



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:
(Cancelled until further notice)

CONTACT US

The Parish Office is closed until further notice.

When phoning the office please leave a message which will be returned as soon as possible.

You may also email the office.

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

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

Pastor.....	Fr. Louis Kim Nguyen	306.782.0323	louiskimnguyen@yahoo.com
		306.621.8068	
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer		
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

COVID-19 DIRECTIVE

1. Sunday & Weekday Masses are suspended until further notice.

Archbishop Don Bolen has granted to all the Catholic faithful dispensation from their Sunday obligation until further notice.

Daily and Sunday Masses from Resurrection Parish in Regina are livestreamed:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/17094656>

2. All services, events and activities are cancelled, including Holy Hour Devotion, other community prayers/devotions, all Parish Hall activities, all sacrament preparation including RCIA, Marriage, Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation.

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation: Half-hour before Saturday morning and Saturday evening Mass, or anytime by appointment. **PLEASE PHONE FATHER LOUIS AT 306.782.0323**

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 306.621.8068



Stay Connected Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, you are the model of nonviolence and unconditional love. May your example inspire me to be a more loving and forgiving person in life.

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

A Note from Your Pastor.....

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

It is a great sadness when we cannot be together to celebrate the great mystery of our faith. All of us miss the Church, the Eucharist, the sacraments, the community...

Today we celebrate Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, but without palms. It is the last Sunday of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week. During this celebration, we repeat the words of people in Jesus' time when they shouted out: "*Hosanna! To the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*" And then together with Him, we enter into our Holy Week. It is truly the most highlighted week of the whole liturgical year. We become even closer than ever to Him as we witness His passion for our sins.

We will not be able to attend these celebrations in our Church because of the Covid-19 pandemic. This weekend we can, however, gather in spirit. If you are able, please join the celebrations on TV, You Tube, or Facebook... to commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, days before he was crucified. We cannot come to God's house. But God can come to us through many different ways in our modern world. I encourage each of you to please spend time to watch or listen to the celebration. Do it in a serious way. Pray and be with the Lord as we start this Holy Week.

All of the Triduum celebrations next weekend are very rich and have a very powerful meaning: the Last Supper on Holy Thursday with the washing of the feet, and the institution of the Eucharist and Holy Order; on Good Friday the veneration of the Holy Cross, when we profess that "*we adore you Lord, because by your Holy Cross you redeem the whole world*"; and at the Easter Vigil when the whole story of salvation is retold, and the message that the Lord is risen will be proclaimed. Easter is coming. The Lord is raised up from the death. He is triumphant from the death.

Throughout all these celebrations we reflect and see His passion is for all of us. He accepted carrying the cross, He was condemned, denied, betrayed and died for us. We share with Him in all His passion and through it we offer Him our thanks. "*In him and through his blood, we have been redeemed, and our sins forgiven so immeasurably generous is God's favour to us*" (Eph 1.3-10).

Remember - if we die with Him, we will share in His glory.

I will continue to pray that we might live this incredibly difficult moment as lovingly, graciously and mercifully as we can. Remember that the source of all love, and grace and mercy walk with us in this valley of darkness.

Wishing all of you a Blessed Holy Week. I miss all of you. You are in my love and prayers.

Fr. Louis Nguyen

On behalf of St. Gerard's Parish, I thank you for your love and support to the Church during this difficult time. We have received some cheque donations via postal mail. Thank you for your continuing generosity.





Holy Week Masses/Services on Facebook (Live)

Celebrated by Father Louis Kim Nguyen

- Search Filipino Catholic Community in Yorkton on Facebook
- Ask to be added as a member
- Encourage everyone you know to participate

April 5	11am	Palm Sunday
April 9	7pm	Holy Thursday
April 10	3pm	Good Friday
April 11	8pm	Easter Vigil
April 12	11am	Easter Sunday



Palm Sunday: 9 AM
 Holy Thursday: 7 PM
 Good Friday: 3PM
 Easter Vigil: 8:30 PM
 Easter Sunday: 9 AM

Livestream of **daily and Sunday Masses** will be available at the following link (Resurrection Parish):

April 5, 9AM: [Palm Sunday](#)

Livestreams of **Triduum services** at Holy Rosary Cathedral will be at the following links:

April 9, 7PM: [Holy Thursday](#)
 April 10, 3PM: [Good Friday](#)
 April 11, 8:30PM: [Easter Vigil](#)
 April 12, 9AM: [Easter Sunday Mass](#)

They can be viewed live, or at any time after the time listed.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul.

