



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

January 24, 2021

Third 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 | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca

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

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (25th) NO MASS
Tues. (26th) 6:00pm Holy Hour Devotion
7:00pm Russell Griffith
Wed. (27th) 9:30am +Joan Kormos
7:00pm +Merv Krasowski
Thurs. (28th) 9:30am Mass of Thanksgiving
Fri. (29th) 9:30am Bernadette Marchinko
Sat. (30th) 9:30am +Richard Dierker

5:00pm +Mary Diakuw
7:00pm +Donna Olszewski

Sun. (31st) **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
9:00am Mass for the People
11:00am +Henry Kuruliak
5:00pm

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

- **Pre-registration for Saturday/Sunday Mass is required.** Online at 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



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



Lord, you call me to do the work of God in the world. Help me to say yes to your work of peace and reconciliation.

- 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,

I want to start my message this week by saying that there are many religions in the world, and most of them express that human beings are searching for God. However, for us as Christians, it is all about God searching. It starts with God, not with us. Now I invite you to reflect on this weekend's readings to see what I mean.

In the first reading from Jonah, the people of Nineveh are living sinful lives. Their lives are empty of meaning and lasting, true happiness. And God, as a God of love and mercy, His heart is moved with pity for these sinful people. He sends Jonah to wake them up, to put them back on track. That is, God's plan for human happiness. Through Jonah, God searches for the people of Nineveh, because He cares so deeply about their happiness.

In the Gospel, we hear the same thing. Mark tells us what Jesus came to earth to do: to call people into a deep personal relationship with God.

We recall how He calls His first disciples by name: Peter, Andrew, James, John. He calls them to follow Him more closely as we heard in the Gospel last week. He calls them, because he wants to give them more meaning, purpose, and, ultimately, happiness. He wants to bring them into His Kingdom.

My dear Sisters and Brothers, this is what the God of Christianity is all about: He comes in search of every human heart, calling us into everlasting friendship with Him.

There is no doubt that Jesus always has something to say to us. He is the "Word of God," and God is love, the love that never tires of speaking with the beloved.

Sometimes God calls us to make big changes in our lives, as He did with his first disciples on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

God is always calling out to each one of us, because he loves us and wants to lead us to a more fulfilling life, both here on earth, and also for all eternity in heaven.

But there is a problem. And the problem is that **we are not always listening**. Indeed, we fill our lives with so much noise, that God's voice gets lost - we don't hear it, and so we cannot respond to it. If we really want to let God's call in our hearts resound, we must learn the value of silence.

We must give silence a chance. In our daily lives, we need to use silence to create that kind of a special room in our heart, where God's voice can resound.

Therefore, I invite you to:

- ❖ Spend fifteen minutes a day just with Him and for Him. It could be in your room, in a Church, in a park, or even in your office.
- ❖ Turn off all the noises and distractions such as your cell phone, iPad, TV..., and sit in silence with the Lord. Acknowledge the presence of God with you at that moment and pay attention to hear His voice.
- ❖ Take out the Sacred Scriptures, read and reflect on them, slowly and gently.
- ❖ Take time to look lovingly on the beauties of His creation and allow them to speak something to your heart.

My dear Sisters and Brothers, God is constantly telling us that He loves us and has a plan for our lives; from now on, let us make a commitment that we will pay attention to hear His voice.

Again, this week we continue to enter into the silence; allowing our hearts to simply adore the Lord who loves us; ask Him for the grace we need to respond generously, today and every day, to His personal call in our lives.

I wish all of you a blessed weekend. 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

Preparation for:

CONFIRMATION

The Second Sacrament of Initiation

and

FIRST EUCHARIST

The Third Sacrament of Initiation

and

FIRST RECONCILIATION

is postponed until further notice.



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. Although the RCIA process is intended for those who are non-baptized, at St. Gerard we also prepare adults for the Rite of Reception of Baptized Christians (including Catholics) 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 THE PARISH OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**



Are you planning a marriage in 2021?

Congratulations!!

Please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible to make arrangements to meet with Father Louis.



