



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

February 12, 2023

Sixth 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 Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.

Pastor.....	Fr. Louis Nguyen	306.782.0323	louisyorkton@gmail.com
		306.621.8068	Emergencies
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....			

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (13th) NO MASS

Tues. (14th) 7:00pm +Craig Pierce

Wed. (15th) 9:00am +Greg Rushka
10:00am **NURSING HOME (SOUTH)**
+Leonard Sharkey

Thurs. (16th) 9:00am Agnes Swejda
2:30pm **YORKTON CROSSING**
+Lauretta Schwitzer

Fri. (17th) 9:00am James MacKenzie

Sat. (18th) 9:00am +Barb Hornung

5:00pm +Rita Herchuk

Sun. (19th) **SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
9:00am +Mary Puchala
11:00am Mass for the People

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.



Ash Wednesday is coming!
February 22nd



Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!

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

Stay Connected Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Loving God, we are called to forgive those who hurt us. When we are tempted to make exceptions, remind us that we are forgiven much. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

-The Redemptorists

Sunday Connection

Gospel Reading *Matthew 5.17-37*

I have not come to abolish the law and the prophets but to fulfill them.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Matthew continues the Sermon on the Mount with a three-part instruction by Jesus on the Way of Life in the kingdom of heaven. Today's reading is part one and deals with the Law. Part two deals with worship and religious practice and contains the Lord's Prayer. Part three deals with trusting God and deeds of loving service to our neighbour.

When Matthew speaks of "the Law and the prophets" he means the whole Scripture. When the Messiah brings the fullness of the kingdom none of scripture will be done away with. Instead it will be fulfilled. Matthew's Jesus does not overturn the Law of Moses, nor does he set his followers free from the Law. He requires his followers to go beyond the Law by doing more than the Law requires.

The Law condemned murder. Jesus condemns anger. The Law condemned adultery. Jesus condemns even lustful looks. As Jewish Christians who had always been faithful to the Law Matthew's community need a way to understand the difference Jesus and the kingdom he brings have made. They affirmed that God had always been at work in history through "the Law and the prophets." But God's work goes beyond that to be embodied by the Messiah who reveals the definitive will of God. The written scriptures and their interpretation in tradition are surpassed by Jesus whose life and teaching are the definitive revelation of the will of God.

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

JESUS IS THE WAY TO THE FATHER

with Fr. Kevin McGee,
Vicar General of the Diocese of Saskatoon

In this Mission, Fr. Kevin will reflect through 4 sessions, how Jesus is the way that leads to an intimate relationship with the Father. This journey involves the purifying stage of the desert and continues into the full participation of his cross and resurrection.

Session 1
Mass followed by talk
Thurs., March 2 @ 7 pm

Session 2
Mass followed by talk
Fri., March 3 @ 7 pm

Session 3
Mass followed by talk
Sat. March 4 @ 9 am

Session 4
Homily
Sat. March 4 @ 5 pm Mass
Sun. March 5 @ 9 am & 11 am Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday and Friday 6 pm to 6:45 pm
Saturday 4 pm to 4:45 pm

After each session, refreshments will be served, and there will be an opportunity to visit with Fr. McGee.

ST. GERARD CHURCH, 125 3RD AVE N, YORKTON

THE COUNTDOWN TO LENT IS ON!!



Ash Wednesday is coming!

*“Turn away from sin
and be faithful to the Gospel.”*

Lent is a time for penance and repentance, for almsgiving and prayer, for working to change attitudes that are not pleasing to God.

WHAT CAN I DO BEFORE LENT BEGINS?

It doesn't take a lot of time to prepare for the beginning of Lent. It just takes desire and focus. God can do so much with that. We can give God more of a space to touch our hearts if we begin to establish some simple patterns.

We could wake up each morning, and for something like a half a minute to a minute, stand by the edge of our beds, and just ask the Lord for the grace to let this day be one in which I long for the beginning of Lent. Perhaps we need to ask for specific helps or graces to get ready to begin Lent. Whatever we try to say, our Lord can understand the Spirit trying to speak through our simple words. And all it takes is the time to find and put on our slippers.

