



# St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Second Sunday  
of Lent

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](http://www.stgerard.ca) | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: [office@stgerard.ca](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:louisyorkton@gmail.com">louisyorkton@gmail.com</a>
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	<a href="mailto:office@stgerard.ca">office@stgerard.ca</a>
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

## MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (14 <sup>th</sup> )	NO MASS
Tues. (15 <sup>th</sup> )	7:00pm +Helen Piontek
Wed. (16 <sup>th</sup> )	9:00am Randy Halliday
	10:00am <b>NURSING HOME SOUTH</b>
	<b>CANCELLED</b>
Thurs. (17 <sup>th</sup> )	9:00am +Art Scherr
	2:30pm <b>YORKTON CROSSING</b>
	Fran Meehan
Fri. (18 <sup>th</sup> )	9:00am +Theresa Spykerman
Sat. (19 <sup>th</sup> )	9:00am Marianne Dierker
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	5:00pm +Tom Pasloski
Sun. (20 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
	9:00am Mass for the People
	11:00am +Elizabeth Beres
	1:00pm Sacrament Preparation beginning with Mass

The **Stations of the Cross** devotion is prayed each Friday at 7pm during Lent.

## NEW GUIDELINES FROM THE DIOCESE

We ask that you continue to remain vigilant in your actions and decisions, considering the greater good, and to follow the directives per the Archdiocese of Regina:

- **We are a "mask-friendly" parish**, meaning that wearing a mask is optional, and we respect those who continue to do so.
- Please sanitize your hands when entering and leaving the church.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection continues.
- We will not shake hands when we share the sign of peace.
- Communion Ministers will wear a mask.
- If you are ill, elderly, or medically vulnerable in any way, you are urged to continue to take every precaution to keep yourself and others safe.



**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](http://www.stgerard.ca)



Lord, you desire to be with me and walk with me along life's journey.  
Awaken in my heart a desire and commitment to be with you in prayer.

- From *Mindful Meditations for Every Day of Lent and Easter*,  
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

## A Note from Your Pastor ....

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We celebrate the second Sunday of Lent. In the Gospel we hear the story of Jesus revealing his true divine to his disciples. We wonder what the true meaning of this event is. Most of us are unaware of the spiritual meaning of this story. In our reflection for this weekend, I would like to invite you all to look a little deeper at what the transfiguration means.

The first thing we need to know is that the transfiguration of Jesus is a vision of Peter, James and John. We know this is a vision as Jesus told them not to tell it to anyone until the Son of Man is risen from the dead. In the Gospel for this weekend we hear: *“The disciples kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.”*

Second, we see that this is a sign of the difference between the two covenants. It is the ending of one (Old Testament) and the beginning of another (New Testament). The story symbolizes the end of the law and the prophets. God the Father claims that *“This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him.”* Indeed, Jesus, he himself, is a high priest of the new covenant and where there is a new high priest it is required that there be a new law. The old law ended and now God is no longer speaking through the prophets but through His Son.

Third, this is a good chance for the disciples to discover who Jesus is. Before this event, Peter, on behalf of others, had confessed that Jesus was the Messiah but he had no idea of what that meant. It was very clear that when Jesus spoke of His death, it confused Peter. Therefore, the transfiguration helped Peter and others to confirm what they confessed. It shows Peter, James, and John that Jesus is neither an ordinary man or even a great prophet, but that he is indeed the Messiah, the Son of God.

And one more, the last thing: this event is the key to understanding the passion of Jesus and his commitment to it. Jesus wants his disciples to know that he would be glorified but it would not at all be the kind of glory that humans would expect. The transfiguration is meant to be a lesson of the passion. It would only be through his death and resurrection that he would attain that glory. That is why Jesus committed himself to the cross. For him, it is the path to glory.

In this story, the appearance of Jesus' face is a very special one, but it is not his only face. He has all the faces that we have: anger, gentleness, compassion, sadness, fear, anguish. Behind all of these, he also carries within him the splendor of divinity, as the Father said, *“This is my beloved Son.”*

We learn that the human face is very important. To remember someone is to remember his/her face. The face always reveals who we are and the life we are having. In other words, we can read what people are feeling inside, how they really are, whether they are sad or happy, shocked or indifferent, all by the appearance of their face.

Each of us has many faces. At different times we wear the face of happiness or sadness, courage or defeat, peace or unrest, hope or despair, joy or pain, friendship or hostility. There is nothing to be ashamed of in all of this because it is a part of being human.

