



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

May 22nd, 2022
Sixth Sunday of
Easter

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.

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|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|--|
| 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. (23 rd) | NO MASS |
| Tues. (24 th) | 7:00pm Jean Dierker |
| Wed. (25 th) | 10:00am NURSING HOME (NORTH) +Ferd & +Mildred Thiele |
| | 7:00pm Lisa Matsalla & family |
| Thurs. (26 th) | 2:30pm BENTLEY SENIORS' RESIDENCE CANCELLED |
| | 7:00pm Celebration of Confirmation and First Communion |
| Fri. (27 th) | 9:00am +John Bourbonnais |
| Sat. (28 th) | 9:00am +Russell Boychuk |
| | 5:00pm +Ambrose Wolfe |
| Sun. (29 th) | THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD 9:00am +Marge Slugoski 11:00am Mass for the People |

NEW GUIDELINES FROM THE DIOCESE

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.



Rosary Prayer Mondays at 5:30pm
during the month of May,
led by the Knights of Columbus



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



Risen Lord, your death and resurrection brought peace to the world.
Help me to be an instrument of your peace to others.

- From *Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost*,
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

A Note from Your Pastor

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This weekend I have a wedding in Regina and therefore I am unable to be back for Saturday Mass at 5:00pm. I have asked Fr. James Owolagba to celebrate with you, while I will be serving in his parish. He is the Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Regina and Pastor of Our Lady of Peace, Regina. Therefore, please welcome him.

Here are few notes as a reminder for you:

1. **Thursday, May 26, 7:00pm** - Our Archbishop Donald Bolen come to our parish to celebrate Confirmation and First Holy Communion for our 48 children. Please come to be with our shepherd, celebrate with him and pray for our children on this special occasion.
2. **Saturday, May 28 from 10:00am – 2:00pm** - Please join us at Ukrainian Pioneer Park (corner of 1st Ave. N and Henderson St. E) for an outdoor picnic organized by the Yorkton Ministerial Association.
3. **Sunday, May 29, 1:00pm** - we will have the Blessing of Graves at Yorkton City Cemetery. Everyone is welcome.

I wish all of you a very blessed long weekend and enjoy the beautiful time.

And here is Fr. James' message:

Jesus' Parting Gift to the Church, His Disciples.

The Gospel Reading for this weekend, John 14:23-29 is part of what in Bible study is called, "Farewell Discourse" of Jesus. As we draw close to Ascension, Jesus prepares his disciples, the church for his departure, gifting the disciples with peace and the Paraclete – Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has a major role to play in the growth of every baptized person. It assures peace. This peace is not our ordinary understanding of peace as the absence of conflict and hostilities. It is rooted in the Biblical notion of Shalom, a notion that denotes, fulfilment of the eschatological new covenant of peace (the reason why Jesus came) when God's spirit and tabernacle would be among and in his people the real presence of God (Immanuel) for assurance of wholeness and harmony.

Jesus says, the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. By this, Jesus means that the Holy Spirit was given to the Church for much more than miracles and healings. The Spirit came to enable the Church to understand what it means to be the Body of Christ and to bring about the growth of that Body in every part of the world. The content of the teaching of the Holy Spirit will include helping us understand all things concerning the crucifixion, resurrection, ascension and glorification of Jesus. He calls the Holy Spirit, the paraclete. The Greek word for "advocate" is paraclete. "Advocate" or "Helper"- parakaleō, has the basic meaning of the one "called to be by one's side" for help. Like in the sense of "legal assistant, advocate" for the purpose of helping, "called to one's aid." The Holy Spirit (Paraclete) does not only reveal the meaning of Jesus' words, but also helps the believer understand the Old Testament in the light of the Christ event. The Holy Spirit is also referred to as another counsellor. The Spirit as a counsellor helps someone who is in trouble. The Spirit also stands by Christ's people. Jesus parts with the disciples leaving them peace, namely peace that the Paraclete assures.

Fr. James Owolagba



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.



