

# St. Gerard's

# Roman Catholic Parish

October 29th, 2023

# Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Established December 11, 1904

# **CONTACT US**

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9am-noon/lpm-4pm (closed Friday) 125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

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

### **PASTORAL TEAM**

Father Sathi Antony, Pastor Office 306.782.2449 Rectory 306.782.0323 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

•Catholic Women's League

Deanna Pellatt <u>pell@sasktel.net</u> Christine Shuya <u>m.shuya@sasktel.net</u>

•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 Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.

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

Mon. 30<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. CWL Pudding Preparation
5:30 p.m. Rosary Prayer led by the K of C
Tues. 31<sup>st</sup> 6:00 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00 p.m. **Mass** for the Venerable Blessed
Michael McGivney

+Walter Wintonyk

 $followed\ by\ fellowship\ \&\ refreshments$ 

Wed. 1st Solemnity of All Saints

7:00 p.m. **Mass** for the People

followed by: CWL General Meeting, K of C Combined Planning & General

Meeting

Thurs. 2<sup>nd</sup> The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)

**9:30 a.m.** Mass for the People

with St. Alphonsus School at St. Gerard's

Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> 5:00 p.m. **Mass** for the People

Sun. 5<sup>th</sup> Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 a.m. **Mass** for the People 11:00 a.m. **Mass** for the People 11:00 a.m. 2023 Youth Fellowship

#### **SACRAMENTS**

**Reconciliation:** Half-hour before daily Mass Tuesday to

Friday, and by appointment

Anointing: Please contact the Parish Office

**Infant Baptism:** 

**Matrimony:** 

**RCIA:** 

After-hours Emergency 306.782.0323

Please contact the Parish Office Please contact the Parish Office

Please contact the Parish Office 12 months

prior to the marriage date

### SUNDAY CONNECTION FOR THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading Exodus 22.20-26 The Lord teaches that compassion ought to be shown to

the alien and to the poor.

**Responsorial Psalm** *Psalm 18.2-4,47,51* The Lord is our strength.

**Second Reading** 1 Thessalonians 1.5c-10 Paul tells the Thessalonians that their conversion to the

Lord has been an example to all believers.

Gospel Reading Matthew 22.34-40 The Pharisees continue to test Jesus with a question about

the greatest commandment.

# **Background on the Gospel Reading**

This week's Gospel follows close behind the Gospel read last Sunday. It is the last of three questions put to Jesus by Jewish religious leaders who are trying to trick him into saying something that might get him arrested. This reminds us that the context for today's reading is the mounting tension between Jesus and the religious leaders in Jerusalem.

The Herodians and the Pharisees asked the first question, which was about taxes. The Sadducees asked the second question, which was about the Resurrection. The third question, considered in today's Gospel, is asked by a Pharisee who asks Jesus about the greatest of the commandments.

The question requires Jesus to interpret the Law of Moses. The Mosaic Law consists of the Ten Commandments and many additional rules, numbering over six hundred. Adherence to the Mosaic Law, for a devout Jew, is an expression of faithfulness to God's covenant with Israel. The ranking of the Commandments was regularly debated among the teachers of the Law.

Jesus answers the Pharisees' question with a two-fold summary. Jesus says that all of the commandments can be summarized in two commandments: love God and love your neighbour. Both of these were central elements of the religious tradition Jesus learned from his Jewish community. Indeed, these continue to be central aspects of contemporary Jewish religious understanding. Jesus' response to his questioners proposed an integral connection between these two aspects of the Jewish Law. Love of God finds its expression in our love for our neighbour.

# FAMILY CONNECTION

Children learn about love from real, concrete examples witnessed in family life. We can help children to love God and love their neighbours by showing everyday acts of love, generosity, and kindness—our own expressions of our love for God. These acts, small and large, are the expression of what Jesus identified as the two greatest commandments: love God and love neighbour.

Make a poster together as a family. Write the words Love God in the center of the poster and write the words Love Neighbour near each of the four sides of the poster. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 22:34-40. Talk about how Jesus taught us that our love for God is revealed in the love that we show to other people. On the poster, use pictures and words to show some of the ways that your family shows their love for other people. Pray together that your family will continue to express your love for God by loving others. Pray the Act of Love (see page 4).

