



# St. Gerard

## Roman Catholic Parish

April 9, 2023

The Resurrection  
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](http://www.stgerard.ca) | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca)

*St. Gerard Parish is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.*

Pastor.....	Fr. Louis Nguyen	306.782.0323	<a href="mailto:louisyorkton@gmail.com">louisyorkton@gmail.com</a>
		306.621.8068	Emergencies
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	<a href="mailto:office@stgerard.ca">office@stgerard.ca</a>
Caretaker.....			

### MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (10 <sup>th</sup> )	NO MASS
Tues. (11 <sup>th</sup> )	NO MASS
Wed. (12 <sup>th</sup> )	10:00am <b>ASPEN VILLA</b> +Mildred Jackson 7:00pm +Karyn Schutz
Thurs. (13 <sup>th</sup> )	9:00am +Ann Cattermole 2:30pm <b>LAKESIDE MANOR</b> +Horace Jackson
Fri. (14 <sup>th</sup> )	9:00am +Frank Dunnigan
Sat. (15 <sup>th</sup> )	9:00am Denis & Marianne Dierker <hr/> 5:00pm +Jacalyn Zeljeznak
Sun. (16 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 9:00am Mass for the People 11:00am +Joanne Fedirko

### 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.



## SUNDAY CONNECTION

### First Reading

*Acts of the Apostles 10.34a,37-43* - Peter preaches about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 118.1-2,16-17,22-23* - Rejoice in this day of the Lord.

### Second Reading

*Colossians 3.1-4* - Having been raised by Christ, be concerned with what is above.

### Gospel Reading

*John 20.1-9* - Mary of Magdala finds that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

## FAMILY CONNECTION

In the Easter Gospel we hear about how the disciples found the tomb empty three days after Jesus' death. We are also told that they do not yet understand the Scriptures or that Jesus had been raised from the dead. That understanding gradually unfolded for the disciples as they began to experience the risen Lord. Similarly, our understanding of Jesus' Resurrection unfolds for us throughout our lives. In the weeks ahead, we will hear how the first disciples moved from confusion, doubt, and skepticism to faith. Their experience can teach us how we too might receive this gift of faith from God.

Gather your family members and ask them to share what they know about the events that happened in the days after Jesus' crucifixion. Invite your family to imagine that they are among Jesus' first disciples. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:1-9. Reflect together on the Gospel with questions such as these: If you had been among the first disciples who heard that the stone had been removed from Jesus' tomb and that Jesus' body was no longer there, what would you think? What did Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved think had happened? Recall that this experience is the first indication Jesus' disciples have that he is risen. Throughout the Easter season, we will learn more about how the disciples came to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

Pray together using today's psalm, Psalm 118: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad."

## WELCOME VISITORS AND NEW PARISHIONERS!

If you would like more information about our parish please take this bulletin home, browse the information in the Welcome Area, or visit our parish website [www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca)

**Become a part of our parish family!** If this is your spiritual home, we invite you to register with the parish. Please complete a form located on the large table in the Welcome Area. You can drop it off at the Parish Office, or place it in the collection basket at Mass.

We are happy to have you join us!



### BAPTISM

*The First Sacrament of Initiation*

The next Baptism Preparation Session will be held **Sunday, May 14 at 3pm**. If you have a child who you wish to be baptized, or if you are expecting a child, please contact the Parish Office to register.

**This will be the last session until the fall.**

### CENTERING PRAYER

**Thursday, April 13 at 7pm**

**Lower Level**

*(please use east entrance)*

“Centering Prayer is a receptive method of Christian silent prayer which deepens our relationship with God, the Indwelling Presence ... a prayer in which we can experience God’s presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself.”

- from [www.contemplativeoutreach.org](http://www.contemplativeoutreach.org)

### AN EASTER BLESSING

Through the resurrection of Jesus God has redeemed us and made us his children.

May God bless us with joy. Amen.

Our Redeemer has given us lasting freedom.

May we inherit everlasting life. Amen.

By faith, we rose with Jesus in baptism.

May our lives be holy, so that we will be united with Jesus for ever. Amen.