News from the CWL



Garage Sale Meeting A decision was passed at the last CWL meeting to have a garage sale on Thursday, September 8 & Friday, September 9. An organizational meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 1st at 7 pm in the CWL room. Many volunteers are required to set up and work the sale. If the response to help is lacking, we will have no choice but to cancel the sale. This meeting is open all volunteers. Please mark your calendar and attend this meeting on June 1st.



All are invited to the



Celebration of Confirmation & First Eucharist

on Thursday, May 26th @ 7:00 pm
Archbishop Donald Bolen, Celebrant

All Catholics should keep the same awe and unparalleled joy a child experiences when receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus for the first time. Can you imagine what a church would look like full of people praying with the same faith and devotion as little children?

Loving God, help me to remember that, when I approach the altar to receive Communion, I am actually receiving the very flesh and blood of His Beloved Son. Amen.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Bingos have been cancelled until further notice.

May 25 Articles for "The Word" due
June 8 General Meeting @ 7pm
June 12 Year-end Barbeque @ 4pm
If you are going to attend please contact Wayne: wex13@sasktel.net or text/phone 306.783.7380

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

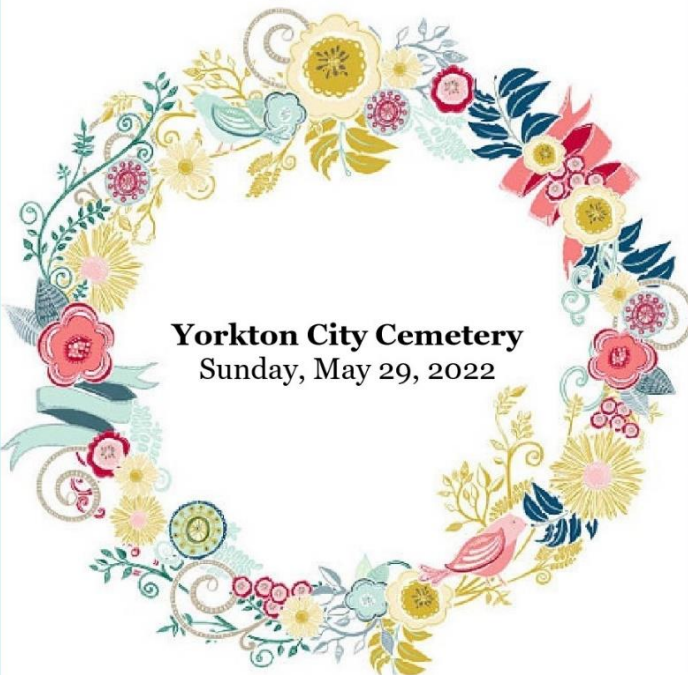
Catholic Education Week May 22 to May 29

Each year, Catholic Schools in Saskatchewan participate in a week-long celebration to remember, promote, and appreciate the gift of Catholic Education. In our province, this special week encompasses World Catholic Education Day which is always celebrated on Ascension Thursday – this year on May 26.

This year's theme, *Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together*, reflects the recognition that after two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, we know for certain that there is much to rebuild, restore, and renew together in 2022 and beyond. The five sub-themes – *Rediscover, Rebuild, Restore, Renew, and Rejoice* – help us to recall how Jesus continually referred to building the kingdom of God throughout his ministry and remind us that we are called to be a part of this building and re-building.

Catholic Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate the outstanding contributions to Catholic education provided by our students, staff, families, parishes, and the Board of Education as well as the impact of Catholic Education in our province. The week is marked by special activities such as prayer celebrations and service activities in Catholic schools across the province. May we always rejoice in recognizing the blessings our lives hold... and especially this week, the blessing of Catholic Education.

Blessing of the Graves



If your loved one is buried at the cemetery, please meet at the main gate at 1:00 pm. There will be a Prayer Service for all in attendance, and then Father Louis will bless the grave of your loved one.



Spring Cleaning By Paige Byrne Shortal

In my part of the world May is not a time to think about personal self-improvement and other interior matters. We do that in January, in Lent, maybe in September, but not in May. In rural Missouri May is when the weather is reliably warm. It's time to raise the storm windows and let in the fresh air. It's time for spring cleaning the house, for throwing out the accumulation of winter.