# "CHRISTMAS IN NOVEMBER" PARISH FUNDRAISER

The "Christmas in November" Fundraising Committee wishes to inform all parishioners that our second annual raffle and bake sale will be held Saturday, November 25th from 11 AM to 2 PM.

The event will include several raffle draws for baskets of seasonal items. Books of tickets for sale will be available after each Mass until November 19th. Please return all books and proceeds by Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> to ensure that all sold tickets are entered into the draws. Please place books of sold / returned tickets with proceeds in an envelope and place in the collection basket at Mass or drop off at the Parish Office. All raffle draws will take place at the event.

St. Gerard's Parish will sell perogies and cabbage rolls at this fundraising event so that parishioners may stock up on these favourites for the Christmas season.

Parishioners are asked to donate baked goods for the bake table: a pan of squares, cookies, cakes or fresh bread/buns. Items may be dropped off at St. Gerard's Parish Hall Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2 PM to 6:30 PM. If this time doesn't work, you may drop off your items at the Parish Office earlier that day.

There will be several sale tables for seasonal crafts. We appreciate the work that crafters put into their finished products, and we thank you for donating these items which will be showcased at the sale.

Thank you to all parishioners for their support of this event in 2022 and we look to making this a huge success for 2023.

Proceeds from the Annual Fundraiser will be used to continue the good works of St. Gerard's Parish.



We welcome into our Catholic Christian Community those who were baptized recently at St. Gerard:

Thea Coutts

May this child and her family experience joy and new life.

# ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS

Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. (All Souls' Day)

Through the lighting of memorial candles, we will remember, by name, each of the people whose funeral was celebrated at St. Gerard's Parish during the past year.

A light reception and an opportunity for fellowship will follow the Mass. Everyone is invited to attend this beautiful and moving liturgy.

# **November Memorial Display**

As is our custom at St. Gerard's, there will be a Memorial Display at the back of the church where parishioners may display funeral cards of their deceased loved ones. Please place the cards on the table and someone will display them for you. Also, there will be a space where you may write the names of your deceased loved ones and friends.



# St. Gerard's Music Ministry Notes



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! An ALL-CHOIR Rehearsal for musicians and singers to learn new hymns will be held Monday, November 6th at 7:00 p.m. Please use south (choir) entrance.

**Cantors** – there will be an opportunity to rehearse the psalms for the coming weeks. If you have ministered as Cantor in the past, or would like to try it out, please attend!



## God's Lessons of Love

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

The readings today are all about love. The first reading tells us who we should love; the Gospel tells us how we should love. We know that it is not difficult to love those who love us, who are kind and generous to us, who make us feel that we are important. The reading from Exodus moves us in a different direction. We are to love the alien, the widow, the orphan, and the poor neighbour. In a patriarchal society, such as was ancient Israel, aliens, widows, and orphans were the ultimate outsiders. They had no male relative through whom they would benefit from the kinship structure. While the neighbour might be of the same tribe or clan, it is the poor neighbour who was to be loved, the one who might be a drag on one's life and resources.

In other words, we are to love the ones who cannot promise to make our lives more comfortable or enjoyable. In fact, the point of loving them is to make their lives more comfortable and enjoyable. How are we to love them? The Gospel reading offers two different answers that are really very much alike. We are to love God totally, with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind. We are to love others as we love ourselves, with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind. More practically, we must do for others what we would do for ourselves, for to love them is to love God.

© 2023 Liguori Publications. Used with permission.



after <u>each</u> Mass the first Saturday/Sunday of every month beginning November 4/5, 2023

Donations of baking are appreciated. Please drop off in the kitchen prior to Mass. Thank you!

Submitted by Anita Halliday, Family, Community & Social Ministry



### News from the CWL



Nov. 1 General Meeting following 7 p.m. Mass

The Knights of Columbus and the CWL will be hosting a

# Memorial Mass and Banquet to Remember our Deceased Members of Our Councils

Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>
Mass: 5:30 p.m. Banquet: 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 per person and must be purchased <u>before November 1st</u>

To purchase tickets, please contact:

 Keith Hayward
 306.783.0963

 Christine Shuya
 306.621.3860

 Deanna Pellatt
 306.621.3859



# News from the Knights of Columbus



Oct. 29 Bingo-afternoon-12.00

Oct. 31 Fellowship following 7 p.m. Mass.

Everyone welcome!

