



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

April 11th, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:
By pre-registration only until further notice

CONTACT US

The Parish Office is open reduced hours, but the doors remain locked. Please phone ahead. We continue to take the necessary precautions to keep our parishioners and employees safe & healthy. You may phone/email the office Monday to Thursday between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

www.stgerard.ca | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca

Pastor.....Fr. Louis Nguyen 306.782.0323 louisYorkton@gmail.com

Parish Office Administrator.....Sandra Archer
Caretaker.....Mario Guerra

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mon. (12 th) | NO MASS |
| Tues. (13 th) | NO MASS |
| Wed. (14 th) | 9:00am K of C & their families |
| Thurs. (15 th) | 9:00am +Mary Brazeau |
| Fri. (16 th) | 9:00am Mary Puchala |
| Sat. (17 th) | 9:00am Anne Novakovski |

NO MASS

Sun. (18th) **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

NO MASS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

Due to the latest Public Health Order, we are able to celebrate Mass for **30 people**.

Note that Saturday evening/Sunday Masses have been postponed until further notice.

- Masks are mandatory are to be worn prior to entering the building. **Please arrive early.**
- *At least two-metres physical distance is to be observed at all times, even with masks on (masks are an additional measure of protection).*
- *Please follow the instructions of the Hospitality Ministers (Ushers) and Father Louis.*
- The following must stay home for the sake of the wider community:
 - ❖ People with COVID-19 symptoms, who live with someone with COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
 - ❖ Those who have travelled to/from a "hotspot", outside of Saskatchewan or outside Canada within the last 14 days
 - ❖ Those who are waiting for COVID-19 test results

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



Risen Lord, you fulfilled your promise by rising from the dead. Help me to practice what I preach.

- From *Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost*
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

A Note from Your Pastor

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Happy Easter to you all. The Lord is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

When we are feeling good, we are quite happy to let others come near us in order to let them know how we are feeling. However, when we are sad or in pain, we often set ourselves away from others. How can healing happen if we do not allow our wounds to be seen and touched?

Thomas is at the centre of today's Gospel. After the death of Jesus, he parts from the company of the other apostles. He misses the first appearance of the Risen Lord. However, he is there for the next appearance and it is interesting to see how the Risen Lord satisfies him.

The first thing the Risen Lord does is show him his own wounds. Jesus feels no need to hide his wounds for they are the proof of his love. They are the mortal wounds the Good Shepherd suffers in defending his flock. He invites Thomas to touch those wounds.

But in truth, Thomas is the wounded one. He is wounded by grief, loneliness, doubt and despair. In his pain he wants to be alone. Even though his wounds are invisible, they are very real. But the Risen Lord is able to see them. It is He who touches Thomas' wounds, and also makes him whole and healed and well again. It is by touching and being touched that Thomas is healed of his unbelief as well as of his other wounds.

Now I would say that it is by showing our wounds, by touching and being touched, that we are healed. The human heart is healed only by the presence of another human being who understands human pain.

The world today is full of doubt, like Thomas. Many people would not come to believe unless they can touch Jesus' wounds and see the radiance of His face. This can happen only if we, as his witnesses and followers, can help them to see Jesus' wounds.

Today we also celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. St. Faustina was privileged to receive apparitions from Jesus emphasizing His mercy. And now, for us, we are called to acknowledge His mercy and experience it, and have mercy toward others.

Divine Mercy is when the love of God meets us and helps us in the midst of our suffering and sin. In fact, because on this side of eternity we are all sinners, and because suffering is one of the parts in our life, God's love for us always takes the form of mercy. It is always the Lord stepping out in compassion to help us who are poor and weak. It is no doubt that we are called to acknowledge the Mercy of God, and in return we will have mercy to others.

In his homily on Divine Mercy Sunday in 2000, St. Pope John Paul II called the mercy message given to St. Faustina was: "*The appropriate and incisive answer that God wanted to offer to the questions and expectations of human beings in our time, marked by terrible tragedies*". He emphasized this passage from St. Faustina's diary:

"Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My Mercy, and therefore I wish solemnly to entrust the world to The Divine Mercy".

St. Pope John Paul II then continues "*I do so with the burning desire that the message of God's merciful love, proclaimed through St. Faustina, may be made known to all the peoples of the earth and fill their hearts with hope. May this message (Divine Mercy) radiate from this place to our beloved homeland and throughout the world*".

I would like to invite all of you to reflect on these words. May our going ever deeper into Divine Mercy bring about what our Lord so much desires from us and needs from us to be able to fulfill His divine will in us: boundless trust in Him who is the unfailing Divine Mercy in person.

"Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world"; Lord Jesus, I trust in you."

Have a wonderful weekend and may the mercy of God be with you always.

Fr. Louis Nguyen

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



- 30 minutes before and after Weekday Mass (Tuesday – Friday),
 - Saturdays at **8:30 am**
- or by appointment. Phone: 306.782.2449

Catechism Themes: CCC 645-647

We do not know what Christ's risen body is like. On the one hand, the risen Jesus could be touched by his followers. His body still had the wounds of the passion. On the other hand, he entered locked rooms at will and appeared to his followers as he wished. His body was not limited by space and time. While his body possessed signs of his past, it was transformed to a new plane. The body of Christ now possessed the power of the Spirit.

The resurrection was at once a moment in history two millennium ago and a moment for all time. That which space and time bound was raised to the eternal. When we profess Christ is risen, we acknowledge our faith in a life beyond despite our present limitations. We can touch that very life through the Spirit. And, because of the Spirit, our shortcomings that stand in the way of eternal life can be swept aside.

Why does the Christian walk lead through forgiveness to peace? How have you experienced that road?

