



# St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

March 7, 2021

Third 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](http://www.stgerard.ca) | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca)

Pastor.....Fr. Louis Nguyen 306.782.0323 [louis.yorkton@gmail.com](mailto:louis.yorkton@gmail.com)

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

## MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (8 <sup>th</sup> )	NO MASS
Tues. (9 <sup>th</sup> )	6:00pm <i>Holy Hour Devotion</i> 7:00pm +Peter Rumancik
Wed. (10 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>12:05pm</b> K of C & their families
Thurs. (11 <sup>th</sup> )	9:30am +Freda McCann
Fri. (12 <sup>th</sup> )	9:30am Special Intentions 7:00pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat. (13 <sup>th</sup> )	9:30am +Donna Olshewski
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	5:00pm +Art Scherr 7:00pm +Ferdinand Thiele
Sun. (14 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> 9:00am +Joan Kormos 11:00am Mass for the People 5:00pm

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

- **Pre-registration for Saturday/Sunday Mass is required.** Online at [www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca) Monday morning to Thursday at 12 noon.
- **Maximum 30** people may attend Mass.
- Each household must register separately.
- Masks are mandatory. This includes from the time you leave your vehicle until you return to your vehicle after Mass.
- Members of the same household may sit together at the marked seating.
- *At least two-metres physical distance is to be observed at all times, even with masks on (masks are an additional measure of protection).*
- **Please arrive early.**
- 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
  - ❖ The sick, including those with a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath
  - ❖ Those who have travelled outside of the province or Canada within the last 14 days



**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 instill within me your power and wisdom.  
Help me to discern more clearly how to use your  
power and wisdom in service of my brothers and sisters

- 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 my message for this weekend I would like to tell you a story that I remember, a story that I read years ago:

There was a very sincere young man who wished to live a holy life. One day he went to his master to seek his advice because he felt that he lacked something in his heart. The master welcomed and congratulated him on his self-discovery, and then the master asked, "How have you been faring so far?"

"Quite well, I think" the young man replied.

"What do you mean when you say quite well?" the master asked.

"Uhm," the young man replied, "I mean I haven't broken any of God's commandments. I haven't taken the Lord's name in vain, I always keep the Sabbath day, I haven't dishonoured my parents, I haven't killed anyone, I haven't been unfaithful to my wife, I haven't stolen anything, I haven't made false witness against anyone..."

"I see" the master said. "So you haven't broken any commandments."

"That's right" the man replied with pride.

"But have you kept the commandments?" the master asked.

"What do you mean?" the young man asked.

"I mean have you honoured God's holy name? Have you kept holy the Sabbath day? Do you love and honour your parents? Have you sought to preserve and defend life? When was the last time that you told your wife that you love her? Have you shared your goods with the poor? Have you defended the good name of anyone? When was the last time that you went out of your way to help your neighbour?"

Now the young man realized that up until now he had been intent on avoiding wrongdoing, and had a negative view of goodness. The master offered him a new, positive vision of goodness, not just to avoid evil, but to do good. The master had given him a new and better compass to guide him, a new and more challenging path to follow.

We should not forget what Jesus says in Matthew 15.17-18: "*Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished*". This means that what we hear in the first reading this weekend is still valuable and we are required to practice it in our daily life. But Jesus also brought in a new and more exacting law: the law of love. He said that all of God's laws could be reduced to two: Love of God and love of neighbour.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church no. 45 states "*God designed the human heart to find its lasting fulfillment in a deep, personal, ongoing friendship with him - in what the Catechism calls 'communion with God'*". This is why the first three commandments, as we hear in the first reading, have to do with our relationship with God - that's the most important thing. But our fallen human nature tends to look for fulfillment in other places: career success, money, pleasure, power, popularity... and that is wrong because these things are fine in themselves, and they have their place in the human story, but they cannot substitute God! Only God can satisfy our deepest longing.

My dear sisters and brothers, I invite all of you to continue to reflect on this. Ask yourself these questions: What is my spirit when I practice God's law? Do I keep and exercise God's law for love or for fear? Do I have a new vision of goodness, not just to avoid evil, but to do good? Do I have a new and better compass to follow my path?

I believe that throughout the first reading God invites us to renew our vision, our spirit, when we live and keep His laws.

Have a wonderful week with God's abundant blessings. *Father Louis*



I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the parishioners who attended the Annual General Meeting (onsite and online), to those who posed questions, to Susan Barton, Linda Maddaford and Melinda Sevilla for helping to make the virtual/in-person meeting possible, and for all who continue to build up our St. Gerard community.

Thank you to our former Parish Council Members: Jenny Baraoidan, Carol Deters, Maureen Pankoski, Yvonne Turgeon, and Brian Kruger. Many thanks for all of your hard work and commitment to St. Gerard's Parish Council.

May the new Parish Council be empowered by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and use their unique gifts to minister to one another.

I invite all parishioners to look forward with hope and optimism, to keep our St. Gerard Parish family in your prayers, as we move forward to a future free of COVID-19. We will all join together again, working together in harmony, to build up unity and community in our parish.

