



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

November 7th, 2021

Thirty-second
Sunday in Ordinary
Time

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

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. (8th) NO MASS

Tues. (9th) 7:00pm +Digno Mabasa

Wed.(10th) 10:00am **ASPEN VILLA**
+Carolyn Reid
7:00pm K of C & CWL Mass for
Deceased Members

Thurs.(11th)  **REMEMBRANCE DAY**
9:00am +Mary Brazeau (1 year)
2:30pm **LAKESIDE MANOR (SALTCOATS)**
+Mary Witow

Fri. (12th) 9:00am +Neil Mansuy

Sat. (13th) 9:00am +Rose Nagy

5:00pm +Ambrose Wolfe

Sun. (14th) **THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**
9:00am Mass for the People
11:00am +Beatrice Ikwueme
1:00pm Sacrament Preparation
beginning with Mass

WELCOME BACK!

Please note the following changes for our parish per the **Archdiocese of Regina guidelines** (effective July 11, 2021) and the **Government of Saskatchewan Interim Health Order** (effective September 17, 2021):

- **Masks must be worn at all times until further notice**
- Masks & hand sanitizer will be provided.
- **Please sit in the pews that have hymnals and maintain two metres between households**
- The choir and singing has resumed
- Holy water will not be available in the Baptismal font at this time
- We will not shake hands when we share the sign of peace
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection will continue

Please come! Everyone is welcome!

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



Saturdays at **8:30 am** or by appt.



Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, I am grateful for your abundant gifts. Open my hands and heart that I may give my all in sharing your peace and love with the world.

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

A Note from Your Pastor

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This weekend God's Word invites us to reflect and pray for a deep trust in God and generosity of the heart.

In the first reading we do not know if the widow who is gathering sticks would have recognized that Elijah is the Prophet, a man of God. But even if she does not, she has reasons to comply with his request for a drink of water.

She is suffering intensely, she has serious problems of her own, and she has reasons to refuse someone who ignores her own suffering and asks favours of her. She and her only son are starving for lack of food, and what we see in her, as a widow, is truly courageous. She puts aside her own things when the Prophet asks her for a favour, and then when he asks more than what she can give, she doesn't become annoyed, but simply states the facts. She is a woman who recognizes her own dependence on God, and as a result, she is able to be generous towards others who are in need, without getting tangled up in self-centered complications. Her selfless generosity accurately reflects God's goodness, and God rewards her for it. And Elijah, the man of God, showers her with his blessings, proving that she is right to trust in God - that He truly is the Lord of the universe.

We can learn a very good lesson from the widow. God doesn't always insulate us from the sufferings of life in a fallen world, as he does with the widow after she meets Elijah. But if we, like her, humbly recognize our dependence on him by living with a generous heart, we will not lose our reward.

Therefore, I invite you to see that generosity of the heart, true Christian generosity, frees us from the self-destructive chains of anger, resentment, and vengeance.

In the Gospel we hear a story that happens in God's temple. This story presents two ways of being generous: the way of the scribes, and the way of the widow.

Jesus isn't giving the scribes any credit because they are forgetting that all their external things are actually gifts God had given them in the first place. What God truly wants from us is something more, something deeper. He wants our love; he wants us to trust in him, and this is what the poor widow offers to him.

The widow in the Gospel doesn't only share some of her abundance. She hands over all of her wealth to God. From her heart, she may say *Lord, you are my good shepherd, and I will follow wherever you lead.* And that is what the scribes lack. Deep in her heart the widow understands that God is the One doing the favours.

My dear sisters and brothers, I would say that the kind of generosity God wants to see flourish in each one of us is the generosity by which we give to God not just our "stuff", but our hearts. God wants to give us the freedom and the joy of a truly generous heart if we ask for his help, and if we do our part by putting this generosity into practice.

To conclude, I offer to you a beautiful prayer composed by St Ignatius of Loyola. I invite all of you pray this during this week:

Dear Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil, and not to seek for rest, to labour, and not to ask for any reward - except that of knowing that I am doing your holy will. Amen. (St. Ignatius)

Have a blessed weekend to all of you.

Fr. Louis Nguyen



Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!

