



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

November 22, 2020

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:
Saturday: 5pm; Sunday: 9am & 11am

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 louisyorkton@gmail.com

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Tues. (24th) 7pm Mass of Thanksgiving
Wed. (25th) 9:30am +Adolph Sliwa
7pm Special Intentions
Thurs. (26th) 9:30am +Yvonne Chase
Fri. (27th) 9:30am +Alfredo Muyargas
Sat. (28th) 9:30am +Msgr. Ken Miller

5pm +Mike Diakuw

Sun. (29th) **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (CYCLE B)**

9am +Frank Halliday

11am Mass for the People

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

30 minutes prior to weekday Mass,
Saturdays at 9:00 am and 4:30 pm,
or by appointment. Phone: 306.782.2449

**There is a limited supply of
2020-2021 Sunday Missals available
The suggested free-will donation is \$5.00**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

- **Masks are mandatory.** Please wear a mask from the time that you leave your vehicle, and from the time you leave the church until you arrive at your vehicle. Thank you.
- **Members of the same household** may sit together at the marked seating.
- **At least two-metres separation** is required between households.
- **Please arrive early** so that you can provide your name and telephone number for contact-tracing purposes.
- **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 Canada within the last 14 days
- Remember, there is still a risk for anyone who attends Mass, even with best health practices, strict personal distancing, & improved cleaning



Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, I am grateful that you are my gentle shepherd. Show me how to care for your people with the same love and compassion you show me.

- From *Grateful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*,
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

A Note Mr. Deacon Dave Hudy

Dear brothers and sisters,

In today's Gospel Jesus reveals to us that he is no ordinary king! The first paragraph sits in contrast to the rest of the Gospel. In that paragraph we see Jesus sitting on a throne and judging people from all the nations. There should be no surprise here, not if we truly believe that Jesus is our Lord and God.

But, the rest of the Gospel offers us a challenge! Jesus makes it clear that even though he is God, he is also, in some way, one with the poor. How can we grasp this? The disciples must have had trouble with this one. By now, they were probably beginning to believe that Jesus was divine. How else could they explain what they were feeling and what was happening around them when Jesus was near. But how could a king, a divine king at that, declare that he was one with the poor. From what the disciples knew of the way kings acted, this would have made little sense. A pretty good case for the validity of Christianity is the way that it entirely went against the normal thinking of Jesus' time!

How do we, today, come to terms with this Gospel message? We, too, have good reason to believe that there is a God and that Jesus is that God. These are difficult times, but they are also times of graces, and if we pray and look for God in the quiet times and in the little experiences of life, we will find him. But, do we live our lives as if Jesus is really one with the poor? This means that in some mystical way Jesus is the poor. Just as he is present in the Eucharist in a way that we cannot understand, he is present in the poor, also in a way we cannot understand.

One of the greatest joys for a Christian is found in helping others. Perhaps, this gives us a clue as to how Jesus could be present in the poor. Showing mercy to others is a key to getting to know Jesus better, to finding joy, and to making it to heaven.

So, who are the poor? The poor are those in need, both physically and spiritually. This may be a good time to review the fourteen works of mercy as defined by the Church.

Here are the seven Corporal Works of Mercy:

1. Harbour the Homeless
2. Feed the Hungry
3. Give Drink to the Thirsty
4. Clothe the Naked
5. Visit the Sick
6. Ransom the Captive
7. Bury the Dead

And the Spiritual Works of Mercy:

1. Comfort the Afflicted
2. Instruct the Ignorant
3. Counsel the Doubtful
4. Admonish the Sinner
5. Bear Wrongs Patiently
6. Forgive Offenses Willingly
7. Pray for the Living and the Dead

These lists give us a lot of opportunities to exercise giving mercy to others. Where do you feel called to help?

David Hudy has a farm just northeast of Melville but considers himself semi-retired. He has been married to Bev for 35 years and they have one adult daughter. He volunteers at hospitals and nursing homes and twice a week brings residents to church for the recitation of the rosary. That, and other activities, made him think he could represent the Church more as a deacon and it all came together in what he felt was a calling for the diaconate. He said he found the academics challenging to the point where he questioned his choice but with the support of his wife and the help he received from Dr. Brett Salkeld, he got through it. "I learned to trust God more, to leave things in God's hands," he said of the program. He is assigned to St. Henry's Parish in Melville. He expects that, as an ordained deacon, he will continue to do much of what he is now doing as a lay volunteer.

Mr. Deacon Dave Hudy was ordained into the Permanent Diaconate of the Archdiocese of Regina in 2018.

