



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

September 20, 2020

Twenty-fifth
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. (21 st)	NO MASS
Tues. (22 nd)	7pm +Bruce Wonchulanko
Wed. (23 rd)	9am Russell Griffith
	7pm Jean Kulcsar
Thurs. (24 th)	9am Johannes & Ingrid Prost
Fri. (25 th)	9am +Jim Lanigan
Sat. (26 th)	9am Allen Dierker
<hr/>	
	5pm
Sun. (27 th)	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME
	9am Mass for the People
	11am

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!

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

30 minutes prior to weekday Mass,
Saturdays at 8:30 am and 4:30 pm,
or by appointment. Phone: 306.782.2449



Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, I am grateful for the gift of your compassion.
Help me to be more generous in sharing your
compassion with others.

- 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,

The first reading today comes from the book of Isaiah and states that God's ways are not our ways; God's thoughts are not our thoughts. *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts"*. This is true because God, himself, is a huge mystery we cannot understand. We should not cease reflecting and discovering, and acknowledge that in every moment of our life that which is God's way, that which is His will.

This is illustrated in the Gospel. By telling us a parable of the workers in the vineyard, Jesus again confirms that there is a huge difference between God's ways and our ways, between God's thoughts and our thoughts.

What point was Jesus making through the whole story? Many of us may say that this is an unfair story. But the story is not about justice, it is not about fairness or unfairness. It is about generosity, the generosity of God. Throughout this parable Jesus tells us that God is generous and full of compassion for the poor and the outcast. God's generosity completely transcends human generosity. Indeed, we can see that, the last few words of this story, are the key to understanding the entire story - *"Are you envious because I am generous?"*

The generosity of God is a great comfort to us. We all experience it in our lives. But it is also a great challenge, because after we experience it, we are called to continue to imitate it. And then we are called to make our ways of dealing with one another more like God's way of dealing with us. I say it is a great challenge to us because it requires a conversion before we can begin to imitate God. It is not a normal conversion by words, but a true conversion of the heart.

Would we like to be treated by God according to strict justice? Do we not all long for mercy rather than justice? God is generous to a degree that far exceeds human generosity. All we have to do is open our hearts to God's generosity and experience it.

My dear Sisters and Brothers, God's ways are not our ways; God's thoughts are not our thoughts. God deals with us in ways that are very different from the ways we normally deal with others. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high is God's generosity above our own generosity. You and I, we are called to reflect, to experience and to imitate God. We are called to be generous in dealing with others, not only in material things, but also in all things such as time, knowledge, love, forgiveness, mercy...

Let us pray for ourselves and for one another so we can experience and acknowledge the difference between our ways and God's way and act in a generous way as God has been generous to each of us.

I wish all of you to have a blessed weekend and peace.

Fr. Louis Nguyen



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 this fall.

office@stgerard.ca



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

Natalia De Jesus Javier
Aubrey Matisho

May these children and their families experience joy and new life.



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.



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. 25	Articles for "The Word" due
Oct. 1	Afternoon Bingo
Oct. 3	Evening Bingo
Oct. 5	Lead the Rosary at 5:30pm
Oct. 7	Executive Meeting

All Charity Appeal tickets need to be handed in before the end of September to properly process and mail in to the committee in charge. All books sold or unsold can be dropped off in the collection basket, marked as "K of C Charity Appeal tickets". Thanks. Ted Osicki 306.620.8333

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

The Knights of Columbus
will lead the
Rosary Prayer

Mondays at 5:30pm

during the month of October.

Everyone welcome!



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



Bringing Home the Word

A Message of Reform

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Alessandro Farnese was elected Pope Paul III in 1534 amidst very difficult times. Martin Luther had left the Church, and many German bishops, along with their kings, were separating from the faith. Part of the push for separation was financial, another part was political, and a third part was spiritual. The papal court and clerical life in Rome were often criticized, encouraging separation.

Pope Paul III started a reform by calling on nine respected cardinals to investigate the accusations and propose measures. The suggestions were received and true reform began to take root—although much of the success was due to the Council of Trent (called by the pope in 1545) and the many saints active at the time: Ignatius, Philip Neri, Teresa of Ávila, Francis de Sales, Charles Borromeo, and others.

Another measure taken was to contract Michelangelo to paint two frescoes in the Papal Pauline Chapel—*The Conversion of Saul* and *The Crucifixion of St. Peter*—a kind of sixteenth-century marketing campaign. This chapel would send a message to all popes and the papal court; indeed, the frescoes challenged everyone in the Curia. Amidst the temptation to power and luxury, the pope was saying, "If you want power, it's the power to serve that requires true conversion and embracing the cross." The chapel needed a pithy Latin phrase to drive home this message of reform. It comes from today's second reading: "To me, life is Christ, and death is gain." That's a good phrase to live by as we seek our own ongoing conversion.

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SEASON OF CREATION

We give thanks to the God of Life for food, for the season of harvest and the bounty provided by the earth.

We must rediscover the joy in simplicity, and remember we are stewards in care of the earth. Every excess in our consumption is taking food off of the plates of children and grandchildren around the world. Our entire civilization depends on a change of heart and a return to simplicity. The resource that will be in shortest supply within a decade will be FOOD. Let us turn our attention, community efforts, government policies, and corporate objectives to growing sustainable, bountiful, and nutritious FOOD.

Sept 21 **International Peace Day**, We offer today our prayers of hope for Peace together with Pope Francis:

Day by day, the Holy Spirit prompts in us ways of thinking and speaking that can make us artisans of Justice and Peace. May the God of Peace bless us and come to our aid.

Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

The 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

"Charity is the greatest social commandment. It respects others and their rights. It requires the practice of justice, and alone makes us capable of it. Charity inspires a life of self-giving."

(CCC 1889)

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>

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YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"The Vineyard Owner and the Workers"

This Week...

Paul sees nothing but good coming from his fate - whether he lives and keeps encouraging the established churches to grow, or dies and experiences the joy of being with Christ. Either way he wins. Isaiah encourages us to seek out God; no matter what evil is in our past, God will still forgive us and welcome us. No matter what, we will win. Jesus tells us that it does not matter when we join up to do the work of God's vineyard - whether we join early or late - either way we win. That's how generous God is.

For Your Reflection

The parable of the vineyard owner and the workers doesn't always play out in the real world as cleanly as we might wish it to. It often bothers us.

- Would it bother you if you worked at a car wash or a bakery all day, and another young person who showed up an hour before closing time received the same pay as you did? Why or why not?
- Would it bother you if you worked for a week typing up a wonderful English essay, and received an A for your grade, and then you found out that someone else who scribbled their essay on scrap paper during lunch period and handed it in late also received an A? Why or why not?
- If we work hard and do well, why are we jealous if someone else does well also - especially if we think that they have not worked as hard as we have?

This parable is not exactly about an effective workplace or school policy. It's really about the way God forgives. If we have a small sin, we are forgiven. If we have a really huge sin, we are forgiven just as much.

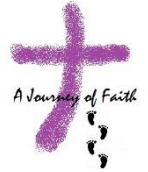
- Does the "equal forgiveness for the unequal sin" policy seem easier to take or harder to take than the "equal pay for unequal work" or the "equal grade for unequal work" policy? Explain.
- Does this mean that we can go out and commit tremendous sins and do reckless things and hurt people we care about because, in the end, we will be forgiven just the same anyway? What is wrong with this plan? What would Jesus say about this?



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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