



# St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Fifth Sunday  
of Easter

Established December 11, 1904

## CONTACT US

Parish Office Hours: Monday to 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)

### PASTORAL TEAM

Father Sathi Antony, Pastor

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Rectory 306.782.0323

[ansathisjb@gmail.com](mailto:ansathisjb@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/sathy.antony>

*\*\*Appointments to be arranged via the Parish Office\*\**

Sandra Archer, Office Administrator

Trisha Quintos, Office Assistant

Somi Paul, Caretaker

### MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

•Altar Server Coordinator

Kathleen Bedard [altarservers@stgerard.ca](mailto:altarservers@stgerard.ca)

•Baptism Team

Trevor Baker [tlbaker@sasktel.net](mailto:tlbaker@sasktel.net)

•Catholic Women's League

Deanna Pellatt [pell@sasktel.net](mailto:pell@sasktel.net)

•Centering Prayer

Ernie Bobowski 306.783.6014

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•Children's Liturgy Coordinator

Sarah Prost [prost.litz@hotmail.com](mailto:prost.litz@hotmail.com)

•Family, Community & Social

Juliette Franke & Rosemarie Todos

•Knights of Columbus

Jonathan Rosas [grand-knight@kofc-2031.ca](mailto:grand-knight@kofc-2031.ca)

•Liturgy

Colleen Haider

•Sacrament Coordinators

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•Stewardship Coordinator

Linda Maddaford [lmaddaford@live.ca](mailto:lmaddaford@live.ca)

St. Gerard Parish is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.

### ST. GERARD PARISH HOLY MASS & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Mon. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Victoria Day – Parish Office Closed	
	9:00am	Perogy Bee Preparation
	5:30pm	Knights of Columbus Rosary Prayer
Tues. 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	PEROGY BEE
	<b>6:00pm</b>	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	7:00pm	<b>Holy Mass</b> +John Toth
		Followed by Finance Council Mtg.
Wed. 21 <sup>st</sup>	9:00am	<b>Holy Mass</b> +George & +Loretta Antosh
	10:00am	<b>Holy Mass - Nursing Home Chapel</b>
		+Horace & +Mildred Jackson
	7:00pm	Liturgy Committee Meeting
Thurs. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00am	<b>Holy Mass</b> +Maxine Paydli
	6:30pm	Confirmation Preparation
	7:00pm	Centering Prayer (Lower Level)
Fri. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>8:00am</b>	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	9:00am	<b>Holy Mass</b> +Brian Adamiak
<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>		
Sat. 24 <sup>th</sup>	5:00pm	<b>Holy Mass</b> for the People (70 min.)
Sun. 25 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	<b>Holy Mass</b> for the People (75 min.)
		Followed by Parish Family Brunch

### SACRAMENTS

<b>Reconciliation:</b>	Half-hour before daily Mass Tuesday to Friday, and by appointment
<b>Anointing:</b>	Please contact the Parish Office After-hours Emergency 306.782.0323
<b>Baptism/RCIA:</b>	Please contact the Parish Office
<b>Matrimony:</b>	Please contact the Parish Office 12 months prior to the marriage date



On the 5th Sunday of Easter Year C, the readings invite us to reflect on God's presence among us, the importance of love and faith in times of betrayal, and the need to support one another in our faith journeys. These themes remind us of the central messages of Christianity: God's closeness, the call to love, and the strength found in community.

**God's Presence Among Us** Today we reflect on the comforting theme of God dwelling with His people. In Revelation, we see a vision where God lives with us, wiping away every tear and taking away pain and suffering. This image assures us of God's constant presence and care in our lives.

God being close to us means He is involved in our daily lives. He is not distant or far away but is always near, offering comfort and guidance. This presence can be a source of strength and hope, especially during difficult times. The promise of God dwelling with us also means we are never alone. No matter what challenges we face, we can trust that God is with us. This closeness gives us the courage to move forward, knowing that God's love and support are always available.

**Love and Faith in the Face of Betrayal** Today we reflect on the themes of love and faith found in the readings. At this point in the Gospel of John, Jesus and His disciples are in Jerusalem for the Passover. Jesus is aware of His impending betrayal by Judas and the plots against Him. Despite this, Jesus chooses to speak about love and service, showing His trust in the Father.

The passage from Revelation offers hope with the vision of a new heaven and a new earth. It reminds us that God is with us, wiping away our tears and promising a future free of pain and suffering. This vision encourages us to hold on to our faith, knowing that God is always near.

