



# St. Gerard

## Roman Catholic Parish

February 14, 2021

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:  
By pre-registration only until further notice

### 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 [louisyorkton@gmail.com](mailto:louisyorkton@gmail.com)

Parish Office Administrator.....Sandra Archer  
Caretaker.....Mario Guerra

### MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (15<sup>th</sup>) NO MASS

Tues. (16<sup>th</sup>) 6:00pm Holy Hour Devotion  
7:00pm Mass of Thanksgiving

Wed. (17<sup>th</sup>) **ASH WEDNESDAY**  
**\*\* ALL MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR THESE MASSES\*\***  
9:30am Mass for the People  
1:00pm +Art Scherr  
7:00pm Fran Meehan

Thurs. (18<sup>th</sup>) 9:30am Deceased members of the  
Bozsik family

Fri. (19<sup>th</sup>) 9:30am Russell Griffith  
7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Sat. (20<sup>th</sup>) 9:30am +Gabriel Macalino

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5:00pm Denis & Marianne Dierker  
7:00pm +Al Herchuk

Sun. (21<sup>st</sup>) **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**  
9:00am Mass for the People  
11:00am +Darlene Bernath  
5:00pm

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

- **Pre-registration for Saturday/Sunday Mass is required.** Online at [www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca) Monday morning to Thursday at 12 noon.
- **Maximum 30** people may attend Mass.
- Each household must register separately.
- Masks are mandatory. This includes from the time you leave your vehicle until you return to your vehicle after Mass.
- Members of the same household may sit together at the marked seating.
- *At least two-metres physical distance is to be observed at all times, even with masks on (masks are an additional measure of protection).*
- **Please arrive early.**
- The following must stay home for the sake of the wider community:
  - ❖ People with COVID-19 symptoms, who live with someone with COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
  - ❖ The sick, including those with a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath
  - ❖ Those who have travelled outside of the province or Canada within the last 14 days



Stay  
Connected  
Online!

[www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca)



Lord, your love transcends the boundaries of the human condition. Open my eyes to see your face in all people.

- From *Peaceful 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,

Last week we reflected on Jesus as a healer. This week I invite you to continue to reflect, and to acknowledge Jesus, himself, is our hope. He dwells in our hearts, redeeming our fallen nature, and strengthens us against evil influences.

The readings this weekend remind us that if God grants us something we should show our gratitude by glorifying Him and doing His will, not running off and ignoring His wishes.

In the second reading Paul asks us that we should do everything for the glory of God or else we run the risk of working against Him. We can glorify God in everything we do if we strive to do His will in everything we do. And we know as the Lord has taught us: *love one another as He has loved us*. It means when we love one another, we are truly glorifying God.

Paul insists that Christianity is not a social group: we should show love and respect for everyone, Christian or not. We should act not only for our own benefit, but for the benefit of others. We are called to imitate Christ and the Saints on a daily basis.

In the Gospel there are some more details that we need to pay special attention to. Mark tells us that the leper "*came to Jesus*". He came to Him close enough so that he can kneel down in front of Jesus. Why would he do that when he knows that the law requires him to keep his distance from others?

I imagine that Jesus must have inspired confidence; the leper senses that Jesus will not reject him. He puts his hope and trust in the Lord - and he is right! Mark tells us, after hearing his request, that Jesus looks at the leper, having compassion and mercy on him, and is satisfied in saying to him "*I do choose. Be made clean*". Then the Lord touches him and heals him – something no one else could do or would do. Do we have that kind of confidence in Jesus?

My dear sisters and brothers, Jesus has chosen to stay as close to us as he was to that leper, by giving us the Eucharist. He invites us to come up close to Him, kneel down in front of Him, and pour out all our miseries, hardships, confusions, sins and needs to Him.

And when we come to Him, He will be generous with us as he was with this poor leper. This is the only way to experience the wisdom, meaning, and joy that comes from spiritual maturity.

We can come to Jesus and offer the same beautiful prayer that this leper says, "*Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean, you can give me strength, you can give me light*".

The leper receives a miracle, but then turns around and does exactly the opposite of what the Lord asks him to do. He is healed and does not glorify God as he was instructed to do. Therefore, he ends up hindering the Lord's work instead of helping it.

