

St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

July 26, 2020

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:

Saturday: 5pm Sunday: 9am & 11am

CONTACT US

The Parish Office is open reduced hours, but the doors remain locked. <u>Please phone ahead.</u>
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 9am and 4pm.

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 <u>louisyorkton@gmail.com</u>

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (27th) NO MASS

Tues. (28th) 7pm +Karl-Heinz Cattelaens

Wed. (29th) 7pm +Joanne Fedirko

Thurs. (30th) 7pm Russell Griffith

Fri. (31st) 7pm +Zygmunt Gebhard

Sat. (1st) 9am +Rose Broda

5pm Denis & Marianne Dierker

Sun. (2nd) **EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

9am +Bernard Matsalla

11am Mass for the People

<u>PLEASE</u> remember to register for Saturday/Sunday <u>Mass</u>. It helps with preparation, and makes entering the church much smoother, quicker, and safer if everyone registers in advance (see column to the right for instructions). Thank you!

RE-OPENING THE CHURCH

Great news! Per the Government of Saskatchewan and the Archdiocese of Regina directives, Father Louis will celebrate public Saturday/Sunday Mass for **a limited number of people at 3 Masses**. Please be patient as we are doing our best to follow the guidelines and to welcome as many people as possible.

All those wishing to attend must pre-register:

- 1. Check out the link at www.stgerard.ca and complete the registration form for you and your household between Monday morning and Thursday at 4pm (or until registration is full).
- 2. Only if you do not have access to the internet, phone the Parish Office at 306.782.2449 Monday at 9am until Thursday at noon. If leaving a message, please include your name and telephone number and your call will be returned.

All must receive confirmation from the Parish Office prior to attending Mass. Thank you!



Stay
Connected
Online!
www.stgerard.ca



Lord, you reveal the kingdom of heaven on earth. Help me be more aware of God's presence.

> - From Faithful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeny

A Note from Your Pastor.....

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In the first reading we hear a beautiful story of Solomon, one of the great kings of the Israelites. At the beginning of his reign, God asked him, in a dream, what his heart desired. God allowed him to choose from many different gifts. Amazingly, he chose the Gift of Wisdom. At the end of the first reading we hear: "It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you." (1 King 3.5-12).

In our daily lives we understand that wisdom is not the same as knowledge. Anyone can have knowledge by reading, researching, learning, and memorizing facts. But wisdom is something we gain from experience and from what we exercise. Unlike knowledge, wisdom is earned by experiences and is a gift from God.

Through the Gift of Wisdom, God helps us to understand the meaning of life, and the splendor of destiny, which is to be with God.

Wisdom brings peace to our mind. The Wisdom that I am saying here is not the same as worldly wisdom. It is something deeper and very much more precious. It means knowing what is truly important in life. It means being able to see life by God's view, and being able to live the way that God wants us to live. If we don't have God's Gift of Wisdom, then no matter what possessions we have, or how successful we are, we will not be happy. Wisdom is the pearl of great price. If we find it and have it, no one can take it from us.

Solomon chose the Gift of Wisdom because he wanted to be able to know the most important things in his life. Because he is a leader and will become an impartial judge, he wanted to know how to communicate with God and his people in all his judgement, and how to live the way that God wanted him to live. He knew if he had Wisdom, he had everything.

Therefore, Solomon gave us a good example. We should learn from Solomon, pray to have the Gift of Wisdom from God, not from the world.

In the Gospel, what God offers us is so precious that it is worth everything we have. The kingdom of heaven is worth investing everything we have to acquire it, but we need the Wisdom that comes from God to see this.

The Kingdom of God is a very simple concept. It means to know that one is a child of God, with a divine dignity and an eternal destiny; it means to know the meaning of this life, and how to prepare ourselves for the next life in the Kingdom of God.

Finally, I want to say that a close relationship with God is a real treasure. It gives us a sense of who we are, and where we are going. Only God can give us what we are looking for. If we find God, we find all, if we have God, we have all, not only in this life but in the life to come. We pray for ourselves and for others to be like this.

May God bless us all and have a wonderful week!

Fr. Louis Nguyen

Livestream of Daily and Sunday Masses - Resurrection Parish (Regina) -

are available at 9am at the following link:

www.youtube.com/ArchdioceseRegina

Mass may be viewed live, or at any time after the time listed.

Daily & Sunday Mass may also be viewed:

Vision TV (check your local TV listing)

<u>www.dailytvmass.com</u>

www.saltandlighttv.org/live/?muid=1



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 8:30 am & 4:30 pm

Or by appointment. Phone 306.782.2449 or 306.782.0323

Marriage Preparation for Engaged Couples - Fall Session. We are preparing dates for the Fall Session of Marriage Prep. At this point in time the sessions will include private study and Zoom meetings. If you are marrying in the next year and have not taken the Marriage Prep Course, please call Father Louis.



