



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

February 19, 2023

Seventh 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. (20th) NO MASS

Tues. (21st) 7:00pm +Jacqueline Peterson

Wed. (22nd) **ASH WEDNESDAY**
(Universal day of fasting and abstinence from meat)

 9:00am +Len & +Eleanor Loster
10:00am **NURSING HOME (NORTH)**
Dan & Brenda Dierker
7:00pm

Thurs. (23rd) 9:00am +Brian Woodward
2:30pm **BENTLEY SENIORS' RESIDENCE**
+Mary Popowich

Fri. (24th) **12:00pm** +Shirley Griffiths

Sat. (25th) 9:00am +Andy Woloschuk

5:00pm +John Jason Himpe

Sun. (26th) **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**
9:00am Mass for the People
11:00am +Leonard Sharkey

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays at 7pm during Lent (except March 3)

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.



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

FAMILY CONNECTION

Family life teaches us many things. It is often at home that we learn practical skills such as cooking, riding a bike, and making repairs. Talk about some of the things that the members of your family have learned to do at home. We also learn about caring at home. Talk about times when you have learned a lesson about sharing, forgiving, or loving through an experience that happened at home.

Talk about how love is the most important thing a family can share with one another. Explain that it is the same in God's family. Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 5:38-48. Talk about how Jesus tried to teach his disciples how to love others beyond those who are closest to them. Jesus tells them to love even their enemies. As members of God's family, we are called to do the same thing. Talk about some concrete ways you can "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Remind your children that Jesus does not expect us to be perfect. Jesus knows that we are human and will not always do everything correctly. Explain that what Jesus wants us to do is to love others as if they were Jesus himself. If we reach out in love to others, we are doing exactly what Jesus did. That is what perfection looks like. End this time together by praying the Act of Love:

O my God, I love you above all things with my whole heart and soul, because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbour as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and I ask pardon of those whom I have injured. Amen.

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



Countdown for Lent

Lent is a time for prayer, penance and fasting, and almsgiving.

Do you know...

- this is the last Sunday that we sing “Alleluia” in any hymn or text until the Easter Vigil?
- Fridays are days of abstinence from meat (those 14 and older), but Catholics in Canada may substitute special acts of charity or piety on this day
- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday in the Roman Rite are days of fasting and abstinence from meat.
- The law of fasting binds those from 18 to 59 years of age.
- Christian fasting obtains its full meaning when we deprive ourselves of food in order to be more open to prayer, to share more in the suffering of those who are starving and to save money to give to the poor. Fasting is a penitential discipline intended to open our hearts to God and others, a means of purification and spiritual liberation, a witness of the depth of our faith.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM

The “Strong Foundations” Marriage Preparation Program will begin March 19 (for six weeks). Please contact the Parish Office to register.

There will be a Lenten Lunch served each Friday after the 12 noon Mass. Free-will offering appreciated.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

- To approve the minutes from the 2022 Annual General Meeting
- To appoint an accounting firm for 2023
- To approve the revised Constitution and Bylaws (Rev. March 2023)

All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

ST. GERARD PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL & FINANCE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nominations are now open for positions on both the Pastoral and the Finance Council. Copies of the nomination form may be picked up at the Parish Office. **Deadline for submission of nomination forms is Thursday, March 2nd at 12 noon.**



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



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| Feb. 21 | Shove Tuesday Pancake Supper-4pm |
| Feb. 24 | Knights lead the Stations of the Cross |
| Feb. 25 | Articles for <i>The Word</i> due |
| | Family Prayer & Worship Night-7pm |
| Feb. 26 | Bingo-5pm |

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



Missionary Families of Christ
Defending Faith, Family & Life

INVITATION

WHO: All Parishioner and guests

WHAT: Family Prayer and Worship Night with Missionary Families of Christ and Knights of Columbus - Yorkton

WHEN: February 25, 2023 Saturday from 7:00 to 8:30pm

WHERE: Saint Gerard’s lower-level hall

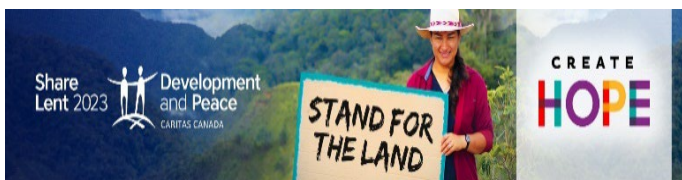
Bring your family and friends to join us for an hour of prayer and worship. Enjoy singing and praising the Lord with joyful songs of praise and worship.

Please contact Bro. Ferdie at 306.620.2239 for more information.

Admission is free. Refreshment will be served during our fellowship.

Matthew 18:20 **“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”**





This year, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's *Create Hope: Stand for the land* campaign calls you to support our sisters and brothers in the Global South in defending their land and territory. Do this by:

- * Donating online at devp.org/give or during the Solidarity Sunday collection on March 26, the fifth Sunday of Lent. Your generosity helps support over 86 projects in 40 countries around the world!
- * Learning more by reading the Mini-magazine and other resources available at devp.org/lent/resources
- * Meet our solidarity visitors and participate in the [campaign launch webinar](#) on February 25 at 1:30 p.m. ET.

As we begin Lent this week, we are invited to consider how well we love others, to repent of the ways we have failed to love, and to resolve to use the days and weeks of Lent as a time to love as God loves us.



Friday of this week (2/24) marks the anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces.

As Isaiah writes in Friday's First Reading:

"This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own" (58:6-7).

May this anniversary remind all of us about Jesus' command to love even our enemies and our call to solidarity with those oppressed and in need.

How can your Lenten fast have meaning beyond yourself?

Sunday Connection

Gospel Reading *Matthew 5.38-48*

My command to you is: love your enemies, pray for your persecutors.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at "an eye for an eye" as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God's kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbour are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God's love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word *telos*, which is probably better translated here as "complete." We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

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

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Wed. (22nd): 10:00am- Community Life Committee Mtg. for all committee members (Meeting Room A)
7:00pm- Parish Council Combined Mtg. (beginning with Mass)