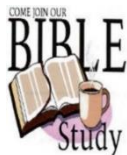
Eucharistic Holy Hour Devotion
at 6pm (prior to 7pm Tuesday Mass)



News from the CWL



Membership fees for 2022 will be collected in November.
The fee is remaining the same as last year - \$30.00



SAVE THE DATE!!!

Bible Study

begins

Monday, November 29th at 7pm
(lower level hall)

Contact the Parish Office to register!
306.782.2449 or office@stgerard.ca



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

News from the Archdiocese of Regina



As we prepare for Advent, let's open our hearts and minds to let God's unbinding love free us from every knot in our lives, to experience healing, peace, joy and gratitude. We would like to thank all those who have contributed to funding the ministries and programs that share God's love with those around us. The Archbishop's Appeal is coming to an end, but there is still time to give. Donations will be accepted until the end of December. If you are still discerning, please prayerfully consider taking the opportunity to share the gifts God has given you.

St. Gerard Parish Goal - \$45,768
Giving to Date - \$11,280
Percentage of Goal to Date - **24.6%**

The Legacy of Clergy Sexual Abuse: What Can We Do Now? How Can We Help?

Please come and join Bishop Don and the Archdiocesan Core Working Group for Clergy Sexual Abuse, on **November 25th at 7 p.m.** in the Parish Hall.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this presentation and engaging conversation on the topic of clergy sexual abuse.

If you have any questions or wish to register, please email: victimserviceadvocacy@gmail.com

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| S | S | S | E | B | I | R | C | S | E | BEWARE |
| R | E | Q | W | T | E | K | R | A | M | SCRIBES |
| E | B | U | Q | O | U | E | B | Q | E | SYNAGOGUES |
| Y | O | A | G | G | D | A | U | S | R | MARKET |
| A | R | R | E | O | N | I | E | P | A | BANQUETS |
| R | S | E | O | Q | G | O | W | E | W | LONG |
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| E | A | E | N | U | P | Q | N | N | B | PRAYERS |
| R | T | R | E | A | S | U | R | Y | U | POOR |
| S | S | Q | U | E | R | E | V | E | S | TREASURY |
| | | | | | | | | | | WIDOW |
| | | | | | | | | | | PENNY |



Let's put *People and Planet First* with Development and Peace—Caritas Canada's new campaign!

In Canada, most people can speak out freely when injustice is committed. In many countries of the Global South, however, communities are threatened when they seek to protect their rights, especially their right to a healthy environment. This climate of insecurity is often fuelled by the presence and influence of corporations, some of which are Canadian. Undaunted, many vulnerable communities fight courageously to defend their rights, their lands, and the environment against corporate harm. This year, Development and Peace's *People and Planet First* campaign invites you to stand in solidarity with them and celebrate their work! Learn more at <https://devp.org/en>



Please support the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign



The Social Justice Committee is seeking **20 people** who can volunteer on **Thursday, December 2nd** to staff a kettle location. There are **5 locations** across the City of Yorkton where your support is needed! (**4-two-hour time slots times 5 locations = 20 people needed!**)

If you have **2 hours** that you can spare from **10am to 6pm** please contact **Mark Bell at 306.620.6482** or leave your name and contact information with the Parish Office.



Bringing Home the Word **+**

God Notices Our Acts of Generosity

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Elijah is quite bold. He finds this poor woman collecting sticks to make her "last supper" on earth. She has run out of money, food, and energy. Even so, the prophet asks her to prepare him a cake and, in exchange for her hospitality, he promises she will not run out until God sends rain again. In her faith and humility, she says yes, and gives away all that she had to live on. God blesses her generosity! Jesus observes something similar. A poor widow willingly gives all she has when, without anyone noticing, she drops her coins in the donation basket. God always notices our acts of generosity and multiplies them into eternity.

The first part of the Gospel stands in contrast with these two mighty widows. It shows us how *not* to be apostles. Jesus chastises the scribes and teachers of the law for three defects in their religious practice: pride, greed, and showing off. They love public greetings and special seating at church and parties. Jesus goes even further by saying they use their authority to devour widow's houses. Could Jesus' irony be any starker? While the widow is giving her last coins, the priest is using it to devour her livelihood.