New to the parish? WELCOME!!!

If you are attending weekday or Sunday Masses, please introduce yourself to Father Louis! New Parishioner forms are available. You may download the form online at www.stgerard.ca and mail/email it to the Parish Office.



News from the CWL



The St. Gerard C.W.L.'s Gigantic Garage Sale has been CANCELLED for September 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Please do not bring items to the church or Father's garage. Thank you!

St. Gerard's C.W.L. is having a raffle with three prizes: 1st prize - \$200 Cash; 2nd prize - Double Quilt & 2 Shams; and 3rd prize - Twin Quilt & Sham. Draw date is December 5, 2020 with proceeds to Palliative Care.

Ticket Books are available in the Welcome Area and all members are asked to please pick up a book (or more) of tickets and sign your name and telephone number on the sheet provided beside the ticket books.

If you are unable to pick up a book, please call Paulette (306-782-7923). Thank you.

CWL National will be giving a series of five talks in a Summer Speaker's Series: https://cwl.ca/summer-speakers-series/.

There is a limit of 3,000 registrants and 1,500 have already signed up, so please register as soon as possible.

Aug 10th: Speak to the Earth and It Shall Teach

You: On the Christian Vocation to

Tend, Guard, and Heal

Aug 11th: Women Together Caring for our

Common Home

Aug 12th: Women and Healing Our Wounded

Church

Aug 13th: The League of the Future: Part III

Aug 14th: The League in 2020



News from the Knights of Columbus



August 1 Evening Bingo

August 11-12 St. Philomena Walking Pilgrimage

August 12 Afternoon Bingo

Stay tuned for information re: the distribution and sale of Charity Appeal tickets!

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Rejean Houle @ 306.641.5430 or houle_r@yahoo.fr More info.: www.kofc-2031.ca

Saint Philomena Walking Pilgrimage

The Saint Philomena Walking Pilgrimage will be happening again this summer, we start on August 11th at Yorkton and finish on August 14th at the Shrine at Rama. This is a supported pilgrimage with rest stops provided along the way and a trailer carrying tents and sleeping gear to each overnight stop. Pilgrims are invited to join us for all or part of the walk. Precautions are in place to help keep pilgrims safe from the COVID-19 virus. For more information, check out our website at www.stphilomena.ca or phone Dave or Bev at 306 728 5525



Rags to Riches

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The richly decorated portrait *The Vision of Saint Helena* by Paolo Veronese is immediately impressive. Helena, a woman of humble origins, became the wife of Constantius Chlorus (Rome's emperor from 293–306). An innkeeper's daughter in an outback town, her beauty caught the eye of the most powerful man on earth. She went from rags to riches.

In the painting she wears lush, Eastern fabrics with woven prints and royal colors. The gold and blue details of her dress and the velour of her crimson cape broached under her chin denote the wealth her position afforded. She rests on a high-back leather throne; an elegant textile wall covering provides a background from floor to ceiling.

The softly flowing fabrics and her serene posture exude calm and focus our attention on her tranquil face and spirit of contemplation. No matter the power, wealth, and beauty of the world surrounding her, Helena has forsaken all to pursue the true treasure she possesses as a Christian and values more than the rest. Helena traveled from Rome to Jerusalem to bring back the relics of Christ's passion. These reminders of Jesus' love for sinners became the most important treasures of Christendom.

Veronese wants to convince us that through prayer we come to understand our treasure is not found in wealth but in the glorious vestment of baptismal faith. As adopted sons and daughters of the king, we become like St. Helena: poor commoners raised to royalty! Thank God for his gift of life in Christ and allow your heart to follow the inspirations he shares with you.

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Are you moving this summer??



Please remember to notify the Parish Office. We like to keep our records current, and to be able to mail your charitable donation receipt to the correct address at the end of the year. Thanks!

GIVING TO YOUR PARISH

The COVID-19 virus has impacted individuals world-wide. St. Gerard's Parish is no exception.

One of the consequences of not being able to gather together for Mass is that our revenue has decreased. Despite availing ourselves to government relief programs, our expenses continue.

