



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

April 24th, 2022

Second Sunday of
Easter
(Divine Mercy)

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. (25 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (26 th)	7:00pm +Tony Spykerman
Wed. (27 th)	10:00am NURSING HOME (NORTH) +Peter & +Irene Cherneski
	7:00pm +Connie Shannon
Thurs. (28 th)	9:00am +Tom Pasloski
	2:30pm BENTLEY SENIORS' RESIDENCE +Horace & +Mildred Jackson
Fri. (29 th)	11:00am <i>Funeral – Myrtle Skikewich</i>
Sat. (30 th)	9:00am Special Intentions
	5:00pm +Victor Jeanroy
Sun. (1 st)	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
	9:00am +Rose Banga
	11:00am 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.



This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad!



Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, open my heart to believe your word. Guide me as I learn to play my part in creating your vision of peace and love.

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

A Note from Your Pastor

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This Sunday, as we finish the Octave (eight days) solemnity of Easter and continue into the Easter season, we celebrate the gift of divine mercy. It's easy to forget that mercy is not something to which we have a right. The Lord has freely given it to us.

First of all, I want to summarize all the readings for this weekend.

In the first reading, we see the power of healing flowing from Peter and the faith of the people who sought him out. People are trying to fall under Peter's shadow to be healed and The Risen Lord uses Peter to heal those who seek Him, just as those who seek forgiveness and healing through the sacraments draw close to our sacred ministers, knowing that it is Our Lord who heals and forgives through them.

In the second reading, the apostle John has a vision of Our Lord holding "the keys of Death and of Hades." We need to keep in mind that his keys represent his authority: specifically, to bind and to loose. If we ask him to liberate us, he will, but we have to ask him. When you see sin as liberation, not imprisonment, you see the great gift of mercy. Therefore, our Lord's mercy is the key to liberation from our sins.

And in the Gospel, we hear a story that when appearing to the disciples the Risen Lord gives them peace and reconciliation, not condemnation. The Risen Lord empowers his disciples to be instruments of his mercy. We should be aware that when a priest or bishop absolves his penitent from his/her sins, that mercy and power come from Jesus. All these means of healing and mercy are freely given gifts of Our Lord. Therefore, we should come to receive them often. We would be fools not to seek them out.

Today is also Divine Mercy Sunday. Some of us may wonder "why is today Divine Mercy Sunday?" And here is a very short story of it. 22 years ago, on April 30, 2000, Pope St. John Paul II canonized a Polish nun, Saint Mary Faustina Kowalska, who had received the amazing revelations of the Divine from Christ.

During that ceremony, Pope St. John Paul II fulfilled one of the requests that Christ had made through those revelations: that the entire Church reserve the Second Sunday of the Easter Season to honour and commemorate God's infinite mercy. Where do we see this mercy revealed in today's readings?

We see it in the reaction Christ shows to those men, his chosen Apostles, who had abandoned him just two nights before. They had abandoned Jesus in his most difficult hour, but Jesus wasn't going to abandon them. He passes through the locked doors, passes through their fears, regret, and guilt, and appears to them. He brings them his peace. And he reaffirms his confidence in them by reaffirming their mission: "*As the Father has sent me, so I send you*".

We also see God's mercy in the Risen Lord's reaction to the men who had crucified him. He doesn't crush them in revenge. Instead, he sends out his Apostles to tell them, and the whole sinful world, the world that had crucified its God, that they can be redeemed, that God has not condemned them: "*As the Father has sent me, so I send you*". And then, just to make sure that the Church is fully armed to communicate this message, Jesus gives the ultimate revelation of God's mercy - he delegates to his Apostles his divine power to forgive sins: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

This is the explicit institution of the sacrament of confession, the sacrament in which the limitless ocean of God's mercy overwhelms the puny ocean of our misery.

My dear sisters and brothers, that was the ultimate revelation of the Divine Mercy. We celebrate the Divine Mercy, we acknowledge the Divine Mercy in us and we are asked to be the disciples of Divine Mercy in our lives.

Have a wonderful weekend and be happy in God's mercy to you all. Peace be with you.

