



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

February 18, 2018

First Sunday
of Lent

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:

Saturday at 7:00 pm, Sunday at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (19 th):	9:30 am-	+Irene Fleury
Tues. (20 th):	12:05 pm-	Special Intentions
Wed. (21 st):	10:30 am-	NURSING HOME (SOUTH)
		+Jody Churko
Thurs. (22 nd):	9:30 am-	+Norbert Soyka
Fri. (23 rd):	9:30 am-	+Alex Puchala
Sat. (24 th):	10:00am-	Breanne Kelly
	2:30 pm-	<i>Haas - Niezgodna Wedding</i>

7:00 pm- +Christine Ooi

Sun. (25th): **Second Sunday of Lent**

9:00 am- Special Intentions
11:00 am- Mass for the People

The Divine Mercy Devotion is prayed each Friday at 1pm (except the first Friday of the month). Eucharistic Holy Hour Devotion is the first Friday of the month at 10am. The Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday at 7pm during the season of Lent.

Lent Devotions & Prayers are available on the table in the Welcome Area. Check out **"Pope Francis – The Joy of Lent"** or **"Practicing Love – Family Devotions for Lent"**. Limited quantities available.

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation: Half-hour before Saturday morning and Saturday evening Mass, or anytime by appointment.

Infant Baptism: Please contact Fr. Louis at least one month prior to Baptism.

RCIA: Adults wishing to be received into the Catholic Church should contact Fr. Louis.

Matrimony: Please contact Fr. Louis at least 6 months prior to the time you would like to be married.

Anointing: Please contact Fr. Louis at any time.

For Anointing of the Sick and other emergencies, you may contact Fr. Louis at 1.306.530.0126



CONTACT US

Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca | Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-noon, 1pm-4pm
125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4 | www.stgerard.ca

Pastor.....	Fr. Louis Kim Nguyen	306.782.0323	louiskimnguyen@yahoo.com
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Parish Office Assistant.....	Mary Bybliw		
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		
Parish Hall Manager.....	Jeff Krasowski	306.783.4255	hall@stgerard.ca



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www.stgerard.ca



Lord, strengthen my resolve to be faithful to your covenant of love and be more compassionate and generous toward all people.

- From *Mindful Meditations for Every Day of Lent and Easter*,
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

A Note from Your Pastor.....

I would like to express my thanks to members of Parish Council, Rose Marchinko and the Community Life Committee, and all who helped to organize the Installation Mass and the Potluck Meal that followed. It was great to see a huge crowd, including many families new to our parish. Thank you for your love and support. Thank you for your warm welcome and prayers.

May God bless all of you as we start the Lenten journey. Peace.

Rev. Louis Nguyen



**ST. GERARD PARISH
PASTORAL COUNCIL AND FINANCE COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Nominations are now open for the following positions (and terms):

Pastoral & Finance Council

Chairperson	1 year	Social Justice	3 years
Community Life	3 years	Public Relations	3 years
Family & Social	3 years	Hall	3 years

Nominations forms and copies of the St. Gerard Constitution and Bylaws are available in the Welcome Area and at the Parish Office.

**The Annual General Meeting will be held Thursday, March 15th @ 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall.
All parishioners are encouraged to attend.**

UNITE IN PRAYER WITH THE HOLY FATHER, POPE FRANCIS

Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace
in the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan,
and in the Whole World

Friday, February 23rd

In order to intercede from God, the Father, infinite in His mercy, the conversion of hearts, especially of all those who hold the fate of these countries and those who in some way are involved.

Parkland Right to Life Fundraiser

~ Perogy & Sausage Dinner *Plus Dessert* ~

Sunday, February 25th @ 12:15pm

St. Gerard Parish Hall

Family \$25 Adult \$10 Ages 6-12 \$5 5 and under Free

Catholic Education Matters Fund Raising Campaign

Click [HERE](#) to donate online.

For more information contact Barb Mackesey: 306.783.8787 or barb.mackesey@cttcs.ca



Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools News

February 19 - February 23, 2018

~ School Break ~



"Praise you, Lord, for the blessing of learning."

~Catholic Prayers for Every Day and All Day~



SACRAMENTS of INITIATION PREPARATION



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

CONFIRMATION

The Second Sacrament of Initiation

FIRST EUCHARIST

The Third Sacrament of Initiation

GUC Session #4 – February 25th @ 6:30 pm



News from the CWL



Stitches of Love!

The next Quilting will “Bee”
Monday, February 26th and Tuesday, February 27th.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Feb. 19 Family Fun Day (see below)
Feb. 21 Afternoon bingo
Feb. 25 Articles for “The Word” due

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Brian @ 306.730.7083 or 306.730.7017 after 5pm (or leave a message). More info.: www.kofc-2031.ca



FIRST RECONCILIATION PREPARATION

Retreat & Celebration of the Sacrament
Saturday, March 10th



FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIE NIGHT

Each Friday during Lent we will have Movie Night (right after the Stations of the Cross)!

No charge! Free popcorn and refreshments!

Everyone is welcome to attend!

~ Organized by the Religious Education Team ~



ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED to attend LENTE LUNCHES

which will be held each Tuesday during Lent
following the 12:05 pm Mass.

