



St. Gerard

March 29, 2020

Fifth Sunday
of Lent

Roman Catholic Parish

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:
(Cancelled until further notice)

CONTACT US

The Parish Office is closed until further notice.

When phoning the office please leave a message which will be returned as soon as possible.
You may also email the office.

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

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

Pastor.....	Fr. Louis Kim Nguyen	306.782.0323	louiskimnguyen@yahoo.com
		306.621.8068	
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer		
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

COVID-19 DIRECTIVE

1. Sunday & Weekday Masses are suspended until further notice.

Archbishop Don Bolen has granted to all the Catholic faithful dispensation from their Sunday obligation until further notice.

Daily and Sunday Masses from Resurrection Parish in Regina will be livestreamed:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/17094656>

2. The Chrism Mass scheduled for March 30, 2020 will be closed to the public.
3. All services, events and activities are cancelled, including Holy Hour Devotion, other community prayers/devotions, all Parish Hall activities, all sacrament preparation including RCIA, Marriage, Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation.

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation: Half-hour before Saturday morning and Saturday evening Mass, or anytime by appointment. **PLEASE PHONE FATHER LOUIS AT 306.782.0323**

Infant Baptism: Please contact Fr. Louis at least one month prior to Baptism.

RCIA: Adults wishing to be received into the Catholic Church should contact Fr. Louis.

Matrimony: Please contact Fr. Louis at least 6 months prior to the time you would like to be married.

Anointing: Please contact Fr. Louis at any time.

For Anointing of the Sick and other emergencies, you may contact Fr. Louis at 306.621.8068



Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, your life-giving spirit fills me with hope and joy. In times of trouble, help me place all my trust in you.

- 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 in Christ,

I have just finished my daily Mass and now I am sending to each of you my first message. These days, we are facing a horrible disease and because of it we are all in isolated places. We are asked to stay home and to not go out or gather in any public areas so we can protect ourselves and prevent the spreading of the COVID-19 virus.

When I celebrated the Eucharist, I prayed for the world, for the Church and for all of you. I prayed that “*Lord, deliver us from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days that by the help of your mercy we may be always free from sins and safe from our all distress...*” I was thinking of you when I said these words.

Since Friday, March 13th, 2020 all of the services of the Church have shut down. I have a feeling that the Lenten season of this year seems finished earlier and now we are entering the Holy Week, a very long Holy Week but we do not know when Easter is coming.

However, we should have some positive thoughts in our minds. We should see this as a special time for us to be home, for spending time with other members. I would say that it is family time because God wants us to re-build our relationship with others, in our own family, relatives and others. We will have time to have meals together, pray together, to watch a good movie, to read a new spiritual book. There are also many good things we can do at this time such as fixing the house, cleaning, and re-organizing the house.

We should see that God wants us to know that we need him. He is with us but we have been busy and so many things distract us and lead us away from him. Now is the time to acknowledge how important it is to have him, to be with him and to have him as the centre of our life and our activities.

We miss the Eucharist. We miss all sacraments such as Baptism, Eucharist and Reconciliation. We miss gathering together as a community of faith. It is good for us to remind ourselves that we belong to a community - that we miss our sisters and brothers in Christ. I would say that during this time there is a good chance to reflect and evaluate the importance of God and Church in our life. It is also a time to remind ourselves of unity. When we are fighting with this disease, we learn that more than ever we need the unity. We cannot divide; we need to be in communion with others.

Psalms 46 says: “*The mighty Lord is our refuge. God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea*”. It touches my heart when I read these words. The mighty Lord is our refuge. With him we have nothing to fear. My sisters and brothers in Christ, be strong and keep up your good works. We will continue our mission to build up a strong community of faith and support.

I hope and pray that we will soon be back to a normal schedule, which would allow us to gather for Sunday Mass and to celebrate the Pascal Mystery this year because it is the core of our faith.

I am working on another project if we continue to be unable to gather together - via a private Facebook temporarily. I would ask you please check the update on our own website, www.stgerard.ca, as we will keep in touch to let you know what's happening in our parish.

