



# St. Gerard's

## Roman Catholic Parish

October 15th, 2023

Twenty-eighth  
Sunday in Ordinary  
Time

Established December 11, 1904

### CONTACT US

Parish Office Hours: Monday - 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  
Office 306.782.2449  
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  
Glenn Walz, Caretaker

#### MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

- Altar Server Coordinator  
*Kathleen Bedard*
- Baptism Team  
*Trevor Baker* [tlbaker@sasktel.net](mailto:tlbaker@sasktel.net)
- Catholic Women's League  
*Deanna Pellatt*  
*Christine Shuya*
- Centering Prayer  
*Ernie Bobowski* 306.783.6014  
*Lori Zuzak* 306.783.8063
- Divine Mercy  
*Adeline Oystreck*
- Family, Community & Social  
*Anita Halliday*
- Knights of Columbus  
*Keith Hayward*
- Liturgical  
*Colleen Haider*
- Protocol for Responsible Ministry  
*Richard Dubois*
- Sacrament Coordinators  
(First Reconciliation, Confirmation & First Eucharist)  
*Rene & Ophelia Adane*
- Social Justice  
*Linda Maddaford*

*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.*

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

|                         |  |   |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Mon. 16 <sup>th</sup>   | NO MASS<br>5:30pm  | Rosary Prayer led by the K of C   |
| Tues. 17 <sup>th</sup>  | NO MASS<br>9:00am  | Cabbage Roll Bee  |
| Wed. 18 <sup>th</sup>   | NO MASS<br>10:00am   | Mass Nursing Home (South) <u>Cancelled</u>  |
| Thurs. 19 <sup>th</sup> | 9:00am<br>2:30pm   | <b>Mass</b> +David Jakubowski<br><b>Mass at Yorkton Crossing</b><br>+John Dernisky  |
| Fri. 20 <sup>th</sup>   | 7:00pm   | Centering Prayer (lower level)  |
| Sat. 21 <sup>st</sup>   | 7:00pm<br>9:00am<br>10:00am  | Liturgical Committee Meeting<br><b>Mass</b> +Kelly Adamiak<br>Liturgical Ministries Workshop  |
| Sun. 22 <sup>nd</sup>   | 4:30pm<br>5:00pm<br>8:30am<br>9:00am<br>10:00am<br>10:30am<br>11:00am<br>12:00pm<br>3:00pm | Rosary Prayer<br><b>Mass</b> for the People<br><b>Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b><br>Rosary Prayer<br><b>Mass</b> for the People<br>Knights of Columbus Parish Brunch<br>Rosary Prayer<br><b>Mass</b> for the People<br>Knights of Columbus Parish Brunch<br>Baptism Preparation (Parish Hall) |

#### SACRAMENTS

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

## SUNDAY CONNECTION FOR THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

|                           |                                  |   |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>First Reading</b>      | <i>Isaiah 25.6-10a</i>           | The Lord will provide richly for his people.                    |
| <b>Responsorial Psalm</b> | <i>Psalms 23.1-6</i>             | The Lord is our shepherd.                                       |
| <b>Second Reading</b>     | <i>Philippians 4.12-14,19-20</i> | Paul tells the Philippians that God provides whatever he needs. |
| <b>Gospel Reading</b>     | <i>Matthew 21.1-14</i>           | Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a wedding feast.        |

### Background on the Gospel Reading

Immediately after criticizing the religious leaders through the parable of the tenants in last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus proceeded to tell another parable, again directed at the religious leaders. We hear this parable in today's Gospel.

In the parable of the wedding feast, Jesus offers an image of the kingdom of heaven using the symbol of a wedding banquet. In today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah and in today's psalm, the Lord's goodness is evident in the symbol of a feast of good food and wine. Jesus' listeners would have been familiar with the image of a wedding feast as a symbol for God's salvation. They would consider themselves to be the invited guests. Keeping this in mind helps us to understand the critique Jesus makes with this parable. The context for this parable is the growing tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem. This has been the case for the past two Sundays and will continue to be true for the next several weeks.

The parable Jesus tells is straightforward. The king dispatches his servants to invite the guests to the wedding feast that he is planning for his son. The listeners would have been surprised to learn that the first guests refused the invitation. Who would refuse the king's invitation? A second dispatch of servants follows. Again to the listeners' great surprise, some guests ignore the invitation. Some of the invited guests even go so far as to mistreat and kill the servants. The king invokes his retribution against these murderers by destroying them and burning their city.

We might stop here for a moment. Why would some guests kill the servants sent to invite them to the king's wedding feast? It might be possible that the king was a tyrant, evidenced by the destruction of the city of those who refused his invitation. But if we follow this idea, then the allegory seems to be about something other than the kingdom of heaven. It is more likely that the destruction of the city would have been a powerful image corresponding to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70, which would have been an important event for Matthew's audience.

