



St. Gerard's

Roman Catholic Parish

September 24th,
2023

Twenty-fifth
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 | 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.

PASTORAL TEAM

Father Sathi Antony, Pastor
Office 306.782.2449
Rectory 306.782.0323

Sandra Archer, Office Administrator
306.782.2449 office@stgerard.ca

Glenn Waltz, Caretaker

MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

Liturgical Colleen Haider

Social Justice Linda Maddaford

Family, Community & Social
Anita Halliday

Sacrament Coordinators
(First Reconciliation, Confirmation &
First Eucharist)
Rene & Ophelia Adane

Catholic Women's League
Deanna Pellatt/

Christine Shuya

Knights of Columbus
Keith Hayward

Divine Mercy
Adeline Oystreck

Protocol for Responsible Ministry
Richard Dubois

ST. GERARD'S PARISH HOLY MASS AND ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Mon. 25 th	9:00am	Perogy Bee (prepping)
Tues. 26 th		<i>Feast of St. Jean Brébeuf & St. Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs</i>
	9:00am	Perogy Bee (pinching)
	6:00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	7:00pm	Mass +Tyler Dobko
	7:30pm	Finance Council Meeting
Wed. 27 th	9:00am	Mass Ken Dillon
	9:30am	Divine Mercy Devotion
	10:00am	Mass at Nursing Home (North)
	5:00pm	Altar Servers Workshop
	7:00pm	Pastoral Council Meeting
Thurs. 28 th	9:30am	Mass Elsie Malinowski
	2:30pm	Mass at Bentley Seniors' Res
Fri. 29 th		<i>Feast of St. Michael, St. Gabriel, St. Raphael, Archangels</i>
	9:15am	Mass at St. Theodore School +Rose Banga
Sat. 30 th	11:00am	Perogy & Cabbage Roll Fundraiser
	5:00pm	Mass for the People
Sun. 1 st		<i>Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
	9:00am	Mass for the People
	11:00am	Mass for the People
	1:00pm	International Life Chain

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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading	<i>Isaiah 55.6-9</i>	God's ways are far beyond the ways of human beings.
Responsorial Psalm	<i>Psalm 145.2-3,8-9,17-18</i>	God is near to those who call upon him.
Second Reading	<i>Philippians 1.20c-24,27a</i>	Paul tells the Philippians to live for Christ.
Gospel Reading	<i>Matthew 20.1-16</i>	In the parable of the workers in the vineyard, Jesus teaches about God's generous mercy

Background on the Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel, Jesus moves from Galilee to teach in Judea where he is sought out by great crowds and tested by the Pharisees on issues such as marriage and divorce. Jesus also encounters a rich young man who is unable to accept Jesus' demand that he leaves his possessions to follow him. Jesus' response to the rich young man sounds very much like the conclusion we will find in today's Gospel: the first will be last and the last will be first.

On the surface, the parable of the workers in the vineyard appears to be an offense to common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work just an hour or two. When viewed in this way, the landowner seems unfair. That is because we are reading into the parable our own preconceived notions of how fairness and equality should be quantified.

A close read shows us that the landowner paid on the terms that were negotiated. The landowner, it seems, has acted completely justly. The parable goes beyond that, however, and we come to see that the landowner is not simply just, he is exceptionally just. He is radically just. He has given those who labored in the field for a full day their due pay. But he has also given a full-day's wage to those who worked only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly from the landowner just as we receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due. God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain are made to look foolish as they lament the fact that landowner has made all workers equal. Indeed, what more could one ask for than to be treated as an equal at work or anywhere else?

The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, he offers abundantly and equally. We are occasionally tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be quantified or partitioned into different amounts for different people. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms rather than to accept God's radically different ways.

FAMILY CONNECTION

The workers in this parable sound very much like squabbling children, comparing what they have each been given and making complaints to the parent. Among children there is a tendency to equate love with gifts and material things. This tendency can devolve into a spirit of entitlement, which runs counter to the spirit of gratitude. Any effort we make to overcome this tendency, to keep love from being entwined with gifts and possessions, will enable our children to accept completely the love that God gives freely and generously.

Observe together any tendency within your family to make comparisons. Are children sometimes heard saying that another child received a greater portion of a favorite food at dinner or dessert? Does one person complain that a parent spends more time with one child over another? Ask if such comparisons are helpful. Discuss together why such comparisons are made. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 20:1-16. Consider these questions: Why do the workers grumble? Is the landowner's assessment accurate? Unfortunately, we are sometimes like these workers when we make the comparisons we discussed earlier.

