



St. Gerard's

Roman Catholic Parish

September 17th,
2023

Twenty-fourth
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 (closed Friday)
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 Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.

Pastor.....	Fr. Sathi Antony	306.782.2449	Office
		306.782.0323	Rectory
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....	Glenn Waltz		

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (18th) 11:30am *Funeral Mass for Marian Belitsky*

Tues. (19th) 6:00pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*
7:00pm +Edward Brezinski

Wed. (20th) 9:00am +Theresa Spykerman
Followed by Divine Mercy Devotion
10:00am **NURSING HOME (SOUTH)**

Thurs. (21st) **FEAST OF ST. MATTHEW**
9:00am +Bruce Wonchulanko
2:30pm **YORKTON CROSSING**

Fri. (22nd) **9:15am AT ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL**
+Sheila Hryniuk

Sat. (23rd) 2:00pm *Newberg-Flaman Wedding*

5:00pm Mass for the People

Sun. (24th) **TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**
9:00am Mass for the People
11:00am Mass for the People



October is the Month of the Holy Rosary

By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates the month of October to the Holy Rosary Devotion.

In October the rosary will be prayed communally:

Saturday - 4:30 pm
Sunday - 8:30 am
Sunday - 10:30 am

and 30 minutes prior to daily Mass

Monday – 5:30 pm
(led by the Knights of Columbus)

Reconciliation – 30 minutes before daily Mass
Tuesday-Friday (or by appointment)

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Merciful God, give us generous hearts and open minds that we may forgive others as we have been forgiven. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

-The Redemptorists

SUNDAY CONNECTION for the Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading	<i>Sirach 27.30-28.9</i>	Those who seek God's mercy must be merciful toward others.
Responsorial Psalm	<i>Psalm 103.1-4,9-12</i>	A song of praise to God who is kind and merciful.
Second Reading	<i>Romans 14.7-9</i>	We belong to the Lord.
Gospel Reading	<i>Matthew 18.21-35</i>	Jesus teaches that we must forgive one another as God has forgiven us.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Children learn to trust God's mercy and forgiveness when they experience forgiveness from those closest to them. We hope that we model God's love and forgiveness within our family life. Today's Gospel reminds us that forgiveness is measured by its quality more than its quantity.

Invite your family to consider some recent times when family members sought the forgiveness of another. Ask if there were any statements made that put conditions on our forgiveness such as "I will play this game with you if you apologize for knocking over my blocks" or "I will accept your apology after you clean up your room." Do we sometimes "keep count" or put conditions on our forgiveness of one another? This is something we may be doing without realizing it.

Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 18:21-35. Ask if we sometimes find ourselves sounding like Peter, concerning ourselves with quantity of forgiveness rather than offering forgiveness abundantly and unconditionally. Reflect upon the parable that Jesus tells. What does the servant do that makes the king so angry? He refuses to forgive his fellow servant the debt that he owes. Because we have all received God's forgiveness, God expects that we will also be forgiving toward others. Jesus' answer to Peter's question is found at the end of the parable. The number of times that we forgive one another is less important than the depth of our forgiveness. We must forgive one another from the heart.



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

To register for the next Baptism Preparation session, please contact the Parish Office 306.782.2449.

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:

Thursday, October 12th - 7:00 pm
Saturday, October 21st - 10:00 am

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



News from the Knights of Columbus



Sept. 21 Afternoon Bingo – 5pm
Sept. 22 Family Prayer – 7pm
Sept. 25 Articles for “The Word” due

Please return all books of **Charity Appeal tickets** by the end of September. Seal in an marked “K of C Tickets” and place in the collection basket, or return to the Parish Office. For more information, call Ted Osicki at 306.620.8333. Thank you to everyone who sold or bought tickets.

The Knights of Columbus will lead the **rosary prayer** each Monday at 5:30pm during the month of October.

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

LET US PRAY... Lord of our journeys, you walk with us in seasons of darkness and light, even through the valley of the shadow of death. Send your Spirit to guide us so that we can be closer companions to your will, always attentive to the sound of your voice in our days. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

EARTHQUAKE IN MOROCCO

Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is collecting funds to support rescue and relief efforts in Morocco, after the country was hit by its most powerful earthquake in a century. We are establishing contact with organizations in the region, including Caritas Morocco. The wider Caritas Internationalis network, too, is mobilizing to help as necessary. Please give generously:

www2.devp.org/en/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=3&gl=24092 or
devp.org/en/morocco-earthquake-help-needed-right-now/



Let Justice and Peace Flow
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Apostle 10:24

Fraternity is genuine if it unites those who are far apart, [and] that the message of unity that heaven sends down to earth does not fear differences, but

invites us to fellowship, a communion of differences, in order to start afresh together, because we are all pilgrims on a journey”. In this Season of Creation, as followers of Christ on our shared synodal journey, let us live, work and pray that our common home will teem with life once again. May the Holy Spirit once more hover over the waters and guide our efforts to “renew the face of the earth.”

