



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

February 20th, 2022

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

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (21st) NO MASS

Tues. (22nd) 7:00pm +Marge Slugoski

Wed.(23rd) 9:00am Taylor Halliday
10:00am **NURSING HOME (NORTH)**
Cancelled
7:00pm +Monica Rozdeba

Thurs.(24th) 9:00am +Elizabeth Beres
2:30pm **BENTLEY SENIORS' RESIDENCE**
+Bernard Matsalla

Fri. (25th) 9:00am Special Intentions

Sat. (26th) 9:00am +Julius, +Joan, +Rhonda
Kormos
2:00pm *Nieckar-Hilderman Wedding*

5:00pm +Ambrose Wolfe

Sun. (27th) **EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
9:00am Mass for the People
11:00am +Peter Rumancik
1:00pm Sacrament Preparation
beginning with Mass

WELCOME!

Please note the following per the **Archdiocese of Regina guidelines** (effective July 11, 2021) and the **Government of Saskatchewan Interim Health Order** (extended until February 28, 2022):

- **Masks must be worn at all times until further notice**
- Masks & hand sanitizer are provided.
- **Please sit in the pews that have hymnals and maintain two metres between households**
- The choir and singing has resumed
- Holy water will not be available in the Baptismal font at this time
- We will not shake hands when we share the sign of peace
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection continues

Please come! Everyone is welcome!

→ The 2021 charitable donation receipts are available for pick up in the Welcome Area after Mass. ←

Stay Connected Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, your love is beyond measure. Open my heart to show impartial love to 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,

St. Paul reminds us in the second reading that we have been made in the image and likeness of God. Yes, indeed, we are created in God's image, we all need to be aware of that, and we should not forget that His very divine nature is all about self-giving, for God is love. Therefore, the more we develop our capacity for love, for authentic self-forgetful love, the more we will mature into what God created us to be.

In the Gospel, Jesus is very clear before sharing his message: *"I say to you that listen."* He asks us be aware of the importance of what he is going to say: *"love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who abuse you..."* I would say that what Jesus says to us in the Gospel for this weekend is not theory but needs to be practiced in our daily life. He expects that we will treat the other, especially the enemy and stranger whom we might fear or distrust, as we want to be treated. Living up to this expectation will challenge us throughout our lives.

As Jesus describes the characteristics of a Christian, he indirectly gives us a description of himself. He shows us what kind of Lord he really is, the one who has no limits on his generosity, no limits on his love, the one who is always looking for more ways to shower us with his goodness. That's our Lord.

He teaches us how we should respond to being mistreated, a response helped by his grace and the Holy Spirit, rising above the fallen earthly attitude of just responding in kind. He teaches us to *"Do to others as you would have them do to you"*, but he qualifies that by saying that we should not only love those who love us, but also those who hate us.

If we are true Christians: treat others as we would like them to treat us, treat them in the same way as God has treated us. It is a request from the Lord. There is a story of Saint Mother Teresa which I read in the "Voice of the Saints" that I want to summarize and share with you for she learned this lesson perfectly.

Once she was staying with her community of sisters who were working in Australia. While she was there, she visited an elderly man who lived in total isolation, ignored by everyone. His house was disorderly and dirty. She told him, *"Please allow me to clean your house, wash your clothes and make your bed."* He answered: *"I'm OK like this. Let it be."* She said, *"You will be still better if you allow me to do it"* and finally he agreed. So she was able to clean his house and wash his clothes.

While she was cleaning, she discovered a beautiful lamp, covered with dust. It looked like it hadn't been used in years. So she said to the man: *"Don't you light that lamp? Don't you ever use it?"* He answered, *"No. No one comes to see me. I have no need to light it. Who would I do it for?"* Mother Theresa asked, *"Would you light it every night if the sisters came?"* He replied, *"Of course"*. And from that day on, the sisters committed themselves to visit him every evening.

Two years later, when Mother Teresa had completely forgotten about that man, she received a message from him, passed to her by other sisters: *"Tell her that the light she lit in my life continues to shine still."* (*Voices of the Saints*, Bert Ghezzi)

That is what it means to be a true Christian: to give, to forgive, to bless, to stop judging, to stop condemning, to stop complaining, and to start lighting lamps... In other words, to be like Christ. And that's what brings happiness to our lives, to others and to the world.

"Do not judge, do not condemn but forgive, give and do to others as you would have them do to you." This is the golden rule that Jesus asks of us, as his followers, for through baptism, we became members of the body of Christ, brothers and sisters of the Lord. In our journey through life we either stay faithful to that vocation and identity, or abandon it.

I wish all of you a blessed long weekend, and enjoy a good time with family when we celebrate Family Day. God bless you all.

Fr. Louis Nguyen



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

In the Archdiocese of Regina, Baptism Preparation is required prior to your child's baptism.

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



Congratulations to

Emma Millette

who was received into

**Full Communion
with the Catholic Church**

Sunday, February 13th at the 11am Mass



**Ash Wednesday is coming!
(March 2nd)**

*"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.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

How are we to serve one another?

In Faith - with Prayer.

In Justice - with equity.

In Service - with all our hearts.

