



# St. Gerard

## Roman Catholic Parish

April 2, 2023

**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](http://www.stgerard.ca) | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: [office@stgerard.ca](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:louisyorkton@gmail.com">louisyorkton@gmail.com</a>
		306.621.8068	Emergencies
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	<a href="mailto:office@stgerard.ca">office@stgerard.ca</a>
Caretaker.....			

### MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (3<sup>rd</sup>) NO MASS  
 Tues. (4<sup>th</sup>) **9:00am** Keith & Debbie Hayward  
 Wed. (5<sup>th</sup>) 9:00am +Cresencia Castro Barce

#### THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Thurs. (6<sup>th</sup>): **Thursday of the Lord's Supper**  
7:00pm +Stan Skaluba

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11:45 pm*

Fri. (7<sup>th</sup>): **Friday of the Passion of the Lord**  
(Universal Day of Fasting and Abstinence)

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

Sat. (8<sup>th</sup>): **Holy Saturday**  
2:00pm *Blessing of Festive Food*

#### The Resurrection of the Lord

**At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night**  
8:00pm

Sun. (9<sup>th</sup>): **At the Mass of Easter Day**  
9:00 am Special Intentions  
11:00 am Mass for the People

### 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.



So that we may enter into this Holy Week and pray together with other believers for the salvation of the world, we pray – Lord, let us be like you.  
- The Redemptorists

**Stay Connected Online!**

[www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca)

### **Gospel at the Procession with Palms**

*Matthew 21.1-11*

Jesus enters Jerusalem as the crowd waves palm branches and shouts, “Hosanna!”

### **First Reading**

*Isaiah 50.4-7*

The Lord’s Servant will stand firm, even when persecuted.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 22.8-9,17-20,23-24*

A cry for help to the Lord in the face of evildoers.

### **Second Reading**

*Philippians 2.6-11*

Christ was obedient even to death, and God has exalted him.

### **Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 26.14-27.66*

Jesus is crucified, and his body is placed in the tomb.

### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today we begin Holy Week, the days during which we journey with Jesus on his way of the cross and anticipate his Resurrection on Easter. Today’s liturgy begins with the procession with palms to remind us of Jesus’ triumphant entrance into Jerusalem.

The events of Jesus’ Passion are proclaimed in their entirety in today’s Liturgy of the Word. Those events will be proclaimed again when we celebrate the liturgies of the Triduum—Holy Thursday’s Mass of the Lord’s Supper, the Good Friday of the Lord’s Passion, and the Easter Vigil. In communities that celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with catechumens, these liturgies take on special importance because they invite the catechumens and the community to enter together into the central mysteries of our faith. These days are indeed profound and holy.

In Cycle A, we read the Passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Matthew on Palm, or Passion, Sunday. (On Good Friday, we will read the Passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John). The story of Jesus’ Passion and death in Matthew’s Gospel focuses particularly on the obedience of Jesus to the will of his Father. As Jesus sends his disciples to prepare for Passover, he indicates that the events to come are the will of the Father (Matthew 26:18). In Jesus’ prayer in the garden, he prays three times to the Father to take away the cup of suffering, but each time, Jesus concludes by affirming his obedience to the Father’s will (Matthew 26:39-44). Even Matthew’s description of Jesus’ death shows Jesus’ obedience to the Father.

Another theme of Matthew’s Gospel is to show Jesus as the fulfillment of Scripture. Throughout the Passion narrative, Matthew cites and alludes to Scripture to show that the events of Jesus’ Passion and death are in accordance with all that was foretold. And if the events were foretold, then God is in control. In addition, Matthew is particularly concerned that the reader does not miss the fact that Jesus is the Suffering Servant of the Old Testament.