Fr. Louis Nguyen



Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!

EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR DEVOTION
at 6pm (prior to 7pm Tuesday Mass)

Eucharistic Adoration is adoring or honouring the Eucharistic Presence of Christ. In a deeper sense, it involves "the contemplation of the Mystery of Christ truly present before us".

During Eucharistic Adoration, we "watch and wait", we remain "silent" in His Presence and open ourselves to His Graces which flow from the Eucharist ... By worshiping the Eucharistic Jesus we become what God wants us to be! Like a magnet, the Lord draws us to Himself and gently transforms us.

In its fullest essence ... Eucharistic Adoration is "God and Man reaching out for each other, at the same time!"



“Jesus, I Trust in You”

The Divine Mercy devotion is centered on the mercy of God and our trust in Jesus Christ. It is a devotion that grew out of the revelations and writings of a Polish nun, Saint Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938).

Divine Mercy Sunday was established in 2000 by Saint Pope John Paul II to be celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. The devotion includes a Divine Mercy prayer chaplet and reflections on the Divine Mercy image of Jesus given to Saint Faustina.



Do you know a child/teen who
will be receiving the
Sacraments of



Confirmation and/or First Communion?

Stop by the Parish Office to see the latest selection of gifts including bracelets, chains, crucifixes, rosaries, and much, much more!

Limited quantities available.



Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the beautiful celebrations of the Sacred Paschal Triduum!

- Liturgical Committee



Time for Fifty Days of Easter “Exercise”

By Kathleen M. Basi

On Easter Sunday, anything seems possible. The triumph of life over death and heaven over hell seems to resound throughout a world poised on the cusp of spring. But it's hard to hold on to the euphoria of resurrection for fifty days. White lilies fade and are discreetly removed from the altar while the rush of baseball and soccer starts. As the planet spins from one day to the next, we get caught up in ordinary life until one day that newness of purpose is gone altogether.

Faith is like a muscle: healthier when exercised. In the years after the resurrection, the Church flourished because Christianity wasn't just something you did on Sundays and holidays. It was something radical—something so powerful, so threatening to the establishment that claiming it could get you fed to wild animals. That kind of commitment changes what you do and think and say every day.

You and I will probably never face execution for our beliefs, but the reality of the resurrection should still impact the way we live—not just on the holy day itself, but throughout the Easter season and beyond. It should illuminate what endeavors are worthwhile and which are not. It should challenge us to temper our anger and expand our willingness to sacrifice for others.

Nobody needs a longer to-do list. But living the faith doesn't require commitments of epic proportions. Imagine what could happen if every one of us celebrated the fifty days of Easter by doing one thing each day to grow, demonstrate, or share our faith. It doesn't have to be earth shattering in importance. It just needs to be real. Set aside five minutes for quiet, contemplative prayer. Count to ten before reacting to that inflammatory tweet. Dig into the mystery of death and resurrection with your children. Read the Acts of the Apostles and figure out one concrete way you can imitate their fervor in the context of your life. Read a book about the saints. Pick up that fast-food bag blowing around the mall parking lot. Send a donation to a crisis-pregnancy center. Buy a can of coffee and deliver it to the homeless shelter. Doing one thing every day may not change the world, but it will change *us*. Our souls and our bodies are made to work in harmony to reflect God's image. Our actions shape our inner reality. The more we act as Christ would have us act, the more our view of the world reflects his. In short, by doing as God does, we become more like God. And, that *can* change the world.



Bringing Home the Word

Sin is Never the Last Word

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

We're not defined by our weakness but created for greatness! Look at David, Paul, and the sinful woman. David was an adulterer and murderer, yet he wrote psalms and was Jesus' ancestor. Paul killed one of the first deacons, Stephen, yet became the greatest apostle to the Gentiles. The sinful woman's misdeeds were public, yet what is most remembered is her repentance and love.

Sin is not the last word. God's recreating mercy is. God's mercy asks for a response so all that transformative power can be unleashed in us. The only thing that stands in the way of God's renewal rushing in and totally transforming us is our own lack of acceptance.

