



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

April 10th, 2022

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES
Saturday at 5:00 pm, Sunday at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

CONTACT US

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9am-noon/1pm-4pm (closed Friday)

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

www.stgerard.ca | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca

St. Gerard Parish is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nēhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.

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. (11th) NO MASS
 Tues. (12th) 9:00am +Elizabeth Beres
 Wed. (13th) 10:00am **ASPEN VILLA**
 +Tom Pasloski
 7:00pm +Alfredo Muyargas

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Thurs. (14th): **Thursday of the Lord's Supper**
7:00pm +Tony & +Theresa Spykerman

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11:45 pm

Fri. (15th): **Friday of the Passion of the Lord**
(Universal Day of Fasting and Abstinence)

Outdoor Stations of the Cross at 11:00am

The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
3:00pm

Sat. (16th): **Holy Saturday**
2:00pm *Blessing of Festive Food*

The Resurrection of the Lord
At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night
8:00pm

Sun. (17th): **At the Mass of Easter Day**
9:00 am +Helen Piontek
11:00 am Mass for the People

NEW GUIDELINES FROM THE DIOCESE

We ask that you continue to remain vigilant in your actions and decisions, considering the greater good, and to follow the directives per the Archdiocese of Regina:

- **We are a "mask-friendly" parish**, meaning that wearing a mask is optional, and we respect those who continue to do so.
- Please sanitize your hands when entering and leaving the church.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection continues.
- We will not shake hands when we share the sign of peace.
- Communion Ministers will wear a mask.
- 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.



Lord, you are the model of nonviolence and unconditional love. May your example inspire me to be a more loving and forgiving person in life.

- From *Mindful Meditations for Every Day of Lent and Easter*,
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

Stay Connected Online!
www.stgerard.ca

A Note from Your Pastor

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We are entering Holy Week, the centre of our liturgical year. Instead of giving my message as normal, I would like to encourage you to read this article written by Kathy Kuczka.

We are going to celebrate The Sacred Triduum beginning Holy Thursday with the Mass of the Lord's Supper; the celebration of Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord and then the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. Therefore, I invite all of you to please come and celebrate these services. It is so important for each of us to walk together as we encounter the mysteries of our faith in the three days leading to the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Everyone is welcome.

Father Louis Nguyen

Three Days to Discover Our Identity in Christ

Kathy Kuczka

During the Passover seder, the youngest person at the table asks, "Why is this night different from all other nights?" The leader then names those things that make the Passover seder different from other holiday meals. As we prepare for the Sacred Paschal Triduum, we may ask, "What makes these days different from all other days?"

The word Triduum is a Latin word that means "three days." The Church calls the three days before Easter—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday—the "culmination of the entire liturgical year" (General Norms of the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, 18). During the span of seventy-two hours, the community commemorates the core of what they believe—Christ, crucified, buried, and risen—as well as the heart of who the community is—a people freed and forgiven, restored and renewed by Christ's resurrection.

These mysteries are too much for one day. They must take place over several days. Even so, the Church observes them as one unified celebration, designing them to flow one into another. On Holy Thursday, the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper ends without a dismissal, continuing into the night with adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. On Friday, the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord begins without a greeting and ends without a dismissal. On Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil begins after nightfall.

To prepare for the Sacred Triduum, members of the community clear their calendars to journey with Christ, with the elect who will receive the initiation sacraments at the Vigil, and with one another through death to new life. This journey demands spiritual preparation that is different from other major feasts. With the exception of the sacraments of penance and the anointing of the sick, the Church abstains from celebrating any sacraments on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. The tabernacle is empty from the beginning of the Mass of the Lord's Supper to the end of Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil. Even the environment is made bare. On Holy Thursday, the altar is stripped and crosses are removed so that the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord begins without a cross, without candles, and without cloths on the altar. The faithful keep a paschal fast that anticipates the joy of Christ's resurrection.

