



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

May 2nd, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Pastor.....Fr. Louis Nguyen 306.782.0323 louis.yorkton@gmail.com

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (3 rd)	NO MASS
Tues. (4 th)	7:00pm +Divina Muyargas
Wed. (5 th)	9:00am +Bernice Neumeier
Thurs. (6 th)	9:00am +Eugene Ostapovich
Fri. (7 th)	9:00am +Art Scherr
Sat. (8 th)	2:00pm <i>Winand-Lipus Wedding</i>

5:00pm +Mary Diakuw
7:00pm Mass of Thanksgiving

Sun. (9th) **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

9:00am Mass for the People
11:00am +Garry Fletcher
5:00pm

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

- **Pre-registration for Saturday/Sunday Mass is required.** Online at www.stgerard.ca beginning Monday morning until all seats are reserved or until Thursday at 12 noon (whichever comes first.)
- Each household must register separately
- **Maximum 30** people may attend Mass
- Members of the same household may sit together at the marked seating
- At least two-metres separation is required between households at all times, even with masks on. **Please arrive early.**
- *Please follow the instructions of the Hospitality Ministers (Ushers) and Father Louis.*
- 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
 - ❖ Those who have travelled to/from a "hotspot", outside of Saskatchewan or outside Canada within the last 14 days
 - ❖ Those who are waiting for COVID-19 test results, or have someone in their household waiting for test results

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 Jesus, your abiding presence gives us hope. Help me to be a loving presence 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,

First of all, I would say that what we hear in the Gospel today is about relationships: the relationship between Jesus and His Father, the relationship between He, himself, and us, and the relationship between each of us. But Jesus is also talking about being in communion with him, having a strong connection with him: *“Abide in me as I abide in you... Whoever abides in me and I in them bears much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing”*.

Nowadays many people ask: why should I go to Church? Why can't I just worship God in my own way? Isn't religion about my personal relationship with God? Here are some points to answer these questions:

From the earliest time, following Jesus was never just a private or personal matter. We can see it in the book of Acts, *“All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.”* (Acts 2.44-45).

Christians came together to live in community, to profess their faith in Jesus, to witness his resurrection and to live by his teachings. The profound reason for this is given to us by Christ himself, when he said, *“I am the vine, you are the branches”*. The vine and the branches are one. There is a mutual connection of branch and vine, and branch with branch. To say “I will follow Jesus but not the Church” is to separate Jesus from the Church, to cut off the branches from the vine.

The first disciples of Jesus had seen him, broke bread with him, and spoke with him after his resurrection. As a result, they had a deep sense of connectedness with him, a connectedness from which they drew great strength. Jesus had chosen them. He had made them his friends, and sent them out to bear fruit, the fruit of love.

By this we know that we are “living branches” of the vine. There is a bond that exists between us and in the care we show for one another.

My dear sisters and brothers, we need to know that Christ doesn't ask us to be successful, but to be fruitful. Christ depends on us to produce fruit in the world. There is a huge difference between successfulness and fruitfulness. Success may come from power and control. Success brings rewards, and sometimes fame as well.

Fruitfulness, however, often comes from weakness and vulnerability, and frequently goes unrecognized and unrewarded.

We all have gifts. By developing, using, and sharing our gifts with others, we become fruitful. The world is anxiously waiting for fruit, especially at this time when we are living through a global pandemic.

To love is of most importance! God will make our love fruitful, whether we see that fruitfulness or not.

Today we thank Jesus for giving us the beautiful sense of communion with Him and others *“I am the vine, you are branches... Abide in me as I abide in you... Whoever abides in me and I in them bears much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing”*.

We are aware that if we abandon Him we are nothing. If we want to bear fruit, we have to connect with Him in the Eucharist and His community, the Church.

Let us pay more attention to how we connect with the Church and its community. Be aware that we are members of the Church, the Body of Christ.

Have a wonderful first weekend of May. Spring is here!

Fr. Louis Nguyen

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



- 30 minutes before and after Daily Mass (Tuesday – Friday)
- Saturdays at **8:30 am** or by appointment. Phone: 306.782.2449

May is MARIAN MONTH and REVERENCE FOR LIFE MONTH



The Knights of Columbus
will lead the
Rosary Prayer
Mondays at 5:30pm
during the month of May.
Everyone welcome! (Max. 30)

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 allowed to be 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 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!

Life is a Gift Webinar

The Reverence for Life Commission is hosting a panel discussion entitled "Life is a Gift" on Wednesday, May 19th, at 7:00 PM CST. Our speakers include Mary Deutscher-Heilman from the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS); Sister Avelina Joseph, Sisters of Life; Jose Argerami, Jenna Daly, and Sharon Martorana from Birthright; and Scott Hayward from Right Now. Our presenters will seek to reaffirm the value of human life, its sacredness and call us to respect, protect, heal, love, and serve every human life (c.f. EV. 5). There will be an opportunity for questions from the audience.

For more information or to register, please email mqurash@archregina.sk.ca



News from the CWL



Webinar on Palliative Care

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is pleased to offer a webinar session on palliative care during National Hospice and Palliative Care Week, May 3-9, 2021. Due to the passing of recent federal legislation that expands the availability of Canadians to access medical assistance in dying, it is important to be educated about palliative care and how Catholics can maintain their faith beliefs respecting life from birth to natural death.

Date: Saturday, May 8, 2021

Time: 10:00 am – 11:00 am (SK time)

Presenter: Simone Stenekes, Clinical Nurse Specialist. Topic: Overview of Palliative Care in Canada and end-of-life care.

Register online at www.cwl.ca

All are welcome to register.