Sin wants to stand in the way of this Good News. The evil one tries to convince us we are too sinful, that salvation and happiness might be for others, but not for us. But David, Paul, and the sinful woman didn't let that sinister message sink in. David was moved to repentance by Nathan's words.

Paul accepted that he wasn't saved by his religious fervor or condemned for his errors. He was saved by letting Christ's merciful love embrace him. The sinful woman refused to be defined by her poor choices. She tearfully made penance at Christ's feet, and this act of her brokenness gave off a consoling aroma that filled the house.

Let the power of Christ's love be unleashed in you by forgiving yourself and others. Then your weakness will be the first step toward the greatness God has in store for you.

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Catechism Themes: CCC 645-647

We do not know what Christ's risen body is like. On the one hand, the risen Jesus could be touched by his followers. His body still had the wounds of the passion. On the other hand, he entered locked rooms at will and appeared to his followers as he wished. His body was not limited by space and time. While his body possessed signs of his past, it was transformed to a new plane. The body of Christ now possessed the power of the Spirit.

The resurrection was at once a moment in history two millennium ago and a moment for all time. That which space and time bound was raised to the eternal. When we profess Christ is risen, we acknowledge our faith in a life beyond despite our present limitations. We can touch that very life through the Spirit. And, because of the Spirit, our shortcomings that stand in the way of eternal life can be swept aside.

Why does the Christian walk lead through forgiveness to peace? How have you experienced that road?

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 Savior 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?

The peace Christ give us heals the fear and cynicism of the world. This peace builds bridges of trust and allows us to walk together to the Father. His peace allows us to continue to believe and to hold on to his very life. Let us, then, offer each other the peace of Christ, the Shalom of his Spirit.

How can you offer the peace of Christ to others in your daily life?

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R	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	A	J	EVENING	DAY	DOORS	FEAR
E	I	D	H	A	N	D	S	O	I	PEACE	HANDS	SIDE	DISCIPLES
G	N	I	N	E	V	E	Y	F	N	JOY	FATHER	BREATHED	FORGIVE
I	G	S	N	Y	E	H	A	E	W	TWIN	HOLES	NAILS	FINGER
F	E	C	I	A	N	T	C	A	T				
H	R	I	W	D	H	A	S	R	Y				
O	O	P	T	E	E	E	L	Y	E				
L	O	L	R	P	S	R	O	O	D				
E	V	E	I	L	E	B	R	E	J				
S	E	S	L	I	A	N	D	O	L				



THE WEEK AHEAD

- Mon. (25th): 7:00pm- Bible Study (lower level)
- Tues. (26th): 7:30pm- Finance Council Meeting
- Wed. (27th): 7:30pm- Pastoral Council Meeting

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Doubting Thomas"

This Week...

"Seeing is believing." That could have been Thomas's motto. Jesus replies that blessed are the ones who have not seen and who still believe. We have not seen Jesus with our own eyes but our faith has led us to see him in our hearts and in one another. That kind of faith led the early Christian community to care for one another with so much zeal.

For Your Reflection

"Thomas did not quite "get it" when the other Apostles were telling him that Jesus had risen from the dead. He wanted to see for himself. Is that really so strange? Would you believe it if your friends told you that while they were locked up in a room someone who had recently died walked through the door and appeared to them? Would you want to see it yourself?

When it comes to Christianity, do you think you "get it"? Do you "see the light"? If so, what is it all about? If not, what don't you get? What questions do you have about Jesus' Resurrection?

The continuum of doubt and belief has two extremes. On the "extreme doubt" side is cynicism. A cynic doubts everything, especially people's good intentions. It can be a negative, unhappy way of seeing things. A person on the opposite side, the "extreme belief" side, is gullible. That person believes whatever anyone says. It can be a happy, but sometimes dangerous, way of seeing things.

Are you a doubting Thomas? Do you think you are cynical? Do you think you are gullible? Why or why not?

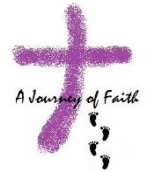
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter*, 2004



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.