May almighty God bless us, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



### News from the Knights of Columbus



April 12 Combined planning/general mtg @ 7pm  
April 16 Parish Brunch @ 8am  
April 19 Bingo-evening @ 5pm

*If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.728.8664. [www.kofc-2031.ca](http://www.kofc-2031.ca)*

### Knights of Columbus Recruitment Drive Sunday, April 16, 2023

The Knights of Columbus will be holding a recruitment drive for new members on Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> after both Masses. There will be members present to tell you about the Knights of Columbus and their works. We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands and grandfathers. Join us on life’s greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be.

There is a KC brunch that morning and if you are interested in talking to someone about joining the Knights allow us to buy you brunch and discuss the work of the Knights of Columbus.

*May the glory and the promise  
of this joyous time of year  
bring peace and happiness to you  
and those you hold most dear.*

*And may Christ, Our Risen Savior,  
always be there by your side  
to bless you most abundantly  
and be your loving guide.*

- Author Unknown

### THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed. (12<sup>th</sup>): 7:00pm- K of C Planning Meeting  
(Combined)

Thurs. (13<sup>th</sup>): 7:00pm- Centering Prayer  
(Lower Level)

Sun. (16<sup>th</sup>): Parish Brunch after 9am & 11am Mass



Bringing Home  
the Word **+**

### With Mouths Wide Open

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

We normally speak of "eyes wide open," an experience of seeing and understanding. However, Easter is a time of total astonishment, of standing before mystery with our mouths wide open and not understanding. Even the closest followers of Jesus were dumbfounded. Mary Magdalene didn't expect to find an empty tomb. Upon seeing it, she presumed that the body had been stolen. The Gospel says that "they did not yet understand" (John 20:9). How could they? The magnitude of the mystery was overwhelming.

When did they finally understand? Actually, it's more a question of believing than understanding. The Gospel tells us they came to believe. They came to believe in him—not that he would conquer death by not dying, but that he would conquer it by dying and then being transformed into a new kind of life, a kind of living that isn't subject to death. They came to believe this through an experience of him.

We might envy the early followers who had Easter experiences of Jesus. But if we look carefully, we will see that they experienced him in their everyday lives—in community gatherings, in the breaking of the bread. These are the very places where we can experience him in our own lives. The good news of Jesus' resurrection isn't just that we shall die and go home with him, but that he is risen and comes home with us.

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## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Divine Mercy Conference

Will be held on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16, 2023 at Our Lady of Peace Parish 425 Broad St. N., Regina, SK.



The program begins at 1:30pm, with a welcome and presentation by Shirley Oleskiw, Adoration & Prayers, followed by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 3:05pm celebrated by Very Rev. James Owolagba. His presentation will take place during his homily.

## Catechism Themes: The Resurrection (CCC 641-644)

The appearance of the Lord caused strong mixed feelings among his first followers. The women's testimony would cause scepticism, even cynicism, among the disciples. The thought of Resurrection was so counter-intuitive it seemed impossible.

Why then did faith in the Risen One flourish? This question points to the second piece of historical evidence for the reasonable nature of faith. The appearance of the Risen Christ caused a chain reaction, resulting in a strength of character, a radical change in fearful people. In the face of this change, to propose the opposite thesis, that the faith of the followers produced the "myth" of the Resurrection, seemed impossible.

*What does faith in the Resurrection mean to you? How does the thought of the Resurrection change your outlook?*

Faith is a risk; the women experienced the uncertainty and terror of risk. More than an "intellectual assent," faith is a challenge to our comfort zones. Faith is meant to be experienced and shared on the edge.

*The Resurrection changed everything. How will it change you this week?*

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### St. Michael's at Madge Winter Raffle and 50/50



#### PlayStation Raffle Tickets

1380 Sets of Tickets:

**1 ticket for \$10.00**

**3 tickets for \$20.00**

**10 tickets for \$50.00**

**50/50 Tickets - 5 for \$10 or 20 for \$20**

Draw Date: April 17, 2023, at 5:00 PM at Christ the Teacher Catholic School Division Office, 45A Palliser Way, Yorkton, SK

Tickets: Must be 19 or older to purchase ticket and claim prize

Tickets must be purchased in Saskatchewan

SLGA Raffle License # SR22-3542

SLGA 50/50 License # SR22-3875

All proceeds to St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church Camp Inc.