Conclude in prayer together remembering that love cannot and ought not to be measured. Sit quietly together acknowledging God's great love for each person as individuals and for your family. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 145, or the Lord's Prayer.



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

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



Congratulations to

*Wenden Shingoose &
Pauline Quewezance-Pelly*

who were married

Saturday, September 16th at St. Gerard's Parish

*May the Lord be with them
every day of their married life.*

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.



St. Gerard's Music Ministry Notes



St. Gerard's Parish Music Ministry needs musicians! If you are interested in ministering, especially Saturday @ 5pm or Sunday @ 11am (but really any time) please contact Chris Fisher. Call or text 306-814-7280 or email chrisandjimalways@live.ca

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! An ALL-CHOIR Rehearsal for musicians and singers to learn new hymns will be held Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:00pm. Please use south (choir) entrance.



News from the Knights of Columbus



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|----------|---|
| Sept. 25 | Articles for "The Word" due |
| Oct. 1 | Life Chain on Broadway-1pm
Bingo-afternoon-12pm |
| Oct. 4 | Rosary for Life-Tomb for the Unborn-6:30pm
Combined Planning & General Meeting 7pm |

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.

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



Hey Kids!
**Are you in Grade 4
(or older)?**

**Would you like to know more about being
an Altar Server??**

Being an Altar Server is special because when you serve the priest you serve the people of God, and above all,

YOU SERVE CHRIST!!!

If you would like to be an Altar Server there will be a workshop held at St. Gerard's Parish Wednesday, September 27th at 5:00 pm.

The workshop will begin with **PIZZA AND POP** (courtesy of the Knights of Columbus) followed by a one-hour training workshop.

There will be a sign-up sheet THIS weekend in the Welcome Area of the church.

October is the Month of the Holy Rosary

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)



Bringing Home
the Word **+**

It's Not Fair!

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

The story in the Gospel doesn't sound fair. Some people worked from early morning until evening; others joined them at the end of the workday. But they all got the same pay. How can that be fair? Perhaps fairness isn't the point of the story. But then, what is?

The landowner, symbolizing God, hired the workers "after agreeing with them for the usual daily wage" (Matthew 20:2). If the earliest workers presumed that the agreed-upon wage would be changed, does that make God unfair? Those workers expected God to conform to what they considered just—and justice certainly is a very important value. However, God acted out of divine generosity—a quality we hope to benefit from but which might engender resentment when it is bestowed upon others.

As difficult as this story might seem to us, it raises some important questions about ourselves. Perhaps the story is not so much about God as it is about our own attitudes. If we are faithful to what we believe is God's will for us, do we then presume that God owes us some kind of compensation? Do we expect that God will act according to our standards of retributive justice (this-for-that) rather than restorative justice (bring-it-back-to-life)? Do we resent God's graciousness toward others?

It is better that we all look to God for generosity than for justice. If we do, we will find, as the psalm response tells us: "The Lord is gracious and merciful" (Psalm 145:8).

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Let Justice
and Peace Flow
Season of Creation 2023

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

~1Tim 6:17-19

ST. MICHAEL, ST. GABRIEL, ST. RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS FEAST DAY: SEPTEMBER 29

Kids love angels. And of all the angels in the divine universe, the archangels are easily the coolest. The most well-known archangels (and the only ones named in Scripture) are Michael, Raphael and Gabriel. There are even cartoon characters named after these guys, and for good reason: They are awesome! Each of these archangels performs a different mission in Scripture: Michael protects; Gabriel announces; Raphael guides (see the books of Daniel and Tobit).

ST. MICHAEL is the leader of all of the archangels and is in charge of protection, courage, strength, truth and integrity. Michael is often depicted as carrying a flaming sword to protect and safeguard humanity. **ST. GABRIEL** is a messenger who delivered the good news of their impending births to Elizabeth and Mary. Gabriel's name means "the strength of God" as he is one of the strongest of all of the archangels. **ST. RAPHAEL'S** name means "the healing power of God" and he is known as a healing spirit and guide. Raphael is the patron saint of travelers because of his help with Tobias and his travels in the Hebrew Bible.

Help us, O Lord, to realize more fully the reality of the archangels and their desire to serve us. Holy angels, pray for us. Amen.



INTERNATIONAL LIFE CHAIN

Date: Sunday, October 1 • Time: 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Location: Corner of Broadway St. W. and
Gladstone Ave., Yorkton

Everyone is welcome to pray and to participate in a silent witness to raise awareness for the need to protect all human life from conception to natural death.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The Canadian government proclaimed September 30th as a new national statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour survivors, their families, and communities.

