



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

September 5th, 2021

Twenty-third
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

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 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

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	louisYorkton@gmail.com
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (6 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (7 th)	7:00pm +Mary Brazeau
Wed. (8 th)	9:00am Rosalie Woloschuk
	10:00am ASPEN VILLA
	+Horace & +Mildred Jackson
	7:00pm KofC & their families
Thurs. (9 th)	9:00am Brenda Dierker
	2:30pm LAKESIDE MANOR
	+Ron Doyle
Fri. (10 th)	9:00am +Adeline Wolffe
Sat. (11 th)	9:00am +Denise Lucas
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	5:00pm +John Jason Himpe
Sun. (12 th)	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	9:00am +John Monka
	11:00am Mass for the People

WELCOME BACK!

Please note the following changes for our parish per the Archdiocese of Regina guidelines:

- Registration for Mass is no longer required
- Masks and hand sanitizer will be provided. Their use is optional (but encouraged)
- Please sit in the pews that have hymnals so that people are not crowded together
- The choir and singing will resume. If you are not comfortable with singing in a public gathering, you are encouraged to wear a mask
- Holy water will not be available in the Baptismal font at this time
- We will not shake hands when we share the sign of peace
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection will continue

PLEASE COME! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Colleen Haider, Marie Kruger, and the Liturgical Committee



Stay
Connected
Online!
www.stgerard.ca



Lord, I am grateful for your faithfulness. Teach me to bring the comfort of your loving presence to those who are afraid.

- 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,

There is a beautiful lesson that I have learned from the second reading of this weekend and now I would like to share it with all of you.

There is a very natural tendency for all of us to be continually tempted to judge people by their appearance. For example, if we see someone driving a fancy car, who is nicely dressed, who is wearing a diamond ring... we tend to think well of them; but if they do not have these things, we may tend to look down on them.

What we see sometimes reinforces the temptation to judge people by appearances. But this is not how Jesus judges people; it is not what he thinks of us. Do you remember in Mark 12 when Jesus praises the poor widow who put two small copper coins, worth about a penny, into the treasury? St. James, in the second reading, reminds us of this fundamental aspect of Jesus: He values us not because of what we look like, how rich we are, or how well-known we are. He looks deeper.

What matters to him is not what we have, but who we are: remember we are all children of God, created in God's image and likeness, and in need of his saving grace. That is why St. James reminds us that we should treat all people with a sincere respect, regardless of what they look like or what they can do for us.

Jesus Christ died on the cross not out of a generic love for humankind, but out of a specific, unconditional, redeeming love for every single person. He loves each of us and is dedicated to every individual. This is why racism, terrorism, and every form of prejudice and injustice are sinful according to the Catholic teachings.

As his followers we are all called to imitate Christ's universal love, a love that goes beyond appearances. Christ looks beyond appearances; he thinks and loves at a deeper level. He invites us to see ourselves and others as God sees us. With his grace, we can learn to do the same. And if we do, we will experience two worthwhile benefits:

First, we will experience greater peace and confidence deep inside. One of the deepest needs of the human heart is the need to be loved, to be appreciated.

And the second is that it helps us to bring peace to others. When we judge others only by appearances it causes division. But when we recognize that in Jesus we are all brothers and sisters, we become more capable of healing divisions, and we desire unity with a sincere respect.

As we hear in the first reading the Lord wants to heal us from our infirmities, but it is likely that the Israelites never imagined Our Lord would want to come personally to do so. God wants to touch us and heal us; we hear this in the Gospel as well.

Mark tells us that people begged Jesus to lay his hand on a man who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech. What did Jesus do? "*He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, he spat and touched his tongue*". By touching the man Jesus frees him from being mute and deaf; by touching he brings back the man's ability to communicate with others.

My dear sisters and brothers, in the Incarnation God took the human form because he wanted to touch us and heal us through the human form. He still wants to touch us and heal us. Today he does so through the sacraments. In each sacrament, there are certain symbols, certain gestures, certain expressions, certain dispositions of heart through which the Lord reaches out and touches us and heals us or strengthens us.

This is all what I would like to share with you today. I invite all of you to see others as God sees you, do not judge others by their appearance, and recognize that God never ceases to touch us through the sacraments of healing in order to build up the unity among us as well as the unity between ourselves and God.

I wish all of you a blessed long weekend.

Fr. Louis Nguyen

TRI-SACRAMENT PREPARATION PARENT MEETING

Sunday, September 19th at 3:00 pm

This meeting is for parents of those children in Grade 2 or older who have registered to prepare for First Reconciliation, Confirmation, and/or First Eucharist. Only one parent is asked to attend.



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.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



- 30 minutes before and after Daily Mass (Tuesday – Friday)
- Saturdays at **8:30 am** or by appt.

Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!



Eucharistic Holy Hour Devotion
at 6pm (prior to 7pm Tuesday Mass)



News from the CWL



St. Gerard's C.W.L. will not be having a Garage Sale this fall. Watch the bulletin for more updates.



News from the Knights of Columbus



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|----------|------------------------|
| Sept. 8 | General Meeting |
| Sept. 9 | Evening Bingo |
| Sept. 12 | Council Kickoff Supper |

Charity Appeal tickets are to be handed in before the end of September. Please place them in the collection basket at Mass in an envelope marked "K of C Tickets" or "Charity Appeal Tickets." Contact Ted Osicki 306.620.8333 for further information.