News from the CWL



Memberships for 2021 It's that time of year to be thinking about renewing our 2021 CWL Membership. Membership fees are still \$30.00 and can be paid by cash or cheque and mailed to St. Gerard's C.W.L, 125 3rd Ave. N., Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4. If you feel comfortable paying by e-transfer, contact Paulette Cooper 306-782-7923. If you have any questions or concerns regarding memberships, contact Paulette. Even though our Council has not been active due to COVID, we are required to collect and submit membership fees to the National CWL Office. Any member can access the National website (www.cwl.ca) at anytime to learn more about the CWL of Canada. If you are not a member and would like to join our League, contact Paulette or any member of St. Gerard's Catholic Women's League.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Jan. 25	Articles for "The Word" due
Jan. 31	Fraternal survey due
Jan. 31	Fifth Sunday rosary before 9am Mass
Feb. 3	Executive Meeting – TBD Virtual
Feb. 10	General Meeting – TBD Virtual

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

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

NEWS from the OFFICE of YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Young Adult Ministry: There are lots of new things going on! Check out the website for small group ministry: <https://archregina.sk.ca/youth-ministry/join-young-adult-small-group>

Youth Events: Check out new opportunities for teens to gather (virtually) learn, connect and grow. Check out all that is new at <https://archregina.sk.ca/youth-ministry/youth-events-0>

The Diocese Tonight Episode 4 The Church: Forever Young

The next episode of "The Diocese Tonight" airs on **Sunday February 14, 2021 at 7 pm.**

It can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ArchdioceseofRegina>

The Diocese Tonight is a "virtual family gathering" that celebrates the diversity of people that make up our diocesan faith family. Join us to laugh, learn, pray, sing and celebrate.



Bringing Home the Word

God's Patient Call
By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The Sistine Chapel fresco, *The Prophet Jonah*, is directly above *The Last Judgment*. Michelangelo chooses to depict Jonah for his theological connection to Jesus, who said, "Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights" (Matthew 18:40).

Unlike Jesus, Jonah initially balks at God's call until he grudgingly accepts and preaches to the city of Nineveh. In his rebellion, he gets in a boat and goes the opposite direction from where God was calling. Eventually he was thrown overboard and swallowed by the fish, seen painted at his side. After a three-night stomach ache, the fish spewed Jonah up on the shore, back where he had started.

Jonah looks up to heaven with a weary longing, which might denote his melancholy personality. The fig tree further reinforces his weakness because it recalls the episode when Jonah lay under the fig tree in depression and lethargy.

Like Peter and Andrew, James and John, God entered Jonah's life and called him. Unlike the apostles, it took him a while to say yes. We can also be slow to respond to the invitation of God in our soul, whether in big or small things. Perhaps the attraction of the world or fear of sacrifice keeps us from saying yes. Yet his voice is constant and persistent.

Michelangelo paints Jonah dangling above *The Last Judgment* as if to subtly say, you are cordially invited to say yes to God's patient callings...while you still have time.

© 2021 Liguori Publications. Used with permission.

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

Catechism Theme: Why a Sacrament of Reconciliation after Baptism? (CCC 1424-1426)

Why is there a Sacrament of Reconciliation after Baptism? To answer that question, we need to ask: why do we sin after baptism? The Catechism states: *"...the new life received in Christian Initiation (i.e., Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) has not abolished the frailty and weakness of human nature, nor the inclination to sin that tradition calls concupiscence . . ."*

The message ("Repent and believe the Good News") and call of Jesus ("Come and see") are actually one. To have a personal relationship with God's Son requires a constant spirit of repentance and faith in the gospel. While the key moment of repentance and personal faith in Jesus is Baptism, our response many times falls short. Many times, we need to renew our moral conversion and our faith choice. We need to experience the loving touch of God's mercy. The Sacrament of Reconciliation provides us such a time and such an experience.


How has your life changed when you chose to believe in Christ? How have you renewed that choice?

"Follow me." The invitation Jesus gave his early followers is the same he makes to us now. He invites us to change and believe. We need to realize he not only give us the challenge, he gives us the means to abandon our former life of sin and to trust in God. He gifts us with the Spirit. So, the call of Jesus is not only a direction; it is a helping hand. Human frailty may trip us from time to time, but the Lord will not disappoint. When we follow the Lord, he leads us and sustains us.

Try to look at your life this past week through God's eyes. Write down your spiritual successes and failures. How has God helped you with your successes? How have you disappointed God with your failures? Pray God renews your commitment to his Son this coming week.

Permission for use. All materials found in word-sunday.com are the property of Larry Broding (Copyright 1999-2021).

