



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday
of Lent

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. (15 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (16 th)	6:00pm <i>Holy Hour Devotion</i> 7:00pm +Merv Krasowski
Wed. (17 th)	12:05pm +Joseph Hung Pham
Thurs. (18 th)	9:30am +Giuse Chin Pham
Fri. (19 th)	SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH 9:30am Jody Chupa 6:30pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i> 7:00pm +Peter and +Anna
Sat. (20 th)	9:30am +Phero & +Maria
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	5:00pm +Gabriel Macalino 7:00pm +Anna
Sun. (21 st)	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 9:00am +Joseph 11:00am Mass for the People

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

WELCOME BACK!

Commencing Friday, March 19 we will be able to welcome more than 30 people in the church!

Please follow these important notes:

- **Pre-registration for Saturday/Sunday Mass is required.** Online at www.stgerard.ca Monday morning to Thursday at 12 noon. Please note that confirmation of your request may be delayed.
- Each household must register separately.
- Masks are mandatory are to be worn prior to entering the building. **Please arrive early.**
- *At least two-metres physical distance is to be observed at all times, even with masks on (masks are an additional measure of protection).*
- 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
 - ❖ Those who have travelled outside of the province or Canada within the last 14 days
 - ❖ Those who are waiting for COVID-19 test results

Rejoice!



Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, you are the source of love, peace and justice in the world. Help me to live in communion with you and all people.

- 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,

As I prepare this message to you, I hear the good news from the government that as of March 19 we can welcome 150 people or 30% of the church's capacity. Thanks be to God for this change. I am happy that more parishioners are able to gather as a family to celebrate the Eucharist after the capacity having been reduced to 30 people.

We need to remember to keep to the public health guidelines such as wearing masks, sanitizing hands and maintaining social distance. We need to be patient and wait until all of our community receives the vaccine before going back to normal.

At the same time, we hear marvelous words in the Gospel of this weekend: *“God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life”*. These words summarize the whole of the Good News and show us that it was God who sent His Son to us, it was God who took the first step to reconcile us to himself.

Through these words, God chose the approach of love, not of power. God acts not for his own sake but for our sake. God is the Father, who is not happy until all of his wandering children have come home.

In the past people had been presented with a picture of God as stern, angry and unforgiving. Now we see Jesus as being kind, gentle, and forgiving. By his death, Jesus changed our attitude of God.

At this time, I invite all of you to do a reflection on Nicodemus for he is at the centre of the Gospel today.

According to the Gospel of John, Nicodemus appeared three times. The first time is in the Gospel today. We are told that he was impressed by the teaching of Jesus. So he came to see Jesus but it was at nighttime as he didn't want to be seen. Given the fact that he was a Pharisee, it is a wonder that he came at all. Jesus welcomed him and joined him in a long conversation.

By the second time that Nicodemus appeared, the Pharisees had made up their minds to kill Jesus, and were ready to do so without even giving him a trial. But Nicodemus intervened, declaring that Jesus should at least be given a fair hearing as the law demanded. He defended it... He said, *“Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?”* (John 7.51)

And the third, the last time that Nicodemus appears, is at the burial of Jesus. It was he who provided a large quantity of expensive spices for Jesus' burial. (John 19)

At the first appearance, Nicodemus was an open-minded man. He wanted to seek the truth. During the second appearance he was a fair-minded man and he insisted that Jesus should not be condemned without a trial. And at the third appearance he was a wealthy man, but also a generous and compassionate one.

I think we can emulate all of these qualities. But what Nicodemus seems to have been unable to do was to come straight out and make a full and a public act of faith in Jesus. He doesn't seem to have had the courage to come out of the darkness and choose the light.

Reflecting on the character of Nicodemus should challenge us to come out from the shadows and not to be afraid or ashamed to profess openly our faith in Jesus, and to be ready to pay whatever price is required for doing so.

My dear sisters and brothers, *“Those who believe will not be lost, but will have eternal life”*. It is not simply a matter of believing, but of living according to that belief.

I am looking forward to welcoming more people back next weekend. Remember that we will have four Masses each weekend. I hope to see you at one of these services.

We praise and thank God for all his blessings and being with us. Have a wonderful week and enjoy the beautiful weather. Love you all.

Fr. Louis Nguyen

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

Solemnity of St. Joseph



Every March 19 the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of St. Joseph, husband of Mary, and step-father of Jesus.** Joseph is not a major part of the New Testament and is not mentioned after Jesus' infancy except for the story of finding Jesus in the Temple. We know only that he was a carpenter in Nazareth, that he had a quiet life with Jesus and Mary, and we assume that he died before Jesus left home for his public ministry.

It seems comforting to think of St. Joseph living this ordinary and humble life with Mary and Jesus, doing things families do, with no fanfare or special attention. His role on earth was to love and nurture Mary and Jesus and the assumption that a loving Jesus and Mary were both with him as he died led to devotion of Joseph as the Patron Saint of a Happy Death.

www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html



YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH PRAYER

“Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.”

- Pope Francis

FOR THE FAMILY AND THE HOME

Saint Joseph, protect our home. Pour forth from heaven blessings on our family. Remain in our midst. Help us to live in love and harmony, in peace and joy. May the wholesome fear of God strengthen us that virtue may adorn what we do, and our way may lead to heaven. To you this day I give the key to our dwelling place. Lock out all things that could do us harm. Lock my home and my loved ones with me in the hearts of Jesus and Mary. This I beg of you, that our days may be like your days in the holy home at Nazareth. Amen.