We may never see in this life how God blesses our small or large acts of love, prayer, and generosity. Yet, we should keep doing them, not to be seen or rewarded, but because we love God, and to love is always the right thing. God sees, and a great reward awaits us.

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Remembrance Day

November 11

Canadians pause today in silence to remember those who died in war and to pray for the victims of aggression and inhumanity throughout the world.

This is a day to pray for peace, to consider what we are doing as individuals, as a community and as a nation to bring God's peace into the world.

This is a day when a believing community should rededicate itself by prayer and action to the ideals Jesus gives us in the Beatitudes.

- ORDO, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Ottawa, Ontario



St. Henry's Parish Count Down to Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale

Baking, Perogies, Soups, Pies,
Craft Table, Plant table

Raffle Tickets, 50/50 and Door Prizes!

Saturday, November 20, 2021
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

St. Henry's Parish Centre
729 Main St.
Melville, Sask.

(Prepared following all Public Health Regulations
and Saskatchewan Covid Protocols.)

**•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•PEROGIES•
•CABBAGE ROLLS•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•**

PARISH FUNDRAISER

Friday, November 19th

2pm – 5pm

(while supplies last!!!)

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Potato & onion perogies | \$35 (10 dozen) |
| Potato & cheddar perogies | \$40 (10 dozen) |
| Cabbage rolls | \$25 (5 dozen) |

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, perogies and cabbage rolls will be available drive-through only (no walk-ups). Please remain in your vehicle and someone will take your order.

**•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•PEROGIES•
•CABBAGE ROLLS•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•**

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun. (7th): 1:00pm- Sacrament Preparation
(beginning with Mass)

Tues. (9th): 9:30am-Cabbage Roll Bee

Sat. (13th): Kickoff to the Giving Tree Campaign

Sun. (14th): 1:00pm- Sacrament Preparation
(beginning with Mass)

Catechism Theme: Love for the Poor (CCC 2443-2449)

The widow in Mark's gospel represented the truly poor, those who can neither speak for themselves nor fend for themselves. She shared what we had for the good of others and the glory of God. We are called to do as much.

The Church identifies itself with the poor. In the Beatitudes, Jesus himself proclaimed the Kingdom as the home of the poor. Throughout the centuries, many faithful have served the less fortunate. Today, we, as Christians, are called to share time, talent, and treasure with those who cannot speak for themselves. In fact, our call as Christians demands we share. Any love of wealth is inconsistent with our love for the Lord.

The corporal works of mercy (feeding the sick, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the imprisoned and the sick, burying the dead) detail the Church's love for the poor. These should be at the forefront of Christian activity, not an afterthought.

Have you recently been involved in an activity or ministry that served the poor? Are you involved in a "corporal work of mercy?"

A wise person once said, "We should thank the poor for the opportunity to serve." Many well-meaning people expect thanks from the less fortunate. But, we who are well off who should lower ourselves to serve the poor, so they can maintain their dignity. We should be the ones who say, "Thank you" and expect nothing in return.

The poor widow gave all she had as a gift. She also gives us a gift. The opportunity to sacrifice our convenience, our self-centeredness, our petty concerns to share what we have with others. To her and all like her, let us express our gratitude.

How can you serve the poor and the less fortunate in gratitude this week?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Cleaning Out Closets

Sacrifice is an ugly word these days. No one wants to think about it, much less do anything about it. Yet, we all make choices to give up a pleasure or ambition for something greater. The gospel of the poor widow spoke volumes. This poor woman sacrificed all for the greater good. In return, she implicitly trusted God would care for her in her need.

Like the widow's simple gift, a simple chore like cleaning out a closet can raise the question of sacrifice. Have your family members help each other clean out cluttered closets. (This weekend might be the perfect time for a "fall cleaning" in anticipation of holiday gift giving.) Divide the clutter into three piles: "Give Away," "Might Keep," "Definitely Keep." After the closet is cleaned out, go through the "Keep" piles. Remind your family members about the parable of the widow's sacrifice. How much can your family members sacrifice? How much can they do without, and trust God for the rest?