During the Triduum, the Church's most powerful Scriptures are proclaimed, special rituals are performed, and symbols are employed. The washing of feet is reserved for the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. The adoration of the cross is observed only at the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday. The community gathered after dark under the shadow of a full moon is called for only at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. The lighting and blessing of a fire, and the community processing behind the Paschal candle takes place only at the Easter Vigil. Unlike the common practice of celebrating Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist on separate occasions, the Triduum brings these three sacraments of initiation together in one grand liturgy.

The three days that make up the Triduum are different because, unlike any other days in the liturgical year, the community walks through the most profound mysteries of its faith. We encounter Christ in the most solemn Scriptures, rituals, and symbols of our tradition. If we do this well, we will be drawn into a deeper intimacy with Christ's dying and rising. We will know Christ's victory over death as ours. We will rediscover who we truly are—a chosen people, the beloved of God, unafraid of death, assured of new life.

Text by Kathy Kuczka, author of *Connecting the Liturgy with Our Lives: Print and Digital Resources for Faith Formation* (LTP, 2019).
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**PALM SUNDAY & TRIDUUM
LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SIGN-UP SHEETS**

Please sign up **TODAY** for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.



Choir rehearsal for the **Easter Vigil** will be Monday, April 11th at 5:30pm. Please use the SOUTH entrance.

**WELCOMERS, LECTORS,
HOSPITALITY MINISTERS (USHERS),
MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

If you were not on the most recent schedule, **PLEASE** consider serving your parish once again.

Or if you haven't ministered before and would like more information, please contact the Parish Office.

To be added to the schedule for May to August, contact the Parish Office by Thursday, April 21st. Phone 306.782.2449/email office@stgerard.ca

The new schedules will be available the weekend of April 24th.

Lord Jesus, grant us the courage to reach out to those who are suffering, so we can be an instrument of your love in their lives. By your grace, may we bring to them a glimpse of the promised joy of your Resurrection. Amen.

**Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land
on Good Friday – April 15, 2022**

The Good Friday Collection, on April 15, 2022, is requested by the Holy See to help maintain the Christian sites of the Holy Land and to support the Church in the pastoral, educational, and social works that contribute to a sustained Christian presence in the land where Jesus the Christ once walked.

This Pontifical Collection will be taken in the parishes during the Good Friday celebration. Those who are unable to attend the service are still able to contribute online by going to canadahelps.org and searching for "Commissariat of the Holy Land", or by Interac e-transfers to terresainte@bellnet.ca Receipts will be issued.

On behalf of the Custody of the Holy Land, I sincerely thank you for your support,

Fr. Robert Mokry, OFM
Commissary of the Holy Land in Canada



News from the Knights of Columbus



Bingos have been cancelled until further notice.

April 12 Travelling Silver Rose service @ 7pm
April 13 General Meeting @ 7pm
Presentation of the budget

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

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

21st Annual Divine Mercy Conference

Annual Divine Mercy Conference will be held on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 24, 2022 at Our Lady of Peace Parish 425 Broad St. N. Regina, SK. The program begins at 1:30 PM, with a welcome and presentation by Shirley Oleskiw, Adoration and prayers, followed by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 3:05 PM celebrated by Very Rev. James Owolagba. His presentation will take place during his homily.

**Collection for Papal Charities
Holy Thursday – April 14, 2022**

The Office of Papal Charities is the department of the Holy See charged with offering charitable assistance to the poor in the name of the Holy Father.

You may participate in the charitable works of the Office of Papal Charities by offering a donation in the name of the Holy Father for the poorest and those most in need on Holy Thursday at the 7pm Mass.

Prayer for Holy Week

God of such unwavering love,
how do I "celebrate"
the passion and death of Jesus?

I often want to look the other way and not watch, not stay with Jesus in his suffering.

Give me the strength to see his love with honesty and compassion and to feel deeply your own forgiveness and mercy for me.

Help me to understand how to "celebrate" this week. I want to be able to bring my weaknesses and imperfections with me as I journey with Jesus this week, so aware of his love. Amen.



Bringing Home the Word **+**

The Gift of Redemption

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

We come to the holiest week of the year. This week, Christians around the world dedicate their minds and hearts to meditate on the great gift of the redemption won for them by Christ. It is a cosmic event that happened 2,000 years ago but it bears fruit today in the heart of every Christian in every continent, country, city, and home.