With the invited guests now deemed unworthy to attend the king's wedding feast, the servants are sent to invite whomever they can find. The guests arrive, but it appears that accepting the king's invitation brings certain obligations. The guest who failed to dress in the appropriate wedding attire is cast out of the feast. We are reminded that while many are invited to the kingdom of heaven, not all are able to meet its requirements. God invites us to his feast, giving us his salvation. Yet he asks us to repent for our sins.

Jesus' message in the parable cautions against exclusive beliefs about the kingdom of heaven. The parable also teaches about humility. Those who assume that they are the invited guests may find that they have refused the invitation, and so others are invited in their place. To accept the invitation is also to accept its obligations. God wants our full conversion in complete acceptance of his mercy.

[www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection](http://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection)

## MISSIONARY MONTH - OCTOBER 2023

*World Mission Sunday: October 22*

*Theme: "HEARTS ON FIRE, FEET ON THE MOVE" (CF.LK.24:13-35)*



<https://www.missionsocieties.ca/>



## BAPTISM

*The First Sacrament of Initiation*

All parents who would like to bring their children for baptism are asked to attend the Baptism Sessions on the following dates:

Sunday, October 22 at 3:00pm  
and

Thursday, November 16 at 6:30pm

The Celebration of Baptism will be at the 11am Mass Sunday, November 19.

## Ministry of Pastoral Care

All who have previously served as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Sick and Homebound are asked to contact the Parish Office as this ministry will begin in the near future.

If you have not ministered in the past and would like to serve Holy Communion to our brothers and sisters who are in a Care Home, Yorkton Nursing Home, or Yorkton Hospital, please phone 306.782.2449.

## Mark Your Calendar! Liturgical Ministries Workshop

All parishioners who serve as Hospitality Minister, Welcomer, Lector, Cantor, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Sacristan, Musicians and Choir are asked to attend a Liturgical Ministries Workshop one of the following days:

Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>      10:00 am-12noon  
Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>      7:00 pm-9:00pm

Liturgical Ministers are to be commissioned every three years, therefore all are asked to attend.

**Would you like to learn more about these ministries? You are welcome to attend as well!**

Charity is at the heart of the Church's social doctrine.... For the Church, instructed by the Gospel, charity is everything because, as Saint John teaches (cf. 1 Jn 4:8, 16) and as I recalled in my first [Encyclical Letter](#), "God is love" (*Deus Caritas Est*): *everything has its origin in God's love, everything is shaped by it, everything is directed towards it.* Love is God's greatest gift to humanity, it is his promise and our hope. Caritas in Veritate, 2009, Benedict XVI

*Submitted by Linda Maddaford,  
Social Justice Ministry*



## News from the CWL



Oct. 28      Unity Outreach Project Presentation  
all CWL members are invited to engage in positive dialogue to determine the needs of our councils. The session will include a set of questions to explore. Please join us for fellowship and refreshments (Parish Hall) @ 9:30am\_

Nov. 1      General Meeting @ 7pm  
Nov. 8      CWL and Knights Memorial Mass and Supper, Mass at 5:30 pm, Supper at 6:30 pm. \$25 per person. Please contact Christine (306-621-3860) or Deanna (306-621-3859) for tickets.



## News from the Knights of Columbus



Oct. 19      Bingo-afternoon-5pm  
Oct. 21      Family Leaf Rake - If you need help phone Keith 306.783.0963  
Family Prayer

Oct. 22      Parish Brunch

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



For Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's *Create Hope: Stand for the Land* campaign, our partner ERIC-Radio Progreso has asked that we support the defenders of human rights and the environment in Honduras. Since 2015, the communities of Guapinol and the San Pedro sector have been fighting to preserve their rivers and the Carlos Escaleras National Park from mining. To find out more, visit [devp.org/campaign](http://devp.org/campaign).

**"Communities are displaced. Rights are violated. Access and rights to water denied. All this to give priority to the extraction and pillaging of resources."**

— Leonel George, member of the Committee for the Defence of Common and Public Goods of Tocoa, Colón

Stand in solidarity. Sign the letter to the Honduran ambassador to Canada at [devp.org/act](http://devp.org/act) or on the Development & Peace table in the Welcome Area of the church.





Bringing Home  
the Word **+**

### Our Invitation from the King

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

When people think of heaven, they often imagine a place up in the sky. Episodes of *Star Trek* should challenge that notion. The Bible usually speaks of heaven as an experience. According to our first reading, it is like a banquet, "a feast of rich food and choice wines" (Isaiah 25:6). Such a meal is an extraordinary event for hardworking people who seldom get to enjoy such luxury. According to today's Gospel account, the kingdom of heaven is like a wedding banquet, a feast of "calves and fattened cattle" (Matthew 22:4), a celebration of love and new life.

Some people might prefer an image that thrills the ear rather than the palate, like a Handel concerto or a Beethoven symphony. Whatever image is favoured heaven is an incomparable phenomenon that cannot be described. It is an experience that will thrill us to the core of our being.

