



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

September 13, 2020

Twenty-fourth
Sunday
in Ordinary Time

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 9am and 4pm.

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

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

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

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (14 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (15 th)	7pm +Hedita Banzuela
Wed. (16 th)	9am Elizabeth Beres
Thurs. (17 th)	9am +Jim Lanigan
	2:30pm YORKTON CROSSING
Fri. (18 th)	9am +Verona Zuback
Sat. (19 th)	9am +Kevin O'Callaghan
	5pm
Sun. (20 th)	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME
	9am +George Biblow
	11am Mass for the People

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

30 minutes prior to weekday Mass, Saturdays at 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, or by appointment.

RE-OPENING THE CHURCH

Per the Government of Saskatchewan and the Archdiocese of Regina directives, Father Louis celebrates Saturday/Sunday Mass for **a limited number of people at 3 Masses.** Please be patient as we are doing our best to follow the guidelines and to welcome as many people as possible.

All those wishing to attend must pre-register:

1. Check out the link at www.stgerard.ca and complete the registration form for you and your household between Monday morning and Thursday at 4pm (or until registration is full).

2. **Only if you do not have access to the internet,** phone the Parish Office at 306.782.2449 Monday at 9am until Thursday at noon. If leaving a message, please include your name and telephone number and your call will be returned.

3. **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.

All must receive confirmation from the Parish Office prior to attending Mass. Thank you!



Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, I am grateful for your endless mercy. Give me the humility and courage to forgive those who have hurt me.

- 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 in Christ,

Last weekend the Lord taught us how we can correct our sisters and brothers without being judgmental. This weekend, based on Peter's question, "*how often should I forgive my sisters and brothers if they sin against me?*", He teaches us to forgive without limitation because forgiveness is one core of His mission. He comes to help us to reconcile to the Father and to one another.

Forgiveness is an issue that we deal with everyday. We are all human, nobody is perfect. We sin against others or others sin against us. We cannot avoid the conflict or sin of others by words or actions. Sometimes we commit it on purpose, but most of the time, I would say, we commit it without intention.

Because I am human, I hold the sin in my heart and mind that others make against me. This can consume my thoughts. Therefore, I am the victim of it. I can remember, even the small details, of what others have said or done to sin against me. I do remember all the details and, if needed, I can tell the whole story - what, how, and when it happened.

We thank Peter for raising a very good question "*how often should I forgive my sisters and brothers if they sin against me?*" Peter asks, but he also gives a hint of the answer according to his opinion, "*As many as seven times?*" And, as we know, the Lord replies to him with a very clear answer "*not seven times but I tell you seventy-seven times*". We must be aware that this doesn't mean that the calculated total is 490 times. When the Lord says it, he means true forgiveness must be **UNLIMITED**.

Jesus teaches us to forgive, and he practiced it. During the last minutes of his life when he was hung upon the cross, he prayed to the Father to forgive those who abandoned him until death, for they did not know what they had done. Remember, he also asked us to pray for our enemies – "*Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.*" (Luke 6.27-28). Yes, indeed, we need to pray for those who harm us; we need to pray for true reconciliation and forgiveness.

Today's Gospel invites us to reflect and check how often we forgive others and seek for a true reconciliation from within our heart. Because:

- When I forgive, I am free from what I am holding in my heart. I am no longer being a victim of what I am holding back from forgiveness, dwelling upon the sin that others made against me.
- Day by day I say the Lord's Prayer, "*... forgive my sins as I forgive those who sin against me*". I confess that I am a sinner, and I pray for forgiveness from the Lord. And as a result, I have to forgive those who sin against me in order to gain the forgiveness from the Lord.
- The teaching of the Lord is not only words, but He asks us to exercise this teaching. Indeed, if I hold back what others have done against me, I set a boundary between myself and others, and because of that boundary, how can I love them as the Lord expects me to do?

As I write this message to you, I am thinking of one who made my heart broken by words and actions in the past. I was angry about it. My heart was broken at that time. I chose to remain silent. I told myself that I would leave it and it would be healed in time.

Today I learn a very good lesson that I have to forgive others if they sin against me, forgive with unlimited times. Forgive and forget. I will clear my mind, not holding in my heart how others have hurt me. I need true forgiveness within my heart. And if I can do it, I will be free from the anger. I will have peace and gain the forgiveness from the Lord.

I know that it is a huge challenge for us all. How can we forgive and forget at the same time? How can we forgive others without conditions and unlimited time? I would say, at least, that we need to have a true desire for it.

Let us pray that what we hear from the Lord we will practice in deed and action.

And now, in order to apply what the Lord teaches us, I invite you to think of someone that has sinned against you in the past. Think about him/her and quietly say, “**All is over, all is over, all is in the past, I forgive you even though you are not here to ask for my forgiveness**”. And then say a prayer for that person.

My dear Sisters and Brothers, because I have asked you to do this, for sure I will do it as well. Let us work together for forgiveness in and among us.