It's astounding what we hold on to. The shirt we never wear but might someday. The books we never read but might someday. The platters, plastic storage containers, pots with no lids, lids with no pots, that old brown purse, the shoes that never fit, unused tools, half-completed projects, that cluttered stuff!

It's too much! Let's go yard-sale-ing instead. Sale signs are popping up everywhere along with the violets. There might be some good deals. But first, what about the cost of too much stuff?

In our house we try to control too much stuff by adhering to the wisdom of designer William Morris, who said, "Have nothing in your homes that you do not know to be useful and believe to be beautiful." My husband is better at it than I am. He has a rule for himself—when something comes in, something must go out. Give him a shirt, he gives a shirt away. He has one small closet, one bureau drawer. I cheat. I put clothes in a cedar chest so I can decide later what to do with them.

Here's a sobering fact. The self-storage industry claims over 39 billion dollars in annual revenues and construction spending on self-storage has increased by 584 percent from January 2015 to January 2020. Self-storage is an apt name. For we give a little bit of ourselves to each thing we own—our time and energy to buy it, clean it, walk around it, store it, wonder what to do with it. And someday, someone we love will inherit all this. Lucky them.

A home can hold only a few beautiful and useful things. Too much and they cease to be beautiful or useful. The same is true for our hearts and minds. We can only hold so much. If our homes are cluttered, chances are our hearts and minds will be cluttered, too.

In the Easter stories, we hear about the disciples hiding in the upper room or walking on the road to Emmaus or meeting Jesus on the shore. Keeping a low profile, they would have traveled light, and they were feeling empty inside after the death of their friend and teacher. Each time Jesus appeared to them, they didn't recognize him—who would? He was dead! —but they had room for him and his words. Their eyes were opened, their hearts burned within them, and his words changed their lives.

Do we have room for life-changing words? Do we have time for the risen Jesus? For Jesus to rise in us, anything that is not of Jesus has to go. Let's do what comes naturally in May. Let's spring clean. But while we're cleaning out the closet, let's let go of whatever is holding us back from being the person we're meant to be. As we jettison the outgrown clothes or unused kitchen items, let's also surrender the grudges, anxieties, selfishness, envy, pessimism, cynicism, anything and everything about which the Spirit is whispering in our ear: "Oh come on, you don't need that. Let it go. Trust me."

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ST PHILOMENA WALKING PILGRIMAGE

BILLETS NEEDED

This year we are also looking for people who are able to billet some of our pilgrims for the night of Friday, August 12th. That night we will be in the vicinity of Burgis Beach.



If you have a cabin or camper in that area and can help us, please phone Dave or Bev at 306 728 5525.

Yorkton Ministerial Association is hosting a
Picnic in the Park | May 28, 11am-1pm
Ukrainian Pioneer Park
1st Ave N & Henderson St.
Free Hotdogs & Baking
Bring a lawn chair/blankets

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed. (25th): 7:30pm- Pastoral Council Meeting

YOUTH REFLECTION

"The Glory of God is Our Light, Our Lamp is the Lamb"

This Week...

Lamps have always been a symbol of learning, with the light from the lamp representing our own enlightenment. Jesus promises us that the Spirit will come to teach the Apostles. At the Council of Jerusalem, many disciples gathered to enlighten one another about how the Gentiles received the gift of the Holy Spirit without first being circumcised. And John's great vision reminds us that the only lamp we need is the Lamb of God - one of Jesus' titles.

For Your Reflection

Many colleges and universities use the symbol of the burning lamp on their seal to represent knowledge. Why do you think that is a natural symbol? What do light and knowledge have in common? How is Jesus like a lamp? What might the oil - the fuel used for light - represent?

What do you think the world needs more of - people willing to learn, or people willing to change things? Is it harder to learn, gain knowledge, and propose solutions, or is it harder to do the work, take action, and create change? Can you do one without doing the other? Why or why not? Where might you fit in?

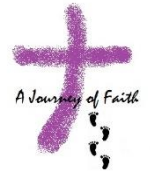
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter*, 2004



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.