Nov. 1 Combined Planning & General Meeting

following 7pm Mass

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.728.8664. www.kofc-2031.ca



Our parish goal for the Archbishop's Appeal is \$42,373

# Development and Peace — Caritas Canada Urgent Help Needed

Development and Peace is raising funds for the Palestinian people besieged in the southern Gaza Strip, who are in urgent need of help. Facing a near-total blockade and ongoing bombardment, our partner Caritas Jerusalem urgently needs help to provide food, water, shelter, hygiene kits, healthcare and psychosocial support to the wounded, the displaced and the bereaved. So, as you join Pope Francis in praying that "weapons be silenced" and that "the cry for peace" is heeded, we invite you to give generously to help our sisters and brothers in Gaza. To donate visit bit.ly/3Q519p7 or learn more at devp.org/en/please-helpfamilies-in-need-in-gaza/



# ACT OF LOVE



O my God, I love you above all things with my whole heart and soul, because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbour as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and I ask pardon of those whom I have injured. Amen.

# **November Month of the Souls in Purgatory**

The month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Church commemorates all her faithful children who have departed from this life, but have not yet attained the joys of heaven. St. Paul warns us that we must not be ignorant concerning the dead, nor sorrowful, "even as others who have no hope ... For the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven ... and the dead who are in Christ shall rise.

The Church has always taught us to pray for those who have gone into eternity. Even in the Old Testament prayers and works of charity were offered for the souls of the dead by those who thought "well and religiously concerning the resurrection." It was believed that "they who had fallen asleep with godliness had great grace laid up for them" and that "it is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins." We know that a defiled soul cannot enter into heaven.

With the exception of the last Sunday, November is the month of the Holy Souls. The Church prays in a special way for those who are in need of purification.

**St. Padre Pio. says,** "The holy souls are eager for the prayers of the faithful which can gain indulgences for them. Their intercession is powerful. Pray unceasingly. We must empty Purgatory!"

Please join us for the special Holy Mass and ceremony on 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.00 PM praying for our loved ones. At every Mass pray for the deceased. Offer Holy Mass for the Loved ones.

# St. Gertrude's vision of purgatory highlights the power of prayer.



St. Gertrude saw Jesus lift souls from purgatory to Heaven according to the number of prayers offered for them. St. Gertrude the Great was a holy mystic of the 14th century, who received many heavenly visions as a Benedictine nun. Among her numerous private revelations were short glimpses into purgatory.

One such vision is described in the book *The Life and Revelations of Saint Gertrude* and highlights the power of prayer for the souls in purgatory.

The Catholic Church teaches that the souls in purgatory are still in some mysterious way connected to the Church on earth and our prayers have an effect on their time spent in this final stage of purification.

St. Gertrude is one of the most well-known saints who advocated for these holy souls in purgatory, and the Church often refers to her and her visions to help explain the concept of purgatory.

# Eternal Father,

I offer you the most precious blood of your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.

# **Drawing the Saints Close**

Not long ago, I was discussing the saints with a group of nine- to twelve-year-old children. After I mentioned that each of us is called by God to be a saint, a little girl asked, "But do *you* want to be a saint?"

"Yes," I answered, reflexively. "But do you really want to be one?" she asked, with a bit more skepticism than I would prefer to acknowledge.

I thought about it for a moment. "Yes, I do," I said. "It isn't important to me to be a canonized saint, one of the ones whose intercession we have been asking for just now, but I would very much like to be a saint."

As I was thinking about the girl's skepticism later, I realized that the saints can seem very far away. Sometimes we focus on details of piety or asceticism that are removed from our everyday experience. The saints, however, were human just as we are human, and their lives were filled with experiences similar to ours. On closer study, many saints are incredibly relatable.

In the same group, a girl came to me after looking at depictions of the saints and said, "in the early Church, the women all look different from one another, but then it's almost all women religious and queens." It was clear that she was looking for a more diverse image of what holiness can look like for women. I mentioned to her that St. Zelie Martin was a successful businesswoman and that St. Gianna Beretta Molla was a doctor, and that both were also mothers. She resumed her research, not only interested in those two, but realizing that even those who looked the same on first glance had among them tremendous variety in their lived experience.

Children love to hear stories of the saints. These ordinary men and women who lived extraordinarily inspire them, give them examples of what holiness looks like, and demonstrate that there is no one way to follow Jesus. Exposing children to a variety of these stories gives them an opportunity to find a saint with whom they have a connection, whom they might ask to intercede for them and whom they might look to as a model for emulation.

