



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

April 16, 2023

Second Sunday of Easter

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 Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.

Pastor.....	Fr. Louis Nguyen	306.782.0323	louisyorkton@gmail.com
		306.621.8068	Emergencies
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....			

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (17th) NO MASS

Tues. (18th) **9:30am WITH ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL**
Richard Prince
1:00pm **AT ST. MARY'S SCHOOL**
+Jean Grela

Wed. (19th) 9:00am +Chris Schleushen
10:00am **NURSING HOME SOUTH**
+Hilda Streifel

Thurs. (20th) 10:00am **AT SACRED HEART HS**
+Sylvia Stanowich
2:30pm **YORKTON CROSSING**
Fran Meehan
7:00pm *Pilgrim Icon*
Prayer Service

Fri. (21st) 9:00am Herb & Rose Marchinko

Sat. (22nd) 9:00am Special Intentions

5:00pm +Alfred Boucher
6:30pm Mass following Sacrament Preparation Session

Sun. (23rd) **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**
9:00am Mass for the People
11:00am +Nestor Kindratsky

SACRAMENTS

Infant Baptism: Please phone the Parish Office to register for Baptism Preparation. 306.782.2449

RCIA: For adults wishing to be received into the Catholic Church, contact Father Louis. 306.782.0323.

Matrimony: Please contact Fr. Louis 12 months prior to the date when you would like to be married. 306.782.0323

Reconciliation: Saturday at 8:30am or anytime by appointment. 306.782.0323

Anointing: Please contact Father Louis at 306.621.8068.



Lord Jesus, when we are tempted to doubt that good triumphs over evil, that life is stronger than death, fill us with faith and hope we pray. Amen! Alleluia!

- The Redeemers

Stay Connected Online!

www.stgerard.ca

SUNDAY CONNECTION

First Reading *Acts of the Apostles 2.42-47*

The first community of Christians grows as its members meet to pray and break bread.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 118.2-4,13-15,22-24*

God's love is everlasting.

Second Reading *1 Peter 1.3-9*

We have new hope because of Jesus' Resurrection.

Gospel Reading *John 20.19-31*

Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions after they discovered that his tomb was empty. Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The bodily form was not one that the disciples recognized though. In John's Gospel, Mary of Magdala does not recognize that the figure standing before her is Jesus until he speaks to her. In Luke's Gospel the disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus do not recognize him until he breaks bread with them. The resurrected Jesus had a physical presence, but the disciples couldn't recognize Jesus unless he allowed them to. His resurrected body, nonetheless, showed the marks of his crucifixion.

From readings such as today's Gospel, we also see that in his resurrected body, Jesus seems to be free of physical constraints. He appears to the disciples despite the fact that the doors were locked.

Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." During the meeting, Jesus also shows the integral connection between forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. In fact, all Christians after the first witnesses have been called to believe without seeing. Thomas's doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus' appearance was incredible to the disciples who had seen him crucified and buried. Thomas's human nature compelled him to want hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death was indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really risen.

Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first disciples. Through Baptism we receive the same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the first disciples. We are among those who are "blessed" because we believe without having seen.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Many of us can relate to Thomas's response to the news that the disciples had seen Jesus. We want to see for ourselves too, but we grow in faith, trusting the experience and knowledge of others.

Many of us have heard the saying "Seeing is believing." As your family gathers, take some time to consider what that saying means. What are some things we believe because we see them? Is there anything we believe without seeing? Today's Gospel reminds us that faith sometimes asks us to believe things we cannot see with our eyes. Read today's Gospel, John 19:19-31, with your family. Think about Thomas's response to the reports about the risen Lord. Is Thomas's doubt reasonable? How does Jesus respond to Thomas? Jesus grants Thomas the evidence that Thomas needs to believe, but Jesus also affirms the faith of those who will be called upon to believe without first-hand experience. We are among those whom Jesus calls blessed. Discuss with your family the basis of each member's faith in Jesus—the witness of the first disciples, the Gospels, the continuing activity of the Holy Spirit, the community of the Church.

Pray together that your faith in Jesus will be strong. Pray an act of faith together.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/>

ACT OF FAITH

O my God, I firmly believe
that you are one God in three divine Persons.
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
I believe that your divine Son became man,
died for our sins,
and that he will come to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe these and all the truths
which the holy Catholic Church teaches,
because you have revealed them,
who can neither deceive nor be deceived.



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

The next Baptism Preparation Session will be held **Sunday, May 14 at 3pm**. If you have a child who you wish to be baptized, or if you are expecting a child, please contact the Parish Office to register.

This will be the last session until the fall.

Thank you to the Liturgical Committee members, all Liturgical Ministers especially the Altar Servers, to the teachers of CTCS Division, and all others who gave their time to assist in the preparation of the Paschal Triduum, the most sacred time of year.

The next **Liturgical Committee Meeting** is Monday, April 17 at 7pm in Meeting Room A.

CENTERING PRAYER

Thursday, April 27 at 7pm

Lower Level

(please use east entrance)

22nd Annual Divine Mercy Conference



Will be held on TODAY, Divine Mercy Sunday, at Our Lady of Peace Parish 425 Broad St. N., Regina, SK. The program begins at 1:30pm, with a welcome and presentation by Shirley Oleskiw, Adoration & Prayers, followed by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 3:05pm celebrated by Very Rev.

