



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

August 30, 2020

Twenty-second
Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:

Saturday: 5pm (7pm at Good Spirit Lake 'til Sept. 5); Sunday: 9am & 11am

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 9am and 4pm.

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 SCHEDULE

Mon. (31 st)	NO MASS
Tues. (1 st)	7pm Isabella Glodoveza
Wed. (2 nd)	9am Denis & Marianne Dierker
Thurs. (3 rd)	9am Russell Griffith
Fri. (4 th)	9am +Kevin O'Callaghan
Sat. (5 th)	9am +John Fedirko
<hr/>	
	5pm +Stan Skaluba
	7pm GOOD SPIRIT LAKE (final one) Mass for the People
Sun. (6 th)	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME
	9am +Ronald Wrishko
	11am Mass for the People

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

30 minutes prior to weekday Mass, Saturdays at 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, or by appointment.

RE-OPENING THE CHURCH

Per the Government of Saskatchewan and the Archdiocese of Regina directives, Father Louis celebrates Saturday/Sunday Mass for **a limited number of people at 3 Masses.** Please be patient as we are doing our best to follow the guidelines and to welcome as many people as possible.

All those wishing to attend must pre-register:

1. Check out the link at www.stgerard.ca and complete the registration form for you and your household between Monday morning and Thursday at 4pm (or until registration is full).

2. **Only if you do not have access to the internet,** phone the Parish Office at 306.782.2449 Monday at 9am until Thursday at noon. If leaving a message, please include your name and telephone number and your call will be returned.

3. **Please wear a mask** from the time that you leave your vehicle, and from the time you leave the church until you arrive at your vehicle.

All must receive confirmation from the Parish Office prior to attending Mass. Thank you!



Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, your resurrection conquered sin and death.
Give me the strength to overcome pride so I can
become a humble servant of your love 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 in Christ,

The Liturgy of the Word this weekend offers to us a clear view of being faithful in following the Lord, although we face so many challenges in our spiritual journey. We are called to be faithful. In the first reading we hear the story of Jeremiah's faithfulness to his mission, and how that faithfulness costs him. In the Gospel we see the faithfulness of Jesus, and the kind of faithfulness that is demanded of those who would follow him. We are called to follow the Lord and it is good for us to reflect and see how faithful we are in following him.

Last week we heard the story of Peter, who professed his personal faith to Jesus: "*You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God*"; and today we hear Jesus foretell of his suffering and death. He lets them know that the Messiah will suffer and be put to death; and then he asks for commitment from his followers, "*If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me*". These things are unacceptable to Peter, and so, out of concern for Jesus, he tries to stop him. There is no doubt that he is thinking of himself too. Being a disciple of a suffering Messiah is not a role to be relished.

First we talk about the suffering and death of the Messiah. We need to acknowledge that this was what God wanted. Not that God wanted the suffering of His Son but that He wanted to show us the depth of His love for us in and through the faithfulness and love of His Son, which cost Him His life. The road to Jerusalem brought Jesus to Calvary, but it didn't end there. It led to Easter. When we see it, we know that Jesus supports those who follow him down the narrow way of sacrifice, and will share his Easter victory with them.

Second we see this in Peter. He denies, rejects, and cannot accept the suffering as he hears Jesus foretell. The story in the Gospel helps us to see Peter as a representative of the typical Christian, caught between faith and doubt. Jesus never promised an easy way for those who follow him. He asked for sacrifice and went down the narrow road. Sacrifice is not an easy road but it is in this way that our best self takes shape. This is how one becomes a person of character and integrity and this is also the road to happiness. Indeed, our happiness does not lie in "doing our own thing", or what we feel like doing, but in doing what we have to do.

Our following of Christ can be in small steps. God is patient and His challenge is an invitation. What does following Christ mean in practice? It means faithfulness to one's way of life, to have concern for others in whatever manner, to watch for signs for what others need, and to say kind words. I invite you to continue to reflect on this.

I often think about the two different kinds of religion: one of devotion and one of commitment. A religion of devotion is a religion of comfort and is often centred on self rather than on others. A religion of commitment is a religion of challenge, of risk, of unselfishness.

Keep in mind that Jesus invited us to follow him on a narrow way, and it requires us to sacrifice more in our daily life. Not easy, not comfortable, but if we are faithful to follow him, he will lead us to the end and share with us his victory.

I wish all of you a very blessed weekend and enjoy a few more last days of summer. May God bless us all.