The liturgical calendar hanging in our dining room reminds us that the rhythm of the year is punctuated by celebrations of these holy men and women. Our family celebrates the feast days of the saints whose names were given to our children by going out for ice cream. We make beautiful saint books available in our home for our children to look at for inspiration. A friend and her daughters have a saint of the month. They have no method to choosing these saints; they just select them randomly. Her younger daughter was interested in chess, so she chose St. Teresa of Avila, the patron of that game. The lack of a comprehensive structure makes no difference to her girls, who love the tradition.

If a particular saint seems to resonate with your child, provide that natural interest an opportunity to grow with a holy card or a book about the person. Look up prayers that the person loved or wrote and prayers asking for his or her intercession. Many children love St. Francis because of his connection to animals, the poor, and peace. There are dozens of beautiful children's books about his life. Sometimes interest in one saint can lead to interest in another. Many saints had particular devotion to a man or a woman who came before them, and children may want to know why, sparking a new devotion. We can never have too many friends in heaven.

As children grow older, you can ask them to think about the lives of the saints more deeply. How did they live a life of heroic virtue? What challenges did they face? How do you want to grow to be more like them? Perhaps someday some future boy or girl will be reflecting on the life of your child, hoping to grow in holiness, inspired by his or her life.

LUNCH ED

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5TH 11AM TO 2PM

ST GERARD
YOUTH
FELLOWSHIP



GROUP SHARING, GOAL SETTING, GAMES, RAFFLE DRAWS, SPEAKERS

Contact Parish Youth Coordinator Melinda Sevilla 306-562-7480 or MFC Coordinator Jonathan Rosas 306-516-0286 for more information



# October 29, 2023 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time



It is easy to say we can love our neighbor well, but it is certainly hard to live out. It is easy for those we find likable but much harder to love the stranger or the one who disagrees with us. Love of neighbor is only possible with an intimate relationship with God, uniting our wills to His, even to the point of emotionally uniting ourselves to God. Then, we can learn to look at others not with our own eyes and feelings but from the perspective of Christ. If we have no contact with God in our lives, we are incapable of seeing the image of God in others. Let us be ready to encounter our neighbors, and to show love makes us sensitive to God as well. Your contribution to the Archbishop's Appeal helps those organizations intended for this exact purpose.

# Development and Peace — Caritas Canada Urgent Help Needed

Development and Peace is raising funds for the Palestinian people besieged in the southern Gaza Strip, who are in urgent need of help. Facing a near-total blockade and ongoing bombardment, our partner Caritas Jerusalem urgently needs help to provide food, water, shelter, hygiene kits, healthcare and psychosocial support to the wounded, the displaced and the bereaved. So, as you join Pope Francis in praying that "weapons be silenced" and that "the cry for peace" is heeded, we invite you to give generously to help our sisters and brothers in Gaza. To donate visit bit.ly/3Q519p7 or learn more at devp.org/en/please-help-families-in-need-in-gaza/

#### Stewardship Bulletin Bit

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." – Matthew 22:37

Do you put other "gods" before God? Is your love of money, power, status, comfort or some personal possession greater than your love for God? Do you recognize that everything you have and that everything you are is a gift from God? Putting God first in everything helps keep us from becoming a slave to our possessions and to our pride.

The Archdiocese of Regina is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.

### **Worship Leader's Conference**

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry would like to invite a group to travel with them for a weekend workshop in Red Deer, Alberta on November 10-12. (We would leave at about 4:00 p.m.on Friday afternoon and return Sunday evening. Monday is a holiday) Those who are interested in learning more about effectively leading music in worship settings are invited to join us. Spaces will be limited. Please indicate your interest in receiving more details by emailing



# TF372: Bonaventure, The Arts, and Catholic Education - Part 1

In this part one of two episodes, Dr. Brett Salkeld and returning guest Brett Fawcett sit down to discuss the implications Bonavanture's examination of the arts and theology might have on Catholic education.

**Show Snippet:** "So the first day is, for him, he calls it the superior light. He points out, okay, you think about the days of creation, all the days would need light to work. So in one sense, when God creates light on the first day, the first day is therefore informing all the other days that come after it. So therefore, analogously, the superior light, the first light, is theology. It's sacred scripture. It also informs all the other arts that come after it. All the other sciences that come after it. In some sense, they're, they're, again, they're autonomous, but the light that they have comes from theology from scripture."