Again, I want you to know that you are in my prayers. Although we are unable to meet each other physically we can be with one another in prayers and spirit, a Holy Spirit.

May God bless you all and keep you in His care. I love you all.

Fr. Louis Nguyen



THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER:

Monday	- CLOSED
Tuesday	- 5 pm to 7 pm
Wednesday	- 9 am to 11 am
Thursday	- 9 am to 11 am
Friday	- 9 am to 11 am
Saturday	- 9 am to 11 am
	- 4 pm to 7 pm
Sunday	- 8 am to noon

Subject to change without notice.

Stations of the Cross

An online version of the Stations of the Cross may be found at:

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/stations.html>

Please note that audio versions are available.



Development and Peace Share Lent Collection – an update on the situation

During these uncertain times because of the COVID-19 crisis, Development and Peace has made the decision to cancel or postpone all of its in-person meetings and events across Canada. Lent is a vital time of year for the organization, and so we invite you to participate to our virtual Share Lent campaign and act in solidarity with our partners in the Global South and the most vulnerable populations that will be all the more affected by this pandemic. This Lent, give from the heart. Donate to Development and Peace today by making a DIRECT donation:

1. **Online:** devp.org/give
2. **By phone:** 1-888 664-3387
3. **By mail:** 1425 Rene-Levesque Blvd W, 3rd floor, Montreal, QC, H3G 1T7

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

COVID-19 UPDATES

The Pastoral office is now closed to the public until further notice, if you need to reach a staff member, the best way to contact them is by email.

A full list of their contact information is available on the COVID-19 Updates page:

www.archregina.sk.ca/content/covid-19-updates

Prayers and Devotions

Here you will 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>

Archdiocese of Regina Weekly Report

Sign up for our Archdiocese of Regina Weekly Report and stay up to date on COVID-19 Updates and other news, delivered to your inbox every Friday morning. Sign up now: <https://bit.ly/2QIMBoo>

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: @archdioceseofreg and on Instagram: archdioceseofregina

Good Samaritan Project

The Archdiocese of Regina has volunteers from all around the diocese who are willing to reach out if you are in need. If you need groceries or essential items but are ill, immobile or quarantined and so not able to leave the house AT ALL (noting that NONE of us should be leaving more than absolutely necessary!) please contact us and we will set you up with a volunteer who can help. Please also contact us if you live alone and are feeling lonely and isolated. We can arrange for someone to check in on you by phone. We are committed to operating in such a way that the Health Canada Guidelines, and provincial Public Health Orders from our Chief Medical Officer and provincial government are strictly adhered to. If you need some assistance, please email outreach@archregina.sk.ca at anytime. OR call 306-541-3086 between 9-5 Tuesday-Saturday.



Bringing Home the Word

Our Resurrection

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The raising of Lazarus is a decisive miracle in Christ's public ministry. It leads to increased hostility and gives the Jewish leaders both an excuse and a motivation to actively seek the death of Jesus. This Gospel episode is so important that John dedicates an entire chapter to the story.

What is the most important message of this miracle? Without faith in Jesus, there is no resurrection: a fitting message for a Pietro Annigoni painting in Europe right after World War II. In Annigoni's *The Resurrection of Lazarus*, Mary is at the feet of Jesus while Martha is on her feet pouring out her heart. The artist evokes a landscape of death and destruction, one too often observed in postwar Europe. Colors of decay abound. Stones are piled up like rubble. The trees are burnt, scrawny, and twisted as if after an air raid. It is ugly, rugged, barren, and dry. A small group of people have gathered to weep at the tomb.

Jesus is the only source of color and life. After Martha affirms her faith in Jesus and the resurrection, he lifts up his hand and calls out. The onlookers peer inside, perhaps having heard the sounds of rustling coming from the cave.

The message of this artwork is clear to anyone struggling with the bondage of a destructive past. Jesus wants to speak words of life and raise us from the grips of death, war, and despair. Believe in Jesus and he will raise you up!

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Pope Francis' Prayer for Protection

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

We pray to the Lord Jesus, who went about doing good and healing the sick.