"May your eyes be open to your servant's plea and to the plea of your people Israel, and may you listen to them whenever they cry out to you." 1 Kings, 8:52

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Mon. (21st): 9:00am CWL Quilting Bee
9:00am Perogy Bee (dough)
- Tues. (22nd): 9:00am CWL Quilting Bee
9:00am Perogy Bee (pinching)
- Wed. (23rd): 9:00am Perogy Bee (packaging)
7:30pm Pastoral Council Meeting
- Sun. (27th): 1:00pm Sacrament Preparation
Beginning with Mass

Follow the bulletin or the Events Calendar at www.stgerard.ca for the date and time of the next Perogy & Cabbage Roll Fundraiser!



News from the CWL



CWL Valentines Quilt Raffle

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 'Valentine Quilt Raffle' a very successful project. Approximately \$1,000 was raised. Also a big THANK YOU to the dedicated ladies who made the quilt in a timely manner.

Congratulations to Carmen Haw and Earl Pullen, the lucky winners of the quilt.

The CWL designs and creates quilts to be given to people in need – primarily to those who are experiencing a period of crisis. In the past quilts have been donated to Shelwin House, the Salvation Army, and SIGN (to name a few).



News from the Knights of Columbus



Bingos have been cancelled until further notice.

February 21 Family Day
February 25 Articles for "The Word" due

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Keith @ 306.783.0963. www.kofc-2031.ca

Sask. K of C Vocations Endowment Support

The Bishops of Saskatchewan, in partnership with the Sask. Knights of Columbus, request your financial support for Seminarians in Saskatchewan. There are currently 13 Seminarians from the Dioceses and Eparchy in Saskatchewan preparing to become future leaders within our Church. The Sask. K of C Vocation Endowment was established to help defray the annual cost of over \$30,000.00 per Seminarian.

A fund raising campaign will take place in parishes throughout the province during the month of February. Please view our website at www.saskkofc.foundation for further information on how you may make a contribution. The Bishops, Dioceses, K of C and Catholic faithful thank you in advance for your generous support of the education and development of Seminarians through prayer and financial assistance.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ST. GERARD CHURCH

Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 7pm
St. Gerard Social Hall

All parishioners are urged to attend.



ST. GERARD PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AND FINANCE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

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

Pastoral Council & Finance Council*

Chairperson	3 years	Family & Social	3 years
Public Relations	3 years	Properties*	3 years

The Parish Council is a body that:

- Is advisory to the pastor
- Listens to the parish
- Creates a pastoral plan of action
- Invites others to help carry out that plan
- Assists parishioners with implementation through resources and evaluation.

Do you know a parishioner who:

- Is prayerful
- Is able to listen
- Has a sense of understanding where the church is today
- Understands or is willing to learn about the Mission of the Church and the Archdiocese of Regina
- Is enthusiastic about the future of this parish
- Is willing and able to make the commitment to this ministry

If so, then nominate them today!

Nominations forms and copies of the *St. Gerard Constitution and Bylaws* are available in the Welcome Area and at the Parish Office.

**Members of the Council must be members of Christ's faithful who are in full communion with the Catholic Church and who strive to be examples of Christian commitment. Only registered parishioners 16 years of age or older shall be eligible to serve on Council or any committee and be eligible to vote. **



Bringing Home
the Word **+**

Finding Strength in the Cross

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Arturo Mari, the photographer who followed St. John Paul II from the first to the last day of his pontificate, was once asked which of the millions of photos he took of the pope captured him best. He cited the ones of the pope holding his crozier, resting his head on it as he prayed during so many Masses around the world. This silver pastoral cross accompanied St. John Paul everywhere and was his constant companion in all of his sufferings.

It shows Jesus hanging from a cross that is literally bowing under the weight of his body. You can feel the pull of gravity drawing the victim down in desperation. The photos show St. John Paul resting his forehead on the back of the cross, lost in prayer.

The papal photographer said this image more than any other summed up the pontiff because, before becoming a public figure who changed world history, he was a man of prayer, deeply loving Jesus. He was a man immersed in prayer who spent hours on his knees in order to have the strength to stand with and for those who most needed him.

This is a lesson for us. In order to live the beatitudes, we need to lean on Jesus and find our strength in him. Resting ourselves on the empty side of the crucifix is the best place to learn to love like him and be strong like him.

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Love Everyone, Even Your Enemies"

This Week...

We are called to resemble Jesus, who is heavenly. We are called to rise above earthly ways. The heavenly way is to love everyone, even our enemies who wish to hurt or kill us. The heavenly way is to hear the request for our coat, to give it willingly, and then to give our shirt as well.

For Your Reflection

- What would you do if someone in need asked you for your coat? Would you give this person the shirt off your back as well? Why or why not? Why do you think Jesus asks you to make this sacrifice?
- What else do you think Jesus is asking you to give?
- What is the hardest thing for you to give to another person?
- When was the last time you spoke negatively of another person?
- When was the last time someone spoke negatively to you or about you?
- How would life be different if there was no judging or condemning of others - if everyone was forgiven and treated well? Why doesn't that happen?
- Do you have any "enemies"?

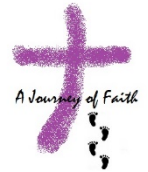
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle C*, 2006, Saint Mary's Press



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