INITIAL PARENT MEETING CONFIRMATION & FIRST EUCHARIST



There will be an initial meeting for parents who have registered their child to prepare to receive the sacraments of Confirmation & First Communion.

DATE: Sunday, Nov. 29
TIME: 3:00 pm
LOCATION: Church



Per Diocesan guidelines, there will not be an Advent Penitential Service this year.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available:

- after each Mass (daily & Sunday)
- 30 minutes prior to weekday Mass
- Saturdays at 9 am and 4:30 pm
- or by appointment. Phone: 306.782.2449

What if conditions do not allow me to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in church?

Pope Francis addressed this issue in his homily on March 20, 2020¹:

"Do what the Catechism (of the Catholic Church)² says. It is very clear:

If you cannot find a priest to confess to, speak directly with God, your father, and tell him the truth. Say, 'Lord, I did this, this, this. Forgive me,' and ask for pardon with all your heart." Make an act of contrition, the pope said, and promise God, "I will go to confession afterward, but forgive me now.' And immediately you will return to a state of grace with God."

¹<https://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2020/if-you-cant-go-to-confession-take-your-sorrow-directly-to-god-pope-says.cfm>

²https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/___P4C.HTM
#1441, 1442

ADVENT IS COMING! (November 29th)

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Advent faith materials have not been ordered. You may order Little Books directly from the website at littlebooks.org. They are available in paper and e-book formats. You can also get all the seasonal books on the Little Books app available for iOS and Android devices. To learn more about the app, go to littlebooks.org/app



News from the CWL



Memberships for 2021 It's that time of year to be thinking about renewing our 2021 CWL Membership. Membership fees are still \$30.00 and can be paid by cash or cheque and put in the collection basket, or mailed to St. Gerard's C.W.L., 125 3rd Ave. N., Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4. If you feel comfortable paying by e-transfer, contact Paulette Cooper 306-782-7923. If you have any questions or concerns regarding memberships, contact Paulette. Even though our Council has not been active due to COVID, we are required to collect and submit membership fees to the National CWL Office. Any member can access the National website (www.cwl.ca) at anytime to learn more about the CWL of Canada. If you are not a member and would like to join our League, contact Paulette or any member of St. Gerard's Catholic Women's League.

Raffle Tickets We ask that you return all ticket books, sold or unsold "now". The draw will be made on Saturday, December 5th. Prize winners will be notified and a list of winners will be placed in the church bulletin



News from the Knights of Columbus



Nov. 25	Articles for "The Word" due
Nov. 28	Evening Bingo
Nov. 29	Fifth Sunday Rosary before 9am Mass
Dec. 2	Executive/General Meeting CANCELLED

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

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

On behalf of Archbishop Donald Bolen, the Archdiocese of Regina and all of the ministries and organizations we fund and support, we would like to thank everyone for their prayers and for their help in the various ministries of the Archdiocese. Thank you for your financial support to this year's Archbishop's appeal. If you have not already done so, there is still time to make a contribution, as donations will be accepted until the end of December. Your contributions, regardless of size, will ensure that the mission of Christ will continue and that the Church of Christ will grow to touch the lives of others, making the peace and grace of Christ known throughout the Archdiocese of Regina.

St. Gerard Parish Goal: \$43,905.83
Donations received to date: \$17,175.00 (39%)

ADORATION WITH PRAISE & WORSHIP MUSIC

Thursday, November 26 at 7:00 pm

Adoration with praise and worship music at Resurrection Parish.

<https://livestream.com/accounts/17094656>



Bringing Home the Word

Actions Matter

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Michelangelo's amazing painting, *The Last Judgment*, takes up the whole of one wall of the Sistine Chapel. It is a reminder of the dramatic moment of Christ's Second Coming, when he will judge the living and the dead. The Father has given all authority to the Son (John 5:22). Michelangelo places in the upper register the symbols of Christ's passion as a way to highlight the instruments of Christ's victory and ours, as well as to show that it was through his loving sacrifice that he has earned the authority to judge the living and the dead.

Christ comes riding on the clouds with his Mother at his side, head turned and eyes cast down, as the days of her intercession have come to an end. Our chance to appeal to his mercy has passed. We will stand naked before him, and our actions will be the gown that dresses us for the feast of the Lamb (Matthew 22:11).

Jesus, in his mercy, wants no surprises and personally reveals the material to be covered by this final exam. Today's passage highlights that our charity and kindness will go a long way toward him recognizing us at the last day. Scripture even goes so far as to say that this "love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8). Those who know his love and spread it with their actions will be preparing themselves for a blessed judgment.

Jesus makes it clear that our faith will also be a theme upon which he will search our hearts. He desires not mere words, but loving listening and the heeding of his will. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

This is a great source of consolation for those who love him sincerely, even if imperfectly.