## Stop by the Parish Office

For a great assortment of bibles, books and religious articles  
including Baptism, Confirmation & First Communion gifts:



My Angel pewter picture frame	\$6.00	Communion remembrance tokens	\$2.50
Wood baptismal cross	\$6.75	First Eucharist pocket token	\$3.00
Multi-coloured wood cross 5"	\$9.75	Colorful filigree bracelet "My First Communion"	\$4.00
Pewter cross for baby boy, blue ribbon, 3 1/2"	\$11.50	Wooden cross with prayer card	\$5.50
Pewter cross for baby girl, pink ribbon, 3 1/2"	\$11.50	Gilt and white enamel metal cross, pewter chalice, 5"	\$7.75
Baptized in Christ baptism cross	\$17.75	Silver chalice pendant with stone on chain, 13"	\$11.00
Mat Porcelain "Madonna" night light statue, 5"	\$15.00	Black beads and cord with a communion charm bracelet	\$13.00
Confirmation bookmark	\$1.00	Crucifix - silver metal on base, 6"	\$10.00
Confirmation prayer card - "Prayer for Light"	\$1.25	Crucifix - antique silver-plated metal, 8"	\$10.00
Heart-shaped, "Confirmation" pewter pocket token	\$1.50	Crucifix - silver-finish on wooden cross, 4 7/8"	\$13.00
Holy spirit pocket token	\$3.00	Crucifix - light colour wood, silver finish corpus, 8"	\$13.75
Colorful filigree bracelet "My Confirmation"	\$4.00	Crucifix - plexiglass - silver metal corpus, 8 1/4"	\$16.00
Boxed rosary, 6mm, red wooden beads	\$6.75	Crucifix - Olive Wood, silver corpus, 6"	\$22.00
Boxed rosary, 4mm, red plastic beads, cross 11"	\$8.25	Crucifix - olive wood, metal corpus, 10"	\$26.00
Adj. leather necklace with dove-engraved cross, 32"	\$9.25	Crucifix - dark-colour wood, 10"	\$27.00
Bracelet - Boxed with dove-inserted hearts, 7"	\$9.75	Necklace - wood cross, gold corpus with lace	\$3.00
Pewter cross & dove, rhodium-plated chain 24"	\$11.00	Boxed bracelets for kids, assorted colours	\$3.25
Bevelled mini mirror with pewter Holy Spirit	\$11.50	Colored wooden flower necklace	\$4.50
Pewter cross with chalice & dove, 6"	\$20.00	Wooden bracelet, dark brown beads and cross	\$4.50
Blessings & Prayers	\$14.00	Guardian Angel medal and 18" chain	\$6.00
Catholic Baby's First Bible (board book)	\$15.00	Silver-finish football pendant necklace	\$10.00
Catholic Youth Bible	\$25.00	Necklace - "Hope" silver-plated metal pendant	\$17.50

## Churches are Called to Defend Our Planet

Recently The Catholic Register has featured a series of articles on the climate emergency and the need for people of faith to engage in advocacy.

After the COP 27 summit, Yusra Shafi, a Canadian Development and Peace delegate put forth this challenge: 'It's incredibly important for people of faith ...to do whatever they can with the platform they have, to embed the spirit of advocacy in the teachings and in the opportunities that they present to their people. We all have to step up. We all have that moral responsibility to act as soon as possible.' The Register, Nov 19, 2022.

'**Ecology comes first, no ifs, and, or buts.**' read the headline on Dec 3rd, 2022. The article stated that last fall 20 religious organizations began quietly lobbying our Canadian government to align Canada's economy more rapidly with sustainability goals. 'The urgency now is that we had 623 oil executives, lobbyists, as part of (official) delegations at COP27. We've got to up our game.'

Five days later, Dec 8th, The Register reported on the pressing call for the preservation of ecosystems. Stating, human activities have measurably damaged our natural environment to the point where extreme heatwaves, and catastrophic fires and floods are becoming commonplace.

On Apr 3, 2023 the headline read: **Churches must press government on climate** "As the world's scientists once again draw attention to the dire state of a warming planet, it's time for churches to up their game on climate change' urges MP Elizabeth May. May went on to say, 'Governments have been spectacularly unsuccessful in responding to the warnings of science. We absolutely require churches as well as all parts of society to hold them to account.'