Thank you to those who are able to contribute by one of the following methods:

Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)

After downloading the <u>Pre-Authorized Giving Form</u>, please complete it, attach a void cheque, & mail it to:

St. Gerard Parish 125 Third Ave N Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

Interac e-Transfer

- 1. Log into your online banking account.
- 2. Find e-Transfer and add <u>giving@stgerard.ca</u> to your recipient list.
- 3. Enter the desired amount.
- 4. A question, answer, or password is not required by St. Gerard Church, however it may be required by your financial institution. If so, please email the question and answer to giving@stgerard.ca with your name, mailing address and telephone number so that we can ensure your contribution is recorded properly.

Please note that this is a secure transfer deposited directly to the church's account.

If you have an envelope number, your donation will be reflected in your annual charitable donation receipt. All others will receive a receipt by mail, so PLEASE include your mailing address in the followup email. Thanks!

Online through CanadaHelps

Credit card donations may be made through CanadaHelps by clicking <u>here</u>.

Mail envelopes to the church

You may mail cheques (not cash), enclosed in your offertory envelope to:

St. Gerard Parish 125 Third Ave N Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

Your St. Gerard Parish COVID-19 Questions Answered

On March 18, 2020, Archbishop Donald Bolen, in keeping with the Code of Canon Law no. 87, granted to all the Catholic faithful dispensation from their Sunday obligation. This is still in effect.

What does this mean? As Roman Catholics, we have an obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Until further notice, Archbishop Don has granted an exemption from this obligation. For those who are unable or choose not to attend Sunday Mass at this time, you do not have to. Other ways to participate in Sunday Mass is to watch it on television or watch the YouTube Mass online, courtesy of Resurrection Parish & Christ the King Parish (Regina) and the Archdiocese of Regina.

What happens if someone at Mass develops COVID-19? All parishioners who have preregistered will be contacted immediately.

Do I need to wear a mask? At the present time, masks are not mandatory, but this could change at any time. You may wear a mask if you wish, and are encouraged to do so (*thank you to Rita R. who has been supplying our parish with fabric masks*). If you have seasonal allergies, please wear a mask for your own comfort and for the peace of mind of other parishioners. Thanks!

Why do I need to register each time when I would like to attend Mass? We are blessed at St. Gerard's to have a large parish family! In order to provide all parishioners with an equal opportunity to attend Sunday Mass, it is necessary to register each week.

Why can't I sit in my usual place? In order to accommodate as many singles, couples, and families as possible, it is necessary to assign seat numbers so that all are able to celebrate safely.

Carefully attending [to the directives] is the best way to ensure that we won't contribute to the spreading of the virus, and the most helpful step we can take in convincing government and health officials that opening our churches to larger numbers is a safe and responsible thing to do.

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. 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.

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

Calling Teens and University Students

Are you looking to meet some new people, look at some of life's big questions and have a few laughs along the way?

Please join us for "Alpha" Online. There will be a few opportunities for us to potentially gather in person as a group, but the majority of the gatherings will happen online. We promise it will be an hour WELL SPENT each week!

So Join us Wednesday evenings at 6:30PM, starting on July 8th. No need to register. Just join us on ZOOM at https://zoom.us/j/643587934

Any questions contact Michelle: mbraden@archregina.sk.ca

Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry Event

A DAY RETREAT "Redefining Normal; Faithfully Stepping into the Unknown"

It will be held on Aug. 22 from 10am-10pm out at Glen Harbour Camp. (on Long Lake approx. 40 minutes NW of Regina) Cost is \$60. Everyone 19 and up is welcome but spaces are limited.

To register or get more info, please go to https://archregina.sk.ca/youth-ministry/young-adult-ministry

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, is thrilled to announce a new dynamic in young adult ministry coming soon! Watch for more info about small group ministry starting in the early Fall!

Blogs and Podcasts and Websites (Ctrl+Click to follow the link)

- Amazing Parish Thrive
- <u>Thinking Faith</u> with Dr. Brett Salkeld and Deacon Eric Gurash
- Barefoot and Preaching Leah Perrault

Books and Other Resources

(Ctrl+Click to follow the link)

- Free Catholic Novels
- What's Next for the Church A PDF book from Word on Fire
- A Celebration of the Word of God St. Therese Institute

An Ignatian Prayer Adventure

You are invited to join in **An Ignatian Prayer Adventure** with commentary and reflection by: Fr. Larry Gillick SJ—Director of The Deglman Centre for Ignatian Spirituality, Creighton University - Omaha, Nebraska.

A 10 - part video series. Fr. Gillick will provide videos containing his reflections on various aspects of the exercises as your journey progresses. These videos are being prepared especially for the Archdiocese of Regina.

These videos will be released every 2 to 3 weeks, and come with guided prayer material. *This is a work at your own pace retreat.* The retreat uses the book 'An Ignatian Adventure, by Kevin O'Brien S.J.'