May the Almighty God, the One who is full of mercy and love, forgive our sins and give us His grace so we can apply what he teaches us in today’s Gospel.

Love you all,

Father Louis Nguyen



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.

SEASON OF CREATION

Reflection Theme for the Season of Creation, Respect for the Planet’s Resources, from Pope Francis:

We are squeezing out the planet’s goods. Squeezing them out as if the earth were an orange. Countries and businesses from the global North have enriched themselves by exploiting the natural resources of the South, creating an ‘ecological debt.’ Who is going to pay this debt?

In addition, this ‘ecological debt’ is increased when multinationals do abroad what they would never be allowed to do in their own countries. It’s outrageous.

Today, not tomorrow, today, we have to take care of Creation responsibly. Let us pray that the planet’s resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner. No to plundering, yes to sharing. *Franciscus*

We pray for the Soil, Fields and Land: God, our Creator, we celebrate your vibrant presence among us and our kin in Creation, especially in the soil, the fields and the land. Help us to empathize with your creatures who are suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the land, the flowers of the field and all the creatures of the countryside. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and renews all things in creation. Amen.

Season of Creation online events: visit <https://seasonofcreation.org/events/>

Join the global Season of Creation movement started by the Holy Father. Register for a world wide online prayer service Sept 1, and Season of Creation webinars throughout September.

Submitted by: Linda Maddaford



FIRST RECONCILIATION

PARENTS – Do you have a child going into Grade 3 (or older) who has received First Communion but has not celebrated First Reconciliation? Please email the Parish Office to register for the First Reconciliation Preparation Sessions, starting in September. office@stgerard.ca



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

Zeke Umblas

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

Marriage Preparation for Engaged Couples - Fall Session. We are preparing dates for the Fall Session of Marriage Prep. At this point in time the sessions will include private study and Zoom meetings. If you are marrying in the next year and have not taken the Marriage Prep Course, please call Father Louis.



News from the CWL



St. Gerard's C.W.L. is having a raffle with three prizes: 1st prize - \$200 Cash; 2nd prize - Double Quilt & 2 Shams; and 3rd prize - Twin Quilt & Sham. Draw date is December 5, 2020 with proceeds to Palliative Care.

Ticket Books are available in the Welcome Area and all members are asked to please pick up a book (or more) of tickets and sign your name and telephone number on the sheet provided beside the ticket books. If you are unable to pick up a book, please call Paulette (306-782-7923). Thank you.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Sept. 16 Evening Bingo
Sept. 25 Articles for "The Word" due
Oct. 1 Afternoon Bingo
Oct. 3 Evening Bingo

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

Who has not forgiven an enemy has not yet tasted one of the most sublime enjoyments of life.

- John Kaspar Lavater



Bringing Home the Word

Right Judgement
By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Often when we think of a judge, we think of severity or cold justice. Courtroom and criminal-justice dramas—even some news coverage of major crimes and scandals—love depicting the offender as receiving his or her just rewards, with the judge or prosecutor smugly reflecting or sighing in relief.

But in the scriptural sense, a judge is much more. A good judge is an educator, teacher, and parent. Good judges promote wise living and respect for authority and the law. Their tools are sometimes mercy, sometimes penance, but always prompted by love.

A better image to understand the judge's role is a parent educating his or her child. Sometimes education means letting something slide; sometimes it means holding the child accountable. Both can be expressions of love.

Today's readings caution us against selfish passions that prompt us to judge. One who has been forgiven much but is then harsh with others will be severely punished—or as Sirach puts it, God "remembers their sins in detail."

Mercy toward others is key to the Gospel message. Some think they are good Christians because they don't steal and haven't killed anyone. They may even be active in their parish but are highly critical of others.

Remember, as Jesus said: "The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you" (Matthew 7:2). And, "So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart" (Matthew 18:35).

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Yorkton Lighthouse Food Bank & Care Centre

is committed to providing food to individuals and families in need. The Food Bank will take donations of **clean garden produce** if you have an abundance. Please drop garden produce at the Food Bank location, 78 S. Front Street on Tuesday mornings. The Food Bank is open Tues & Thurs from 10 am to 1 pm, and Weds from 12 pm to 2 pm. Tuesday morning drop off is preferred so that items may be distributed to as many clients as possible.

- Submitted by the Social Justice Committee

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.

What happens if someone at Mass develops COVID-19? All parishioners who have pre-registered will be contacted.

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

Why do I need to register each time when I would like to attend Mass? We are blessed at St. Gerard's to have a large parish family! In order to provide all parishioners with an equal opportunity to attend Sunday Mass, it is necessary to register each week.

Why can't I sit in my usual place? In order to accommodate as many singles, couples, and families as possible, it is necessary to assign seat numbers so that all are able to celebrate safely.

Carefully attending [to the directives] is the best way to ensure that we won't contribute to the spreading of the virus, and the most helpful step we can take in convincing government and health officials that opening our churches to larger numbers is a safe and responsible thing to do.

