



St. Gerard's

Roman Catholic Parish

August 27th, 2023

Twenty-first Sunday
in Ordinary Time

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

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

Pastor.....	Fr. Sathi Antony	306.782.2449	Office
		306.782.0323	Rectory
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (28th) NO MASS
 Tues. (29th) 7:00pm +Rita Herchuk
 Wed. (30th) 9:00am +Sheila Hryniuk McLeod
 Followed by Divine Mercy Devotion
 Thurs. (31st) 9:00am +Craig Wallebeck
 Fri. (1st) 9:00am +Bella Gulka

Sat. (2nd): 5:00pm +Cheryl Sliva
 Sun. (3rd) **TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**
 9:00am Mass for the People
 11:00am Mass for the People



New to the parish?? WELCOME!!!

Please complete a New Parishioner Form and place it in the collection basket at Mass. Or stop by the Parish Office. We'd love to meet you!

The Most Reverend Donald Bolen,
Archbishop of Regina
will install

Father Sathi Antony

as Pastor of St. Gerard's Church

Saturday, September 2, 2023
at the 5:00pm Mass.

All parishioners
are encouraged to attend.

Holy Hour Devotion

at 6pm (prior to 7pm Tuesday Mass)

Reconciliation

½ hour before Mass Tuesday-Friday (or by appt.)

**Stay
Connected
Online!**

www.stgerard.ca



For the Church: for the courage to preach the Gospel, to give voice to the voiceless, to stand with those treated unjustly, and to minister to those in need. Amen.

-The Redemptorists

SUNDAY CONNECTION

First Reading

Isaiah 22.19-23

God will remove Shebna from his office as master of the palace.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 138.1-3,6,8

God's kindness is forever.

Second Reading

Romans 11.33-36

Paul sings praise to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16.13-20

Simon Peter acknowledges Jesus as the Christ and is given the key to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Background on the Gospel Reading

It is important to read today's Gospel and next week's Gospel as two parts of a single story. These readings are a turning point in Matthew's Gospel. This week we hear Jesus name Simon Peter as the rock upon which he will build his Church. Next week we will hear Jesus call this same Simon Peter "Satan" when he reacts negatively to Jesus' prediction about his passion and death.

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about his identity. The disciples indicate that most people believe that Jesus is a prophet of Israel. Then Jesus asks his disciples who they believe that he is. Simon Peter answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God.

Jesus commends Simon Peter for this profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God. Because of Simon Peter's response, Jesus calls him the "rock" upon which Jesus will build the Church. This is a word play on the name Peter, which is the Greek word for "rock." Peter is then given special authority by Jesus, a symbolic key to the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter will play an important role in the early Christian community as a spokesperson and a leader.

In today's Gospel, Peter's recognition of Jesus' identity is credited to a revelation by God. This will contrast sharply with Jesus' rebuke of Peter in next

week's Gospel. When Peter rejects Jesus' prediction of his passion and death, Peter is said to no longer be thinking as God does but as humans do.

The use of the term *church* in today's Gospel is one of only three such occurrences in Matthew's Gospel. Peter in this Gospel is being credited as the foundation for the Church, a privilege granted to him because of his recognition of Jesus' identity. The Church continues to be grounded in the faith that Jesus Christ is Lord.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Today's Gospel reminds us that the Church is built on the foundation of faith in Jesus Christ. Peter announces the core of our faith, that Jesus is God's only Son. The family, as the domestic church, has this same faith as its foundation.

As you gather together as a family, talk about people whose faith has helped you to be a member of the Church and talk about what you have learned from leaders in our Church today. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 16:13-20. Talk about what you know about Peter and his importance to the early Christian community. Talk about what we can learn from Peter and his profession of faith about Jesus. Conclude in prayer together by praying today's Psalm or an Act of Faith.

www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection



Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches, because you have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

To register for the next Baptism Preparation session, please contact the Parish Office 306.782.2449.

ST GERARD CHURCH

SACRAMENT PREPARATION PROGRAM 2023 - 2024

FIRST RECONCILIATION
CONFIRMATION
FIRST EUCHARIST

GRADE 2 AND UP

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO REGISTER
EMAIL US AT OFFICE@STGERARD.CA
BEFORE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH



News from the Knights of Columbus



August 27 Bingo-evening-5pm

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.728.8664. www.kofc-2031.ca

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

Go Make Disciples Strengthen your faith and leadership skills through the Archdiocese of Regina's Lay Formation Program! Join us this fall for a 3-year program that will help you deepen your spiritual life and discern how best to offer your gifts in service to the people of God. We are currently accepting applications for our fall intake. For more information on how to register, contact Deacon Eric Gurash at 306-352-1651 ext 6724 or email him at egurash@archregina.sk.ca

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues. (29th): 7:00pm- Finance Council Meeting
Wed. (30st): 7:00pm- Pastoral Council Meeting

A Message from



Your gifts of love given as each coin was dropped in each baby bottle is so sincerely appreciated. The coins/monies allow us to rejoice and give thanks as you've come alongside us.

