



# St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The Assumption of  
the Blessed Virgin  
Mary

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES  
Saturday at 5:00 pm, Sunday at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

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

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

## MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (16<sup>th</sup>) NO MASS  
 Tues. (17<sup>th</sup>) 7:00pm +Roger Oliva  
 Wed. (18<sup>th</sup>) 9:00am +Curtis Burant  
 10:30am **NURSING HOME (SOUTH)**  
 +Rose Ternes  
 Thurs. (19<sup>th</sup>) 9:00am +Peter & +Irene Cherneski  
 2:30pm **YORKTON CROSSING**  
 +Horace & +Mildred Jackson  
 Fri. (20<sup>th</sup>) 9:00am +Ferdinand Thiele  
 Sat. (21<sup>st</sup>) 9:00am +Gabriel Macalino

5:00pm +Les Toth  
 7:00pm **GOOD SPIRIT LAKE HALL**  
 Deceased members of the  
 Naphin & Tedeschi families

Sun. (22<sup>nd</sup>) **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY  
 IN ORDINARY TIME**  
 9:00am +Victor & +Rica Dela Cruz  
 11:00am Mass for the People

## WELCOME BACK!

Please note the following changes for our parish per the Archdiocese of Regina guidelines:

- The faithful continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation until September 1, 2021
- Registration for Mass is no longer required
- Masks and hand sanitizer will be provided. Their use is optional (but encouraged)
- Please sit in the pews that have hymnals so that people are not crowded together
- The choir and singing will resume. If you are not comfortable with singing in a public gathering, you are encouraged to wear a mask
- Holy water will not be available in the Baptismal font at this time
- We will not shake hands when we share the sign of peace
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection will continue

**PLEASE COME! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

*Colleen Haider, Marie Kruger, and the Liturgical Committee*



Stay  
Connected  
Online!  
[www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca)



Lord, you reveal the wisdom of God in the hearts of all people. Help me teach others by example the wisdom of your love, forgiveness, and peace.

- From *Faithful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*  
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

## A Note from Your Pastor ....

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This weekend we solemnly celebrate Mary's Assumption, that is, her body and soul assumed into heavenly glory at the end of her earthly life. We celebrate a path that we are all called to walk as well: from earth to heaven. It is a great favour that God granted for her because she was the first one, one created like us, who was lifted up into heaven.

As we hear in the second reading, St. Paul says that Christ was the first fruits of the definitive victory over death that was to come: "*Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death*". It is true that with the ascension of the Risen Lord the victory is to come, and death, as a result of sin, will be destroyed.

How about us? We believe that our Lord ascended into Heaven in glory; our Blessed Mother was assumed into heaven, too; and for us, we have to wait until the last day, when our Lord raises everyone from the dead in the Last Judgment.

But the question is how do we live so that one day we will be with Mary, our Blessed Mother, in heaven, with body and soul?

Let's start from the Gospel. Elizabeth rejoices that her cousin has come to visit, not just because she is glad to see her, but because Mary is beaming, having accepted the invitation to become the Mother of God.

Since the annunciation of the Lord, Mary carries Jesus. She becomes a sanctuary in which the Lord dwells. She welcomes the Lord and she bears him not only in her womb but in her whole being. And once He is born, Mary is with the Lord and shares with him in his mission, from the beginning until the end, she is there under the cross to witness the sacrifice of her Son.

It is true that Mary was extraordinarily blessed because she believed in the Lord. In the Assumption, we acknowledge that she believed in the Lord throughout her earthly life and beyond. We hear it in the Gospel when Elizabeth blesses Mary because she "*believed that what was spoken to [her] by the Lord would be fulfilled*". What beautiful words! We should have faith that what God has promised, he will provide. Mary does not take credit. She glorifies the Lord with her canticle, and now she does so in eternity.

The Assumption of Mary reminds us that if we have faith and are with the Lord, if we have room for him in our lives and are faithful by following him, one day the Lord will take up our body and soul into Heaven, when his final victory will be shown in us.

Mary's Assumption also reminds us of what awaits us if we accept suffering and trials with patience and faith, desiring to help Our Lord accomplish his work of redemption through us.