The Catholic Church has a significant role and responsibility for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada. With the recent confirmations of unmarked graves, this day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the history of residential schools, grow in our understanding towards a commitment to true healing and reconciliation

We encourage everyone to wear orange shirts to show *wâhkôhtowin* – kinship – with Indigenous communities, especially those still struggling with the intergenerational effects of residential schools. Orange Shirt Day, as September 30th was previously known, is part of a larger movement in the country to provide opportunity to unite in a spirit of reconciliation and hope for future generations. The movement is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in B.C. in 2013, emerging out of the account of a young girl named Phyllis Webstad who had her new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school.

<https://orangeshirtday.org/phyllis-story/>

“The annual Orange Shirt Day on September 30th opens the door to global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind. A discussion all Canadians can tune into and create bridges with each other for reconciliation. A day for survivors to be reaffirmed that they matter, and so do those that have been affected. Every Child Matters, even if they are an adult, from now on.”

- Archdiocese of Regina

Prayer for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

O God, we praise and thank You for the blessings of life in Canada from your natural bounty and from the work of human hands.

We ask you to open our ears to the truths about our collective history from survivors of residential schools.

We ask you to open our minds to the complex and subtle ways in which past mistakes, arrogance, misuse of authority, and even sinfulness have damaged our social fabric.

We ask you to open our hearts, that we may continue to listen even when the truth challenges us, that we may commit ourselves in all humility to do what we can, and that we may support the efforts of others to restore these broken relationships.

We pray with confidence that, by your grace, we may grow into your community of love and forgiveness.

We make this prayer in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Adapted from the Prayer for the Success of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Yorkton Orange Shirt Day & National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Saturday, September 30

The day will begin with Registration & T-shirt distribution at Yorkton Tribal Council (63 King St E) at 9:00am, followed by opening prayers, opening comments, and the walk from Yorkton Tribal Council to City Park at 10:00am.

Following the walk to City Park, welcoming comments will be shared at 11:00am, with lunch and guest speakers beginning at 12:00pm.

The day will then close with a Friendship Round Dance.

Everyone is encouraged to wear orange to raise awareness of the very tragic legacy of residential schools, and to honour the thousands of Survivors.

**Catechism Theme:
The Person and Society (CCC 1878-1889)**

"All men are called to the same end: God himself." (CCC 1878) God created all of us as individuals and has the greatest personal concern for each one of us. His love established an order that makes the human person the highest value. "...the human person...is and ought to be the principle, the subject, and the end of all social institutions." (CCC 1881) While society and institutions within society are necessary for the good of all, such are meant to serve the person. They should have limits to insure our freedom.

However, our freedom entails a responsibility for the good of others. We can abuse freedom by reducing it to a choice with minimized consequences. Such choices reduce others to vehicles for our own ends. (In this sense, our freedom can deny the dignity of others.) We cannot act outside society or social institutions for our own self interest. Our freedom, whether as individuals or as a group, must be exercised for the good of all.

When the value of the human person is abused, either by social institutions or by the misuse of individual choice, justice demands that value be restored. Hence, we, as individuals and as a society, are called to a conversion, a change of mind and heart for the good of others. Only God can guide us to such change. But he gives us this power when he inspires us to perform acts of charity.

"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)

When has the need for charity required you to set aside your desires for the needs of others? When have you set aside your fair share for the good of others?

There is a difference between fairness and justice. The question of fairness is really based upon self-interest. When we insist upon our rights without regard to needs of others, we become narcissistic. Even our ministry emphasizes the word "our" (or "mine"). How can God reward us when we insist upon making ourselves "Number One?"

The question of justice, however, is based upon the needs of others. When we focus upon the needs of others, even if they encroach upon our rights, we sacrifice ourselves for the Kingdom, just as Jesus did. Our ministry becomes more transparent. Our leadership really leads others to Christ.

Ultimately, service means sacrifice. What are we willing to give up for the Kingdom of God?

Reflect upon your sacrifices. What sacrifices face you now? Pray for the strength and wisdom to make those sacrifices for the good of others.

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**WHO ARE THE
CANADIAN/NORTH AMERICAN
MARTYRS?**

The Canadian Martyrs, also known as the North American Martyrs (French: Saints martyrs canadiens, Holy Canadian Martyrs), were eight Jesuit missionaries from Sainte-Marie among the Hurons. They were ritually tortured and killed on various dates in the mid-17th century in Canada, in what is now southern Ontario, and in upstate New York, during the warfare between the Iroquoian tribes the Mohawk and the Huron. They have subsequently been canonized and venerated as martyrs by the Catholic Church.