Since I can not now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though You were already there, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You; permit not that I should ever be separated from You.

Amen.

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

COVID-19 UPDATES

The Pastoral Office is now closed to the public until further notice. If you need to reach a staff member, the best way to contact them is by email.

A full list of their contact information is available on the COVID-19 Updates page:

www.archregina.sk.ca/content/covid-19-updates

Prayers and Devotions

Here you will find information on daily mass, daily readings and reflections, prayers, stations of the cross and other resources that may be valuable during this time of social distancing.
www.archregina.sk.ca/prayers-devotions

Archdiocese of Regina Weekly Report

Sign up for our Archdiocese of Regina Weekly Report and stay up to date on COVID-19 Updates and other news, delivered to your inbox every Friday morning. Sign up now: www.bit.ly/2QIMBoo

Archdiocese of Regina on Social Media

We invite you to like us on Facebook, we will have regular Facebook Live prayers and we would love to have you join us!

www.facebook.com/ArchdioceseofRegina/

You can also find us on Twitter: @archdioceseofreg and on Instagram: archdioceseofregina



Bringing Home the Word

Noble and Humble

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord prepares us to leave behind Jesus' public ministry and enter into his suffering and death. From miracles, crowds, and praise we move to pain, silence, and humility. Only the strong and true lovers of Jesus will make it to the foot of the cross.

A painting in the Vatican Museum by Pseudo Domenico di Michelino, *The Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem*, depicts Jesus coming into Jerusalem sitting nobly—on a donkey—in the center. The prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 sets the scene and marks its importance: "Exult greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! Behold: your king is coming to you, a just savior is he, humble, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." By riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, Jesus embraces the path of the Messiah that God mapped out through the prophets. He comes as a king and in peace and obedience. Jesus wins with meekness and love.

Returning to the painting, we see little children laying down their coats before Jesus. These simple souls recognize his divine humility and honor him with their gestures while the crowd acclaims his kingship. The reign of Jesus incites praise, fidelity, and allegiance. The people wave olive branches and throw them on the ground before him.

Counting the followers in the painting, eleven process with golden halos around their heads. These symbols of holiness highlight the fact that to love Jesus is to follow him to the end, as do almost all of the twelve disciples Jesus selected to join him in his ministry. One follower, however, is surrounded in shadow. Unlike the others, he looks away. His heart is set on another plan.

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MOUNT
OLIVES
VILLAGE
DONKEY
COLT
CLOAKS
BRANCHES
HOSANNA
SON
BLESSINGS
TURMOIL
PROPHET



ST. GERARD CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER:

- Monday - CLOSED
- Tuesday - 5 pm to 7 pm
- Wednesday - 9 am to 11 am
- Thursday - 9 am to 11 am
- Friday - 9 am to 11 am
- Saturday - 9 am to 11 am
- 4 pm to 7 pm
- Sunday - 8 am to noon

Subject to change without notice.

Lord God,

I pray for all who have become sick or died by the coronavirus that has been spreading around the world.

In your mercy and compassion, deliver us from this disease,

In your holy wisdom, guide all who are working to contain the outbreak,

In your steadfast love, bring healing to all your children who have become sick,

Welcome into your arms the ones that died, Comfort the ones they left behind.

In faith, I place my trust in you.

In hope, I turn to you in my time of need.

In love, I give glory to your name.

In gratitude, I will praise you with my life.

In your Son's name I pray.

Amen

A Journey to New Life in Christ

Kathy Kuczka

Each procession during Holy Week has a different tone and solemnity. On Palm Sunday, the faithful joyfully sing *hosanna*. After the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the mood is somber as the journey is made to the altar of repose. On Good Friday, the community quietly processes to reverence the cross. Hope fills the community at the Easter Vigil as they sing "Thanks be to God," while following the minister carrying the Paschal candle and singing "The Light of Christ." These processions help us to journey with Christ into solitude and surrender, into desertion and death, resurrection and new life.

PALM SUNDAY

The procession on Palm Sunday is modeled after the ancient liturgies of Jerusalem. The fourth-century pilgrim known as Egeria wrote that the Palm Sunday procession began at the Mount of Olives and ended at the city gates. Today, the faithful gather in a place other than inside the church so that a fitting procession to the church can take place. After palm, olive, or other branches are blessed and sprinkled with holy water, the Gospel account of Jesus' triumphant journey to Jerusalem is proclaimed. The procession into the church that follows is joyous, with incense rising from a swinging thurible, servers carrying a cross decorated with palms and candles, and the faithful singing and acclaiming Christ as King. The entrance procession propels the community to enter the heart of the Paschal Mystery.