My dear sisters and brothers, Mary's mission is not over yet. What she did throughout her life, from the beginning when she said "Yes" to God until the end of her earthly life, continues today.

Yes, she continues that mission, body, and soul, from Heaven, showing us what is to come as long as we keep our faith alive, working and hoping, and saying "Yes" to God in every moment.

Let's pray today that Mary helps us to make the journey to heaven so that one day we will shine with her and her Son in Heaven.

I wish all of you and family a blessed weekend.

Fr. Louis Nguyen

**News from the Archdiocese of Regina**

**Reconciliation and healing for residential school survivors and their communities– financial appeal announced by Saskatchewan bishops:**

The five Catholic bishops of Saskatchewan on July 13 released more details about a planned fund-raising appeal entitled “Catholic TRC healing response.” The Saskatchewan bishops said that the appeal’s goal is “to support Residential School survivors and their communities and to engage more deeply in our own ongoing commitment and response to the Truth and Reconciliation process” with funds going to the priorities of healing and reconciliation; cemeteries on the sites of former residential schools; and education and cultural support. “We are collaborating with potential participants, and consulting with Indigenous dialogue partners, including Survivors, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Chiefs, and other community members.

Out of these conversations, each diocese and eparchy will discern and communicate separately how they will proceed with the Appeal in their respective dioceses and communities,” said the bishops.

For those who wish to donate immediately or make a long-term pledge, see the online giving options at: <https://dscf.ca/catholic-trc-healing-response>



**BAPTISM**

*The First Sacrament of Initiation*

The next Baptism Preparation Session is **Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** in the Parish Hall.

Please contact the Parish Office to register: 306.782.2449 or [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca)



**We welcome into our Catholic Christian Community those who were baptized recently at St. Gerard:**

Dara Varghese

**May this child and her family experience joy and new life.**

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation**



- 30 minutes before and after Daily Mass (Tuesday – Friday)
- Saturdays at **8:30 am** or by appt.



**Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!**

Eucharistic Holy Hour Devotion at 6pm (prior to 7pm Tuesday Mass)



**News from the CWL**



St. Gerard’s C.W.L. will not be having a Garage Sale this fall. Watch the bulletin for more updates.



**News from the Knights of Columbus**



If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Keith Hayward @ 306.783.0963. [www.kofc-2031.ca](http://www.kofc-2031.ca)

H	I	R	A	H	C	E	Z	T	E
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MARY	JUDAH	ZECHARIAH
ELIZABETH	CHILD	WOMB
HOLY	SPIRIT	CRY
BLESSED	FRUIT	LEAPT



**Kaposvar Pilgrimage**

**Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine**

**Sunday August 22, 2021**

**3 miles South & ½ mile West of Esterhazy on Grid 637**

**Souvenir Shop opens at 11:00**



- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 11:00 am – 12:00 noon..... | Visitors arrive and sign guest book      |
| 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm.....  | Individual Stations of the Cross         |
| 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm.....     | Rosary in the Church                     |
| 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm.....     | Private Confessions in the Church        |
| 2:45 pm – 3:00 pm.....     | Procession from the Church to the Shrine |
| 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm.....     | Holy Mass & Anointing of the Sick        |
| 4:00 pm.....               | Procession back to the Church            |
| 4:15 pm.....               | Supper                                   |

Ethnic Attire is encouraged  
Bring your own Lawn chairs  
Concession Booth on Site



For more information Contact:  
Eola Stevenson @ 306-853-7880

\*\*\*\* Please Note that we will be adhering to COVID protocols in effect August 22, 2021



## A Perpetual Reminder

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

What's wrong with this picture? What if we got it all wrong? As tradition has it, we trust that Mary, as she appears in the icon of Perpetual Help, is always there, ready at any and every moment to help us. But what if, in that very same icon we know so well, Mary is not the one giving help, but is, rather, on the receiving end? What if she's the one who needs help?

Picture Mary this way: like a woman clutching her child looking out the window of a burning building waiting for fire-and-rescue; like a mother grabbing for her son on their front stoop as bullets spray past them; like a mom supporting her hyperactive boy on one arm while balancing bags of groceries from the parish food cupboard on the other; or like a mother and her son on plastic seats behind thick glass waiting for visitors at an immigration detention center.