There are many ways that churches have taken up the call to advocate for, defend, and promote the preservation of our Common Home. Each of us, in our everyday life, in our homes, parish, and community can answer the call to participate in Caring for our Common Home.

- Submitted by Linda Maddaford

## HOPE ACCOMPANIES EASTER JOY

Greetings! I often go out of my way to do little things that will bring smiles to my children's faces. All healthy parents want their children to grow up rooted in love. Acts of kindness and service show children love in action and can ground children in the love of their parents. Happiness is also one of the main hopes parents have for their children.

What could be the downside of this? Unfortunately—like all feelings—happiness is temporary. The human condition is filled with endless ups and downs, and even our happiest moments can be tinged with sorrow. Because I want my children's lives to be happy, I can even inadvertently communicate that their negative emotions are somehow not allowed or are something to fear.

Our culture reinforces this notion. Toxically positive slogans appear across social media and on T-shirts, mugs, and bumper stickers, proclaiming that only “good vibes” are permitted.

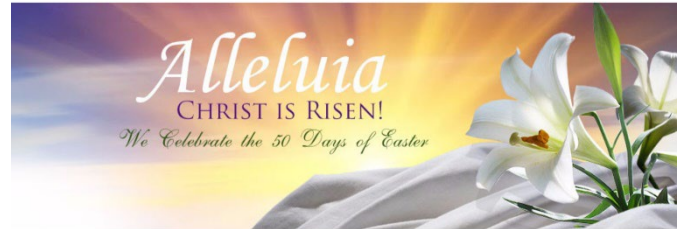
In a profound way, our Catholic faith proclaims an antidote to this atmosphere. Apart from sin, there was no part of the human condition that Jesus did not experience. Throughout Jesus' walk on this earth, and especially during the passion, he experienced what we experience—a life of ups and downs, of profound joy and intense suffering. When we meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary, we see that Mary was preserved from sin but not from sorrow, even as she was most blessed among women.

Sometimes we might be tempted to skip to the resurrection, much like we want “good vibes only.” But to do so denies the reality of suffering. Whether our emotions feel good or bad to us, they offer an opportunity to invite God into our experiences. Because the whole range of human experience was part of Jesus' life on earth, there is nothing in it that God cannot transform. When we consider the resurrection, we see that God is able to bring light into the darkest places in our lives. For what could seem more hopeless than death on a cross? Yet it is the place where the deepest hope can be found. It is through the cross that the joy of the resurrection came to be possible.

How is that joy different? While happiness is temporary, joy stays with us. It helps ground us in the confidence that nothing can separate us from God's

love. It helps us to know that no matter our struggles, God will be present with us. Whatever suffering we experience, God can transform it. The ground of all reality is a communion of love, and we have been invited into it in Jesus.

Text by Kathryn Ball-Boruff. Art by Kate Cosgrove. © 2023 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 3949 South Racine Avenue, Chicago, IL 60609; 800-933-1800; [www.LTP.org](http://www.LTP.org). *Pastoral Liturgy*® magazine, March/April 2023, [www.PastoralLiturgy.org](http://www.PastoralLiturgy.org).



### Celebrating the Easter Season

Easter is a seven-week season of joy and grace. Starting with the Triduum in Holy Week and ending with Pentecost Sunday, this 50-day season has been called "the radiant center of the liturgical year." We keep celebrating so that we might continue to enter into the meaning of the resurrection and to deepen the way it touches our daily lives.

After Easter Week's resurrection stories, the first reading for the rest of this long and glorious season is from the Acts of the Apostles. Every day we see how Jesus' followers reacted to his death, the challenges to their witness and the unexpected courage that comes to them. John's Gospel is used for the entire Easter Season, the one time of year we can enter into his poetic and layered stories on a daily basis.

Easter only begins with Easter Sunday. Daily prayers and meditations come together to remind us that Jesus is with us. He is not dead, but alive. And, that makes all the difference in the world in how much hope and courage we have, before any struggle, any possible fear of death.

In these 50 days, we are Easter People!

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/e-celebratingeaster.html>