 $\underline{thinking faith.libsyn.com/bonaventure-the-arts-and-catholic-\underline{education-part-1}}$ 

## Save the Date: De Margerie Series 2024

Dr. Petersen Finch is our 2024 De Margerie Series Lecturer. She will be visiting Regina and Saskatoon for two lectures and two workshops, Jan. 24-27:

- Jan. 24, 7pm at Campion College, Regina"Re-Imagining Lay People as Stewards of Doctrine"
- Jan. 25, 7pm at St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon"Doctrine as the Fuel of Renewal"
- Jan. 26, 10am (Saskatoon) and Jan. 27, 10am (Regina) "The Eucharist: Where is Jesus?"

The De Margerie Series is sponsored by St. Thomas More College, Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, Campion College, Archdiocese of Regina, Saskatoon Theological Union, and the RC Diocese of Saskatoon.

Further details will come soon.

#### **Retreat Leaders Needed**

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is looking to build a team of adults to serve in leadership roles for retreats with young people. Full training and support would be provided. There would be several opportunities a month to serve, but each person on the team will determine how frequently they would like to serve. (Could be just once. Or every month, depending on your availability and the need for leaders) This is a very challenging and fulfilling way to share your gifts in the spirit of evangelization. If this is of interest to you, please email oyyam@archregina.sk.ca for an application form. (The "application" process exists so that we can ensure we have a team that has all the needed components).



### **Engaged Encounter**

Getting married? Want a weekend away to focus on your relationship? Catholic Engaged Encounter uses a method of marriage preparation that has been used in hundreds of dioceses throughout the world since 1976 and was Vatican-approved by Pope John Paul II. A weekend will be held at the Mother Teresa Centre at Kenosee Lake on November 10-12th, 2023. For more info or to register, visit <a href="mailto:ceewest.com">ceewest.com</a>. Contact Miri and James Schiller at eereginacc@gmail.com if you have any questions.



#### **Couples Connect**

Faith based marriage preparation program for dating and newly married couples. It consists of 8 sessions beginning December 3, 2023 and ending March 24, 2024 held Sunday afternoons at Resurrection Parish. To register or for more information contact dlizee@sasktel.net.

#### **Camp Monahan Christmas Dinner and Dance Fundraiser**

Camp Monahan's Christmas Dinner and dance featuring music with Sed Contra and brisket dinner by Schmitty's catering will be held November 25th at Resurrection Parish. Tickets are \$40.00 and can be purchased online at <a href="mailto:campmonahan.ca">campmonahan.ca</a> or by contacting our office at 306-522-1047 or campmonahan@sasktel.net

**itwewin Corner** (itwewin is the Cree word which means 'the word' or 'as it is said...')

Fr. John Weckend, Archdiocese of Regina Truth and Reconciliation Healing Committee.

Did you know... Chacachas First Nation is a Cree band located near Whitewood, Sask. In 1881, Indian Agent McDonald and colonial surveyors decided to place Kakisheway and Chacachas on the same reserve without their consent. In a federal court ruling (cbc.ca/news/canada/ saskatchewan/ochapowace-illegal-amalgamation-1.5451822) in 2020, Judge Phelan found that the Chacachas and Ochapowace bands were illegally amalgamated under the Indian Act in 1884 and that the Crown (Canada) did not honouably fulfill and uphold its promises in Treaty 4. Chief Chacachas (chacachas.ca/about/) signed Treaty 4 on September 15, 1874. Chacachas First Nation is currently led by five (5) Headpersons (chacachas.ca/membershipand-governance-process-letter/) who are working with membership to establish processes for membership and a governing structure.



#### **HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS**

Pastoral Care focuses on people's needs from a spiritual and theological perspective in order to help create an optimum climate for healing of body, mind and spirit.If you are a loved one is in the hospital, please conatct the chaplain to arrange a pastoral care visit:

Pasqua Hospital: 306-519-1380 - Jennifer Holtslander General Hospital: 306-519-1405 - Jerry Fitzgerald Wascana Rehabilitation Centre: 306-530-6511 - Joan Rink

Archdiocese of Regina Bulletin Submissions
To submit a bulletin announcement for
inclusion in the diocesan bulletin
announcements, please email it by
Tuesday before noon to
communications@archregina.sk.ca.