And each night, in the days ahead, we can practice giving thanks to God before I go to bed. This simple pattern, in the morning and evening can stir our spirits to look forward to and prepare for Lent, as a season of grace.

May our Lord bless us all on this journey ahead.

Taken from the Praying Lent pages of Creighton University's Online Ministries web site: www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html
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The next **Liturgical Committee Meeting** is Tuesday, February 14th at 7:30pm.

The 2022 annual charitable donation (“tax”) receipts will be available for pick up by the end of February.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues. (14th): 7:30pm- Liturgical Committee Meeting
(Meeting Room A)



News from the CWL



All CWL Members are invited to attend the Workshop “Catholic and Living It” on behalf of the Yorkton/Melville Regional CWL Council on Saturday, March 11th at St. Henry's Church, Melville beginning with registration and coffee & muffins at 9:30 a.m. Connie Crichton, Provincial President, will be involved in a presentation called ‘Misconceptions of the League’. Janette Rieger, Diocesan President, will give a presentation on ‘Going Forward’, discussing the changes happening in the CWL and ideas on how to involve more members as we change to the new format. Registration fee is \$10 (including lunch) and is payable the morning of the workshop. Pre-registration is required by calling Paulette 306-782-7923 before FEBRUARY 23rd.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Feb. 17 Bingo – 5pm

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

FAMILY CONNECTION

Families have rules. Without rules, family life would be chaos.

As a family, brainstorm a list of rules that you are all called to follow in your home in order for you all to get along together. Think about rules for play time, rules for eating, rules for how to speak to one another, rules for going out with friends, and so on. Emphasize that families follow rules as a way of showing love and respect for one another.

Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about following the Law. Say: God's Law of love can be thought of as rules that we are to follow in order to show our love and respect for one another.

Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 5:17-37. Talk specifically with one another about how anger is to be dealt with in your family.

Conclude by praying for the grace to overcome anger and to show respect for one another as a family by following God's Law of love.



Bringing Home the Word **+**

Be Perfect

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Wow, that's a tall order! But what does perfect mean? The Greek word means "full" or "complete." In the first reading, Leviticus calls us to be holy, a word with cultic allusions—to be set apart to be used for God. Though not possessing exactly the same sense, there is a connection between perfect and holy, for to be set apart to be used for God will certainly make us perfect, fulfilled, and complete. So what does Jesus mean when he tells us to be perfect, as God is perfect?

Continuing our reflection on the Sermon on the Mount, we find Jesus telling us how we are to be perfect as God is perfect. He offers two examples of extraordinary behavior. The Mesopotamian code of Hammurabi states "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." The punishment may not exceed the crime. This was a step forward in ancient justice.

Jesus said that this is not enough. There is to be no vindictiveness, no revenge, regardless of how equivalent it might appear. The reason for this is that God loves and cares for all, even those who do us injustice. God makes the "sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust" (Matthew 5:46). In this way, we must be like God; we must love all, no exceptions. This is what it means to be perfect. It is indeed a tall order. But it is the way to be fulfilled, to be complete

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Ecumenical Prayer Service *for healing and grieving*

Offering fellowship & support

The third Wednesday of each month at 2:00pm

The next Prayer Service is February 15th

Coffee and snacks follow each service.

St. Henry's Roman Catholic Church
729 Main Street, Melville

For more information, contact Deacon Dave or
Bev Hudy: 306.728.5525

Let us "Stand for the Land" in solidarity with our sisters and brothers who are defending their territories in the Global South by protecting their lands and waters, the environment, and human life. Come to the campaign presentation/workshop by Mike LeBlanc, our Development and Peace-Caritas Canada Animator, on **Monday, February 20th at Our Lady of Victories Church Hall, 308 Sussex Ave, Esterhazy. Noon luncheon will be followed by the presentation.** Pastors, Parish reps, young adults, and anyone interested in this global issue are welcome to attend.

RSVP Claudine Vanderhulst: clavan@sasktel.net or H el ene Tremblay-Boyko: mdmhelene@gmail.com or 306 571-7723.