Subscribe to our YouTube page at www.youtube.com/user/ArchdioceseRegina and you will be notified when new videos are released.

Archdiocese of Regina on Social Media

We invite you to like us on Facebook, we will have regular Facebook Live prayers and we would love to have you join us!

www.facebook.com/ArchdioceseofRegina/

You can also find us on Twitter @archioceseofreg and on Instagram archdioceseofregina.

Compassionate Listening

If you find that during this difficult time you need a compassionate listening ear, visit:

https://archregina.sk.ca/archregina-outreach

for a list of spiritual directors and candidates in training who have volunteered their time to be there for anyone who is struggling.

Prayers, Devotions and Resources



Visit the Prayers and Devotions page to find information on daily mass, daily readings and reflections, prayers, stations of the cross and other resources that may be valuable during this time of social distancing.

https://archregina.sk.ca/prayers-devotions-resources



Opening Children to God's Love

Greetings!

As we share our faith and tradition with children and grandchildren, we want to help them develop a relationship with God. We can learn how to talk to youngsters about God by considering what makes our human relationships work.

The relationships most worth having are grounded in love. Our relationship with God flows from the love God pours out to us. God so loved us that each of us is made in God's image. We know, too, that God loved us so much to send Jesus as a vulnerable baby.

In good relationships, we honor and live shared values and strive for peace. We teach our children the Ten Commandments and other guidelines for a Christian life to help them understand the difference between right and wrong. When we attend Mass and see that we are part of something much bigger than ourselves, our children begin to realize that God is God for us, not just me. Why is it important, we can ask, that we are on this human journey together?

Do we invite children to pray about their concerns?

Healthy relationships have open, regular communication. When we teach our children to pray from their hearts, we empower them to be in the kind of ongoing conversation with God that can shape and guide their lives from moment to moment. Do we pray together? Do we invite children to pray about their concerns, small and large alike? Can we recognize the ways that God also moves in the silence? All this builds that relationship.

Healthy relationships involve trust. We trust that God is at work in our lives and in all of creation. Ultimately, we are not in charge. A saying attributed to St. Ignatius states this so well: "Pray as if everything depends on God, work as if everything depends on you." We do our best moment to moment, but ultimately we need to trust God's power and goodness. This can be a source of confidence in the midst of life's ups and downs. Do we model this for our children? What do we do with our fear and anxiety?



As children learn to express their thoughts to God, they develop a relationship with the Almighty.

Last but by no means least, good relationships are sources of joy and life. When we connect with God, we see that nothing is untouched by his fingerprints. We realize that all of life is a gift, a source of wonder that God gives us. As we help children develop intimacy with God, we will openly thank God for these gifts. In that way, we spread our joy that God loves us to those we love most.

Text by Trish Sullivan Vanni. Art by Kathy Sullivan. © 2017 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 3949 South Racine Avenue, Chicago, IL 60609; 800-933-1800; www.LTP.org. Pastoral Liturgy* magazine. July/August 2017, www.PastoralLiturgy.org.



CATHOLICMOM SUNDAY GOSPEL ACTIVITIES

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time | July 26, 2020 | Mt 13 44-52

В	L	G	Υ	D	Z	Ι	S	Ι	Μ	F	С	F	Z	Μ	Q	G	0
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BURIED BUY FIELD

FINDS FINE HEAVEN

HIDES JESUS JOY

KINGDOM MATTHEW MERCHANT

PEARL SEARCHING SELL

SEVENTEENTH TREASURE

YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"The Reign of God"

This Week...

The Reign of God is both delightful and frightening. It is delightful to come across a treasure buried in a field or a perfect pearl. For such a precious commodity, we might invest our life savings. However, the image of everything being divided into the "useless" and the "worthwhile" is rather frightening.

For Your Reflection

The Reign (power and control) of God is also known as the Kingdom of Heaven. It takes place on earth and reaches its fullness in heaven.

 Often in school, business, politics, and even social settings people try to assert their own power and take control of things. Where have you seen this happen?

When people surrender their life to God's power, life is different. Then people don't try to control things or one another; they try to work together so that God's way rules. This rarely occurs on earth, but it happens once in a while. There is peace, understanding, and cooperation, and no fear, competition, or dishonesty.

- Have you ever seen this happen? If so, where? What was the situation?
- Do you think you can do anything to help bring forth the Reign of God at home, at school, at your job, with your friends? Why or why not? What would have to happen to create a little heaven on earth?

Excerpt from In Touch With the Word, Cycle A for Ordinary Time St. Mary's Press, 2004



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, <u>diplomainministry@stfx.ca</u>