



# St. Gerard

## Roman Catholic Parish

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Established December 11, 1904

### CONTACT US

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9am-noon/1pm-4pm (closed Friday)

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)

#### PASTORAL TEAM

Father Sathi Antony, Pastor

Office 306.782.2449

Rectory 306.782.0323

[ansathisjb@gmail.com](mailto:ansathisjb@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/sathy.antony>

*\*\*Appointments to be arranged via the Parish Office\*\**

Sandra Archer, Office Administrator

Somi Paul, Caretaker

#### MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

•Altar Server Coordinator

Kathleen Bedard [altarservers@stgerard.ca](mailto:altarservers@stgerard.ca)

•Baptism Team

Trevor Baker [tlbaker@sasktel.net](mailto:tlbaker@sasktel.net)

•Catholic Women's League

Deanna Pellatt [pell@sasktel.net](mailto:pell@sasktel.net)

•Centering Prayer

Ernie Bobowski 306.783.6014

Lori Zuzak 306.783.8063

•Children's Liturgy Coordinator

Sarah Prost [prost.litz@hotmail.com](mailto:prost.litz@hotmail.com)

•Family, Community & Social

Juliette Franke & Rosemarie Todos

•Knights of Columbus

Jonathan Rosas [grand-knight@kofc-2031.ca](mailto:grand-knight@kofc-2031.ca)

•Liturgy

Colleen Haider

•Protocol for Responsible Ministry

Richard Dubois

•Sacrament Coordinators

Rene & Ophelia Adane

[adanerene@gmail.com](mailto:adanerene@gmail.com)

•Social Action

Hector & Jenny Baraoidan

•Youth

Scott Hoffort 306.621.8291

Colleen Hoffort 306.621.7582

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.

#### ST. GERARD PARISH HOLY MASS & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Mon. 10 <sup>th</sup>		NO MASS
Tues. 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	7:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> Health of Mark Kawchuk
	7:30 pm	Knights of Columbus General Mtg
Wed. 12 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> Health of Mary Bybliw
	6:00 pm	Social Action Meeting (please use Parish Hall entrance)
Thurs. 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> Health of Virginia Wheeler
	6:30 pm	Sacrament Preparation (Parish Hall)
	7:00 pm	RCIA (Lower Level Hall)
	7:00 pm	Centering Prayer (Library)
Fri. 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>8:00 am</b>	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> +Mary Diakuw

#### Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat. 15 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> for the People (70 minutes)
Sun. 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> for the People (75 minutes)
	11:00am	<b>Mass</b> for the People (80 Minutes)

#### SACRAMENTS

<b>Reconciliation:</b>	Half-hour before daily Mass Tuesday to Friday, and by appointment
<b>Anointing:</b>	Please contact the Parish Office After-hours Emergency 306.782.0323
<b>Infant Baptism:</b>	Please contact the Parish Office
<b>RCIA:</b>	Please contact the Parish Office
<b>Matrimony:</b>	Please contact the Parish Office 12 months prior to the marriage date



## **RECONCILIATION**

A Jubilee year is a sign of reconciliation because it establishes a “favorable time” (cf. 2 Corinthians 6:2) for conversion. We are called to put God at the center of our lives, growing toward Him and acknowledging His primacy. Even the Biblical call for the restoration of social justice and respect for the earth stems from a theological reality: if God is the creator of the universe, He must be given priority over every reality and partisan interest. It is God who makes this year holy by bestowing on us His own holiness.

As Pope Francis recalled in the 2015 Bull proclaiming the Extraordinary Holy Year, “Mercy is not opposed to justice but rather expresses God’s way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert, and believe. [...] God’s justice is his mercy given to everyone as a grace that flows from the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thus, the Cross of Christ is God’s judgement on all of us and on the whole world, because through it he offers us the certainty of love and new life” (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 21).

In practical terms, reconciliation involves receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation, taking advantage of this time to rediscover the value of confession, and experiencing God's personal words of forgiveness. There are some Jubilee churches that stay open continuously to make available the sacrament of Reconciliation. You can prepare yourself to receive the sacrament by following a guide.

# THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT IS COMING Ash Wednesday is March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## PALMS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY ASHES

If you have palms in your homes from previous years, please bring them to the church by Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. There are baskets in the main entrance of the church for the palms.

On Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be served by the Knights of Columbus from 4pm to 6pm. At 6pm we will celebrate the Rite of Burning the Palms followed by Mass. These ashes will be used Ash Wednesday.

Lent is about more than what we give up. It is about encountering the living God, who invites us into the desert to reclaim our hearts, minds, and attention. Journey into the desert this year with a plan and a guide, and allow the Lord to make this your most fruitful Lent yet.

[www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org)

## ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL WORKSHOP At St. Gerard Parish

Saturday, March 15  
9:30am to 3pm

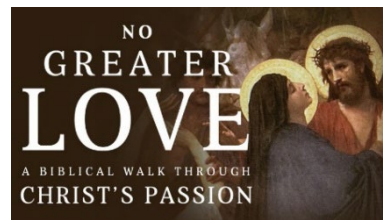
### Topic: Pastoral Development of our Parish

For all Parishioners, especially all the Council members, Committees and Parish, Organizations.

Please register with the Parish Office as lunch will be served.

**WELCOME** to the newest leaders serving on the Parish Pastoral Council:

Rosemarie Todos & Juliette Franke  
(Family, Community & Social Activities)



## Lenten Bible Study

*No Greater Love* is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best-selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for you—grow closer to Jesus than you ever have before.

Beginning **February 26<sup>th</sup>** the Bible Study "No Greater Love" will be held Wednesday from 7pm to 8:30pm for five weeks (**Feb. 26; Mar. 12,26; Apr. 2,9**)

To cover the cost of books, materials and snacks, a fee of \$60 (\$100 per couple) is to be paid when you register. Each individual will be given a copy of the *No Greater Love* book and workbook.

**Please register for this session in advance so that the materials can be ordered.** Registrations are being taken at the Parish Office.



### News from the CWL



Please note that our **March General Meeting** will be on Monday, March 3 at 7:00 pm (rather than the first Tuesday which is Shrove Tuesday).

It's not too late to renew or begin your **CWL membership** for 2025. Simply place the \$35 fee – cash or cheque payable to St. Gerard CWL – in a labelled envelope (CWL Membership) and drop it in the collection basket at a weekend Mass or at the office during the week. Alternatively, you can e-transfer the membership fee to Deanna Pellatt at [pell@sasktel.net](mailto:pell@sasktel.net)



### News from the Knights of Columbus



Feb. 11 Meeting – following Mass  
Feb. 12 Bingo – evening – 5.00

*If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.728.8664 More info: [www.kofc-2031.ca](http://www.kofc-2031.ca) The page has been updated. Check it out.*



Bringing Home  
the Word **+**

### Whom Shall I Send?

By St. Dianne Bergant, CSA

This could very well be called Mission Sunday—not because there is a second collection, but because today’s readings challenge us to examine how we have responded to being called and sent. Isaiah recounts a religious experience he had while in the Temple. Most majestic of all aspects of that vision was the voice that spoke to him. He heard the words, “Whom shall I send?” (Isaiah 6:8). Send where? To do what? Presumably it meant: “Whom shall I send to speak my word to the people?” The eagerness of the prophet is remarkable: “Here I am...send me!” This passage describes Isaiah’s call to ministry, to be God’s prophet to the people.

The Gospel reading reports another call — that of Peter, James, and John. After showing that he was able to fill the nets of these fishermen, even to the breaking point, Jesus offered them the opportunity to attract (catch) men and women. Again, almost without thinking, “they left everything and followed him” (Luke 5:11). In his First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul explains to the “fish” (his converts) how this message is communicated, how fish are caught, how the gospel is preached: “I handed on to you...what I also received” (1 Corinthians 15:3). In all cases, the message is basically the same: “I will be your God and you will be my people.” This is what we’ve all been called to experience, then sent to proclaim—first Isaiah.

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### SHARE THE LOVE: HELP FILL OUR FOOD BANK!