Today we are told that on the mountain Jesus' face shone like the sun. What we hear in the Gospel is real. It does reveal something of Jesus' inner glory that at other times was hidden from us.

Like Abraham, we are called to live by faith, the faith that assures us that behind the most ordinary human face lies a child of God, a brother and sister of Jesus, bound for eternal glory. Therefore, we are invited to show the face of faith in every moment of our life. We are also invited to show the “face of love” and the “face of faith” to one another in our actions and in words. That is what I believe that God's Word this weekend invites us to do.

Have a blessed weekend to you all and **PLEASE** pray for peace in Ukraine. Pray for the ending of war and, as Pope Francis has suggested, pray one “Hail Mary” each time you think of the tragedies in Ukraine.

Blessings always in Christ. *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.



**We welcome into our Catholic Christian Community those who were baptized recently at St. Gerard:**

Jalen Quezada      Lenny Katzberg

**May these children and their families experience joy and new life.**



## SYNOD LISTENING CIRCLES

**This is a reminder to sign up for Parish Listening Circles** - reflections in a small group setting. We will prepare for parish Listening Circles in March and begin the circles after Easter.

Contact Linda Maddaford, 306.783.3924 or Carm Molnar, 306.620.2284 to register.

Share Lent 2022



Development and Peace  
CARITAS CANADA



This Lent, let's put



## Madagascar: an ecological village to cope with climate change

Development and Peace's *People and Planet First* campaign celebrates what solidarity can achieve, even against seemingly impossible odds. In Madagascar, for instance, Development and Peace's partner, the Development Council of Andohatapenaka (CDA), empowers people to manage and transform their neighbourhoods. In the capital region, which is afflicted by flooding and poor waste management, CDA has helped the residents of one vulnerable area to turn their environs into a thriving ecological village. Today, each of the 50 households involved in the project has a vegetable garden, a stove and solar panels. This transformation reflects a true ecological conversion.

Watch the video at [devp.org/lent/act](http://devp.org/lent/act)



## News from the Knights of Columbus



**Bingos have been cancelled until further notice.**

March 23      Visit by travelling icon – St. Joseph  
March 25      Articles for "The Word" due  
April 12      Travelling Silver Rose service

*If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Keith @ 306.783.0963. [www.kofc-2031.ca](http://www.kofc-2031.ca)*

**A reminder to all who have not made a donation to the seminarian fund and wish to do so. Please use the envelope supplied or a blank envelope and put in collection basket. We need priests.**

## News from the Archdiocese of Regina

### Faith, Grief, and COVID-19: Virtual Series

The wide variety of losses associated with the COVID-19 pandemic has generated grief in all of our lives. How do we, as Christians, navigate this time of upheaval and loss? Where can we find hope?

Over the course of four one-hour virtual gatherings, from **March 16 - April 7**, The Archdiocese of Regina, and Emmaus Family Support Ministries invite participants to gather from 7pm-8pm each week. We will share a short series of films by a panel of mental health and faith experts and engage in discussion, reflection, and prayer.

Registration is free, but space is limited. Register at: <https://archregina.flocknote.com/signup/83149>

A link to the virtual sessions will be shared with registrants on the day of each session. For more information, contact Deacon Eric Gurash at [emmausmentalhealth@gmail.com](mailto:emmausmentalhealth@gmail.com)



**\$20 per plate**

2 Sausages, 6 Perogies, 3 Cabbage Rolls,  
Coleslaw, Lemon Dessert

## ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY

**Tickets available March 1<sup>st</sup> 'til March 21<sup>st</sup> at 4pm**

Contact:                      Elaine 306.782.0550  
Sonia 306.783.0952      Kathy 306.783.8173

**Copies of the 2021 Annual Report are available on the shelves at each entrance to the church.**



## An Unexpected Awakening

By Barbara Hughes

I'm not sure what I expected, but as I crossed the threshold, the room with its cement floor, cinder-block walls, and two small windows placed near the ceiling caused me to question my sanity. What in the world was I doing here? In lieu of a bed, a hammock hung from the ceiling in one corner of the room, and in another was a straight-back chair facing a shelf-like table that held a wooden cross fashioned from tree branches. There was no electricity, but there was running water, evidenced by the small sink and toilet tucked behind a half-wall that partially divided the space. This was my first trip to the hermitage hidden deep in the woods on the grounds of a Benedictine monastery. I had decided spending time in a hermitage would be a meaningful, delightful way to begin the season of Lent. Now I wasn't so sure.