SACRAMENTS of INITIATION PREPARATION



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

The next Baptism Preparation Session is Sunday, March 21st at 2:00 pm.

Please contact the Parish Office to register: 306.782.2449 or office@stgerard.ca

The **Stations of the Cross** devotion is prayed Friday at 7pm during Lent. Max. 30 people.

- Mar. 19 Parish Pastoral Council (**6:30pm**)
- Mar. 26 Altar Servers

Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!



Eucharistic Holy Hour Devotion
at 6pm (prior to 7pm Tuesday Mass)



News from the CWL



C.W.L. Membership fees for 2021 are now due. The fee is \$30.00. If you haven't submitted your membership fee, please do so as soon as possible.



News from the Knights of Columbus



March 25 Articles for "The Word" due

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



Solemnity of St. Joseph Friday, March 19

Mass will be celebrated at:

9:30 am 7:00 pm

Pre-registration not required.



Bringing Home the Word

Healed through His Wounds

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Jesus refers to the story Michelangelo painted into a corner of the Sistine Chapel, *The Brazen Serpent*. It is about the time the Chosen People were attacked by serpents and many were dying. God instructed Moses to place two serpents on a staff and lift it up over the people. All they had to do was look at the serpents to be miraculously healed of their bite wounds.

We have all been bitten by sin. This can be our own self-destructive choices and attitudes, or we can be victims of other's sins. Yet sin and suffering doesn't need to have the last word. We can overcome if we choose to look at Christ crucified and learn his lesson of love. Jesus teaches us to not be defined by our ugly choices or the wounds we suffer. Our wounds and weaknesses can become the place of our healing. Jesus wants to heal us. That is why he let himself be lifted up!

To embrace this healing is simple yet challenging. First it requires simple faith to believe you are loved by the Father, no matter what. Second, we need a constant, often-denied effort on our part to sincerely repent and work with God's grace to transform self-limiting attitudes and habits into virtues.

Even if you feel dead in your transgressions now, Jesus has already secured your path to life. Grace awaits you. The first step is to accept the love from he who is lifted up with arms outstretched to receive you.

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STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

A Share Lent Reflection: The bread which you hold back belongs to the hungry; the coat, which you guard in your locked storage-chests, belongs to the naked; the footwear mouldering in your closet belongs to those without shoes. The silver that you keep hidden in a safe place belongs to the one in need. Thus, however many are those whom you could have provided for, so many are those whom you wrong. - Saint Basil, 330-379 AD

Isn't that what Jesus did for us 2000 years ago? The path to Glory - live for the good of others.

- Pope Francis

Submitted by the Stewardship Committee



Do you know that over 10,000 Canadian Catholics like you are members of Development and Peace?

The *Share Love, Share Lent* campaign invites you to pray for them and to honour their solidarity towards our sisters and brothers in the Global South.

Show your support by donating generously this coming **Solidarity Sunday**. You can also become a monthly donor and have your year-long contribution matched, thanks to the support of religious communities across Canada. Not only will you double your impact, but you will also automatically become a member of Development and Peace! Learn more at devp.org/lent

The special collection for Development & Peace is March 21st

Please give generously!

- PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•
- PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•

PARISH FUNDRAISER

Friday, March 26th

2pm – 5pm

(while supplies last!!!)

- Potato & onion perogies \$35 (10 dozen)
 - Potato & cheddar perogies \$40 (10 dozen)
 - Cabbage rolls \$25 (5 dozen)
- (Rice with dill)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, perogies and cabbage rolls will be available drive-through only (no walk-ups). Enter at parking lot & turn into the driveway in front of the church. Please remain in your vehicle and someone will take your order. Please wear a mask!

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Tues. (16th): 7:30pm- Liturgical Committee Meeting (Parish Hall)
- Thurs. (18th): 10:00am- Ushers Meeting* (Parish Hall)
- Fri. (19th): 7:30pm- Ushers Meeting* (Parish Hall)

* ALL USHERS are to attend one of the two meetings scheduled. Thank you! Father Louis

YOUTH REFLECTION

"God's Handiwork"

This Week...

We are God's handiwork. The immeasurable riches of God's own grace and kindness are given to us. We are precious to God, who sends us prophets to guide us and Jesus to save us. Our work reflects the handiwork of the One who made us, the One who prepared the path for us to walk.

For Your Reflection

- Being God's handiwork means God took great pride and care in creating us. What are some of your gifts and talents - characteristics that God takes great pride in? Do you feel awkward when you are asked to list your gifts and talents? Why or why not?
- We were created in Christ to do good works. What are some good works you have already participated in? What are some needs in your school, in your family, in your neighbourhood, in your country, and in your world? What is one good work you can focus on doing in the near future?
- God created a path for us beforehand, so that we might walk on it. Do you think God created a very specific path for each individual? Or do you think God created a very general path of goodness so that each individual might find his or her own way to walk? Explain your answer.

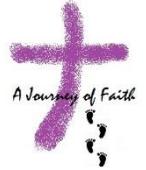
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter* - St. Mary's Press, 2004



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, diplomainministry@stfx.ca