Jesus acts in obedience to the Father even in death, so that sins may be forgiven. Matthew makes this clear in the story of the Lord’s Supper. As Jesus blesses the chalice, he says: “. . . for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.” (Matthew 26:28)

While the Gospels of Matthew and Mark have many parallels in their narrative of the Passion, there are a few details worth noting that are unique to Matthew. Only Matthew indicates the price paid to Judas for betraying Jesus. The story of Judas’s death is also found only in Matthew, as is the detail that Pilate’s wife received a warning in a dream and that Pilate washed his hands of Jesus’ death. Finally, Matthew’s Gospel alone mentions the earthquakes and other phenomena that happened after Jesus’ death.

Matthew places the responsibility for Jesus’ death on the Sanhedrin, the chief priests and elders who were responsible for the Temple. However, the animosity that those Jewish leaders and the Jewish people demonstrate toward Jesus is not to be interpreted in ways that blame the Jewish people for Jesus’ death. Throughout Matthew’s Gospel, the narrative reflects the tension that probably existed between the early Christian community and their

Jewish contemporaries. At the Second Vatican Council, the Council Fathers made clear that all sinners share responsibility for the suffering and death of Jesus and that it is wrong to place blame for Jesus' Passion on the Jewish contemporaries of Jesus or on Jewish people today.

There are many vantage points from which to engage in Jesus' Passion. In the characters of Matthew's Gospel, we find reflections of ourselves and the many ways in which we sometimes respond to Jesus. Sometimes we are like Judas, who betrays Jesus and comes to regret it. We are sometimes like Peter, who denies him, or like the disciples, who fell asleep during Jesus' darkest hour but then act rashly and violently at his arrest. Sometimes we are like Simon, who is pressed into service to help Jesus carry his cross. Sometimes we are like the leaders who fear Jesus or like Pontius Pilate, who washed his hands of the whole affair. Jesus dies so that our sins will be forgiven.

The events of Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection are called the Paschal Mystery. No amount of study will exhaust or explain the depth of love that Jesus showed in offering this sacrifice for us. After we have examined and studied the stories we have received about these events, we are left with one final task—to meditate on these events and on the forgiveness that Jesus' obedience won for us.

[www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection](http://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection)



## 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.



## News from the Knights of Columbus



Apr. 6 Bingo-evening-4.00

Apr. 12 Combined planning and general meeting-7.00

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.728.8664. [www.kofc-2031.ca](http://www.kofc-2031.ca)

**Do you know...** The Jewish Passover, *Pesach*, begins at sundown Wednesday, April 5, 2023. Easter, the Christian Feast of liberation, grew out of the Jewish feast of *Passover*. In our Easter Vigil we preserve the Passover readings which celebrate freedom from slavery in Egypt and recall the new interpretation given to the Feast by the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. – ORDO 2022-2023, CCCB, Ottawa, ON

## PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

As there are several vacancies on the Pastoral Council, Father Louis and the parish are unable to continue with several programs which affect not only parishioners but the local (and global) community. These may include, but are not limited to, **Religious Education** (sacrament prep., marriage prep., adult faith formation) and **Social Justice** (including the Giving Tree, Community Dinners and Development and Peace). If you would like to see our parish continue to thrive, and are willing to commit some time, please contact the Parish Office.

## Placing of the Palm Branches in the Home

*After the family returns from church, they may place the palm branches in a place of honour.*

**Leader:**

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
creator of the universe and source of  
mercy and love,

you sent your Son in human flesh to be our king.

He proclaimed that your kingdom is near,  
and taught that those who rule  
must be servant of all.

He crowned his life, not with the glory of this  
world,  
but by fulfilling your will  
and offering his life for the salvation of the  
world.

On the third day you raised him in glory  
and exalted him at your right hand.

Today we proudly carry  
this palm branch in his honour,  
and place it in our home  
as a sign of his victory over sin and death.

May the presence of the palm branch  
remind us of the glory of your kingdom  
and inspire us to love and serve you in others.

Glory and praise to you, Lord God, for ever and  
ever.

**All: Amen**

*(from Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family)*