The Canadian Martyrs include St. Jean de Brébeuf and St. Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, whose Feast Day we celebrate September 26.

Other Canadian/North American Martyrs include:

Rene Goupil
Jean de Lalande
Antoine Daniel
Gabriel Lalemant
Charles Garnier
Noel Chabanel

For more information, check out the website for the National Shrine to the Canadian Martyrs:

<https://martyrs-shrine.com/>

Pope Francis: Rediscover the beauty of the Rosary.

October is designated by the Catholic Church as the "Month of the Rosary" because in this month the Church celebrates the Marian advocacy of "Our Lady of the Rosary" on Oct. 7.

The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, also celebrated as Our Lady of Victory or Victories, was established by Pope St. Pius V in 1571 to celebrate the miraculous victory of the Christian forces in the Battle of Lepanto on Oct. 7 of that year. Previous to the decisive battle, St. Pius V had requested all Western Christians to pray the rosary; thus he attributed the victory to the power of the Marian prayer rather than the power of ships and cannons.

Two years before establishing the feast, in 1569, Pope St. Pius V officially approved the rosary in its present form with the papal bull *Consueverunt Romani Pontifices* ("The Roman Pontiffs are accustomed," the first words of the document). In a development from earlier methods of praying the rosary, the new version included the second half of the Hail Mary, as well as the "Glory Be" prayer at the end of each mystery.

The dedication of the month of October to the Holy Rosary became common in the Church thanks to Pope Leo XIII, an enthusiastic promoter of the rosary. In the span of only five years, Pope Leo wrote eleven encyclicals on the rosary.

St. John Paul II called the rosary his favorite prayer, "in which we meditate with Mary upon the mysteries which she as a Mother meditated on in her heart (Lk. 2:19)."

Pope Francis invited Catholics to rediscover the beauty of the rosary prayer this month, encouraging people to carry a rosary with them in their pockets. "Today is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. I invite everyone to rediscover, especially during this month of October, the beauty of the prayer of the rosary, which has nourished the faith of the Christian people through the centuries," "I invite you to pray the rosary, and to carry it in your hands or in your pockets. The recitation of the rosary is the most beautiful prayer we can offer to the Virgin Mary; it is a contemplation on the stages of the life of Jesus the Savior with his Mother Mary and is a weapon that protects us from evils and temptations," The pope said that the Blessed Virgin Mary has urged the recitation of the rosary in her apparitions, "especially in the face of the threats looming over the world." Prayer, the pope said, is "letting ourselves be carried by God," especially in moments of suffering or temptation. "In some evenings we can feel useless and lonely. It is then that prayer will come and knock on the door of our hearts," he said. "And even if we have done something wrong, or if we feel threatened and frightened, when we return before God with prayer, serenity and peace will return as if by miracle." "Prayer is the lifeblood that constantly nourishes his existence. For this reason, he is one of those most dear to the monastic tradition, so much so that some have elected him as the spiritual father of the life consecrated to God.

The Holy Rosary

For centuries, the Holy Rosary has been a treasured devotion in the Catholic Church. A deeply contemplative prayer, the Rosary contains a summary of the Christian faith in language and prayers inspired by the Holy Scriptures. When praying the Rosary, Catholics recall the most important events in the lives of Jesus and His Blessed Mother Mary. These events are called "Mysteries" and are divided into four groups of five decades: the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries. Each decade consists of one "Our Father", ten "Hail Mary's", and one "Glory be to the Father".

How to Say the Rosary

1. Begin on the Crucifix and say the "Apostle's Creed".
2. On the first bead, say one "Our Father".
3. Say one "Hail Mary" on each of the next three beads.
4. Say one "Glory Be to the Father".
5. At the beginning of each decade, announce the Mystery to be contemplated. For example, the first Joyful Mystery is "The Annunciation". After a short pause for reflection, say one "Our Father" on the large bead.
6. Recite ten "Hail Mary's" on the ten smaller beads, followed by one "Glory be to the Father". An invocation may be added after each decade.
7. Announce the second Mystery and continue in the same manner until each of the five Mysteries of the selected group is said.
8. Conclude by saying the "Hail Holy Queen". At the end of the Rosary, the "Prayer to St. Michael" or some other Marian prayer is recited.



The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Fatima Prayer

This prayer is an example of an invocation that may be said after each decade and was requested by the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima: "O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy".

4th
Mystery

Hail Holy Queen

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech Thee, that meditating upon these mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

3rd
Mystery

2nd
Mystery

Prayer to St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.