We ask for strength in body, mind and spirit for all those who are sick with the coronavirus.

We pray especially for those who are greatly weakened by this virus; enable them to regain their health.

We remember also those who have died due to its effects.


Assist all those in the medical field who treat people with this malady and those doing research to find a cure.

We ask, Lord, that through your grace, the spread of this virus within communities in Canada and throughout the world will be restricted & eliminated and that our Christian communities may joyfully proclaim the Good News you have entrusted to them.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Courtesy of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg)

A	M	A	R	T	A	H	R	A	M	LAZARUS
S	I	T	E	E	F	A	L	B	A	BETHANY
R	S	E	Y	A	H	A	E	L	B	SISTERS
E	Y	U	A	T	Z	T	N	M	Y	MARTHA
T	R	O	R	A	H	E	O	S	T	MARY
S	A	A	P	A	R	T	T	R	E	OINTMENT
I	M	A	N	Y	Z	U	S	U	B	FEET
S	U	Y	R	A	E	A	D	U	J	BROTHER
R	A	Z	A	L	A	Z	L	O	T	JUDAEA
T	N	E	M	T	N	I	O	E	R	TOMB
										STONE
										PRAYER



St. Gerard Parish
Comparative Income Statement to February 29, 2020

	2020	2019	Change		2020	2019	Change
REVENUE				COMMITTEE EXPENSES			
Collections	42,033	39,531	2,502	Family & Social	0	0	0
Other (Donations, rel. articles)	3,896	1,808	2,088	Ecumenical	0	28	-28
Perogies & cabbage rolls (net)	1,484	504	980	Liturgy	1,186	327	859
Annual Fall Supper (net)	0	0	0	Stewardship	0	0	0
Catering	2,738	5,064	-2,326	Religious Education	812	1,070	-258
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	50,150	46,907	3,244	Social Justice	182	0	182
Building Fund Donations	1,276	1,229	47	Youth	0	224	-224
Trust Fund Donations	0	0	0	Community Life	0	0	0
TOTAL REVENUE	51,426	48,136	3,291	Public Relations	0	0	0
				Pastoral & Finance Council	11	711	-700
OPERATING EXPENSES				Refugee Family Committee (net)	0	4,564	-4,564
Pastoral	75	282	-207	Cemetery Expense	0	0	0
Parish Office	1,861	2,119	-258	Total Committee Expenses	2,190	6,924	-4,734
Diocesan Assessments	5,850	5,900	-50	TOTAL EXPENSES	58,020	65,356	-7,337
Pastor/Office Wages, Salaries, etc.	24,359	21,541	2,818	NET INCOME (LOSS)	(\$6,593)	(\$17,221)	\$10,627
Building:							
Sask Energy	2,197	2,163					
Sask Power	2,741	3,131					
Water	334	612					
Property Taxes	2,000	2,480					
Insurance	3,212	3,643					
Parking Lot	3,405	4,071					
Garbage/recycling	247	459					
Repairs & maintenance	1,849	3,316					
Total Building	15,985	19,875	-3,890				
Hall:							
Wages, Salaries, etc.	2,443	3,518	-1,076				
Catering	2,031	3,120	-1,088				
Administrative Expenses	76	273	-197				
Total Hall	4,550	6,911	-2,361				
Rectory	3,149	1,804	1,345				

Approved by Parish Council

YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"Lazarus Raised from the Dead"

This Week...

Death is a natural part of life. It can be frightening and painful to think about death. We may be afraid to die. We may fear being left alone when a loved one dies. But there is still good news - we will be raised up. Ezekiel told us that was how we would know God. Jesus raised up Lazarus; Jesus himself was raised up.

For Your Reflection

- Do you have a relative that has died? If so, how did this relative enrich your life: What characteristics of hers or his do you share?

- Our faith comforts us in the face of death, because we believe that we will be raised up, like Jesus. What do you think about that? How does it feel to think about your own death or the death of someone you care about?

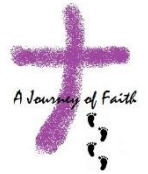
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle A for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter* St. Mary's Press, 2004



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