



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

March 6th, 2022
First 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 | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: 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	louisyorkton@gmail.com
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (7 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (8 th)	7:00pm +Ambrose Wolfe
Wed. (9 th)	9:00am +Peter Rumancik
	10:00am ASPEN VILLA
	+Peter & +Irene Cherneski
	7:00pm Carol Deters
Thurs. (10 th)	9:00am Jean Kulcsar
	2:30pm LAKESIDE MANOR (SALTCOATS)
	David & Mary Ryhorski
Fri. (11 th)	9:00am +Emily Kosar
Sat. (12 th)	9:00am +Mariann Konan
	5:00pm Mass for the People
Sun. (13 th)	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
	9:00am Deceased members of the Bozsik family
	11:00am +Anton & +Pauline Dziaduck
	1:00pm Sacrament Preparation beginning with Mass

NEW GUIDELINES FROM THE DIOCESE

Effective Monday, February 28th, 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.

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

Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, give me the courage to accept the painful, ugly realities of life and become your advocate of truth and justice in the world.

- 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,

This weekend we celebrate the First Sunday of Lent. Now we will accompany Jesus in his fight with the devil and his encounter with God, as we are on a 40-day journey of praying, fasting and giving alms.

First of all, we should be aware that what Jesus passed on, in all his three temptations, was no play-acting. It was real, it was true. The temptations of Jesus are the temptations of us all: to live for material things alone, to seek one's own glory rather than God's glory, and to abandon the worship of God for the worship of worldly power and fame. But we also should remember that God is with us in all our struggles, helping us to overcome them. I invite you to reflect on Jesus' lessons through his temptations in the wilderness.

The **first temptation** was to turn stones into bread. The word "bread" can mean material things in general. This was the temptation to give people what they want rather than to give them what they need. We see the comfort or seeking in this one. Jesus has been fasting for 40 days. He's probably a little bit hungry and the devil tempts Jesus to turn stones into bread, putting his comfort ahead of the Father's will. Food is good, but it will not fill our hearts.

The **second temptation** was to set up a political kingdom to resort to power rather than to love. People are always tempted to replace love by power. It is easier to control others than to love them, easier to dominate people than to become their servant.

We see pride in this one. The devil takes Jesus to a mountaintop and shows him the whole world, saying I'll give you all of this, if you bow down and worship me. Success is good, but it won't fill our hearts.

And the **third temptation** was doing something amazing in order to elicit faith.

We see vanity in this one. The devil suggested that Jesus throw himself off of the temple, because the angels will save him. The respect of others is good, but it won't fill our hearts.

All three temptations come down to the same thing in the end: to put material things and his own glory first and spiritual things and God second, if at all.

Temptation is truly present with us. From morning until the end of day, we are challenged, faced with it. Remember in the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught us to say: "lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."

Jesus shows us how to respond to the temptations. He does this by proposing three ways to put something else before God. And what's Jesus' response to all this? I know these things can make me happy but I will choose my Father's will above everything else. He shows us how to put God first.

Now I would give you some suggestions of practical ways to experience the peace that comes from putting God first. Lent is 40 days long, the same amount of time that Jesus fasted and prayed in the desert. What about trying one of these time-tested ways over the next 40 days?

- **Mass:** Coming to Mass is the ultimate way to put God first in our lives. Through the celebration we receive Christ in the Eucharist, and give public witness to our faith. Therefore, in addition to Sunday Mass, consider coming to daily Mass a couple times during the week this Lent. Why not?
- **Visiting Christ in the Eucharist:** Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Mt 11.28) He cares about us so much that he is always here waiting for us. He wants to spend time with us. He puts us first. Can we spend half an hour each week with Jesus in the Eucharist? Why not? It will change our lives.
- **Daily Prayer:** We come to know God in prayer. Perhaps you could dedicate 15 minutes a day in silent prayer. You could use the Bible or a prayer book. Prayer is not complicated. You can pray anywhere; what's important is that you stick with it every day.

- Fasting: Can you say: I could restrict my internet use and dedicate that time to be with my family or to reach out to someone who is lonely. I could look to build others up in my speech instead of tearing them down.

I wish all of you, parishioners of St. Gerard's to have a blessed Lent, a wonderful experience to know how to put God first and make this Lent a sacred time in each of us.

And during this Lent, let's say this prayer which I combined from different prayers, every day to pray for our sisters and brothers in Ukraine.


Pray for Peace in Ukraine

God of peace and justice,

Who change the hardened of heart and break the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you. Protect them in this time of peril; let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom.

You are the Father of all, and we are sisters and brothers. Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace not war.


Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on the people of Ukraine and all the world, pour the spirit of peace into the heart of all, and help us to be peacemakers. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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.



Congratulations to
Tyler Nieckar & Christen Hilderman
who were married at St. Gerard on February 26th.


May the Lord be with them every day of their married life.



REMINDER
RE: CHURCH KNEELERS

Your parents taught you to lift the kneelers at the end of Mass, right?

Well..... we ask that you leave the kneelers **DOWN** at the end of Mass in order to assist the ushers with the increased cleaning/sanitizing while we are still experiencing the pandemic. Thank you!



PRAY FOR UKRAINE

Development and Peace appeals and prays for peace in Ukraine and calls the faithful to stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people. As an organization committed to justice and peace, we strongly condemn all acts of military aggression.