News from the Knights of Columbus



- | | |
|--|---|
| May 3 rd | Start of weekly Rosary – Mondays at 5:30pm (Max. 30 people) |
| May 5 th | Executive Meeting (Virtual) at 7pm |
| May 8 th - 16 th | Novena for Life |
| May 9 th - 16 th | March for Life www.marchforlife.ca |
| May 12 th | General Meeting (Virtual) at 7pm |

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

Family Activity

The Family Mulch Pile

"I am the vine and you are the branches." Jesus used a plant analogy to teach us about life with him and life away from him.

Do you have a lawn that needs mowing or bushes that need trimming? Do yard or garden work with your family members. Then, take the trimming and create a small mulch pile. Take you family members to the pile a few days or a week later. What happened to the trimming in the pile? How do they compare with lawn or the branches that still remain on the bushes? After the comparison, share John 15:5-8. Stress that our hearts, like the branches of the bushes, would die if we cut our hearts off from Jesus.





Bringing Home the Word

The Vine and the Branches Become One

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Jesus himself picked the image of the vine to describe the reality of our being united to him and the Father. And this was not lost on early Christians. One of the first images they used to mark their graves was the vine and the branches.

An amazing thing about a vine and its branches is that you can't tell the difference between them. Look at a grapevine and try to determine which is the branch and which is the vine or trunk. You can't, since it appears as one seamless reality. Jesus invites us to be so close to him that we appear to be just like him — "other Christs," as our name Christian suggests!

Second, the sap that springs from the vine, runs through the branches, and matures in the fruit is all the same. The life in Jesus and the life in us as Christians are the same. He has given us the same Spirit that animated him, the Holy Spirit.

This is why Jesus can guarantee that, if we remain in him by listening to his word and following his Spirit, we will definitely bear much fruit. His word and Spirit cannot remain sterile in us.

The most important result of being united to Jesus and bearing fruit is that not only will we be united to him in this life, but this friendship will last for all eternity. That's why early Christians put vines on their tombs.

© 2021 Liguori Publications. Used with permission.

Catechism Theme: "Apart from me you can do nothing" (CCC 2074)

"The fruit referred to in John 15.5 is the holiness of a life made fruitful by union with Christ. When we believe in Jesus Christ, partake of his mysteries, and keep his commandments, the Savior himself comes to love, in us, his Father and his brethren. His person becomes, through his Spirit, the living and interior rule of our activity."

How has trust in Christ made a difference in your life? In the lives of those around you?

Staying connected to Christ has a high price. Sometimes it costs us the respect of the world. Sometimes it costs us relationships with others. Sometimes it costs us a sense comfort and community.

But the price of life without Christ is much higher. Imagine what life would be like without faith, without good Christians spouses and friends, without a prayer life and worship to sustains us, without the goodness and Christian charity of others to help along the way. Imagine a life without Christ!

Even if we have to walk by ourselves, even if we have to be loners in the name of Jesus, we will never be truly alone. Remember whose team we're really on, whose name we can invoke in need. Ask and he will be there.

Is there someone you know who is lonely? How can you extend Christian hospitality and fellowship to them this week?

Permission for use. All materials found in word-sunday.com are the property of Larry Broding (Copyright 1999-2021).

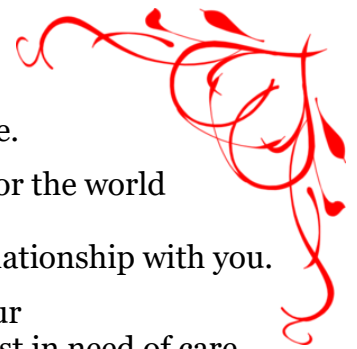
Abiding Jesus,
you have connected us
to the vine of divine love.

May your compassion for the world
flow through us and
lead us deeper into a relationship with you.

Help us turn towards our
brothers and sisters most in need of care.

May your resurrected life bring new life and
transform our hearts to best serve in your name.

Amen.



P	L	E	N	W	T	E	Y	E	P
Y	O	G	O	E	N	U	R	P	S
T	L	R	N	T	H	R	O	W	N
N	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S
E	V	R	U	F	R	O	G	L	Y
L	S	T	I	U	R	F	E	S	F
P	A	R	N	I	A	M	E	R	R
T	E	E	F	R	O	C	U	A	I
O	S	O	B	H	U	T	I	E	U
E	H	C	N	A	R	B	A	B	T

VINE BRANCH FRUIT PRUNES
WORD HOME PLENTY THROWN
FIRE BURNT GLORY DISCIPLES



YOUTH REFLECTION

"The Vine and the Branches"

This Week...

We cannot do much good without Jesus. All that is good, all that is healthy, all that is right comes from Jesus, as does our very life. Branches have no life apart from the vine. That means we need to believe in all he stands for, to love one another, and to live our lives abiding in him and in all his words.

For Your Reflection

The vine is the lifeline for the branches. If branches are cut off from the vine, they die. Jesus is our lifeline, and he often works through the people in our life.

- Who do you know that acts as an emotional lifeline for you? Who gives you life and support and strength?
- The Scriptures tell us that those who live in Jesus do good work and bear much fruit - apart from Jesus, we cannot do anything worth doing. Do you know people who clearly live in Jesus and are doing good work? What are they like? How do you know they are living in Jesus? What good work do they do? How can you be more like them?
- Jesus says that if his words are living within us whatever we ask for in prayer shall be granted. What does it mean to have Jesus' words living within us? If his words are truly living within us, then what would our prayer be like?

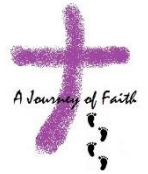
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter* - St. Mary's Press, 2004



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.

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