Help those facing food insecurity by donating to the food bank. To make giving simple and accessible, our **Social Action Committee** has introduced a monthly donation focus. Each month, we’ll highlight specific, affordable items to contribute.

For **February**, we ask each parishioner to donate **one box of pasta and one jar of pasta sauce**. Your generosity will make a real difference to those in need.

**How to Donate:** Please leave your donations in the designated food collection area.

**Thank you for your kindness and support!**



## World Day of Prayer 2025

Hosted by St. Gerard CWL

*All are invited to the 2025 World Day of  
Prayer as we celebrate the theme:*

***“I made you wonderful”***

Psalm 139: 1-18

**Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> - 10:30 am**

**Ecumenical Service**

*Followed by fellowship*

This year the service was prepared by the WDP Committee of the Cook Islands.

Please RSVP on or before March 3<sup>rd</sup>:

Deanna at [pell@sasktel.net](mailto:pell@sasktel.net) or

Linda at 306.730.5600

### **WE ARE HIRING!**

St. Gerard Parish is inviting applications for the position of Parish Office Assistant.

**Qualifications:**

- Business College certificate/diploma and/or experience
- Knowledge of the Catholic Church and Faith, and support of the Mission of the Church
- Possess strong and well-developed interpersonal and communication skills
- Working knowledge and experience in financial transactions/handling cash, office equipment, Microsoft Word, Publisher, Excel, PowerPoint

This is a 20 hour per week position. Please contact the Parish Office for the full job description. Resumes may be submitted to the Parish Office [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca) or to Father Antony [ansathisjb@gmail.com](mailto:ansathisjb@gmail.com)

**Deadline for applications is Thursday, February 27, 2025**

Gospel Reading *Luke 5:1-11*

The fishermen (Simon, James, and John) leave their fishing boats and follow Jesus.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

In the people whom Jesus chose to be his closest friends—his disciples—we see many of the characteristic foibles of ordinary human beings. We also see the ways that God uses the gifts he gave us to transform us into new people, the agents through whom God will lead others to Jesus and to his kingdom. Let's consider the person Jesus chose to be a leader among the disciples and whom he sent to "catch people." Based on the evidence found in Scripture, we can imagine what Peter must have been like:

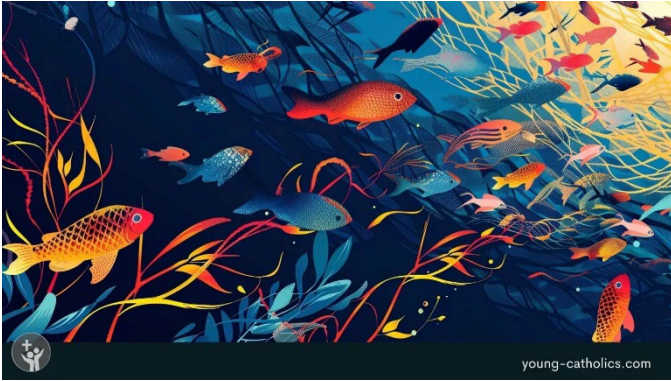
- Peter seems unafraid to speak his mind, yet he is also able to take direction. In today's Gospel, Simon Peter lowers his nets as Jesus commands, but not before reminding Jesus that he and his partners have been fishing all night and haven't caught anything.
- Peter is a leader, a spokesperson for others. Today's Gospel suggests that Simon Peter was a leader in his fishing business. When Simon Peter chooses to follow Jesus, others become Jesus' disciple as well.
- Peter's personality and charisma seem to make him the center of attention; yet Peter learned to be transparent, to let others see Jesus through him.
- Peter possesses a dynamic and open relationship with Jesus. Peter often approaches Jesus and speaks what is in his heart.

Gather as a family and spend some time imagining the person of Simon Peter. Encourage family members to tell details about Simon Peter that they recall from Scripture. Consider these questions: Is Peter someone you would like to be friends with? Why or why not? Do you consider Peter a good leader? Why or why not? Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 5:1-11. Jesus chose Simon Peter to be the leader of the disciples. Peter continued to be a leader in the early Christian community; we continue to speak of Peter's leadership when we call the pope the successor of Peter. Discuss the role of the papacy and of other leaders in the Church. In what ways do we participate in the mission of the Church by leading people to Christ ("catching people")? Pray for those who lead the Church. Pray together the Prayer to St. Joseph, the Protector of the Church.

