



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

April 30, 2023

Fourth 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 SCHEDULE

Mon. (1st) – Fri. (5th): NO MASS
Sat. (6th) 9:00am +Darlene Bernath

5:00pm Mass for the People
6:30pm Mass following Sacrament
Preparation Session

Sun. (7th) **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
9:00am Betty Bax
11:00am +Benito Kho Naldo &
+Loreta Ocho Naldo

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.



Today the Church throughout the world prays for vocations. Will you make a special effort to ask the Lord for vocations to the priesthood and religious life? Pray for the priests who have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and dead. Encourage your children, grandchildren, or other young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother or sister. Pray a rosary for more young men and women in our diocese to respond to God's call.

The Knights of Columbus will lead the Rosary Prayer each Monday at 5:30pm during "Marian" month.

May devotions highlight the special sharing of the Blessed Virgin in the Paschal Mystery of Christ her son.

Stay Connected Online!
www.stgerard.ca



Lord Jesus, when we fail to hear your word or listen to our Spirit within us, please open our minds and hearts to your voice, we pray. Amen!
Alleluia!

-The Redemptorists

SUNDAY CONNECTION

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 2.14a,36-41

Peter and the other apostles baptize 3,000 people.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23.1-6

The Lord is my shepherd.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2.20b-25

We have been healed by the wounds of Christ.

Gospel Reading

John 10.1-10

Jesus is the gate for his sheep.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle the reading is from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus' teaching about himself as the Good Shepherd.

Today's reading falls between the stories of Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year's season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs his allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees.

Throughout John's Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus' ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be "robbers and thieves" because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus' disciples) should follow.

The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At

the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd.

Today's Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus' words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognize that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus' allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good shepherd.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Even though we have less experience with sheep and shepherds today in our society, we can still identify strongly with the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and as the gate for the sheep. Psalm 23 remains a popular and favorite psalm for prayer. In the image of the Good Shepherd, we know ourselves to be protected and cared for by a loving God.

As your family gathers, ask what each person knows about sheep and shepherds. Recall that shepherds and sheep have a close relationship. Sheep will only follow their own shepherd; they recognize his voice and will not follow a stranger. The shepherd's job is to protect his sheep. In some ways, the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep is like that of a parent and child. Read together this Sunday's Gospel, John 10:1-10. Talk about how Jesus tells us that he is the gate for the sheep. The sheep enter the protection of the sheepfold through the gate. In Jesus we find protection and abundant life. Conclude by thanking Jesus for being our Good Shepherd and by praying today's psalm, Psalm 23.



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.

CENTERING PRAYER

Thursday, May 11 at 7pm

Lower Level

(please use east entrance)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.

He leads me in the right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff - they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the
presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the
days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.



News from the CWL



May 9
May 9
May 10
June 10
June 14

Installation of Executive at 7pm Mass
Executive Meeting following 7pm Mass
General Meeting following 7pm Mass
CWL Spring Tea (details to follow)
CWL Wind-up Social (details to follow)



News from the Knights of Columbus



May 1
May 7
May 8
May 10

Rosary led by Knights – 5:30pm
Bingo – afternoon – 5:00pm
Rosary led by Knights – 5:30pm
Combined meeting – 7pm
election of officers

Please remember that May is rosary month.

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

The Knights of Columbus invite you to join us in a special prayer chain of three Hail Mary's each day this coming week, asking our Blessed Mother to help encourage vocations.

Pope Francis encourages us to pray for vocations, and through prayer, "may [the church community] touch the hearts of the faithful and enable each of them to discover with gratitude God's call in their lives, and to find the courage to say 'yes' to God." (*Message for the 57th World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2020 – Pope Francis*)

Our priests, deacons, brothers and sisters need our prayers....and we truly need our wonderful religious who have dedicated their lives to God.

Options Pregnancy Center (Regina) Annual Baby Bottle Campaign

Administered by the Knights of Columbus No. 2031

Take a baby bottle home on Mother's Day, fill it with money or a cheque, and then return the bottle on Father's Day.

Your gift will help equip their Center to care for the women, men and families impacted by an unexpected pregnancy, and will provide financial support for additional health care services that they provide.

Pope's Prayer Intention for the Month of May

For church movements and groups – We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sat. (6th): 5:00pm- Sacrament Prep. Program
(Parish Hall)



Bringing Home the Word **+**

Matters of Life and Death

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Sheep are a lot smarter than some people think. They recognize the voice of their particular shepherd and follow that voice alone. However, that is not the point of Jesus' teaching today. Because most of us don't raise sheep or know much about them, we may not realize the situation described in today's Gospel is a matter of life and death.

It's similar to the relationship between a military squad leader and the troops he leads, another life-and-death matter. In both, unquestioning obedience is required, and absolute trust in the other is presumed.

That's what Jesus is describing. He's suggesting: "Listen to me. Follow my lead. Trust in me. I want only what is good for you, so I will be your sure protection."

It sounds so easy, as parables and metaphors usually do. What does it mean to follow this Shepherd? In the first reading, Peter announces the answer in one word: "Repent!" There is that challenging word—the word we might associate with Lent, not with Easter. If we do so, we miss the point of following the Shepherd, for to follow him means to be like him. It means: "Repent! Stop taking advantage of other people. Open your minds and hearts to newcomers. Respect those who observe different religious traditions. Help those less fortunate than you." All of this is captured in the final words of the Gospel reading: do what you can so that all "might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Clearly, that's smart.

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Everyone Has a Divine Vocation

“Jesus has a specific task in life for each and every one of us. Each one of us is hand-picked, called by name by Jesus! There is no one among us who does not have a divine vocation! Some are called audibly by God, but the usual kind of call is internal, through the inner working of the Spirit.”

~Homily by Pope Saint John Paul II

Pray for Vocations!

As Catholics, we firmly believe that God has a plan for our lives! He calls some to marriage, some to the priesthood, others to religious life or others to live as generous single people. Fully living our own vocations—and teaching young people how to discern God's call—is a serious duty, but also a joyful one. During this week, please encourage the young people in your life - children, grandchildren, students, and friends - to be open if God calls them to priesthood or religious life.

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

TRAUMA-INFORMED PERSPECTIVE WORKSHOP – YORKTON DEANERY

Are you interested in learning about trauma and how it impacts people? Trauma comes in many forms. Some areas we will look at are natural disasters, accidents, sudden death and other areas. Everyone is welcome to join us for a Trauma-informed Perspective workshop on Saturday, May 6, 2023, from 9:30 - 4:30 St. Gerard Parish Hall. For more information or to register, email: csaeducation@archregina.sk.ca

LEADERSHIP CAMP 2023

Journeying Together!



For those ENTERING Grade 7 - 9:

July 17 @ 1:00pm until July 20 @ 11:00am

For those ENTERING Grade 10 - 1st yr. Uni:

July 17 @ 1:00pm until July 21 @ 2:00pm

Join us for sunshine, games, art, sports, beach time, great food, and great people! Learn more about growing in faith and in leadership!

Located at Glen Harbour Kids Camp (40 minutes from Regina)
Bus transportation out to camp provided. Spots are limited!

Grades 7-9 \$175
Grades 10-U \$200

Question?
oyyam@archregina.sk.ca

An initiative of the Archdiocese of Regina
Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry



Scan to register!
bit.ly/oyyam-camp