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

RENEW your Lent with inspirational resources and Lenten challenges sent to your inbox each week, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week. Sign up at archregina.sk.ca/news, text RENEWLENT to 514-900-0130, or email communications@archregina.sk.ca

Best Lent Ever!

With Lent just around the corner, we wanted to let you know that the Archdiocese is doing something special to help you have the best Lent of your life. We will be participating in Dynamic Catholic's BEST LENT EVER program and we hope you will join us.

One of the beautiful things about the program is how simple it is. Each day of Lent, you'll receive a short video from bestselling author Matthew Kelly to inspire you and feed your soul. This year's focus is on learning to collaborate with God to create Holy Moments and unlock our soul-potential. It's completely free! Sign up at archregina.sk.ca/news or email: communications@archregina.sk.ca

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 – 7pm
St. Gerard Parish Hall

All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

Thank you to the following Committee Chairpersons whose terms on Parish Council will expire at the AGM:

<i>Rene & Ophelia Adane</i>	<i>Gary Colbow</i>
<i>Wayne Exner</i>	<i>Linda Maddaford</i>
<i>Carm Molnar</i>	<i>Melinda Sevilla</i>

And to Richard Dubois, Dwight Guy & Con Rodney for serving as Members-at-Large on the Finance Council.

Your gift of service to our parish is greatly appreciated.

ST. GERARD PARISH COUNCIL

SPECIAL SECTION

As we prepare for the St. Gerard's Annual General Meeting on March 7, 2023, the Chairperson of our Pastoral Council, Mark Bell, would like to share with all parishioners his brief reflection of what happened in our parish since the pandemic.

Please mark in your calendar 7:00pm March 7, 2023 for our AGM. I encourage all parishioners to come for this meeting to know more about our parish family. Please attend the meeting and share the ideas in order to build up our parish family to be stronger. Everyone is welcome.

Fr. Louis Nguyen

2022 Marks a Year of Renewal for St. Gerard's

As parish we can look back on 2022 as a year of reawakening as our church reopened after the pandemic closures allowing all of us to renew our faith, our friendships, and our activities. Our parish councils and committees were active throughout the year.

We saw renewed participation in church attendance at masses as COVID restrictions were eased and eventually lifted. Our Easter Triduum services had a special significance this past year and our Liturgical Committee kept the church decorated with flowers, banners, decorations for our liturgical seasons. Thank you Father Louis for his effort to bring people back and all his works he has shared with our parish family.

Our Community Life committee was especially active in welcoming new parishioners to St. Gerard's as well as generously coordinating events and funerals and in providing baked goods for funerals / vigil lunches this past year.

The Social Justice committee once again supported the needs of those less fortunate through local Food Bank donations and volunteers for the Salvation Army Kettle program. Our 7th annual Giving Tree program was again very successful assisting over 170 individuals in Yorkton and area with personal items, small gifts and toys for children this past Christmas. This included supporting Shelwin House, Bruno's Place, SIGN and Salvation Army. St. Gerard's Parish hosted a Development and Peace workshop focussing on human rights abuses in Latin American countries.

There were many weddings held in St. Gerard's this past year. Signs that our world is slowly getting back to a sense of normalcy. Thank you to our various choirs, our Youth Committee, our Religious Education providers in your tasks and successes over the past year.

The Catholic Women's League (CWL) was extremely active in 2022 with many fund-raising activities including a pie sale (April), Christmas Pudding (November), various raffles and their Garage Sale (September). Through their efforts, the CWL provided more than \$4,000 back to events and local charities in Yorkton and area. Most notably are 2 - \$500 scholarships to graduating students at Sacred Heart and a \$1000 donation to support the people of Ukraine.

The local Knights of Columbus chapter was equally active in providing Sunday brunches, meals, support and transportation for parishioners and pilgrims undertaking the St. Philomena Pilgrimage walk last August. In addition, the Knights supported local parishioners with fall yard clean-up activities and once again held their annual Christmas party for seniors residing in Melody Manor – Yorkton Nursing Home. Last weekend's White Ribbon campaign aimed at increasing the awareness of violence against women was held and all funds generated were gratefully donated to Shelwin House.