Catechism Themes: CCC 651-655

Without the Resurrection, Christianity would be nothing more than a school that taught the wisdom of a great teacher. With the Resurrection, however, Christianity became a road to intimacy with God.

The Resurrection justifies the life, works, and teachings of Jesus. Through the lens of the Resurrection, we can see this life, these works and teachings in the context of Scripture and realize "Jesus is Lord." Faith in the Resurrection leads us to the conclusion Jesus is true God and true man.

Through the Resurrection, we receive the gift of a new eternal life, free from evil. We become one with our Savior who died and rose for us. And, as he rose, Christ assures us that we, too, will rise on the last day.

How does the cynicism of the world affect you? How does faith keep you from cynicism?

The peace Christ give us heals the fear and cynicism of the world. This peace builds bridges of trust and allows us to walk together to the Father. His peace allows us to continue to believe and to hold on to his very life. Let us, then, offer each other the peace of Christ, the Shalom of his Spirit.

How can you offer the peace of Christ to others in your daily life?

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News from the Knights of Columbus

- Apr. 14th General Meeting – 7:00 pm
(Virtual or Chambers TBD)
- Apr. 25th Articles for "The Word" due

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

20th Annual Divine Mercy Conference

www.ourladyofpeaceregina.com

The Conference will be livestreamed at 1:30 PM and will begin with a welcome and presentation by Shirley Oleskiw, EADM Director, Adoration for one hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, accompanied with prayers: Litany of the Holy Eucharist, Praises of Divine Mercy, Litany to Saint Faustina, Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction. Following will be the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass celebrated by Very Rev. James Owolagba and his presentation at the homily. At the end of the Mass there will be a blessing with Saint Faustina's relic.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

An invitation to deepening Stewardship: The next Global Catholic Climate Movement **Laudato Si' Animator course** starts April 14th. In this 6 week program you will explore the deep truths and insights of the Holy Father's encyclical *Laudato Si'*. Join the growing movement of global Catholics concerned about the health of Our Common Home. Find support, resources, and a network to help you on your own journey to Caring for Creation so that future generations may enjoy some of what we enjoy today.

Register at <https://laudatosianimators.org>

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

THE WEEK AHEAD

~~Tues. (13th): 7:30pm Liturgical Committee Meeting
(Parish Hall)~~



A Parable of Mercy

By Johan van Parys

When my grandmother died, I inherited her personal papers. Though I was hesitant to go through them, I was soon immersed as stories that had been relayed only through whispers or hints became abundantly clear.

The most amazing story concerned my grandparents' plight during World War II. In the late 1930s, my grandmother inherited her family's shoe business. Her biggest client was the Belgian army. When the Nazis took over Belgium, they ordered her to make shoes for them. She refused, so they closed her factory and sent her employees and my grandfather to work camps in Germany. Nazi officers took over the family home, and my grandmother and great-grandmother were made to serve them.

The story was illuminated by two sets of letters. The first set, tied with a red ribbon, was written by my grandfather to my grandmother from the work camp. Most of the letters are filled with small anecdotes of camp life, nothing incriminating because the letters were scrutinized by the Nazis before being mailed. He also thanks my grandmother for the occasional package of soap or chocolates and for news from home. His letters are all very strong and full of words of encouragement. The most moving among all of them is the letter written in response to the birth of his youngest daughter a few months after he was sent to the camps. He writes about how he longs to return home and wishes he could hold her.

After the war, my grandfather came home, and the Nazi officers returned to Germany. The second set of letters, tied with a blue ribbon, was written by one of the officers who had occupied my grandparents' home. In the first letter, the former Nazi officer apologizes and asks forgiveness. In ensuing letters, he speaks about his two sons who were killed in the war, the destruction of their hometown, and the absolute poverty he and his wife live in. Then he starts asking my grandparents for clothes, shoes, and food. In other letters, he thanks my grandparents for sending them whatever they needed.

In 1967 my aunt got married. Though I was very young, I do remember an unknown couple at my grandparents' home. I didn't understand their language, but I liked their accordion playing. I deduced from the letters that this was the former Nazi officer and his wife.

I was incredulous. I couldn't comprehend how he dared ask forgiveness after all he'd done to my family. Even worse, how could he ask my grandparents for help? I also didn't understand how my grandparents could forgive him, help him, and invite him into their home.

I've given much thought to this amazing story of sin and sorrow that led to forgiveness and reconciliation. It's a true parable of God's forgiveness and mercy and of the mercy and forgiveness God requires of us. No matter what we've done, we can and should ask our merciful God for forgiveness and help. And regardless of what has been done to us or what we've done to others, we can and must ask for forgiveness—and give it in return.

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A Word from Pope Francis



Mercy warms the heart and makes it sensitive to the needs of brothers and sisters with sharing and participation. Thus, mercy requires everyone to be instruments of justice, reconciliation, and peace. Let us never forget that mercy is the keystone in the life of faith, and the concrete form by which we make Jesus' resurrection visible.

– Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23, 2017

YOUTH REFLECTION

"A Child of God"

This Week...

Children are trusting and easily believe what is told to them. However, like Thomas, most adults have had the experience it takes to develop more sceptical minds. Believing in Jesus and his simple message of love takes the trust of a child. Living the message of Jesus as true community and children of God is not burdensome.

For Your Reflection

- When was the last time you played with a group of small children, such as cousins, neighbourhood children, or someone you were babysitting for? Did you enjoy it? What was it like? Is it easy to think of them as true children of God? Why or why not? Is it easy to think of yourself and your friends as true children of God? Why or why not?
- "God's commandments are not burdensome." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? Give examples of when God's commandments seem burdensome or when they do not seem burdensome.

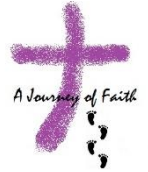
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter* - St. Mary's Press, 2004



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 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