as Christmas approaches and emboldens us to bear witness to that light in the world. Traditionally, the blessing of an Advent wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent. Use this home prayer service from *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers* to bless your wreath as you begin your Advent Season.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:
Our help is in the name of the Lord.
(R/.) Who made heaven and earth.

Then the Scripture, Isaiah 9: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17 & 19) or Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7) is read:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
R/. Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says:
Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Savior of every nation.
Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ’s promise to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

The blessing may conclude with a verse from “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
O come, desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of humankind; bid ev’ry sad division cease and be thyself our Prince of peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.



COVID-19 Update: As of Thursday, November 12th, religious gatherings at places of worship have been suspended until further notice. While we are in lockdown, we will be publishing bulletins once a week. Any updates we receive will be posted to our parish's website (<https://www.stgerardwinnipeg.com/>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/St.GerardParishWpg/>). We encourage you to check frequently for updated information. We look forward to the day when we can gather restriction free again. If you need anything, do not hesitate to call the parish office and we will do our best to assist you. Thank you for your support and for being a part of the community of St. Gerard Parish!

We are livestreaming Mass from our church! Visit [our Facebook page](#) weekdays at 7:00 p.m., Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. or Sundays at 10:00 a.m. to join Fr. Janusz as he celebrates private Mass in our church. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Poinsettia fundraiser! Poinsettia plants will be available to pick up on Friday, December 4th from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday, December 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are only able to offer curbside pickup of the plants from the back door of church during these hours. Facemasks must be worn during pickup. Let us know if you are able to pick up plants for family or friends so we can organize your orders accordingly, and limit the number of people on site. Everyone who placed an order will be contacted by telephone to ensure they are aware of the pickup times and dates. Our Ladies Group would like to thank everyone who supported our parish through this fundraiser! Thank you Ladies for organizing this fundraiser for our parish!

2020/2021 Sunday Missals – If you would like a 2020/2021 Sunday missal to follow our livestreamed Masses, contact the parish office and we will make every effort to deliver a Missal to you in the Elmwood, East Kildonan and North Kildonan areas of the city. Missals are \$5.00 each.

Sign Up for a Virtual Presentation on Estate Planning for Catholics - Lawyer Solange Buissé, financial planner Christine Beaumont and consultant Gisèle Barnabé will cover the following topics: will preparation, powers of attorney, health care directives, planned giving and other considerations in the planning of one's final wishes. Please join other members of our Archdiocese for this informative session and Q & A period which will be held on Wednesday, December 9th, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. Please contact Agata Johns to confirm your participation and to receive the link to the meeting: 204-237-9851 or ajohns@archsaintboniface.ca.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December 2020: For a Life of Prayer - We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.