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

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Season of Creation **Planet Earth Sunday**. Can we ever really *own* possessions? Or is it more likely that we own things for a time before someone else takes possession or they are discarded? The seventh commandment forbids unjustly taking or keeping the goods of one's neighbour and wronging him in any way with respect to his goods. It commands justice and charity in the care of earthly goods, and the fruits of other people's labour. For the sake of the Common Good, it requires respect for the **Universal Destination of Goods**. Christian life strives to order this world's goods to God and to fraternal charity. (CCC 2401)

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

NEW TO THE PARISH? WELCOME!



Please complete a parish registration form, available in the Welcome Area and online at www.stgerard.ca



The book of James is one of the hardest hitting in the New Testament. He is a tell-it-like-it-is apostle, warning the early Church not to show partiality to the rich and powerful. This is always a danger, especially in a Church that relies on donations. While gratitude to donors is understandable and proper, it's easy for gratitude to become preference, partiality, and a different moral standard. James warns the Church against this.

Jesus warns us, too. He talks about inviting the poor to a party rather than those who can repay us. He tells us that when we give, that the left hand should not know what the right is doing. He warns the rich that the path to heaven is narrow.

Jesus' call to salvation was for all, but his pastoral focus was certainly with the poor. So, he dedicated much of his time reaching out to those who could give nothing in return: the blind, deaf, lame, and lepers. And his attention didn't stop at the materially poor but extended to sinners and those thought to be impure.

This love for the weak was a sign of the Messiah as proclaimed by many prophets, including Isaiah. The Anointed of God would come to vindicate the poor, orphaned, widowed, sick, and oppressed.

Jesus did exactly that, and it was this solicitude and miraculous power that began convincing Galileans, and eventually those in Jerusalem, that he was the long-awaited One. Pope Francis said he longed for a Church of the poor, for the poor. It seems Jesus did, too.

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LIFTING THE DISPENSATION ON SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE

The following is an excerpt from Archbishop Don Bolen's address to the faithful of the Archdiocese of Regina dated August 31, 2021. The complete text may be read at www.archregina.sk.ca

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ of the Archdiocese of Regina,

... Ordinary life has in many ways resumed, but with Covid-related precautions as part of our daily life.

While not all will agree, I am proceeding with the lifting of the dispensation as of the beginning of September. That said, I want to qualify that decision in two ways:

Firstly, I want to stress the need for each of you to be attentive to your particular situation, and want to remind the faithful that the sick and medically vulnerable have always been dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. If you are ill, elderly, or medically vulnerable in any way, you are urged to continue to take every precaution to keep yourself and others safe.

Secondly, as a diocese, we remain committed to keeping ourselves informed of provincial health and safety recommendations as they develop.... These guidelines aren't imposed on us but are best practices and we encourage everyone to abide by them, as they have proven to be effective: wash or sanitize your hands frequently, routinely clean common surfaces, consider being vaccinated if you haven't already been, be mindful of SHA guidelines around physical distance and masking.

... We believe that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian life. The Lord's day is a time when we give communal praise for what God has done for us in Christ, and what God continues to do for us. Receiving the Eucharist, we are sent forth in a renewed way to be witnesses to the Gospel, to share in Christ's mission, to be bearers of hope and joy in a world much in need of both. Gathering as a community of Christ's disciples and receiving the Lord anew in our lives strengthens us in our daily effort to live the Gospel. In other words, we are obligated to give worship on Sunday because it helps us become more authentically human, sustaining and deepening our spiritual lives, forming us into a community at the service of others, and helping us along our journey towards eternal life.

...The livestreaming of Masses has enabled us to continue to connect as a family of faith across the Archdiocese. This will continue to be offered...

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

YOUTH REFLECTION

"The Deaf Will Hear"

This Week...

The day Isaiah spoke about has come to pass. With Jesus those miracles are possible. Jesus reaches out to those in need, those who society shuns, and he embraces them and brings them healing and wholeness. James warns us to treat all people well, as Jesus did, even those who seem to have lower status.

For Your Reflection

People are amazed that Jesus can cure deafness. They are probably also amazed that Jesus would even be interested in giving any attention to a person who cannot hear. In his culture it was a popular belief that if you were deaf or blind or disabled in any way, it was because of a sin - your own sin or the sin of your parents. Anyone with such a condition was considered a social outcast, but Jesus is modeling a new type of behaviour. He reaches out to anyone and everyone - even the ones most people are afraid to touch or talk to.

- What makes someone a social outcast in your school? (Please do not name any names, but discuss the traits or criteria that might be used to decide why a person might be given such a status.)
- Who decides who the social outcasts are? Is there complete agreement, or do different people have different ideas of who is acceptable and who is not acceptable? Does everyone know their own status? Is everyone aware that they are cast as acceptable or not acceptable? If so, how do they know?
- What would Jesus say about the social games that are played out by young people in their schools and in their circles of friends? What advice would Jesus give you? Are you willing to follow it? Why or why not?
- Do you have any friends or relatives who are deaf? Do you know any sign language? If you yourself are deaf, what is it like not hearing in a world built for those who can hear?

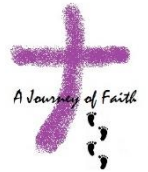
Excerpt adapted from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle B for Ordinary Time* - St. Mary's Press, 2005



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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