As a Parish Council, 2022 saw the adoption of a new Constitution and Bylaws for St. Gerard's Parish. This was the first update since 2002 and follows changes recommended by the archdiocese. In November we saw our first Christmas in November raffle and bake sale which saw over 300 people participate in buying perogies, cabbage rolls, spring rolls and various cookies, cakes and baked goods before Christmas. A huge thank you to all who donated items, worked on countless perogy – cabbage roll making events and who donated their time and energy to organizing and carrying out this successful event.

Our Parish Finance Committee which includes both properties and hall were active in 2022. The committee continues to monitor the revenues and on-going expenses of our parish and outlying buildings. Unexpected repairs and replacement of air conditioning units, a water heater and a renewed focus on proactive repairs / replacements is making our parish more financially sound.

Thanks to the Ecumenical Committee for helping us to connect to other churches and share unity within us to them as sisters and brothers of Christ. And thank you to the Religious Education Committee for their continuing good works as they offer sacrament preparation classes for children, Baptism Preparation for parents, Marriage Preparation for couples, and RCIA program. We acknowledge and thank those who help for these activities.

2022 was indeed a year of renewal and revitalization for St. Gerard's Parish. Thank you to Father Louis for your guidance and unending energy, thank you to parish staff for your continued commitment during challenging times. Thank you to all who throughout the year assisted the various parish committees, working groups in providing their unselfish time, energy, and support to make 2022 a year of renewed success. Let's all join together and make 2023 an even better year.

Mark Bell, Chairperson – Parish Pastoral Council

**ST. GERARD PARISH 2022-2023
PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Chairperson	Mark Bell
Vice-chairperson	Wayne Exner
Secretary	Joanne Geysen
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	
Liturgy	Colleen Haider Marie Kruger (A)
Religious Education	Rene & Ophelia Adane
Social Justice	Luke Nicholson (A)
Family, Community & Social Activities	Rose Marchinko
Public Relations	Jonathan Rosas (A)
Youth	Melinda Sevilla
Ecumenical	Carm Molnar
Stewardship	Linda Maddaford
CWL Rep.	Paulette Cooper
K of C Rep.	Keith Hayward

**ST. GERARD PARISH 2022-2023
FINANCE COUNCIL**

Chairperson	Nathan Bewcyk
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	
Properties	Gary Colbow (A)
Hall	Nick Andrusyk (A)

(A) – Appointed by Pastor

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

I offer this day to you, dear God.

Thank you for the blessings you have given me.

May I use these gifts to build your kingdom.

May my actions be a reflection of your love.

May what I do today bring others closer to you.