Fr. Louis Nguyen

**SACRAMENTS of INITIATION
PREPARATION**



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

CONFIRMATION

The Second Sacrament of Initiation

FIRST EUCHARIST

The Third Sacrament of Initiation

Please pray for our youth who will receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit, and who will celebrate Holy Communion for the first time:

August 23rd and August 30th



**FIRST
RECONCILIATION**

PARENTS – Do you have a child going into Grade 3 (or older) who has received First Communion but has not celebrated First Reconciliation?

Please email the Parish Office to register for the First Reconciliation Preparation Sessions, starting in September. office@stgerard.ca



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

Astrid Samonte
Astrin Samonte

**May these children and their family
experience joy and new life**

Marriage Preparation for Engaged Couples - Fall Session. We are preparing dates for the Fall Session of Marriage Prep. At this point in time the sessions will include private study and Zoom meetings. If you are marrying in the next year and have not taken the Marriage Prep Course, please call Father Louis.

New to the parish? WELCOME!!! If you are attending weekday or Sunday Masses, please introduce yourself to Father Louis! New Parishioner forms are available. You may download the form online at www.stgerard.ca and mail/email it to the Parish Office.



News from the CWL



The St. Gerard C.W.L.'s Gigantic Garage Sale has been CANCELLED for September 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Please do not bring items to the church or Father's garage. Thank you!

St. Gerard's C.W.L. is having a raffle with three prizes: 1st prize - \$200 Cash; 2nd prize - Double Quilt & 2 Shams; and 3rd prize - Twin Quilt & Sham. Draw date is December 5, 2020 with proceeds to Palliative Care. **Ticket Books are available in the Welcome Area** and all members are asked to please pick up a book (or more) of tickets and sign your name and telephone number on the sheet provided beside the ticket books. If you are unable to pick up a book, please call Paulette (306-782-7923). Thank you.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Aug. 28-30	Bowl for Kids Sake
Sept. 2	Executive Meeting
Sept. 9	General Meeting
Sept. 9	Begin monthly Novena
Sept. 12	Afternoon Bingo

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Rejean Houle @ 306.641.5430 or houle_r@yahoo.fr
More info.: www.kofc-2031.ca

News from the Archdiocese of Regina



**YOU are invited!
Archbishop's Appeal
Newsletter new!**

Every year, the Archbishop's Appeal develop a campaign that includes the production of promotional materials and postage. This year, we have established a goal to reduce these expenses!

We are inviting you to follow the campaigns online through the *Archbishop's Appeal newsletter*. You will have access to all promotional materials such as videos and stories, giving options, and news updates.

The Archbishop's Appeal supports the various Archdiocesan ministry programs and provides grants to community outreach organizations and charities while contributing to the Archdiocese's sustainability.

Subscribe for free here:

<http://eepurl.com/g9jMh5>

CONGRATULATIONS

To the children and youth of our parish who have received
the Gift of the Holy Spirit,
and have joined us at the Table of the Eucharist for the first time.



August 23rd & August 30th, 2020



CONFIRMATION – Second Sacrament of Initiation FIRST EUCHARIST – Third Sacrament of Initiation

Evan Antony	Yale Pangilinan
Sofia Arzanan	Charlotte Pasloski
Edrin Badowich	Phillip Quinto
Alliah Bagoncia	Bristol Santo
Nathan Bernauer	Elle Schwartz
Storm Capili	Emmanuel Senada**
Jack Gotengco	Brylee Senchuk
Elena Hardy	Madison Signarowski
Liam Hellegards	Jareed Singkala
Rylee Hershmilller	Luc Szysky
Ryker Katzberg	Alexander Ubongen
Sym Legaspino	Bo Walsh
Braxton Moen	Clare Watling
Mylo Murray	Makayla Matsalla

*** indicates First Holy Communion only*



Bringing Home the Word

The Salvation He Offers
By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Once Peter is called “the rock” for his faith, he turns and dissuades Jesus from the cross. Jesus responds sternly: “Get behind me, Satan!”

Jesus reveals two important things here. First, that Satan exists. Satan is very interested in going unnoticed, yet Jesus calls him out and makes Peter (and us) aware. The Bible is full of references to the devil. Popular culture also has focused on evil spirits—fascinated as it is with the occult, vampires, and the like. It seems to bear evil out more (and profit more from it) than some Catholics in the pews!