© 2020 Liguori Publications. Used with permission.

CABBAGE ROLL BEE

Tuesday, November 24th
9:00 am

****MASKS MANDATORY**GLOVES PREFERRED****
Maximum 30 participants.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

The next "special collection" is for the **Salvation Army Christmas Hamper Fund** the weekend of December 5/6. Please give generously.

2021 GIVING PROGRAM

Next weekend the 2021 Sunday collection (offertory) envelopes will be in the Welcome Area for those who have contributed by this method in 2020.

If you usually have envelopes, and your box is not there, please print your name and phone number on the sheet provided, and someone will contact you.

If you do not have envelopes and would like to receive a set for 2021, please print your name and phone number on the sheet provided, and someone will contact you.

Have you considered switching from collection envelopes to Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)? NOW IS THE TIME!! Pre-authorized Giving is convenient, assured, results in lower administrative costs, and assists our parish when budgeting for programs and services. **Please complete the Pre-Authorized Giving form (purple)** and submit it to the Parish Office. Forms are available in the Welcome Area and online at www.stgerard.ca

The Social Justice Committee is looking for 20 volunteers to commit 2 hours of their time on Monday November 30th to host a **Salvation Army Kettle** site. All sites will be in warm locations across Yorkton. The shifts will commence at 10 AM and run for 2 hours each, with the last shift ending at 6 PM. If you can spare 2 hours of your time for a great local cause please contact Mark Bell, Chairperson of the Social Justice Committee at 306.621.1180.



The **2020 Giving Tree Campaign** kicks off Saturday November 21. The program supports less fortunate families, children and needy individuals in our community with personal items, clothing or small presents to be provided for the Christmas Season. The Giving Tree has been a valuable service over the past number of years and follows the joy of giving to those in need at this special time of year.



- 1 Take an ornament off the Giving Tree.
- 2 Acquire the item(s) and place in a seasonal gift bag. Please do not wrap the items. Securely affix the colour-coded ornament to the gift bag so it will not fall off - string, ribbon seems to work best.
- 3 All items are to be returned to the base of the Giving Tree at weekday/Sunday Mass, with the **deadline 11am Sunday, December 20th** so the gifts can be delivered in time for Christmas.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and for bringing joy and the spirit of giving to those who are less fortunate.

Your St. Gerard Parish COVID-19 Questions Answered

On March 18, 2020, Archbishop Donald Bolen, in keeping with the Code of Canon Law no. 87, granted to all the Catholic faithful dispensation from their Sunday obligation. This is still in effect.

What does this mean? As Roman Catholics, we have an obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Until further notice, Archbishop Don has granted an exemption from this obligation. For those who are unable or choose not to attend Sunday Mass at this time, you do not have to. Other ways to participate in Sunday Mass is to watch it on television or watch the YouTube Mass online, courtesy of Resurrection Parish & Christ the King Parish (Regina) and the Archdiocese of Regina.

Why do I need to wear a mask? All those who attend both daily and Saturday/Sunday Masses are required to wear a mask. The parish has a small supply of masks for those who do not have one. Please remember to put your mask on before exiting your vehicle prior to entering the church. A mask protects you and others!

Why do I need to register each time that I arrive to attend Mass? In the event that someone who has attend Mass develops COVID-19, it is necessary for the parish to have the names and phone numbers of all in attendance for contact-tracing purposes.

Have questions? Please email the Parish Office: office@stgerard.ca

YOUTH REFLECTION

"The Judgement"

This Week...

The feast of Christ the king is the last Sunday of Ordinary Time. Next Sunday begins Advent, and we begin the new year of the B cycle of readings. So on this last Sunday, we focus on last things - on the end of the world, on the Last Judgment, and on Jesus, who will see the division of the sheep and the goats. Ezekiel and Paul both warn us about it and Jesus' warning is similar. The time will come when each of us must be held accountable for what we have and have not done.

For Your Reflection

Jesus never really declared himself to be king of anything on earth. But we declare him to be our king.

- How is Jesus like an earthly king?
- How is he different from an earthly king?

Every so often you read in the paper or see on television that some famous person or religious group is predicting the end of the world.

- How do you feel when you hear such predictions? Are you concerned? Are you fascinated? Are you troubled? How so?
- What would you be more afraid of - the sudden end of the world or your sudden death? How do both of these events affect you when you consider their actual possibility?

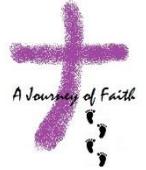
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle A for Ordinary Time* St. Mary's Press, 2004



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