2021 GIVING TREE CAMPAIGN

Submitted by the Social Justice Committee

It is with great enthusiasm that we wish to announce that the St. Gerard's Giving Tree Campaign will begin Saturday, November 13th and will run until Sunday, December 19th.

This will be the sixth year that the Giving Tree Campaign will make the Christmas season a little brighter for needy persons and families in Yorkton and the surrounding area.

Over the years this program has grown significantly. In 2020 we filled the needs of 80 households amounting to over 150 persons and 180 gift items.

The Giving Tree, with parishioner support, helps to make someone's Christmas a little brighter as we provide them with much-needed items. The items range from clothing for members of the household (mitts, scarves, jackets, ski pants for children) to small Christmas toys for children who would not necessarily have these on Christmas morning. Personal toiletries (soap, deodorant, toothpaste, etc.) for individuals assist those who may not have the financial capacity to purchase these items after purchasing food for their family. Pre-paid phone cards are a gift that helps someone to call family and loved ones to wish them well in the Christmas season.

All of the items that are identified in our Giving Tree Campaign go to needy individuals and households who are supported by one of the following agencies:

SIGN Provides leadership, programs and services that assist, support and empower children, adults and families to achieve lifelong success, leading to strong and caring citizens and communities.

Salvation Army Provides social service programs including hunger relief for individuals and families through food banks and feeding programs, Christmas assistance such as food hampers and toys, and many other programs.

Yorkton Transitional Homes for Youth Provides youth in Yorkton with opportunities for safe, affordable living arrangements, supporting their path to independence.

Shelwin House shelters women and children fleeing abusive relationships and provides them with much-needed support in their time of crisis.

Yorkton & District Nursing Home residents who are without family support greatly appreciate being remembered at Christmastime.

Whitespruce Provincial Training Centre is a reduced custody facility near Orcadia designed to facilitate offender labour market attachment. Offenders are offered higher level vocational skills training to assist them in becoming more employable.

Each of the decorations on the Giving Tree is targeted to the needs of a particular individual. If you are able to acquire all of the items on the decoration (2-3 items), either by yourself or in conjunction with a friend or another family, that's GREAT!

All items are to be returned in an **open** Christmas gift bag **with the tree decoration attached to the bag** (no later than Sunday, December 19th). The tree decoration is our tracing mechanism and will assist our committee to make certain that the right gifts get to the right persons.

Thank you for your continued support while making someone's Christmas much brighter!

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Generosity"

This Week...

Two widows are the heroes of today's readings. It is a widow whom Elijah befriends and blesses with abundance. She didn't have any extra oil or flour, but she gave all she had to Elijah because she had faith in his words. It is a widow who gives all the money she has that shames the contributions of the richest ones. She gives because she has faith. In contrast, Jesus criticizes the hypocritical ones who claim to be holy, yet who act in the most unholy ways. Jesus knows how they will fare at the Second Coming.

For Your Reflection

Centuries ago a widow was a very helpless person. In those days, men controlled the family wealth and property, and women received any status they had from the men who were their husbands. Bad luck was a sign of sinfulness, so when a woman was widowed, she had no one to take care of her, and society looked down on her. Yet in both the first reading and the Gospel, we are asked to imitate the faithful actions of a widow.

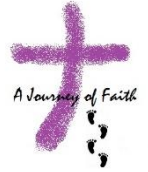
- Jesus often asks us to look at the outcasts of society in order to imitate their ways. What are some characteristics of today's social outcasts that we need to imitate? How would imitating them make the world a better place?
- Jesus often asks us to see through the hypocrisy of the wealthy. They act proud and important, but many of their personal habits are not what we want to imitate. What are some characteristics of today's rich and famous that we wouldn't want to imitate? What kind of lifestyles do some well-known athletes, rock stars, and actors lead? What would Jesus say about these people?
- On most teenagers' bedroom walls and locker doors, you will find posters of whom? What characteristics of these people are admired by teenagers? Why? What would Jesus say about the choices made by most teenagers? What do you say about them? How are you prepared to respond to this situation?
- Do you ever contribute money or time to a cause you believe in? If not, why not? If so, what do you do? How has it affected your life? How has it made the world a better place for anyone?
- Some people think "I'm only one person so I can't really help." What response could you give to that excuse? What would Jesus say about that?



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