- Pope Francis, Sept 1, 2023

Christmas in November 2023 Event

Plans for our 2023 version of Christmas in November event is well in the works. This year's event will be held Saturday November 25th. This year we are looking at bigger and better with cookies, cakes, fresh baking, perogies and cabbage roll sales all for the Christmas season. We will look at donated Craft Sale items as well with the understanding that the items are donated for this event. If you are interested in donating craft sale items, please contact the parish office at (306) 782-2449.

We will be holding a variety of raffles for holiday baskets of items aimed at making any household's Christmas a little merrier and brighter. Raffle ticket sales will begin in mid-October so stay tuned to more information. Local parishioners can participate by baking and donating items such as cookies, squares, dainties, Christmas cakes, etc. More details on when and where to drop off these items will be provided closer to the event date. Cabbage rolls and perogies will be made available for sale at this event. In order to satisfy a lot of holiday demands there will be limits placed on perogy and cabbage roll orders. ~ Mark Bell



Limitless Forgiveness

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

What makes seven such an important number? It's the symbolism. It signifies wholeness, completeness, and totality. So, seventy-seven (or seventy times seven in some Bible translations) suggests infinity. Peter was exaggerating when he suggested that he might forgive his brother seven times. He presumed that if he acted in this way, his behavior would demonstrate the immeasurable extent of his personal graciousness. Jesus' response implied that there should be no end to our forgiving another. To underscore the significance of this magnanimity, Jesus offered God (in the guise of the king who forgave a huge debt) as the exemplar of forgiving.

Forgiving another's offense against us could well be one of the most difficult things we are asked to do. To ask for forgiveness does not seem as difficult. After all, when we bump into a perfect stranger in an elevator, we say, "Forgive me." But to forgive someone who has deliberately offended us, who has dishonored our sense of personal dignity, as slight as that offense might be, is neither as easy nor as casual a gesture. And yet, we must.

We all carry debts to others. Both the first reading and the Gospel passage remind us that the debts owed to us by others in no way compare with the debt we owe God, and yet God shows us compassion and forgives us. If we are grateful children of a compassionate God, we will want to be like God and we will forgive others

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ST. MATTHEW

September 21

Little is known about St. Matthew, except that he was the son of Alpheus, and he was likely born in Galilee. He worked as a tax collector, which was a hated profession during the time of Christ.

According to the Gospel, Matthew was working at a collection booth in Capernaum when Christ came to him and asked, "Follow me." With this simple call, Matthew became a disciple of Christ.

From Matthew we know of the many doings of Christ and the message Christ spread of salvation for all people who come to God through Him. The Gospel account of Matthew tells the same story as that found in the other three Gospels, so scholars are certain of its authenticity. His book is the first of the four Gospels in the New Testament.

Many years following the death of Christ, around 41 and 50 AD, Matthew wrote his gospel account. He wrote the book in Aramaic in the hope that his account would convince his fellow people that Jesus was the Messiah and that His kingdom had been fulfilled in a spiritual way. It was an important message at a time when almost everyone was expecting the return of a militant messiah brandishing a sword.

It is thought he departed for other lands to escape persecution sometime after 42 AD. According to various legends he fled to Parthia and Persia, or Ethiopia. Nothing is recorded of Matthew's passing. We do not know how he died, if his death was natural or if he was martyred.

Saint Matthew is often depicted with one of the four living creatures of Revelation 4:7, which reads, "The first living creature was like a lion, the second like a bull, the third living creature had a human face, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle."

St. Matthew Prayer

O Glorious St. Matthew, in your Gospel you portray Jesus as the longed-for Messiah who fulfilled the Prophets of the Old Covenant and as the new Lawgiver who founded a Church of the New Covenant.

Obtain for us the grace to see Jesus living in his Church and to follow his teachings in our lives on earth so that we may live forever with him in heaven.

THE WEEK(S) AHEAD

Wed. (20th): 4:00pm- Social Justice Meeting
(Meeting Room A)

Thurs. (21st): 7:00pm- Centering Prayer
(Lower level)

Mon. (25th): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (dough)

Tues. (26th): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (pinching)
7:30pm- Finance Council Meeting

Wed. (27th): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (packaging)
7:00pm- Pastoral Council Meeting
(CWL Room)

Sat. (30th): Perogy Fundraiser (11am until 2pm)

Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 18.21-35

The story continues to sound fantastic, though we've heard it many times. A servant is forgiven a sum so astronomical he could never have paid it back. Yet this same servant throws his own debtor in prison for pennies, comparatively.

What kind of whacked-out standard was this guy living by?

Why wasn't he consumed by his own good fortune enough to share a little of the joy with a fellow servant?

And then it hits us like a two-by-four. Oh. This isn't a tale of unbelievable smallness of heart. It's how you and I behave every day.

Jesus goes to the Cross to demonstrate the absolute forgiveness of the entire debt of human history. And we respond by gross irritation at every trifling offense we perceive against us. Someone takes our parking place, gets our order wrong, cuts us off in conversation, and we're ready to erase them from the book of life.

If we begin each day reminding ourselves how wealthy in forgiveness we are, we might dole some out by the hour.

In which circumstances do you find yourself routinely prepared to "make someone pay"?

What does it take to return you to the spirit of charity?

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