The Lord heals those who come to him, but he also knows that for many it will only be a band-aid for something deeper to be addressed and changed in their lives, something he has come to address and to fix definitively. We need friendship and communion with God to be truly healed and whole.

Friends help their friends to do good, not hinder them. Our Lord doesn't want to just be a miracle worker in our life; he wants to be our brother and friend.

Let's pray for an end to this pandemic. We put our hope in the Lord, and with Him we continue to persevere. Have a blessed week and enjoy the warm weather that is coming.

Love you all

Fr. Louis Nguyen

## SACRAMENTS PREPARATION

### BAPTISM

*The First Sacrament of Initiation*

Please contact the Parish Office to register for the next Baptism Preparation Session (date to be determined): 306.782.2449 or [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca)



## Ash Wednesday

**is coming!**

**(February 17<sup>th</sup>)**

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

Lent is a time of repentance, change of heart and prayer. The weekdays of Lent are a time of penance for the Church around the world.

### ASH WEDNESDAY ADAPTED FOR THE PANDEMIC

In order to accommodate as many as possible, Father Louis will celebrate three Masses FOR 30 PEOPLE on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

**All must pre-register by phone or online beginning Tuesday, February 16** and must receive confirmation from the Parish Office before attending.

Father Louis will cleanse his hands, put on a face mask and distribute the ashes to those who come to him. He takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each person without saying anything.

### The Sacrament of Reconciliation



- 30 minutes before and after Weekday Mass (Tuesday – Friday)
  - Saturdays at 9:00 am
- or by appointment. Phone: 306.782.2449

The **Stations of the Cross** devotion is prayed Friday at 7pm during Lent. Maximum 30 people.

Led by:

- Feb. 19 Knights of Columbus
- Feb. 26 CWL
- Mar. 5 Youth Connect
- Mar. 12 CTTCS Staff
- Mar. 19 Parish Pastoral Council
- Mar. 26 Altar Servers



## News from the Knights of Columbus



Feb. 19  
Feb. 25

Lead Stations of the Cross  
Articles for "The Word" due

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

### Preparing Before Lent Begins

Taking some time to get ready for Lent will ensure that we aren't going to miss the first week or two of Lent, because we are just getting started. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, but we want to be ready to really take off on that day, rather than just beginning to think about Lent on that day. Part of what makes a vacation or a special anniversary so special is the build-up to it.

Before we get to Ash Wednesday, we should start asking ourselves some questions and we should start with some preparations. "What does God want to give me this year?" This question may require that I slow down a bit and listen to my inner spirit. For example, even if I'm very busy, I realize I'm hungry when I hear my stomach start "growling." "What am I going to be doing on Ash Wednesday?" Too often, Ash Wednesday is like every other day, except that I manage to get to church and get ashes on my forehead. Is there anything else I can do on Ash Wednesday? How will fasting and abstaining happen for me, for my family on that special day?

It doesn't 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](http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html)  
Used with Permission."



# Bringing Home the Word

## The Courage to Heal

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Leprosy was a highly contagious skin disease that led to certain death for anyone who caught it in Jesus' time. For good reason the Jewish law demanded that a leper live set apart and cry out as he walked along to keep everyone at a safe distance. Imagine the pitiful scene of everyone discreetly but purposefully moving away at the sound of someone shouting, "Unclean, unclean!"

Yet the leper doesn't shout to keep Jesus away. He walks right up to our Lord and confesses his faith in Jesus' power to heal him of this incurable bacteria. He humbly admits his contagious illness and places himself before Jesus. And unlike anyone else might do, Jesus doesn't run away, he walks toward him. He does the unthinkable. He touches him!

We need not be ashamed of our deadly sin that eats away at our heart and cripples our ability to love. Go to Jesus, expose it to him, and let his loving touch transform you.

The terrible disease of leprosy was still a major problem well into the nineteenth century when St. Damian, a Belgian missionary, went to the Hawaiian Island of Molokai to serve as parish priest to all the lepers quarantined on that island. Not fearing to touch them, he cared for them for many years until, as expected, he contracted the disease and died of it.

This is what it means to be a Christian! Be like Jesus. Be not afraid of your wounds or those of others, no matter how repellent, and give of yourself to care for them.