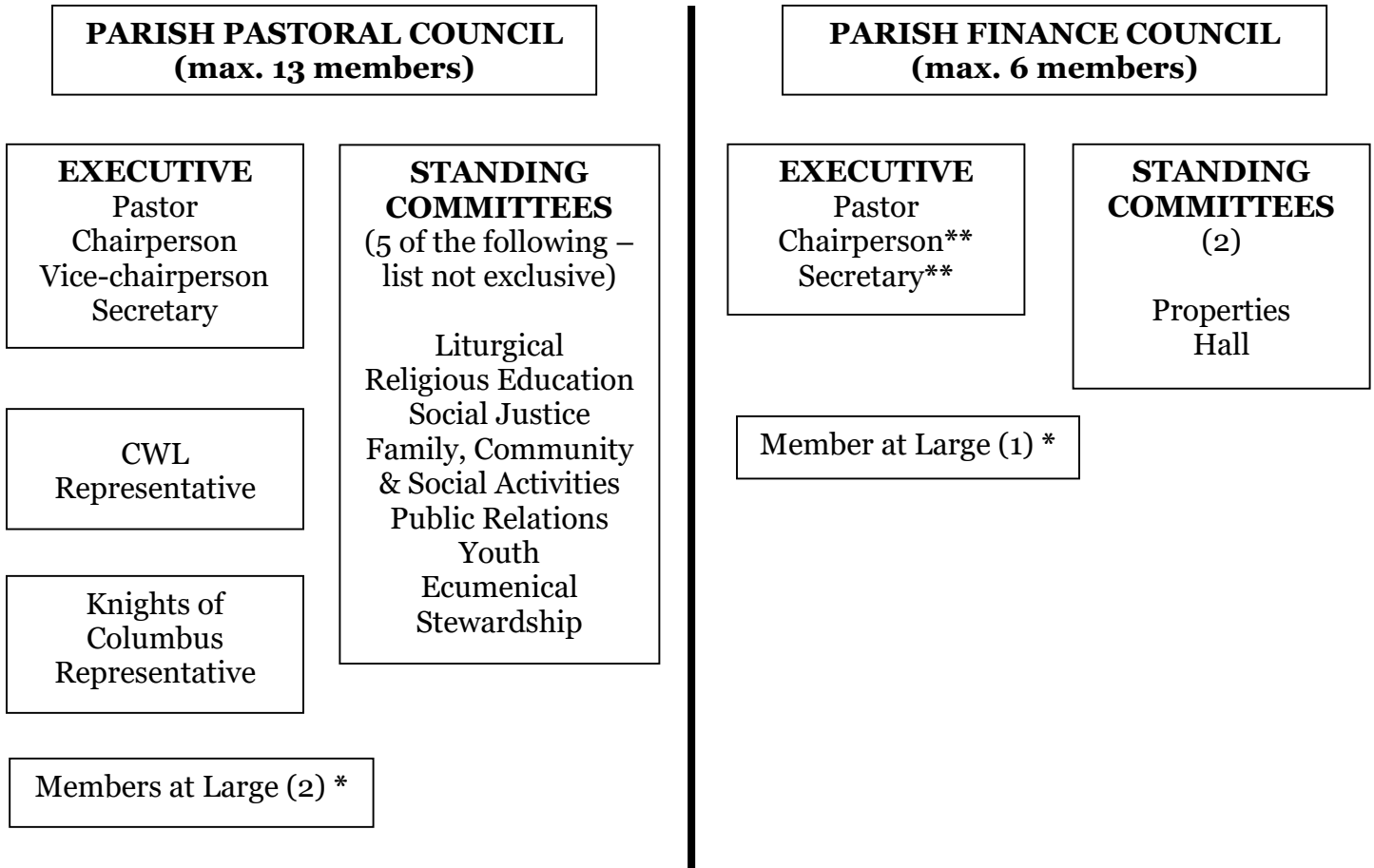
May my words be kind and gentle and may they bring joy to others.

Today, help me to give back a portion of what you have given me.

I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**ST. GERARD PARISH
REVISED CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS – NOVEMBER 2022**

Below is the new organizational chart of the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council. Copies of the revised Constitution and Bylaws are located at each entrance to the church. Or you may contact the Parish Office for an electronic copy.



* Appointed by the Pastor for a one-year term to ensure a good representation of all dimensions of the parish

**May be appointed by the Pastor or elected from the membership of the Parish Finance Council

Whether elected, appointed, or representing a particular group on the PPC, each member is committed to the larger mission of the parish community.

Elected terms are two years. Current elected membership will complete their original term.

NOTE:

The nomination forms for the 2023 Parish Council election do not list Standing Committees, as these will be chosen at the first regular meeting following the Annual General Meeting (if no election) or at the first regular meeting following the election, and determined by the elected membership.

PRAYER FOR THE SELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

O God,

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit
to guide our parish in the selection of members
for our parish council.

We are a parish that wants to do your will
and carry out the mission Jesus entrusted to us.

Help us find the men and women who will work
with our pastor and guide us in our mission.

We need men and women who will listen
to the wisdom of the spirit and the needs of the people.

We need men and women who are open to the ideas of others
and who will work to bring us all together in unity
as brothers and sisters in Christ.

We need men and women who have a great love for you
and for our parish.

Continue to bless our parish so we can be a people filled with joy
and faith as we live out our call to follow your Son, Jesus.

Amen.