PRAYER FOR ANXIETY

Today, I pray for all those who suffer from anxiety in the midst of this exceptional situation we are going through.

May they get comfort, Lord, both in your unlimited Love and in the community.

Holy Spirit, be our light so that we keep faith in the heart of our daily lives and in that way, we may transform fear into hope. Amen.

Lord God,

I pray for all who have become sick or died by the coronavirus that has been spreading around the world.

In your mercy and compassion, deliver us from this disease,

In your holy wisdom, guide all who are working to contain the outbreak,

In your steadfast love, bring healing to all your children who have become sick,

Welcome into your arms the ones that died, comfort the ones they left behind.

In faith, I place my trust in you.

In hope, I turn to you in my time of need.

In love, I give glory to your name.

In gratitude, I will praise you with my life.

In your Son's name I pray. Amen.

Calling Teens and University Students

Are you looking to meet some new people, look at some of life's big questions and have a few laughs along the way?

Please join us for "Alpha" Online. There will be a few opportunities for us to potentially gather in person as a group, but the majority of the gatherings will happen online. We promise it will be an hour WELL SPENT each week!

So Join us Wednesday evenings at 6:30PM, starting on July 8th. No need to register. Just join us on ZOOM at <https://zoom.us/j/643587934>

Any questions contact Michelle:
mbraden@archregina.sk.ca

Blogs and Podcasts and Websites

(Ctrl+Click to follow the link)

- [Amazing Parish Thrive](#)
- [Thinking Faith](#) - with Dr. Brett Salkeld and Deacon Eric Gurash
- [Barefoot and Preaching](#) - Leah Perrault

Books and Other Resources

(Ctrl+Click to follow the link)

- [Free Catholic Novels](#)
- [What's Next for the Church](#) - A PDF book from Word on Fire
- [A Celebration of the Word of God](#) - St. Therese Institute

Archdiocese of Regina on Social Media

We invite you to like us on Facebook, we will have regular Facebook Live prayers and we would love to have you join us!

www.facebook.com/ArchdioceseofRegina/

You can also find us on Twitter @archdioceseofreg and on Instagram archdioceseofregina.

Compassionate Listening

If you find that during this difficult time you need a compassionate listening ear, visit:

<https://archregina.sk.ca/archregina-outreach>

for a list of spiritual directors and candidates in training who have volunteered their time to be there for anyone who is struggling.

Prayers, Devotions and Resources



Visit the Prayers and Devotions page to find information on daily mass, daily readings and reflections, prayers, stations of the cross and other resources that may be valuable during this time of social distancing.

<https://archregina.sk.ca/prayers-devotions-resources>

YOU are invited! Archbishop's Appeal Newsletter *new!*

Every year, the Archbishop's Appeal develop a campaign that includes the production of promotional materials and postage. This year, we have established a goal to reduce these expenses!

We are inviting you to follow the campaigns online through the *Archbishop's Appeal newsletter*. You will have access to all promotional materials such as videos and stories, giving options, and news updates.

The Archbishop's Appeal supports the various Archdiocesan ministry programs and provides grants to community outreach organizations and charities while contributing to the Archdiocese's sustainability.

Subscribe for free here:

<http://eepurl.com/g9jMh5>

Livestream of Daily and Sunday Masses - Resurrection Parish/Christ the King Parish (Regina)

are available at **9am** at the following link:

www.youtube.com/ArchdioceseRegina

Daily & Sunday Mass may also be viewed:

Vision TV (check your local TV listing)

www.dailytvmass.com

www.saltandlighttv.org/live/?muid=1

YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"Forgiveness"

This Week...

Forgiveness is paramount. If we do not forgive, we become hateful and bitter, and our anger lasts and lasts. The Reign of God is like that of a ruler who forgives a servant a huge debt without even thinking, but if that servant does not show forgiveness to others, then holds the servant accountable. We always answer to God. If we want God's forgiveness, then we must forgive others as well.

For Your Reflection

Jesus is pretty clear about forgiving people. Seventy times seven is a lot of times - four hundred and ninety times, to be exact!

- Can you imagine forgiving someone that many times, if they hurt you that many times? Why or why not?
- Can you imagine Jesus forgiving someone that many times? Why or why not?

Forgiveness of a crime doesn't mean that it was okay for that crime to have been committed. It means that the forgiver is no longer going to spend energy on hatred and anger related to the crime and to the person being forgiven. It actually frees up the forgiver as much as it does the forgiven, for anger and hatred are a very heavy burden that drains a person and affects the person's whole life.

- Because you forgive someone, does it necessarily mean that you trust that person again? If you have to forgive someone seven times for a crime, is it healthy or smart to continue to trust that person?
- Would Jesus want you to continue a close relationship with that person, or would he just ask you to give up on the anger and hatred and get on with your life?

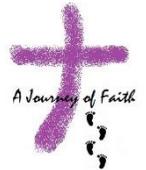
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle A for Ordinary Time* St. Mary's Press, 2004



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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