The second truth is that Satan can influence our thinking. I’m not referring to diabolical possession, which is a reality, but the more common temptations to lower our aspirations and to conform our thinking to a faithless perspective.

The painting *Satan Before the Lord* by Corrado Giaquinto, which depicts Satan asking and receiving permission to tempt Job, focuses on this reality of evil. Satan knows our hearts and finds just the right strategy to lead us away from God. It usually involves one of the vices (lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy, or pride). Just like when Satan tempts Peter, he wants us to reject the demands of the cross, for he knows the cross is the instrument of his demise.

When God permits temptations to assail us or the effects of evil to touch our lives, we should respond humbly, as Job and Peter did. If God permits evil, it is only because he trusts us to love him sincerely—not just for the blessings he sends, but because of the salvation he offers.

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GIVING TO YOUR PARISH

The COVID-19 virus has impacted individuals world-wide. St. Gerard's Parish is no exception. One of the consequences of many being able to gather together for Mass is that our revenue has decreased. Despite availing ourselves to government relief programs, our expenses continue.

Thank you to those who are able to contribute by one of the following methods:

Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)

After downloading the [Pre-Authorized Giving Form](#), please complete it, attach a void cheque, & mail it to:

St. Gerard Parish
125 Third Ave N
Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

Online through CanadaHelps

Credit card donations may be made through CanadaHelps by clicking [here](#).

Mail envelopes to the church

You may mail cheques (not cash), enclosed in your offertory envelope to:

St. Gerard Parish
125 Third Ave N
Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

Interac e-Transfer

1. Log into your online banking account.
2. Find e-Transfer and add giving@stgerard.ca to your recipient list.
3. Enter the desired amount.
4. A question, answer, or password is not required by St. Gerard Church, however it may be required by your financial institution. If so, please email the question and answer to giving@stgerard.ca with your name, mailing address and telephone number so that we can ensure your contribution is recorded properly.

Please note that this is a secure transfer deposited directly to the church's account.

If you have an envelope number, your donation will be reflected in your annual charitable donation receipt.

Are you moving this summer??



Please remember to notify the Parish Office.

We like to keep our records current, and to be able to mail your charitable donation receipt to the correct address at the end of the year. Thanks!

Calling Teens and University Students

Are you looking to meet some new people, look at some of life's big questions and have a few laughs along the way?

Please join us for "Alpha" Online. There will be a few opportunities for us to potentially gather in person as a group, but the majority of the gatherings will happen online. We promise it will be an hour WELL SPENT each week!

So Join us Wednesday evenings at 6:30PM, starting on July 8th. No need to register. Just join us on ZOOM at <https://zoom.us/j/643587934>

Any questions contact Michelle:
mbraden@archregina.sk.ca

Blogs and Podcasts and Websites

(Ctrl+Click to follow the link)

- [Amazing Parish Thrive](#)
- [Thinking Faith](#) - with Dr. Brett Salkeld and Deacon Eric Gurash
- [Barefoot and Preaching](#) - Leah Perrault

Books and Other Resources

(Ctrl+Click to follow the link)

- [Free Catholic Novels](#)
- [What's Next for the Church](#) - A PDF book from Word on Fire
- [A Celebration of the Word of God](#) - St. Therese Institute

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.

Compassionate Listening

If you find that during this difficult time you need a compassionate listening ear, visit:

<https://archregina.sk.ca/archregina-outreach>

for a list of spiritual directors and candidates in training who have volunteered their time to be there for anyone who is struggling.

Prayers, Devotions and Resources



Visit the Prayers and Devotions page to 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.

<https://archregina.sk.ca/prayers-devotions-resources>

YOU are invited! Archbishop's Appeal Newsletter *new!*

Every year, the Archbishop's Appeal develop a campaign that includes the production of promotional materials and postage. This year, we have established a goal to reduce these expenses!

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<http://eepurl.com/g9jMh5>

Livestream of Daily and Sunday Masses - Resurrection Parish/Christ the King Parish (Regina)

are available at **9am** at the following link:

www.youtube.com/ArchdioceseRegina

Daily & Sunday Mass may also be viewed:

Vision TV (check your local TV listing)

www.dailytvmass.com

www.saltandlighttv.org/live/?muid=1

Your St. Gerard Parish COVID-19 Questions Answered

On March 18, 2020, Archbishop Donald Bolen, in keeping with the Code of Canon Law no. 87, granted to all the Catholic faithful dispensation from their Sunday obligation. This is still in effect.