Free-will offering to the
“Catholic Education Matters” Fundraising Campaign

~ Organized by the Liturgical Committee ~

The **Stations of the Cross** devotion is prayed each Friday at 7pm during Lent. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

Led by:

Feb. 16 Knights of Columbus
Feb. 23 CWL
Mar. 2 Catholic School Teachers
Mar. 9 Parish Council
Mar. 16 Stewardship Committee
Mar. 23 Altar Servers



BUILDING PARISH COMMUNITY

Stewardship Reflections from our Parish Mission
If we are going to build community, we need love and patience. *In Christ, we, though many, are one body, and individually we are members of one of another.* (Romans 12.5). Jesus’ love is authentic, powerful and genuine. Our love, too, must be genuine. How does this translate to being of service in our church community? We tap into our baptism. If we are marked and really believe it, we will be taken beyond ourselves to places we may never imagine. We build on reconciliation, the Eucharist, and community relationships. We are called to be a healing love, from the parish to the poor. Our focus will be on contribution rather than accumulation.

~ submitted by the Stewardship Committee



Bringing Home the Word **+**

The Beauty of the New Covenant

By Mary Katharine Deeley

When our youngest daughter was three, we traveled to Hawaii to see her grandparents. It wasn't her first trip, but it was the first she would remember.

One day her grandfather took us to the pineapple fields. We got out of the car and started into a field. Suddenly, she stopped to stare at the sky. She was looking at the largest and most vibrant rainbow I had ever seen, its end planted firmly in the very field in which we stood.

"What is that?" she asked in a hushed voice. "It's a rainbow," I said. She'd seen pictures of them, and we had drawn them with crayons, but nothing prepared her for the grandeur of this one, which arced up and away into the clouds. Everything else paled in comparison.

I can understand why the writer of the Noah story looks at the rainbow as a sign of both God's gracious covenant and peace. The sheer beauty of the reality reflects the glory of the Lord of creation.

But today, on this first Sunday of Lent, our real attention goes to the beauty of the new covenant unfolding with the preaching of Jesus. The call to repent is the call to change our lives in response to the love of God, whose kingdom is one of peace and joy.

The opportunity to change is the gift Christ gave us in his passion and resurrection. It's a sign of God's wondrous love.

When we understand that with all our hearts, we also will stare with awe and ask, "What is that?"

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YOUTH CONNECT (For Youth in Grades 5 to 12)

Come and be a part of making a difference!

The next event will be held Saturday, February 24th from 10am to 2:30pm.

For more information contact:

Melinda Sevilla

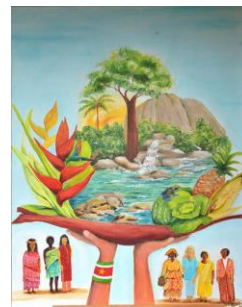
Youth Committee Chairperson

1.306.562.7480 email hannelle_23@hotmail.com



For this year's Share Lent, Development and Peace is encouraging us to come together for peace! You will find inspiring testimonials in the Mini-magazine inserted in the bulletin today.

During this first week, our search for peace takes us to Cambodia to meet ICSO, A Development and Peace partner that works with minority Indigenous communities to help them have their rights recognized by the government, defend their land against corporate interests, and develop sustainable economic activities that enable them to live with dignity.



World Day of Prayer

"All God's creation is very good!"

(Genesis 1:31)

The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year. This year, the people of Suriname, South America, want to raise awareness about climate change and caring for the environment.

World Day of Prayer Service

Friday, March 2nd at 7pm
St. Andrew's United Church (upper hall)

All are welcome to attend!

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Mon. (19th): *Parish Office Closed*
- Tues. (20th): **9:00 am- Kitchen cleaning bee**
7:00 pm- Liturgical Committee Mtg
- Wed. (21st): **9:00 am- Kitchen cleaning bee**
5:30 pm- Buddies Choir rehearsal
7:30 pm- Hall Committee Meeting
- Fri. (23rd): 7:30 pm- Movie Night (*following Stations of the Cross*)
- Sat. (24th): 10:00 am- Youth Connect
6:15 pm- Choir rehearsal for 7pm Mass
- Sun. (25th): 6:30 pm- GUC Session

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Reclaiming the Outcast"

This Week...

In Leviticus strict religious laws are stated; the unclean are to be separated and not touched by others. In Corinthians religious laws are put into perspective: living as Jesus lived is more important than the specifics of our diet. But Jesus goes the distance in the Gospel. He doesn't merely tell us that the old laws that are strict, disrespectful, and unnecessary are less important than our human interactions and the needs of others. He steps over the line by actually breaking the laws and bringing healing in the process. He touches the untouchable, and suddenly the one he touches is no longer untouchable.

For Your Reflection

Jesus tells this person that he cures to keep it a secret and merely go back to the priest, but this person tells everyone about Jesus.

- Do you think Jesus was angry with him for not keeping the secret?
- Why do you think he disobeyed Jesus?

Once Jesus' reputation spreads, many things happen. He often is followed by mobs of people, and he isn't able to get away and rest. He is often pursued not because of his preaching and his message but for his ability to cure and perform miracles. Because so many people believe in him, his influence grows, and the political and religious rulers are jealous and afraid of the power he is gaining.

- What do you think the Apostles thought of all this? If you had walked the roads with Jesus, what would you think of his powers and his knowledge?
- Would the large groups of people bother and inconvenience you? Would you feel popular and powerful as well? Would you be concerned with the political or religious leaders and their jealousy? Would you want to stay with Jesus or leave him? Why?

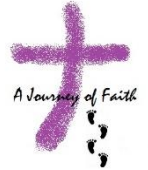
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle B for Ordinary Time* - St. Mary's Press, 2005



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 our city 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 or check the website:

www.mystfx.ca/academic/continuinged/Ministry.html