[www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com)

### PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH, THE PROTECTOR OF THE CHURCH

Father, you entrusted our Savior to the care of Saint Joseph.  
By the help of his prayers may your Church continue to serve its Lord,  
Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.



The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C readings present us with rich themes that call us to reflect deeply on our faith. Through the stories of Isaiah, Paul, and Peter, we explore God's holiness, human unworthiness, witnessing to faith, and the call to follow Jesus. These reflections aim to help us understand these themes and how they apply to our lives.

**Responding to God's Holiness** In the first reading, Isaiah has a vision of God's holiness. He sees the Lord on a throne with angels around Him, singing praises. The scene is full of awe and majesty. This vision reminds us of God's greatness and the importance of honouring Him in our lives.

Isaiah's reaction to this vision is one of unworthiness. He feels unclean and inadequate before God. He says, "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips." This humility is crucial in our relationship with God. Recognizing our unworthiness helps us understand the need for God's forgiveness and mercy.

In the Gospel, Peter also feels unworthy. After witnessing the miraculous catch of fish, he falls at Jesus' knees and says, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Peter's reaction is similar to Isaiah's, showing that encountering God's greatness often makes us aware of our own sins.

When we feel unworthy, we should remember that God still calls us. Isaiah and Peter were both chosen despite their feelings of inadequacy. **God does not call the perfect; He perfects the called.** Our response to God's holiness should be one of humility, repentance, and readiness to serve, just like Isaiah and Peter.

**Witnessing to Faith and God's Grace** In the second reading, Paul reminds the Corinthians of the gospel he preached to them. He emphasizes that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day. Paul is a witness to these truths, having seen the risen Christ himself. This message is central to our faith and should be shared with others.

Paul acknowledges that he is not worthy to be called an apostle because he persecuted the Church. However, he credits his apostleship to God's grace working in him. "By the grace of God, I am what I am," Paul says. This shows that any good we do is because of God's help, not our own merit. It's a reminder to rely on God's grace in our own lives.

Sharing our faith, like Paul, is essential. We may feel unworthy or inadequate, but God's grace enables us to witness effectively. Our personal experiences of God's grace can be powerful testimonies to others. We are called to share the gospel, trusting that God will work through us despite our weaknesses.

Our witness should be consistent and sincere. Paul's life was changed by God's grace, and his actions reflected his faith. As followers of Christ, our lives should show the impact of the gospel. **By relying on God's grace, we can overcome our shortcomings and be effective witnesses of our faith.**

**Following Jesus** In the Gospel, Jesus calls Peter, James, and John to follow Him. They were fishermen, likely illiterate and not scholars of Scripture. Yet, Jesus saw potential in them. He calls

ordinary people to be His disciples, showing that anyone willing to follow Him can be used for His purposes.

The fishermen's response is immediate. They leave everything and follow Jesus. This act of leaving behind their livelihood and security demonstrates their trust and commitment. It teaches us that following Jesus often requires sacrifice and a willingness to let go of our own plans.

Jesus' choice of these unlikely followers highlights that He values a willing heart over qualifications. He does not look for the most educated or the most skilled, but for those ready to give themselves fully to Him. This gives hope to all of us, as it shows that we don't need to be perfect to be used by God.

Our call to follow Jesus is similar. We might feel unqualified or unworthy, but Jesus invites us to trust Him and follow Him wholeheartedly. By answering this call, we embark on a journey of faith, trusting that Jesus will guide and equip us. Like the fishermen, we are called to leave behind anything that hinders our commitment and follow Jesus with our whole heart.

**Prayer** Lord, help us recognize Your holiness and our need for Your grace. Strengthen us to witness our faith with courage and sincerity. Guide us to follow You wholeheartedly, leaving behind anything that holds us back. Amen.

[www.young-catholics.com](http://www.young-catholics.com)