Large numbers of people have been displaced, needing help with meeting their basic needs. Development and Peace has made an immediate allocation of \$75,000 to help with the provision of food, shelter, medical care and transport to safe locations. In addition, we ask for your solidarity and support to help us respond to the needs on the ground.

Last but not least, thank you for joining us in praying for peace.

If you would like to contribute to Caritas Ukraine, please note "Ukraine" on the memo line of your cheque and mail it to:

Development & Peace
1425 Rene-Levesque Blvd West, 3rd Floor
Montreal, QC H3G 9Z9

Or you may donate online:
<https://www2.devp.org/en/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=3&gl=24360>



Share Lent 2022 Development and Peace CARITAS CANADA This Lent, let's put PEOPLE & PLANET first



News from the CWL



The CWL meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9th with Mass at 7 pm, followed by the meeting to take place in the hall. Every member is urged to attend as we will have an instructed vote on 8 amendments (one through eight) to the Constitution and Bylaws (2013) and also a secret ballot vote on the proposed \$12.00 increase in the per capital fee which would result in an increase in membership fees from \$30.00 to \$42.00 if the vote is passed across Canada. One of the amendments that will be voted on is the proposed name change from 'Our Lady of Good Counsel' to 'Our Lady of Guadalupe'. Make your vote count by attending the meeting.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Bingos have been cancelled until further notice.

March 9 General Meeting at 7:00pm
 March 23-25 Visit by travelling icon – St. Joseph
 March 25 Articles for "The Word" due

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

GET INVOLVED
 Make a Difference!



ST. GERARD PARISH PASTORAL & FINANCE* COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nominations are now open for the following positions (and terms):

Chairperson	3 yrs	Family & Social	3 yrs
Public Relations	3 yrs	Properties*	3 yrs

Deadline for submission of nomination forms is Thursday, March 10th at 12 noon.

**•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•PEROGIES•
 •CABBAGE ROLLS•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•**

PARISH FUNDRAISER

Friday, March 11th

2pm – 5pm

(while supplies last!!!)

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

Perogies and cabbage rolls will be available drive-through only (no walk-ups). Please remain in your vehicle and someone will take your order.



Bringing Home the Word +

Learning from Jesus' Temptations

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Every Lent, priests, nuns, monks, and many laypeople pray the following: "Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for [someone] to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Jesus encountered this truth in his temptations in the desert, another place in his ministry where he experienced the struggle of humanity.

The temptations begin, "If you are the Son of God...." All our temptations begin by doubting and challenging

Jesus to prove himself. Although Jesus is all-powerful and all-good, we struggle to make sense of suffering and tragedies.

The temptations continue as Jesus is invited to satisfy himself, impress others, and skip suffering. But Jesus responds repeatedly in humility. In the desert he doesn't turn stones into bread. He later does something far greater; he turns bread and wine into himself. When tempted, we cry out to him to soften the hard realities of our lives. And Jesus does just that. He suffers in his passion, dies, and rises again to become life-giving bread for us. He becomes manna in our desert.

When we wish for power, Jesus promises we will reign with him if we also let him suffer for us and we with him. The devil would have us take matters into our own hands, doubt God, and make him prove himself by our measures. Yet if we listen to Jesus, look at his answers, and learn from his life, then true power will be ours.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun.	(6 th):	1:00pm Sacrament Preparation Beginning with Mass
Mon.	(7 th):	9:00am CWL Quilting Bee 9:00am Perogy Bee (dough) 7:00pm Bible Study (lower level)
Tues.	(8 th):	9:00am CWL Quilting Bee 9:00am Perogy Bee (pinching)
Wed.	(9 th):	9:00am Perogy Bee (packaging)
Thurs.	(10 th):	12noon <i>Deadline for nomination forms</i>
Sun.	(13 th):	1:00pm Sacrament Preparation Beginning with Mass

YOUTH REFLECTION

"The Desert"

This Week...

Jesus knows what it is like to be in the desert and to want God's help. He had his own desert experience, being tempted by the devil, feeling alone and isolated, and needing strength and faith. It happened to the Hebrews, it happened to Jesus, and it happens to us. Desert experiences can be retreats for us if we use them as a way to get closer to God.

For Your Reflection

The Hebrews were not happy with their slavery in Egypt. But they were not thrilled with being isolated in the desert land, either. In some ways, that was worse. But Jesus actually chose to retreat into the desert land. He followed the guidance of the Holy Spirit in his life and ended up in the desert for a long time.

Have you ever felt as if you were in a desert, alone and isolated - escaped from an old place perhaps, but not yet arrived at a new place? Which was worse - the place you had escaped from or the desert place? Why? What moved you to get on with your life journey in order to actually arrive at the new place? Or are you still in the desert? How do you know?

Jesus retreated to the desert because the Holy Spirit led him there. Has the Spirit ever led you to a place that ended up being a desert? Did you ever do "the right thing" and end up alone and isolated? What happened? Were you surprised? Angry? At peace? How does the bareness of desert-life give way to the rich fullness of growth-life?

Is there anything good about a desert experience? Without other distractions, all you have is yourself and God. In that situation, is it easier or harder to get closer to God?

Is it possible to become more in touch with God and not become more in touch with yourself? Why or why not? How does being in touch with yourself help your relationship with God? How do you get in touch with yourself?

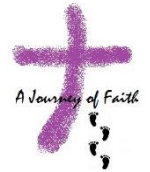
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word*, Cycle C, 2004



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.

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