James Owolagba. His presentation will take place during his homily.

Stewardship of the earth and all its creatures is observed on Earth Day, April 22. Find ways to care for the earth this Earth Day with the Catholic Laudato Si movement. Go to <https://laudatosimovement.org/resources/>

The next Laudato Si Animator program starts April 19th, <https://laudatosianimators.org/>

-Submitted by Linda Maddaford

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon. (17th): 7:00pm- Liturgical Committee Meeting
(Meeting Room A)

Sat. (22nd): 5:00pm- Sacrament Prep. Program
(Parish Hall)



News from the Knights of Columbus



April 16	Parish Brunch
April 19	Bingo-evening @ 5pm
April 20	Pilgrim Icon Prayer Service @ 7pm
April 21-23	State Convention in Prince Albert
April 22	Family prayer following Mass
April 25	Articles for "The Word" due
April 29	Bingo-evening @ 5pm

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

Knights of Columbus Recruitment Drive Sunday, April 16, 2023

The Knights of Columbus will be holding a recruitment drive for new members TODAY after both Masses. There will be members present to tell you about the Knights of Columbus and their works. We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands and grandfathers. Join us on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be.

There is a KC brunch this morning and if you are interested in talking to someone about joining the Knights allow us to buy you brunch and discuss the work of the Knights of Columbus.

Knights of Columbus Pilgrim Icon Service

Please join the Knights of Columbus for a prayer service with the Pilgrim Icon devoted to St. Joseph on Thursday April 20, 2023 at 7 pm in the church. Also, please join us for refreshments and fellowship after the service. Everyone is welcome!

The prayer service, flowing from the Year of St. Joseph declared by Pope Francis in 2021, and inspired by his apostolic letter *Patris Corde*, is sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #2031 to honour St. Joseph and pray for his intercession in preserving, cultivating and passing on the Catholic faith to future generations.

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly chose to entrust his service as Supreme Knight to St. Joseph and through this Pilgrim Icon Program, encourage Knights and their communities to "turn in prayer to St. Joseph, give thanks to God for the gift of fatherly example, and ask St. Joseph to be a father to us" as we seek to "grow in our own imitation of St. Joseph's quiet strength, integrity and fidelity." St. Joseph, pray for us!



Bringing Home the Word **+**

"I Doubt It," Say All of Us

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Skepticism is a characteristic of a critical mind. Some claims are just too fantastic to trust: no salve can relieve you of all pain; no investment is certain to double your money; no politician can keep all promises; no one comes back from the dead. Who of us can fault Thomas for his initial skepticism?

Thomas has been known throughout history as "the doubter." However, he might be considered the patron saint of all of us. Because of his absence when Jesus stood in the midst of the community, Thomas was expected to believe on the word of others. Like Thomas, we are torn between believing because of an experience of Jesus, and believing on the word of others. We all would prefer a direct, profound experience. However, that's not what we're offered.

But within the community we can indirectly experience Jesus—his goodness, his unselfish service to others, his desire to bring people together in peace and harmony. Today's first reading provides a glimpse of such a believing community devoted to "the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers" (Acts 2:42). Like our patron Thomas, we might be skeptical at first, but it is within a family or community of kindness and generosity that we can have our own experience of the risen Jesus.

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Catechism Themes: CCC 651-655

Without the Resurrection, Christianity would be nothing more than a school that taught the wisdom of a great teacher. With the Resurrection, however, Christianity became a road to intimacy with God.

The Resurrection justifies the life, works, and teachings of Jesus. Through the lens of the Resurrection, we can see this life, these works and teachings in the context of Scripture and realize "Jesus is Lord." Faith in the Resurrection leads us to the conclusion Jesus is true God and true man.

Through the Resurrection, we receive the gift of a new eternal life, free from evil. We become one with our Saviour who died and rose for us. And, as he rose, Christ assures us that we, too, will rise on the last day.

*How does the cynicism of the world affect you?
How does faith keep you from cynicism?*

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What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

Celebrating God's Merciful Love

In the Jubilee Year 2000, Pope John Paul II proclaimed that from that year forward the Second Sunday of Easter would be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. This was proclaimed at the Canonization Mass of St. Faustina Kawalska, who worked throughout her life to make all aware of the merciful love of God.

St. Faustina (1905–1938) was born and raised in Poland. Following a vocation to religious life, she was accepted by the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. As a member of the Congregation, she worked as a cook, gardener, and porter. In her spiritual life, her contemplation on the Mercy of God led her to develop a childlike trust in God and deep love for her neighbour.

In her years in the convent, St. Faustina heard a call from God to make God's mercy known to the world so that the world may more fully receive God's healing grace. St. Faustina promoted the Chaplet of Divine Mercy which consists of the recitation of prayers to the Eternal Father with the use of the rosary for the sake of Christ's sorrowful passion.

The Chaplet is prayed as follows:

- 1 Begin with the Sign of the Cross, one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and the Apostles' Creed.
- 2 On the Our Father beads, recite the following: *"Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world."*
- 3 On the ten Hail Mary beads, say the following: *"For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."*
- 4 Repeat step two and three for all five decades.
- 5 Conclude by reciting three times: *"Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world."*

When celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday, the faithful are called to reflect more personally on the graces won through the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this way their hearts may be more fully aware of the mercy of God for them personally and for the sake of the world. www.loyolapress.com