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## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Money is not the only commodity that is good to give. We can give time, we can give our expertise, we can give our love or simply give a smile. What does that cost? The point is, none of us can ever run out of something worthwhile to give."

- Steve Goodier

May what you give in prayer and gratitude be returned to you a hundredfold, filling your cup until it overflows.

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

**GET INVOLVED**  
Make a Difference!



### ST. GERARD PARISH PASTORAL & FINANCE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nominations are now open for the following positions (and terms):

Secretary	2 years
Liturgical	3 years
Public Relations	1 year
Family & Social	1 year
Community Life	3 years
Social Justice	3 years
Finance Chairperson	3 years
Properties	1 year
Hall	3 years

**Nominations forms are available online and at the Parish Office.** If you have any questions about these positions, please contact Father Louis or stop by the Parish Office for a copy of the St. Gerard Constitution & Bylaws (also available on our website). Deadline for submission of nomination forms is Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon.

### ST. GERARD PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Virtual)

Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:00 pm

If you are a registered parishioner and would like to attend the Virtual AGM, please email your request beginning Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> to [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca) Instructions will be provided.

The Annual Report will be available in the near future - online at [www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca) If you require a printed copy, please phone the Parish Office between February 24<sup>th</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup>.



**GET INVOLVED**  
Make a Difference!



*Everyone belongs to the family of God and has a role to play in that family. God, our Father, chose to share His love with us. Jesus Christ, His Son, has made known to us by His life and word this great message of love. This is called “The Good News”. And all Christians are called to stewardship. As stewards, we recognize that all we have comes from God. Our possessions are given to us in trust. And as good stewards know, we are to cultivate these and return them with increase to God. Through our faith commitment to baptism, all have the responsibility of living this life of love and of bringing it to the people of God. As stewards, we use our unique gifts to build up the Church. This leads people to share the mission of the Church: proclaiming, teaching, serving, and sanctifying. We know we cannot do all things, but we can do what our gifts lead us to do. Thus, each one of us has the commission and task of bringing this Good News to the people of God in the Christian community. The Spirit of God is with us in this task. Every task-oriented community needs organization to accomplish its work so that all the persons and resources dedicated to the task can be used to the best advantage. Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Councils provide clergy, laity and religious with the necessary organization structure to carry out the task in a parish.*

*The laity are called, with priests, to fulfill the responsibility for liturgy, catechesis, pastoral care of the sick and elderly if the Church is to remain strong. Parish pastoral councils and parish finance councils are needed to organize the faithful to carry out those responsibilities. Therefore, as consultative bodies, it is critical that members of the Pastoral Council and members of the Finance Council work in cooperation with each other to bring about a life-giving Parish Community.*

*The parish pastoral council brings together lay people, religious and the pastor who work together to build the parish as a living Christian Faith community. The parish pastoral council members should care about the pastoral needs of their parish, of other communities in the archdiocese and of the universal church. They should strive to bring the Gospel message to all people in their neighbourhood.*

*The finance council is responsible for the administration of the financial affairs of the parish, being governed by universal law, the archdiocese financial and building regulations and by the norms laid down by the diocese. The finance council ...is the steward of parish material resources.*

(Guidelines Parish Pastoral Council & Parish Finance Council, Archdiocese of Regina, 2010)

**Lay Leadership is vital to our parish.** Lay Leaders help to set the direction and vision, set goals and action steps that align with parish priorities, and implement these action steps.

Any registered parishioner who is fully initiated in the Catholic Church, is sixteen years of age or over, and worships regularly with the parish community, is eligible to serve on parish council.

**The St. Gerard Parish Council is seeking candidates** to fill vacancies on both the Pastoral Council and the Finance Council. If you, or someone you know, would be a strong candidate, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members:

Rejean Houle	306.641.5430
Lorne Wanner	306.641.7838
Jacqueline Gotengco	306.316.1561

**NOMINATION FORM**

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for one of the following positions:

- |                         |                   |                     |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| ( ) Secretary           | (two year term)   | ( ) Liturgical      | (three year term) |
| ( ) Public Relations    | (one year term)   | ( ) Family & Social | (one year term)   |
| ( ) Community Life      | (three year term) | ( ) Social Justice  | (three year term) |
| ( ) Finance Chairperson | (three year term) |                     |                   |
| ( ) Properties          | (one year term)   | ( ) Hall            | (three year term) |

**Nominator:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) (Print Name)

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) (Print Name)

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please print form, complete, and return to the Parish Office in a sealed envelope marked "Parish Council Nomination"*  
**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> @ 12:00 NOON**

**Secretary** - Records the minutes of all regular council and assembly meetings. Maintains those records for the parish files. Writes letters, thank you, or other correspondence with the approval of council. Ensures that each newly elected member is in possession of the current St. Gerard's Pastoral Constitution and the current Archdiocese of Regina Guidelines. Prepares highlights of the Parish Council meeting for the following Sunday bulletin.