E	B	A	S	W	O	L	L	O	F	ARRESTED	GALILEE	GOOD
D	E	T	S	E	R	R	A	I	L	NEWS	HAND	REPENT
S	L	E	E	C	L	O	S	E	R	BELIEVE	CASTING	FOLLOW
E	I	E	M	A	N	H	F	T	C	JAMES	ZEBEDEE	BOAT
E	E	D	A	I	E	T	A	N	A			
L	V	E	J	R	T	S	M	E	S			
I	E	B	M	D	E	L	W	P	T			
L	D	E	Y	O	L	P	M	E	I			
A	N	Z	B	O	A	T	S	R	N			
G	O	D	O	G	D	N	A	H	G			





The following Prayer was prayed by Pope Francis
on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph:

Prayer to St. Joseph

Protect, O Holy Guardian, this our nation.

Enlighten those responsible for the common good, so that they might know — like you do — how to care for those entrusted to their responsibility.

Grant intelligence of knowledge to those seeking adequate means for the health and physical well-being of their brothers and sisters.

Sustain those who are spending themselves for those in need, even at the cost of their own safety: volunteers, nurses, doctors who are on the front lines in curing the sick.

Bless, O St Joseph, the Church: beginning with her ministers, make her the sign and instrument of your light and your goodness.

Accompany, O St Joseph, our families: with your prayerful silence, create harmony between parents and their children, in a special way with the youngest.

Preserve the elderly from loneliness: grant that no one might be left in desperation from abandonment and discouragement.

Comfort those who are the most-frail, encourage those who falter, intercede for the poor.

With the Virgin Mother, beg the Lord to liberate the world from every form of pandemic. Amen.

Prayer of Pope Francis During the Coronavirus Pandemic



O Mary,

you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain,
keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Dear Parishioners:

Blessed Father Michael McGivney died during the last pandemic and it is believed that he may have died as a result of the pandemic.

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus, I invite you to pray the prayer to Blessed Fr. Michael for the end to the pandemic. Please pray it as a Novena with your families starting Monday January 25th, 2021 through to Tuesday, February 2, 2021. Please take a few minutes out of your day and pray the prayer. We must pray together to end the pandemic so that we can rebuild our church.

Thank You and God Bless all of you,

Brother Richard T. Dubois



**Prayer for the
Canonization of
Blessed Michael McGivney**

Founder of the Knights of Columbus

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbour.

Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church.

Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast.

We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favour I now present (*here make your request*).

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER IN THE TIME OF THE PANDEMIC

Lord God,

I pray for all who have become sick or died by the coronavirus that has been spreading around the world.

In your mercy and compassion, deliver us from this disease,

In your holy wisdom, guide all who are working to contain the outbreak,

In your steadfast love, bring healing to all your children who have become sick,

Welcome into your arms the ones that died, comfort the ones they left behind.

In faith, I place my trust in you.

In hope, I turn to you in my time of need.

In love, I give glory to your name.

In gratitude, I will praise you with my life.

In your Son's name I pray. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ANXIETY

Today, I pray for all those who suffer from anxiety in the midst of this exceptional situation we are going through.

May they get comfort, Lord, both in your unlimited Love and in the community.

Holy Spirit, be our light so that we keep faith in the heart of our daily lives and in that way, we may transform fear into hope. Amen.

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Answering the Call"

This Week...

Things can happen so quickly. "What a difference a day makes - 24 little hours," as the song goes. Nineveh changes overnight because of Jonah's preaching. Simon, Andrew, James, and John immediately abandon their fishing nets to become fishers of men and women. Paul tells us to be prepared because these things can happen. He exaggerates the point so we know how urgent it is to be ready to alter our life completely for God.

For Your Reflection

When Jesus comes by, the fishers who choose to follow him are immediately changed. Their daily lives are no longer spent watching the weather, fixing their boats, and hauling fish. Yet it takes them several years to understand their faith in Jesus and what it means to be a true follower and disciple.

Some changes can happen quickly, and things are immediately different. Some changes happen more slowly, and you can only see the difference over time, while looking back with a thoughtful eye.

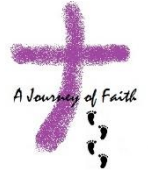
- When you made the switch from junior high to high school (or from elementary school to junior high or middle school), what were the immediate changes in your everyday life? What were the changes that took time as you matured and became more adult-like and more comfortable with your new surroundings?
- What are some of the immediate daily changes that might have taken place in the Apostles' lives and in the lives of their family members? What gradual changes do you think their family members would have noticed in them over the course of three years or so?
- When you want to change yourself, how do you get from the stage of "just thinking about it" to the stage of "actually doing it"? What are some changes you would like to make in your own life - changes that would make you a better person, changes that Jesus would approve of?
- If you truly live that way every day - making changes that Jesus would approve of, being a better person - how will that make you like the Apostles? How might you become like a fisher of other teenagers, looking for a better life?



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