The love of Christ, so evidenced through each of you, is an encouragement to all of us.

We at "Options" send our sincere thank yous. God's Blessings on your gifts & you. ❤️

The amount of your contribution for this year's [Baby Bottle] campaign was \$3,389.09. ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

LET US PRAY...

Source of life and light, we thank you for the time to reflect on the path we've walked so far.

We thank you for your word and your story, given to us as our precious legacy.

Support us in our witness to the Gospel in every decision we make—with our time, our money, our words, and our relationships. Amen.



Let Justice and Peace Flow
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

"In this Season of Creation, let us dwell on these heartbeats: our own, those of our mothers and grandmothers, the heartbeat of the created heart and that of God's heart. Today they are not in harmony, they do not beat together in justice and peace. Many are prevented from drinking from this vigorous river. Let us listen then to the call to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice, and to put an end to this senseless war against creation," Francis said in his May 2023 Laudato Si' message.

- Submitted by Linda Maddaford,
Social Justice Committee Chairperson

There are lots of reasons one could be in charge. You might be the only one left to do the job. Or, in the case of babysitting, you might simply be older. You could be in charge because you are a bully with the biggest fists, sticks, or guns. Or you might be in charge because you are the best qualified for the job. Today's readings offer us two stories about being chosen for leadership.

In the Old Testament reading, Shebna, an official in King Hezekiah's court, overreached his position of authority. He was demoted and replaced by Eliakim. Carrying the key symbolizes authority over the entire household. Placing it on the shoulder suggests an investiture ceremony. In the Gospel, entrusting Peter with the keys to the kingdom of heaven suggests similar authority, though in a significantly different household.

In both instances the position of authority is meant to be exercised for the benefit of the members of the respective household. It was precisely because of his failure in this matter that Shebna was demoted and Eliakim placed in charge. What about Peter? The Gospel tells us that the choice of Peter followed his remarkable statement of faith: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16).

These stories tell us that God chooses very ordinary people for positions of leadership. Why them? Are they the only ones left? Are they the oldest? Were they the best qualified? It was not because they were bullies. Obviously God thought they could do the job.

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Catechism Themes: Ecclesial Ministry and the Pope (CCC 874-887)

Matthew 18:18-20 and 16:18-19 give authority to the Church. In 18:18, Christ gave the assembly the power to "bind and loosen." In 16:19, he gave the power to Simon Peter. Unlike the rhetoric of the past, these two commissions actual compliment each other. For the power to "bind and loosen" is really the power and duty to proclaim Christ. Ultimately, this power comes from Christ. Like Simon in 16:16, someone must proclaim who Jesus really is. That person must proclaim it in word and in service; he must proclaim it with an honest and loving heart. In other words, that person must be willing to exercise Christian leadership, to be Christ to others.

Christ calls some to Christian leadership in their families, their workplace, in their leisure. Christ calls others to lead the Church as it proclaims the Word and serves the community at large. The person with the final power to proclaim and serve the local Church is the bishop.

In the Roman Catholic Church, the bishop is the focal point of the local Church. He represents Christ (i.e., acts "in persona Christi") to the faithful when he proclaims the Word and leads in loving service. He represents the local faithful to his fellow bishops and, so, to the universal Church. So, the ministry of the bishop (the "ecclesial" ministry) has a vertical thrust (proclamation and service) and a horizontal thrust (equality with fellow bishops, known as a "collegial" character). Yet, the office of bishop has more than an symbolic character; it has a "personal character", for the bishop follows Christ as a personal calling, out of a personal choice.

As Peter proclaimed Jesus the Christ for the community, so his successor, the Pope, proclaims Him to the universal Church. As Christ empowered Peter to lead the Church, he empowers the Bishop of Rome to proclaim and serve entire Church. The Pope, then, is a "'visible source' and 'foundation of unity of the bishops and the whole company of the faithful'" (CCC 882). Union with the Bishop of Rome defines a local community (with its bishop) as the "Roman Catholic Church"... and... defines a Christian as a "Roman Catholic."

Our words and deeds are like mirrors. They proclaim to the world who we are. How do I reflect Christ to others? How do my actions help build up the local Church?

We are the community of the Messiah, those who realize (only if faintly) God's Kingdom. We have the power to build up or tear down, depending upon our words and actions.

If someone were to ask us, "Who do you think Jesus really is?" how would we answer? Do we speak and serve in love? Do we reflect the face of Christ to others?

Ponder those questions. Plan one or two ways this week to proclaim Christ to a loved one and to serve a stranger in love. Permission for use. All materials found in word-sunday.com are the property of Larry Broding (Copyright 1999-2022)