**Liturgical Committee** - The Liturgy Committee consists of the following sub-committees: Sacristans; Altar Linen; Children's Liturgy; Ministries as Lectors, Welcomers, Communion Ministers, Communion to the Shut-ins, Hospitality and Altar Servers; Scheduling; Banners; Art and Environment; Music; and Office Liaison. Is responsible for working with the Pastor to promote, prepare, and provide for meaningful participation in all liturgical and para-liturgical celebrations. Shall, in conjunction with the Pastor, plan so as all members of the parish community may participate intelligently, prayerfully, and actively in liturgical celebrations.

**Public Relations Committee** - Keeps parishioners informed by means of newsletters and ensures the distribution of them. Promotes St. Gerard parish through the media. Maintains parish history, updates photo albums and scrapbooks, and arranges for photos/videos to be taken at parish functions.

**Family and Social Committee**- Organizes and carries out parish social activities, for example, the social functions associated with the Sacraments and Sacramental preparation. Coordinates coffee/lunch after Sunday Masses and for other occasions.

**Community Life Committee** - Sets up a "Welcome Ministry Team" for new parishioners, provides an information kit, and sets up a program to provide rides to Mass/parish functions for seniors and other parishioners in need of this service. Organizes newcomer socials. In cooperation with the Pastor, Hall Manager, and team captains, makes decisions on how best to serve funeral lunches for our bereaved families.

**Social Justice Committee** - Promotes education on the work of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, and promotes and administers the project during Lent.

**Finance Council Chairperson** - Shall carry out his/her duties as mandated in Article IX and X of the Parish Constitution. Shall present a detailed written financial statement and report at each meeting of council and be prepared to answer questions from council members. Prepares an audited financial statement for the annual meeting. Prepares an annual budget of the parish.

**Hall Committee** - Determines rental fees, approves operational regulations, ensures proper financial records, oversees the maintenance and repair of the plant, monitors the performance of the Hall Manager, and provides a separate financial statement in detail for the Annual Report and annual Meeting.

**Properties Committee** - Is responsible for the maintenance and operational care of the Church, the Rectory, the Hall, the grounds, and the equipment belonging to St. Gerard Parish.

## YOUTH REFLECTION

### "Reclaiming the Outcast"

#### **This Week...**

In Leviticus strict religious laws are stated; the unclean are to be separated and not touched by others. In Corinthians religious laws are put into perspective: living as Jesus lived is more important than the specifics of our diet. But Jesus goes the distance in the Gospel. He doesn't merely tell us that the old laws that are strict, disrespectful, and unnecessary are less important than our human interactions and the needs of others. He steps over the line by actually breaking the laws and bringing healing in the process. He touches the untouchable, and suddenly the one he touches is no longer untouchable.

#### **For Your Reflection**

Jesus tells this person that he cures to keep it a secret and merely go back to the priest, but this person tells everyone about Jesus.

- Do you think Jesus was angry with him for not keeping the secret?
- Why do you think he disobeyed Jesus?

Once Jesus' reputation spreads, many things happen. He often is followed by mobs of people, and he isn't able to get away and rest. He is often pursued not because of his preaching and his message but for his ability to cure and perform miracles. Because so many people believe in him, his influence grows, and the political and religious rulers are jealous and afraid of the power he is gaining.

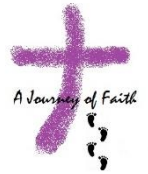
- What do you think the Apostles thought of all this? If you had walked the roads with Jesus, what would you think of his powers and his knowledge?
- Would the large groups of people bother and inconvenience you? Would you feel popular and powerful as well? Would you be concerned with the political or religious leaders and their jealousy? Would you want to stay with Jesus or leave him? Why?



**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)