Finally, Jesus' new commandment to love one another as He has loved us is a powerful message. Despite knowing He would be betrayed, Jesus focuses on love and service. His example teaches us to love others even in difficult times and to trust in God's plan.

**Supporting Each Other in Love** Today we are reminded of the importance of supporting each other in our faith journeys. The early Church, as seen in Acts, shows us how believers helped one another. Paul and Barnabas encouraged the new Christians to stay strong in their faith despite challenges. This support was crucial in building a strong and united community of believers.

Jesus' command to love one another, highlighted in the Gospel, is central to Christian life. He taught this lesson at a time when He knew He would be betrayed. Instead of focusing on His own troubles, Jesus emphasized the importance of loving others. This teaches us that love should be the foundation of our relationships, even in difficult times.

Helping and supporting one another in our faith journeys means being there for each other through both good and bad times. It means offering a listening ear, a helping hand, and a kind word. By doing this, we follow Jesus' example and build a community rooted in love and care.

The readings today call us to reflect on how we can better support each other in our faith. It reminds us that love and community go hand in hand. By loving and supporting one another, we live out the true essence of our faith and strengthen the bond within our community.

## Weekend Holy Mass Schedule

Saturday Mass 5:00 pm  
Sunday Mass 10:00 am

## SIGNS of GRACE™

### Confirmation

### The Second Sacrament of Initiation

### First Eucharist

### The Third Sacrament of Initiation

Please pray for our children who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist.

After completing thirteen sessions with their parents, the Celebration at Holy Mass will be Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 2pm (Pentecost Sunday)



### Saint Rita

St. Rita of Cascia is immortalized in this wonderful, deeply moving film. This story is about the brave woman who married her knight, helped him overcome his dark past and convert to faith, happily bore him two children, and later endures immense pain as she loses everything in her life. Her story and love for Christ will inspire you to great holiness!

**Our parish has a FORMED subscription.** Visit [www.formed.org/signup](http://www.formed.org/signup) and search "Yorkton" and then select our parish. Enter your name and email, click the link sent to your email address, and then you are in! No passwords! No charge!

May is a month  
devoted to the  
Blessed Virgin Mary



## All Ladies of the Parish

are invited to the

## CWL BBQ Social

Wednesday, June 11  
Social Hall



Fellowship will begin at 4:30 with supper to follow at 5:30.

If you plan to attend please sign-up on the sheets in the Welcome Area. There are also sign-up sheets for a salad and dessert potluck to accompany the BBQ meal.



## News from the Knights of Columbus



May 18 Bingo – afternoon – 12.00  
May 25 Parish Family Brunch  
Articles for "The Word" due  
Bingo – evening – 5.00

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.728.8664. More info: [www.kofc-2031.ca](http://www.kofc-2031.ca)

## Options Pregnancy Center (Regina)

### Annual Baby Bottle Campaign

*Administered by the Knights of Columbus No. 2031*

Take a baby bottle home on Mother's Day, fill it with money or a cheque, and then return the bottle on Father's Day. Your gift will help equip their Center to care for the women, men and families affected by an unexpected pregnancy, and will provide financial support for additional health care services that they provide.

## Are you looking for a Confirmation or First Communion gift?

Stop by the Parish Office! There is a great selection of rosaries, necklaces, bracelets, crosses and much, much more! Mark this special occasion with a thoughtful gift! All items are sold just above cost as a service to our St. Gerard Parish Family. Prices range from \$1.25 to \$50.00!







Bringing Home  
the Word **+**

### What's New?

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Everyone gets a bit excited with the prospect of something new, whether it's a new job, a new car, or a new phone. This new thing might simply be a replacement. However, when it is a new model, an upgrade, we get even more excited. Revelation uses a distinctive Greek word, *kainós*, for this second kind of newness. The new heaven, the new earth, the new Jerusalem (and the new commandment mentioned in the gospel) suggest radical newness—the kind resulting from an act of God. Centuries earlier, the prophet Isaiah had promised a new heaven and a new earth. (See Isaiah 65:17.) This metaphor pointed to a time of eschatological peace and fulfillment, a time when the covenant relationship between God and the people would be renewed and last forever. This was a promise the people held dear.