HOLY THURSDAY

At the end of the liturgy during the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, the faithful will follow the priest in procession as he brings the Blessed Sacrament from the altar to a place of repose. This is not an ordinary procession. It begins after the priest has incensed the Eucharist, continues with the faithful singing "Pange, Lingua" or another Eucharistic hymn, and ends with silent adoration. This procession symbolizes the community's journey with Jesus as he moves closer to his passion and death.



In the procession into the church on Holy Saturday, the faithful follow Christ our light into new life.

GOOD FRIDAY

On Good Friday, the community gathers to remember the death of the Lord but with faith and hope of resurrection. This liturgy includes the ancient ritual of the veneration of the cross. According to Egeria, the community gathered at Golgotha to venerate the relics of the true cross that had recently been discovered in Jerusalem. People revered the wood by touching it with their foreheads and by kissing it. The community is invited to revere the cross as in ancient Jerusalem, with a touch or a kiss, signs that our whole bodies are immersed in the dying of Christ.

HOLY SATURDAY

At the Easter Vigil, our prayer begins in the dark. Gathered around a blazing fire, we see who we truly are, the beloved of God. After the blessing of the fire, the community processes behind the Paschal candle, sign of the

Risen Lord, responding three times, "Thanks be to God" to the deacon's "The Light of Christ." These three stations echo those of the cross at the Good Friday liturgy. The cross and the candle are symbols of our salvation. On this night, the community follows Christ our light into new life.

Before the baptismal liturgy, the holy women and men who have gone before us are recalled during the Litany of the Saints, and those who are to be baptized process to the font with their godparents. The singing of the litany is a sign of the throngs of people who have experienced the journey through the Paschal Mystery.

Our liturgical processions do more than move us from one point to another. They help identify who we are and whose we are. During Holy Week, our processions help us experience in our bodies a movement of dying and rising with Christ. To process with the community is to remind ourselves that we do not travel this journey alone. With this assurance, we, like the women at the tomb, can run with the news, telling the world of God's great love.

Holy Week Draws Christians Closer to Life in Christ

Greetings!

Even at a young age, children will be aware of some of the differences with the liturgy during Holy Week. Parents, grandparents, and others who guide them in the faith will want to explain that the liturgical calendar reminds us that all times and all seasons belong to God. In each liturgical year, we have the opportunity to celebrate the entirety of Jesus' earthly life, from the Annunciation and Mary's yes to his Ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Each liturgical year begins with the First Sunday of Advent and ends with the week of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. At the beginning of Holy Week, the Church is still in the season of Lent, but at the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, the liturgical season of the Sacred Paschal Triduum begins.

As Holy Week approaches, and we prepare for the holiest days of the liturgical year, our celebrations become more distinctive. Historians tell us that because this time is so sacred, many of its traditions come to us from very early in Christian history.

All of Holy Week makes present the greatest events in history.

The movement of the processions of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday through Holy Saturday, may entrance children. These processions help us to enter into the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. All of Holy Week makes present the greatest events in history so that we, the people of today, might encounter Jesus as the people present in Jerusalem two thousand years ago were able to do. Through this encounter we come to believe in him, to recognize our vocation to bring his love to all people, and to hope that where he has gone we shall follow.

At the beginning of Mass on Palm Sunday, we gather for the blessing of palms and we sing Hosanna, praising Jesus, the one who saves, as he comes into Jerusalem. We are part of the crowd praising him as the Savior. At the end of the



As each candle is lit at the Easter Vigil and light fills the church, we anticipate light filling the world.

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, we process with the Blessed Sacrament and are invited to remain in prayer with Jesus as his friends did after the Last Supper. On Holy Saturday, we begin at the new fire, where the Paschal candle is blessed and we process behind it into the dark church. As the people of Israel followed the pillar of fire to salvation from slavery, we follow the light of Christ, which leads us to salvation. As the light comes to each person, one by one, we see the light of Christ spread throughout the Church as we hope it will spread through the whole world, until God will be all in all and his Kingdom will have no end.

As the Paschal Mystery is made present to us today, we encounter the person of Jesus Christ, through whom comes our salvation.