To be invited to such an astounding experience might well be the event of a lifetime. This is, after all, an invitation from the king. Who would possibly turn it down? And yet, some do. As the Gospel recounts, some are too busy with work. Others would rather watch "the game." Still others who might accept the invitation minimize it by refusing to dress appropriately. How can people be so foolish? Yet, you and I often are.

God's invitation to the heavenly feast simply asks that we realize the magnitude of the honor extended to us, that we accept it graciously, and that we enjoy the experience.

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This year's Appeal is a chance to step back and take on the mindset, or rather the "heart-set," and enter into what it means to be generous and love

and care for others as Christ did. It will require prayer, intentional reflection, and quite likely some sacrifice. Remember that through our generosity, we are drawing closer to Christ, saying "yes" to his Kingdom, and growing closer as a diocesan community. Please prayerfully consider how you can support our Archdiocese through this year's Archbishop's Appeal.

Our parish goal for the Archbishop's Appeal is \$42,373. Together, we can reach our goal if we freely share the abundance that God has blessed us with. These funds will continue many programs that enrich the lives of those around us. Please prayerfully consider donating to this year's Archbishop's Appeal.

## FAMILY CONNECTION

Today's Gospel reminds us that God invites all of us to his kingdom. How do we respond to this invitation? In theological terms, God has granted us free will to accept or reject salvation. The parable of the wedding feast reminds us that God desires our wholehearted acceptance of his invitation to salvation.

As you gather as a family, discuss what you consider appropriate attire for various occasions. For example, if your family were invited to a neighbour's barbecue, what would you wear? If you were planning to attend the symphony, what might you wear? If invited to an evening wedding, what might you wear? Discuss how our preparations for an event and our choice of attire indicates the importance and value we place on the occasion. In today's Gospel Jesus uses this metaphor to talk about the kingdom of heaven. Read Matthew 22:1-14. Discuss why the guest was thrown out of the wedding feast.


*What does Jesus expect of those who accept his invitation of salvation?*

*What would be the evidence of our conversion to God's salvation?*

Pray together as a family that you will respond wholeheartedly to God's invitation to salvation. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 23.

[www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection](http://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection)

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |         |          |          |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------|----------|----------|
| D | E | S | I | L | E | N | T | E | D | KING    | FEAST    | WEDDING  |
| G | A | R | M | E | N | T | E | O | E | BANQUET | OXEN     | BUSINESS |
| N | S | S | E | N | I | S | U | B | T | FURIOUS | UNWORTHY | GARMENT  |
| I | B | S | T | E | R | N | Q | R | I | SILENT  | FEW      | CHOSEN   |
| D | I | W | U | X | W | E | N | E | V |         |          |          |
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| A | H | E | A | V | E | N | U | I | L |         |          |          |
| Y | N | A | M | T | S | A | E | F | K |         |          |          |



## From a treatise on Prayer and Praise by Saint Ambrose, bishop

### *Pray especially for the whole body of the Church*

*Offer God a sacrifice of praise and fulfill your vows to the Most High.* If you praise God, you offer your vow and fulfill the promise you have made. So the Samaritan leper, healed by the Lord's word of command, gained greater credit than the other nine; he alone returned to Christ, praising God and giving thanks. Jesus said of him: *There was no one to come back and thank God except this foreigner.* He tells him: *Stand up and go on your way, for your faith has made you whole.*

The Lord Jesus, in his divine wisdom, taught you about the goodness of the Father, who knows how to give good things, so that you might ask for the things that are good from Goodness itself. He urges you to pray earnestly and frequently, not offering long and wearisome prayers, but praying often, and with perseverance. Lengthy prayers are usually filled with empty words, while neglect of prayer results in indifference to prayer.

Again, Christ urges you, when you ask forgiveness for yourself, to be especially generous to others, so that your actions may commend your prayer. The Apostle, too, teaches you how to pray; you must avoid anger and contentiousness, so that your prayer may be serene and wholesome. He tells you also that every place is a place of prayer, though our Savior says: *Go into your room.*

But by “room” you must understand, not a room enclosed by walls that imprison your body, but the room that is within you, the room where you hide your thoughts, where you keep your affections. This room of prayer is always with you, wherever you are, and it is always a secret room, where only God can see you.

You are told to pray especially for the people, that is, for the whole body, for all its members, the family of your mother the Church; the badge of membership in this body is love for each other. If you pray only for yourself, you pray for yourself alone. If each one prays for himself, he received less from God’s goodness than the one who prays on behalf of others. But as it is, because each prays for all, all are in fact praying for each one.

To conclude, if you pray only for yourself, you will be praying, as we said, for yourself alone. But if you pray for all, all will pray for you, for you are included in all. In this way there is a great recompense; through the prayers of each individual, the intercession of the whole people is gained for each individual. There is here no pride, but an increase of humility and a richer harvest from prayer.