How are we to read this passage from Revelation today? Is it referring to a time in this life? Or after this life? It may actually refer to both. We believe that, with his death and resurrection, Jesus inaugurated this time of fulfillment. However, its full establishment is not yet complete, hence the new commandment to "love one another" (John 13:34). When we truly follow this commandment and love each other, we actually make present the new heaven and new earth; we make real the new Jerusalem, God's covenant partner. However, the ultimate fulfillment will come when God finally brings all things to completion. That is when everything will be new.

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## Reverence For Life Prayer

O Mary, to you do we entrust the cause of life.  
Look down O Mother upon the vast number of babies  
not born, on the poor whose lives are made difficult,  
on those who are victims of brutal violence, on the  
elderly and sick killed by indifference or misguided  
mercy.

We ask for the grace to accept the Gospel of Life as a  
gift ever new, and the courage to bear  
witness to it. To the praise and  
glory of God, the Creator and  
lover of life.  
Amen!

## Catechism Theme: General Ministry of the Church (934-943)

There are two types of ministry in the Church: a general ministry all Christians are called to and a specific ministry individual members within the Church are called to. The general ministry is to serve the world. The specific ministry is to serve the members of the Church in the name and person of Jesus. These specific or "sacred" ministers who serve the Church (bishops, priests, and deacons) are called "clerics." All other Church members are called "laity." (934, 935)

The three aspects of general ministry are the roles of priest, prophet, and king. As priests, all Christians are called to pray. As prophets, all Christians are called to witness for Jesus through their words and actions. As kings, all Christians are called to lead others as Jesus did, through loving service. (941, 942, 943)

All Christians are called to witness by example. The example of prayer, word and deed, and loving service.

*How has the love of Christians helped you through times of testing? How did these Christians express their love?*

Jesus gave an example of God's presence in the world. We are to continue that example. The love Jesus gives us is the same love we share with others. That love defines us and motivates us. It is the love that grows beyond words.

*Reflect on ways you can show God's love to others. Plan two or three ways to share his love this week.*

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### PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank You for Your constant presence in our lives.

Help us to love one another as Jesus taught us.

Give us the strength to support each other in our faith journeys and to trust in Your plan.

Amen.

# CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF SASKATCHEWAN



Most Rev. Mark Hagemoen  
Diocese of Saskatoon



Most Rev. Donald Bolen  
Archdiocese of Regina



Most Rev. A. Stephen Hero  
Diocese of Prince Albert



Most Rev. Murray Chatlain  
Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas



Most Rev. Michael Smolinski, CSsR  
Eparchy of Saskatoon

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## Dying with Hope: Living and Walking Together

On February 6, 2017, the Catholic Bishops of Saskatchewan wrote a pastoral letter titled “On Living through our Dying”. In it, we addressed the legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide, euphemistically known as Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD). The message of “On Living through our Dying” holds even greater significance today as the practice of medically assisted death continues to grow and expand in our country.

We begin this new pastoral letter by repeating the same invitation we offered eight years ago:

Our faith invites us to live and die with trust in the God who gave us breath. We mourn any time a person seeks to end their own life. Our calling at this time and in this place is to form ourselves well in a Christian understanding of living and dying, so that we can witness to the world that there is another way.

The Church’s teaching across the whole breadth of issues touching on human life is consistent and credible. Too often, her stance against the intentional taking of an innocent human life is heard as a “no.” But in saying “no” to assisted suicide, the Church is saying “yes” to accompaniment; “yes” to community; “yes” to solidarity with the suffering; and “yes” to caring for those who need it most. Indeed, it is because of these commitments that we can confidently reject acts that fail to recognize the dignity of each human person.

### We Begin by Listening

Many of you have been touched, as we have, by the experience of losing family, friends and community members to assisted suicide. Responses to these situations have been as intense as they are varied. We have heard descriptions of feeling shut out of end-of-life decision making and guilt over not being able to prevent a medically administered death.

Genuine empathy and the influence of romanticized accounts of assisted suicide in the media lead many individuals to sympathize with those who choose a medically administered death. Above all, we hear and appreciate your profound anger and sadness when supporters of assisted suicide portray the Christian gift of accompaniment to natural death as merciless, even cruel. It is still common to encounter the objection that a rejection of assisted death implies an insistence on

using every possible means to prolong life, despite burden or cost. The Catholic Church does not insist on this. There comes a time to accept death graciously. That is far different from willfully causing it.