But as I looked around the room, I realized the bare-bones environment was intentional. There was nothing pleasant to look at, nothing to distract me. I could no longer run from God or hide behind work or family commitments. With nothing else to do, I took a deep breath, closed my eyes, and let the world around me disappear.

A cocoon-like silence enveloped me, and as my heart began to swell, I knew I stood on holy ground. In the hours and days that followed, I discovered that it wasn't the hermitage I was visiting that was holy. It was the hermitage that God was building inside me that was pure, a place I could carry with me long after I left the monastery grounds. This unexpected awakening gave me a new perspective, which, in essence, is what Lent is all about.

The word *Lent* means "lengthening of days." It reminds us we have time to turn away from sin and fall in love with God. We begin by stripping away excuses for our sins and shortcomings. We strive to shed illusions rooted in the false self and enter the desert with Jesus, where we are given the opportunity to discover what can only be learned through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Each year, the Church invites us to enter the desert, because once is never enough. Despite our best intentions, we grow weary, our resolve dissipates, and our baptismal robe becomes soiled. Hence, the penitential tone of Lent invites us to fast not only from food but also from sin and all that may lead us astray. We recognize that we can't do this by ourselves and so we profess our weakness and ask God to create a clean heart in us and renew our commitment to practice good works.

Lent is serious business, but serious is not the same as gloomy. In fact, Lent can be a time of joyful consolation because the more we empty ourselves, the more God fills us with his mercy and grace. This is the good news with which we are called to begin our Lenten journey, because, according to St. Paul in 2 Corinthians 6:2, God affirms, "In an acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you."

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### St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church 100 Years (Rama, SK)

July 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

Registration and non-refundable payment due  
**April 1, 2022.** Cheques payable to:

St. Anthony's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
PO Box 86  
Rama, SK SoA 3Ho

Check the poster on the bulletin board, or online  
at <http://stpatriksturgis.ca/rama.php> for the  
schedule, registration fee and meal fees.

**RSVP by April 1, 2022:**  
[omimichal@gmail.com](mailto:omimichal@gmail.com) or [maryjoe@sasktel.net](mailto:maryjoe@sasktel.net)  
or phone 306.593.6120

### A Word from Pope Francis

Belief in God and the worship of God  
are not enough to ensure that we are  
actually living in a way pleasing to God.



A believer may be untrue to everything that his  
faith demands of him, and yet thinks he is close to  
God and better than others.

—On Fraternity and Social Friendship  
(*Fratelli Tutti*), October 3, 2020

### THE WEEK AHEAD

- Sun. (13<sup>th</sup>): 1:00pm Sacrament Preparation  
Beginning with Mass
- Mon. (14<sup>th</sup>): 9:00am CWL Quilting Bee  
7:00pm Bible Study (lower level)
- Tues. (15<sup>th</sup>): 9:00am CWL Quilting Bee
- Wed. (16<sup>th</sup>): 7:00pm **Annual General Meeting**
- Sun. (20<sup>th</sup>): 1:00pm Sacrament Preparation  
Beginning with Mass

## YOUTH REFLECTION

### **"Stars"**

#### **This Week...**

Abraham and Sarah, both old and childless, look at the stars and see children and grandchildren too many to count. Peter, James, and John look at Jesus and see him beside Moses and Elijah in a sight too brilliant to stare at for long. If God is on our side, how can we fear whomever or whatever is against us?

#### **For Your Reflection**

Abraham and Sarah were old and childless, and they longed for children. Descendants, like stars, meant to them a permanent place in history, because their names would be carried on. Today, a "star" is a celebrity, someone with a name that is well known. In fact, people often confuse "stars" with "heroes." Just because a person is famous and well known does not mean that person is a good role model for people.

Who are your heroes? Are they "stars"? What makes them heroic in your opinion?

When you stare up at the stars at night, what do you think of? Life on other planets? Alien creatures and UFOs? TV shows and movies based on space travel? Astronomy? Astrology? How do the stars affect your imagination?

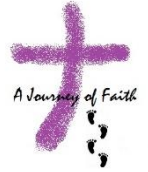
*Excerpt from In Touch With the Word, Cycle C, 2004*



**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.*

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## 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.

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## 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.

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**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.

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## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:diplomainministry@stfx.ca)