



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

September 6, 2020

Twenty-third
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. (7 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (8 th)	7pm +Wanda Gebhard
Wed. (9 th)	9am Dan Dierker
	7pm +Olga Cherewyk
Thurs. (10 th)	9am +Marge Farbacher
Fri. (11 th)	9am +Jim Lanigan
Sat. (12 th)	9am Russell Griffith
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	5pm Mass of Thanksgiving
Sun. (13 th)	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME
	9am Mass for the People
	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 gifts of love, mercy, and forgiveness. Help me to share these gifts with 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,

In the Gospel of this weekend Jesus states, “*Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them*”. Focus on these words. I invite you to reflect, to mediate on His words as you read my message for this weekend.

All of us believe that God is truly present with us when we pray. He is with us and listens carefully to us. Anytime when we spend time to pray, by ourselves or with others, it is the most beautiful moment in our daily life.

It does not matter where we pray. When we sit alone in our car, when we kneel down beside our bed, or when we join with others in congregation at church, God is always present and hears us. The Scripture confirms this fact multiple times. Here are some examples: “*Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.*” (Jeremiah 29.12-13) or John, in his first letter wrote, “*And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him.*” (1 John 5.15).

Today we hear these words from Jesus: “*Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.*”, so what does it mean for our prayer life? Does God still hear us when we pray, or do we need a prayer partner? Does it count at all if we pray alone?

In fact, when we pray together, we have a sense of community, gathering together as a family. We are aware of communion with each other, unity, faith and love. And this is what Jesus truly wants to see in us.

This is true because we are meeting in the Lord’s name. At the beginning of any meeting, we always make the sign of our faith, in the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We gather in God’s name, and God loves to gather us in His Name as Jesus says in Luke, “*How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings.*” (Luke 13.34b)

We need to be aware that God’s love and faithfulness are eternal, and His mercy is new every day. Let us love as He loves, forgive as He forgives, seek justice and love mercy, and enjoy His presence in and among us and then we present to Him petitions that we believe he can help us with.

Therefore, I think we should highlight this point and I invite you to take time to pray together. Some things we can do as a family, such as sitting around the table before meals and saying grace before sharing it, or sitting together in the living room before going to bed and saying prayers together. I would say it is always a beautiful picture of community, family, love and unity.

Today Jesus assures us that where two or three are gathered in His name, He is there with us. That is something we really need to think about - praying together more, because so often we end up praying by and for ourselves. It would help if we ask a friend to join us in praying too.

I encourage and invite you to pray together as a family, especially when we are in the Church. Through that we can acknowledge the true presence of God in and among us.

May God bless you all. Have a great week with God’s blessings.

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 in September. office@stgerard.ca

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.



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



The St. Gerard C.W.L.'s Gigantic Garage Sale has been **CANCELLED for September 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.** Please do not bring items to the church or Father's garage. Thank you!

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. 9 General Meeting
Sept. 9 Begin monthly Novena
Sept. 12 Afternoon Bingo

*If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Rejean Houle @ 306.641.5430 or houle_r@yahoo.fr
More info.: www.kofc-2031.ca*

News from the Archdiocese of Regina



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>



Bringing Home the Word

Correcting Lovingly
By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Today's readings are about fraternal correction. We are responsible for our brother's good, and God expects us to help him. This means being a good example and holding him or her to a gospel standard. If that means a hard dose of the truth, so be it, as long as that truth is given in love.

Ezekiel was a prophet who knew how to preach fire and brimstone, but he could also be tender and compassionate. He prophesied both about the destruction of Israel and how Yahweh would turn their hearts of stone into flesh. In Michelangelo's fresco *The Prophet Ezekiel* on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, the strength of this rugged prophet is evident. That Ezekiel is turned to listen to a cherub says a lot about his humility as well.

God told Ezekiel that if he didn't preach to the wicked, God would hold him responsible for their deaths. However, if he did preach and the wicked still didn't heed him, Ezekiel would be safe. The moral is, when God asks us to preach, take it seriously!

Jesus tells us if our brother sins against us, we should confront him in the presence of two witnesses. He even encourages us to bring the Church in as judge if a dispute between believers isn't resolved. However, this should always be done with love.

As humble Christians, we should accept corrections when they are done correctly. No one likes to be told he or she is wrong, but if we are we should rejoice in the truth, even if it hurts. And we should thank those who love us enough to correct us.

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Thank you to all parents, sponsors, Ophelia & Rene Adang (Catechists), Ferdie & Bea Molo (Photographers), and KC & Karghl, accompanied by Juliana, who provided the celebratory music at Confirmation & First Eucharist.

May the Holy Spirit be with you always. And please, come more often to celebrate the Eucharist!



~ Father Louis

SEASON OF CREATION

Season of Creation Week 1

From the prayer service for Forest Sunday

We remember the gardens and the forests of our childhood, the places where we played in the past, when we felt close to Earth and to trees. We remember and rejoice. Thank you, God, for trees, for forests filled with mysteries! We have been thoughtless and greedy. We have ignored the destruction of our forests, the death of old-growth giants and species breathing their last. Christ hear us from the cross and forgive us our sins against the forest.

God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet, help us to discern your vibrant presence among us, especially in the mysteries of the forest. Help us empathize with your forest creatures who are suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the forest and all the creatures of the forest. 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.

For more information, contact:
Linda Maddaford, 306.783.3924

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

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>

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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

"Righting Wrongs"

This Week...

We are responsible for ourselves, our world, and one another. If we are not part of the solution, then we are part of the problem. We don't even have to be successful, as long as we faithfully and lovingly do our best and give our all. But if we don't do our best and give our all, then we are responsible for the problem and all its consequences. Whenever two or three join together in prayer, Jesus' presence is assured.

For Your Reflection

Ezekiel and Jesus both have good advice for dealing with people when wrong things are done.

- How easy is it to confront a friend when you think you have been wronged or treated badly? Do you tend to ignore the wrong? Do you talk about it honestly? Or do you tend to hold a grudge?
- Does the advice in today's readings relate to today's situations, or do you think we need to look at other alternatives when dealing with modern wrongs? How so?

Jesus assures us that whenever two or three pray together, Jesus is always there, and our prayers are always answered.

- Do you think that prayers are always answered? Or do you think it depends on the type of prayer and what is asked for? Or do you think that prayers are always answered, but sometimes the answer is no? How do you think prayer works?
- What kind of prayers do you most often pray? Do your prayers ask for something? Do you pray for strength and guidance? Do you ever pray with one or two others?

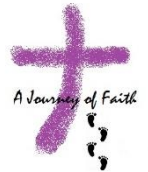
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle A for Ordinary Time* St. Mary's Press, 2004



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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