Think of our iconic Mary in that way. It's a whole different picture—not Mary who helps, but Mary who is in need of help. Our Mother of Perpetual Help appears as a victim of awful circumstances. Mary and Jesus are alone. Joseph has died, leaving a widow and a young son. We know how widows were treated back then. Her son's death looms on the horizon. She is in trouble. With Joseph gone, she is alone in the world and has to rely on the help of others and God. She wants help.

An icon is a window into heaven; this scene can be interpreted as anything but heavenly. What's wrong with the picture of Our Mother of Perpetual Help? You might say, "Nothing." Well, I think there is something wrong, not with the picture but with how we might view it. Certainly, Mary is the instrument God used to make the Redeemer flesh among us. She is the dispenser of God's graces and blessings.

But if we're not careful, we can treat her as a kind of spiritual vending machine, making it all about us and what we can get from her. Sometimes our thinking about the icon and our devotion to the Lady in it can be one-sided. Our many needs can cause us to turn in on ourselves and forget about others and their need for assistance. Mary is saying: "Help me!"

When we look into the icon we see Mary. Remember, she also sees us. She looks out her icon-window, waiting, wanting help. She stands as a perpetual reminder of the many women and children in the world waiting for our help. Will you be there, always and at every moment, ready to help? Mary is Perpetual Help for so many in today's world. Perpetual Help is what her icon asks us to be for others.



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## A Word from Pope Francis



Mary is assumed into heaven: small and humble, she is the first to receive the highest glory. She, a human creature, one of us, attains eternity in soul and body. And there she awaits us as a mother waits for her children to come home. Indeed, the people of God invoke her as the Gate of Heaven.

—Solemnity of the Assumption, August 15, 2019

## NEW TO THE PARISH? WELCOME!

Please complete a parish registration form, available in the Welcome Area and online at [www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca)



**FOOD BANK DONATIONS** continue to be a priority over the summer months. Please consider helping those less fortunate. Non-perishable food items may be left in the wooden chest in the Welcome Area before Mass, or at the Salvation Army Food Bank (78 South Front Street) Tuesday to Thursday from 10am to 2pm.



- Submitted by the St. Gerard Social Justice Committee

How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient they may be, if we fail to protect a human embryo, even when its presence is uncomfortable and creates difficulties? "If personal and social sensitivity towards the acceptance of the new life is lost, then other forms of acceptance that are valuable for society also wither away". (LS no. 120)

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

## YOUTH REFLECTION

### **What is the Feast of the Assumption?**

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15) celebrates the entry of Mary into heaven, body and soul. The belief that Mary's body (as well as her soul) was "assumed" into heaven was defined as a dogma (core belief of the faith) by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950, in the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*, but belief in the Assumption of Mary dates back to the earliest centuries of the Church.

Besides being supported by the constant tradition of the Church, belief in the Assumption is also justified on theological grounds. The early Church fathers asserted that it was fitting that God should not allow the one who was born without original sin (that's the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception there) to suffer the corruption of death (a consequence of original sin); Mary is therefore the "first fruits" of Jesus' saving action. Moreover, the Church said that it was fitting that Christ would honor the one who carried him in her womb and who gave him flesh. (The blood of Jesus, as Dr. Scott Hahn likes to point out, had its biological origins in Mary.)

Although the feast recalls an ancient event, it has important implications for people today. For one thing, it affirms the Church's belief in a bodily resurrection. Too often, we think of heaven as an abstract, non-material, spiritual existence. In actuality, the Church believes that we will one day experience communion with God and one another in a material, bodily way. (Although if the accounts of Jesus' resurrection are any clue, our resurrected bodies will be quite different from our earthly ones.)

By extension, the Assumption also affirms the dignity of our earthly bodies. Our bodies are essentially good, and are meant to be used for good, not abused or used only to pursue passing pleasures. That's a hopeful message in a culture that too often has little respect for the human body.

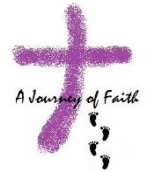
Read the full text from Our Sunday Visitor <https://teachingcatholickids.com/celebrate-the-solemnity-of-the-assumption/>



**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.*

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## 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.

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## 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.

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**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.

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## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:diplomainministry@stfx.ca)