*Father Louis*

### 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



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

Scarlett Almasi

**May this child and her family experience joy and new life.**

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

- Mar. 12 CTTCS Staff
- Mar. 19 Parish Pastoral Council (**6:30pm**)
- Mar. 26 Altar Servers



### 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



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

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MARCH 3, 2021

At the Annual General Meeting, the following were elected by acclamation:

Secretary:	Joanne Geysen
Liturgical:	Colleen Haider
Community Life:	Rose Marchinko
Social Justice:	Mark Bell
Properties:	Gary Colbow
Hall:	Lorne Wanner

**The following positions remain vacant:**

Public Relations	Family & Social
Finance Chairperson	

### News from the Archdiocese of Regina

#### 2021 Virtual Men's Conference Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

The Knights of Columbus Denis Mahoney Council 8215 is once again very pleased to bring you the 2021 Virtual Men's Conference - Into the Breach Part III - Esto Vir! Be a Man, in the image of St. Joseph! This year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the conference will move to a combination of pre-recorded and live-stream for a morning of talks and question and answer sessions with this year's speaker, the Very Reverend Father Stefano Penna with a wrap up from Most Reverend Bishop Mark Hagemoen! **This year the conference will be presented free of charge to all attendees!** But it does require you to pre-register.

**Registration online at:**

[rootedconference.ca](http://rootedconference.ca) or phone Queens House Retreat Centre in Saskatoon at 306.242.1916. The event is hosted by Knights of Columbus Council 8215 and is open to ALL men!



# Bringing Home the Word

## Wisdom, Strength

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The ceiling painting by Laureti, *The Triumph of Religion*, is found in the Constantine Room of the Vatican papal apartments. It is a symbolic celebration of the triumph of Christianity over paganism, set in a classical architectural space. The remains of a crushed Hermes lie broken in pieces on the floor, while a crucifix of Jesus Christ sits upon the pedestal.

It is fitting that this painting crowns the papal hall honoring Constantine, the first Roman emperor to leave paganism and be baptized a Christian. Constantine had four basilicas built in Rome—including St. Peter's — and gave Christians freedom of religion in the Roman Empire.

The message is clear. The Romans worshiped statues of gods who were mere human creations and projections. In the statue's place is not just another statue but a crucifix that reminds us of a reality, a historical event. God himself became human in Jesus Christ and showed his divine strength by emptying himself and being crushed by our sins in order to forgive and win back a rebellious humanity.

This show of godly power through weakness is foolishness to the Gentiles and inconceivable to the Jews. Yet this humility and love is the wisdom that confounds and the strength that saves.

Religion isn't a business or human invention for personal enthronement. Jesus overturns this idea like he overturns the moneychangers' tables. Worship of God is all about accepting his initiative and humbly responding in the obedience of faith and the purifying joy of love.

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*Loving God, draw us close to you in this Lenten season.*

*May we witness the power of the cross and proclaim the conviction that Christ is close to us even in dark or difficult days.*

*Together as a community of faith, we trust that you will draw us close to you and into a daily experience of the resurrection.*

*May our sacrifices and gifts during this season of Lent make us constantly aware of your presence with us. Amen.*



The *Share Love, Share Lent* campaign is inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti* and its call “for a love that transcends... Geography and distance” and “allows us to acknowledge, appreciate and love each person.”

Each week, the campaign explores a different aspect of Development and Peace's work and offers you ways to become involved.

Follow the solidarity calendar at [www.devp.org/lent](http://www.devp.org/lent)

## The special collection for Development & Peace is March 21<sup>st</sup> Please give generously!

### The Passion of Youth



Did you know Development and Peace has an active youth movement from coast to coast?

The *Share Love, Share Lent* campaign celebrates the passion and commitment of youth, who represent the present and the future of the Development and Peace movement. Join them in supporting our work for positive change in Canada and the Global South.

**Start a solidarity letter chain in aid of Development and Peace.** Learn how at [devp.org/chainletter](http://devp.org/chainletter).

### STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

We are all bound to work in the vineyard where God is the husbandman. We have all been given our little vineyard, but the way in which we cultivate it is of great importance for the prosperity of our neighbour's vineyard... In fact all our vineyards are a part of the Lord's great vineyard, the Holy Church, and we are all bound to work here too.

Sigrid Undset (1882 – 1949)

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

## YOUTH REFLECTION

### **"The Ten Commandments"**

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

Even people who hate rules and regulations cannot deny that the Ten Commandments are a pretty good foundation for moral behaviour. We still need God's wisdom to guide our folly and our sinful ways. No doubt folly and sinful ways were on Jesus' mind as he watched the money changing and marketing going on at the Temple.

#### **For Your Reflection**

No matter what the rule or law is, some people can find a way around it. Sometimes they obey the "letter" of the law, but they disregard the "spirit" of the law. Sometimes they pretend to misunderstand the meaning of the law. And sometimes they actually get away with breaking a law by paying off someone who is supposed to be guarding the law.

- Is it ever okay to break a law? Why or why not? Give some examples.
- What are some school rules or family rules that you hate to keep? What do you dislike about them? What are some school rules or family rules that you wish other people would keep, but they don't? Why do you like those rules?
- Do you think it would be possible to run a country, a school, an organization, or a family without rules or laws? Why or why not? How would life be different?

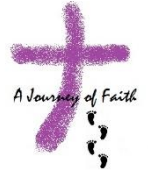
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter* - St. Mary's Press, 2004



**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.*

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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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## 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](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)