As chaotic and nonsensical as evil appears in our world, it also seems to have a commonality that betrays a will, or an intelligence hidden beneath the surface. The suffering and destruction of so many people from senseless violence, famine, and hatred seems at once both spontaneous, yet strangely orchestrated by some force.

The same was true for Christ's crucifixion. On the surface it appears the result of a feverish crowd, a confused politician, a jealous and blinded religious leadership, and an overwhelmed group of cowardly followers. Yet we perceive the return of the tempter, Lucifer, the author of the *non serviam*. The power of evil that struck the head continues to strike the body. Be aware of the call for all followers of Christ to be ready to face the same struggle against evil that he did, and with the same measure of love.

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2022 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson
Mark Bell

Public Relations Committee Chairperson
Jonathan Rosas (acclaimed)

Family & Social Committee Chairperson
VACANT (no nominations)

Properties Committee Chairperson
VACANT (no nominations)

As Mark Bell resigned as Social Justice Committee Chairperson in order to accept the nomination for the Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson position, there remains a one-year term vacancy for the Social Justice Committee Chairperson position on Parish Council.

The new positions take effect at the next Parish Council Meeting.

A BASKET OF BLESSINGS



The blessing of baskets with Festive Food is an Eastern European tradition still honoured by many families in our parish. You can make it your tradition too!

The blessing of food baskets (“Festive Food”) will be held at 2:00 pm on Holy Saturday.

Blessed foods are to be the first eaten on Easter morning at breakfast – “break fast” – after the 40 days of Lenten sacrifice. It is the tradition of people from many cultures to ask for God’s blessing on the festive foods to be used at Easter and to give thanks for the abundance that God provides.

The first item you will need is a large wicker basket lined with linen or lace in which to place a sample of the following items:

Lamb represents Jesus, the Lamb of God. You may use lamb, or, as in some cultures, you may mold butter, chocolate or marzipan into the shape of a lamb, or bake a cake in the shape of a lamb.

Eggs are the symbol of life and resurrection.

Horseradish symbolizes the bitter herbs of Passover and the Exodus, the bitter sufferings of Christ on the cross.

Salt symbolizes purification.

Bread is a symbol of Jesus, the Bread of Life.

Ham or sausage symbolizes great joy and abundance.

Other items that can be placed in the basket are:

- other types of fresh or dried meats and seafood/ fish such as salmon, shrimp and squid
- cheese
- green herbs such as parsley/lettuce (symbolizes renewal)
- olives and olive oil (the olive tree symbolizes wisdom, peace, hope, light, fertility, health, wealth and balance)
- buns, cakes and pastries
- treats for the children

And, of course, a candle which, once lit, represents the Light of Christ.

The basket itself is decorated with ribbons and greenery – joyful signs of new springtime life, as well as the new and eternal life won by Jesus.

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Divine Forgiveness"

This Week...

Jesus is mocked, beaten, tortured, and finally killed. He forgave every violent act committed against him. He healed the slave's ear cut by his disciple; he forgave the soldiers who drove the spikes into his body, and he forgave the thief hanging beside him. No sin is too great for his divine forgiveness.

For Your Reflection

It is hard to imagine the kind of violence that took Jesus' life. It is hard to imagine having spikes pounded into your wrists, and hanging from a crossbeam so you can hardly breathe. It is hard to imagine having people watch you struggle in pain and mock you as you die. It is hard to imagine anyone purposefully inflicting death on another person. It is even harder to imagine a victim of that pain forgiving everyone who took part in it.

- What would be hardest for you - enduring the physical pain? Forgiving the enemies causing you the pain? Forgiving the friends who deserted you?
- Who is your life has been the person hardest to forgive? What has been the most hurtful thing ever done to you? What has been the most difficult situation for you to recover from? What can you learn from Jesus' example that can help you when it is hard to forgive?

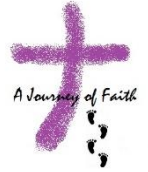
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter*, 2004



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.

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.