What does this mean? As Roman Catholics, we have an obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Until further notice, Archbishop Don has granted an exemption from this obligation. For those who are unable or choose not to attend Sunday Mass at this time, you do not have to. Other ways to participate in Sunday Mass is to watch it on television or watch the YouTube Mass online, courtesy of Resurrection Parish & Christ the King Parish (Regina) and the Archdiocese of Regina.

What happens if someone at Mass develops COVID-19? All parishioners who have pre-registered will be contacted.

Why do I need to wear a mask? All those who attend both daily and Saturday/Sunday Masses are asked to wear a mask. The parish has a small supply of fabric masks for those who do not have one. Please remember to put your mask on before exiting your vehicle prior to entering the church.

Why do I need to register each time when I would like to attend Mass? We are blessed at St. Gerard's to have a large parish family! In order to provide all parishioners with an equal opportunity to attend Sunday Mass, it is necessary to register each week.

Why can't I sit in my usual place? In order to accommodate as many singles, couples, and families as possible, it is necessary to assign seat numbers so that all are able to celebrate safely.

Carefully attending [to the directives] is the best way to ensure that we won't contribute to the spreading of the virus, and the most helpful step we can take in convincing government and health officials that opening our churches to larger numbers is a safe and responsible thing to do.

PRAYER FOR ANXIETY

Today, I pray for all those who suffer from anxiety in the midst of this exceptional situation we are going through.

May they get comfort, Lord, both in your unlimited Love and in the community.

Holy Spirit, be our light so that we keep faith in the heart of our daily lives and in that way, we may transform fear into hope. Amen.

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.

Introduction to Season of Creation

On September 1 Christians churches will come together to celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and to observe the Season of Creation beginning that day and ending on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Gerard parish will join the Season of Creation this year by offering specific Prayers of the Faithful for Creation during Masses all month ending with the Feast of St. Francis on Oct 4th. Please watch the bulletin for more details.

We invite you to post the Season of Creation prayer in your home and offer it as daily reflection for September.

Season of Creation 2020 Prayer

Creator of Life, at Your word, the Earth brought forth plants yielding seed and trees of every kind bearing fruit. The rivers, mountains, minerals, seas and forests sustained life. The eyes of all looked to You to satisfy the needs of every living thing. And throughout time the Earth has sustained life. Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give creatures our food in the proper time.

In your Wisdom, you granted a Sabbath; a blessed time to rest in gratitude for all you have given; a time to liberate ourselves from vicious consumption; a time to allow the land and all creatures to rest from the burden of production. But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. Our demands for growth, and our never-ending cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world. The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify. We have not allowed the land to observe her Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to be renewed.

During this season of Creation, we ask you to grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of creation. In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Season of Creation online events: visit <https://seasonofcreation.org/events/>

Join the global Season of Creation movement started by the Holy Father. Register for a world wide online prayer service Sept 1, and Season of Creation webinars throughout September.

For more information, contact: *Linda Maddaford, 306.783.3924*

Youth Group Evening, Mon Aug 31, 7:00 pm Presentation: What can we do about Climate Change? and Season of Creation 2020 - Making an Action Plan.

YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"True Discipleship"

This Week...

Peer pressure is tough on any person, of any age and in any age. It is tough on Jeremiah, who is mocked and humiliated. It is tough on Paul and the early church. It is tough on Peter and Jesus. But the message is clear: To be a disciple, we must pick up our cross and carry it. We must lose our life if we wish to save it. Discipleship is not easy, but it is the only way.

For Your Reflection

The world is full of peer pressure. It doesn't go away when you grow out of your teen years.

- How are TV commercials and ad campaigns forms of peer pressure? What do they try to persuade us to do? How successful are they?
- How are movies that contain a lot of violence or sexual activity forms of peer pressure? What do they persuade us to do? How successful are they?
- How are the church and the Gospel message forms of peer pressure? How does the faith community try to persuade us to live? How successful is that effort? Why?

Being a disciple of Jesus' is not easy, because the world is filled with all kinds of temptations and negative messages, right alongside the support and the positive messages.

- What are some negative messages in the real world that are hard to avoid? What's the secret to ignoring negative messages?
- What are some positive messages in the real world? How can you support the positive messages? What would make them even more effective?

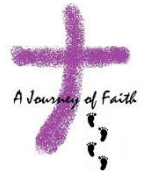
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle A for Ordinary Time* St. Mary's Press, 2004



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