We recognize that our healthcare system is also struggling. Strained caregivers sometimes feel that death would be preferable to providing inadequate care. As a result, they may offer assisted suicide as a solution to the heart-wrenching suffering that they find themselves unable to relieve. Assisted suicide is also actively promoted by the health care system as a favoured option. Medically administered death is readily accessible and, in some cases, is provided within twenty-four hours of an assessment, whereas support for chronic pain management, daily living, and palliative care can take weeks or months to access.

As Catholic Bishops, we think it is very important that we as Church listen to and also speak on behalf of the vulnerable. Increasingly, vulnerable people are being forced into terrible choices by a system that offers aid in dying but fails by not always offering aid in living. We are called to speak on behalf of faithful health care workers, heirs of a long and proud tradition of compassion and care in our province, who seek the support and resources to provide dignified, life-affirming care. Finally, as Church we are called to give voice to the Word spoken by God, the Lord and giver of life, defender of the weak and the oppressed, who calls us to “never tire in firmly speaking out in defense of life.” (St. John Paul II, *Address to Visiting Bishops*, 3 February 2001)

## **Christian Hope**

Christians are uniquely qualified to imbue the experience of suffering and dying with hope. This is so because we have come to believe and trust in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ’s victory over death makes us a people of hope. In this world, we strive to be faith-filled disciples of Christ, who is the guarantor of our hope.

At this moment in our history, we wish to repeat the words of Christ: “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid” (Mat 14:27). This is the repeated message of the Scriptures. Consider young David as he faces Goliath (1 Sam 17), Moses and the Israelites as they trek through the wilderness (Ex 14 – 40), the woman healed after being crippled for many years (Luke 13:10-17) or the man lame from birth who finds healing at the Beautiful Gate after so much struggle (Acts 3). Life confronts us with many difficult circumstances, but we are assured of God’s unwavering love and guidance illuminating our path: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5).

Our longstanding Catholic commitment to healthcare encourages us to confront the current challenges head-on. We support a vision of healthcare as *medical assistance in living* and assert that the genuine autonomy of vulnerable persons requires uncompromising support for them and their families to live fruitful lives. We do well to ask: Where is our constitutional right to suitable housing, aid for disabled persons and palliative care? Why is a “constitutional right” to death at the forefront of discussion about care for the elderly? What meaning does “autonomy” have when



death is offered while support in living is withheld? In such a context, “choice” is not experienced as freedom, but as a threat.

Christian communities are called to challenge this false notion of autonomy and bear witness to the intrinsic value of those who are dying or living with chronic illness. Our hope is manifest in concrete actions. Every kindness, smile, word of encouragement or difficult administrative decision that testifies to our hope is an embrace, wrapping vulnerable people in the warmth of our love.

## **Action**

Given the challenges that we face today, there are three practical things we encourage you to do:

First, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has developed an excellent program called *Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care*. This program promotes and assists us in understanding what is involved in living and dying well. Supporting and participating in this program expresses our hope.

Second, entering into conversations about dying can help us to overcome our fear of death. Accordingly, we invite you to fill out a *Faith Based Advanced Care Directive*. This directive is available from the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan. It will help to inform your family, friends, health care professionals, and appointed proxy/proxies about your treatment wishes when you lack the capacity to make health care decisions.

Finally, commit yourself to accompanying vulnerable individuals as they navigate our healthcare system, including hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities. Increasingly, medical personnel are suggesting the idea of a medically administered death to those who are vulnerable because of a serious diagnosis. Often the patient will acquiesce with devastating consequences. Supporting individuals as they consider complex healthcare decisions or receive care is a gift to both the individual who is seeking care and the person who faithfully stands with them.

## **Walking Faithfully**

In conclusion we want to recall again the message of our pastoral letter “Living through our Dying”:

... God has called us to walk through this life together, and this includes journeying with people to the end of their days on earth. Now more than ever, our world needs to know that we will not leave them to face their dying alone.

May the God who came to earth and showed us how to live and die draw near to us as we walk faithfully in a culture that has forgotten how to die well. May we receive

the courage and strength of the Spirit that we need to be witnesses to the gift of living through dying. And may our hearts be fixed on Jesus, who has walked this path before us to show us the way.

Given on March 25, 2025, the Solemnity of the Annunciation.

Sincerely,



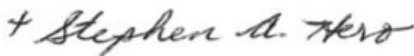
Most Rev. Donald Bolen  
Archbishop of Regina



Most Rev. Murray Chatlain  
Apostolic Administrator Keewatin-Le Pas



Most Rev. Mark Hagemoen  
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