Three Days to Rediscover Our Identity in Christ

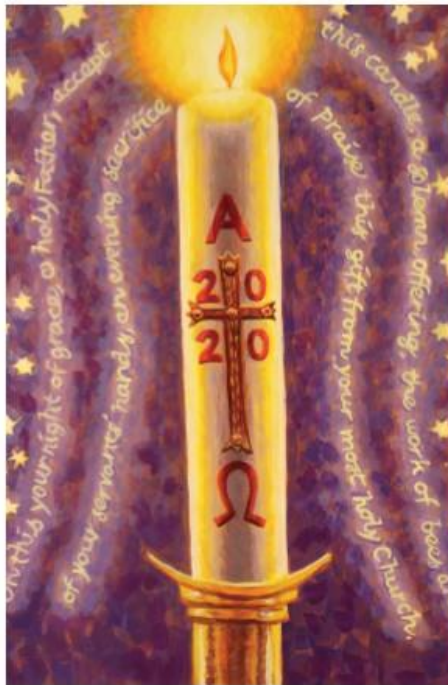
Kathy Kuczka

During the Passover seder, the youngest person at the table asks, “Why is this night different from all other nights?” The leader then names those things that make the Passover seder different from other holiday meals. As we prepare for the Sacred Paschal Triduum, we may ask, “What makes these days different from all other days?”

The word *Triduum* is a Latin word that means “three days.” The Church calls the three days before Easter—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday—the “culmination of the entire liturgical year” (*General Norms of the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, 18). During the span of seventy-two hours, the community commemorates the core of what they believe—Christ, crucified, buried, and risen—as well as the heart of who the community is—a people freed and forgiven, restored and renewed by Christ’s resurrection.

These mysteries are too much for one day. They must take place over several days. Even so, the Church observes them as one unified celebration, designing them to flow one into another. On Holy Thursday, the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper ends without a dismissal, continuing into the night, and perhaps the next morning, with adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. On Friday, the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord begins without a greeting and ends without a dismissal. On Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil begins after nightfall.

To prepare for the Sacred Triduum, members of the community clear their calendars to journey with Christ, with the elect who will receive the initiation sacraments at the Vigil, and with one another through death to new life. This journey demands spiritual preparation that is different from other major feasts. With the exception of the sacraments of penance and the anointing of the sick, the Church abstains



During the Sacred Paschal Triduum, the community walks through the most profound mysteries of its faith.

from celebrating any sacraments on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. The tabernacle is empty from the beginning of the Mass of the Lord’s Supper to the end of Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil. Even the environment is made bare. On Holy Thursday, the altar is stripped and crosses are removed so that the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord begins without a cross, without candles, and without cloths on the altar. The faithful keep a paschal fast that anticipates the joy of Christ’s resurrection.

During the Triduum, the Church’s most powerful Scriptures are proclaimed, special rituals are performed, and symbols are employed. The washing of feet is reserved for the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday. The adoration of the cross is observed only at the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday. The community gathered after dark under the shadow of a full moon is called for only at the

Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. The lighting and blessing of a fire, and the community processing behind the Paschal candle takes place only at the Easter Vigil. Unlike the common practice of celebrating Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist on separate occasions, the Triduum brings these three sacraments of initiation together in one grand liturgy.

The three days that make up the Triduum are different because, unlike any other days in the liturgical year, the community walks through the most profound mysteries of its faith. We encounter Christ in the most solemn Scriptures, rituals, and symbols of our tradition. If we do this well, we will be drawn into a deeper intimacy with Christ’s dying and rising. We will know Christ’s victory over death as ours. We will rediscover who we truly are—a chosen people, the beloved of God, unafraid of death, assured of new life.

YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"The Rooster Crowed"

This Week...

Jesus told Peter that he would deny knowing Jesus three times before the rooster crowed. Peter tried to blend into the crowd, but he was recognized as a Galilean. Even if the people did not see what he was up to, it seemed that he could not hide. He would be found out. The rooster crowed. Peter was guilty and he knew it.

For Your Reflection

Peter is devastated when he hears the crowing of the rooster. It is as if the rooster watched him, heard his denials of Jesus, and cried out for justice to be done.

Imagine the earth witnessing and suffering with every act of injustice: the night stars seeing Judas betray Jesus, the grasses being crushed as Jesus falls to the ground carrying the cross, all the trees feeling the awful pounding of the nails of crucifixion, and the earthquake trembling when Jesus dies.

- Is this point of view far-fetched, or does it contain some truth? Can you imagine the organic planet at unrest with all the violence done to people and to nature? Or do you view most of nature as unfeeling, inanimate matter, more or less disconnected from us?

- So often we think it is "okay" to do something if we "don't get caught." If you see that your decisions affect all of nature, how would it change the attitude of "try to get away with whatever you can"?

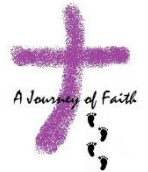
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle A for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter* St. Mary's Press, 2004



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