



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

April 4th, 2021

The Resurrection of the Lord

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:
By pre-registration only until further notice

CONTACT US

The Parish Office is open reduced hours, but the doors remain locked. Please phone ahead.
We continue to take the necessary precautions to keep our parishioners and employees safe & healthy.
You may phone/email the office Monday to Thursday between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4
www.stgerard.ca | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca

Pastor.....Fr. Louis Nguyen 306.782.0323 louisYorkton@gmail.com
Parish Office Administrator.....Sandra Archer
Caretaker.....Mario Guerra

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

OCTAVE OF EASTER

Mon. (5th) NO MASS
Tues. (6th) **9:00am** + Jaime Castillo
Wed. (7th) **9:00am** + Ferdinand Thiele
Thurs. (8th) **9:00am** + Joan Kormos
Fri. (9th) **9:00am** + Verona Zuback
Sat. (10th) **9:00am** Miles & Christine Shuya

5:00pm + Muriel Guy
7:00pm Russell Griffith

Sun. (11th) **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

9:00am + August Burant
11:00am Mass for the People



INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

WELCOME BACK!

Please follow these important notes:

- **Pre-registration for Saturday/Sunday Mass is required.** Online at www.stgerard.ca Monday morning to Thursday at 12 noon. Please note that confirmation of your request may be delayed.
- Each household must register separately.
- Masks are mandatory and are to be worn prior to entering the building. **Please arrive early.**
- *At least two-metres physical distance is to be observed at all times, even with masks on (masks are an additional measure of protection).*
- *Please follow the instructions of the Hospitality Ministers (Ushers) and Father Louis.*
- The following must stay home for the sake of the wider community:
 - ❖ People with COVID-19 symptoms, who live with someone with COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
 - ❖ Those who have travelled to/from a "hotspot", outside of the province or outside Canada within the last 14 days
 - ❖ Those who are waiting for COVID-19 test results



Stay Connected Online!
www.stgerard.ca



Lord, your resurrection pierces the darkness of doubt and fear. May the power of your resurrection help me to deepen my love for you and all people.

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

A Note from Rev. Mr. Dave Hudy

A Reflection on the Easter Triduum

Jesus' resurrection is the event that defines us as Christians! Think about it. If Jesus' resurrection had not happened, yes, we would still have Jesus' teachings to reflect on, but nothing more. Without the resurrection Jesus would have went down in history as just another of many 'would be messiahs'. He would have hardly made a dent in changing Jewish cultural and religious thinking. And, even less of a dent, or likely no dent at all, outside of Israel.

It's difficult to look at Jesus' resurrection without looking at Jesus' passion and death on the cross. The cross has become a symbol of the victory of our faith, yet in Jesus' time it was anything but symbol of victory. No, it was symbol of utter defeat, of torture and of failure! It's little wonder that the apostles had so much trouble grasping the concept. The cross was associated with the worst that could happen, and, often times, was used to get rid of the most despised and depraved people of humanity. Others were crucified to teach people that the Romans would not tolerate those who were considered to be their enemies.

Let's look closely what Jesus did with the cross. He changed it from being a symbol of utter failure into a symbol of total victory. And, he wants to do the same for us today, all of us, even the most despised and depraved members of society, even you and I when we are at our lowest, when we feel that we can't sink any lower. That's the meaning of the cross, just as Jesus moved the cross from being a symbol of desolation into a symbol of victory, so with his arms outstretched, he pulls each of us toward himself, even in our hours of greatest anguish. Just as he glorified the cross, so, too, can he bring glory to each of us no matter how low we sink.

In her book 'Urodivoi' Catherine Doherty describes a vision she had of Jesus coming down to meet people after the resurrection. He was dressed as an ordinary person and she could feel the love flowing from his heart to the heart of each man, woman, and child. Jesus, full of love, peace, and joy and happy to be with everyone. He seemed to embrace each person. What a beautiful image! Jesus is happy to join us, as one of us, and share the fruits of what he has won for us through the cross.

The resurrection is more than just an event in the course of time. Even Jesus, though he is God, was changed by the resurrection. When we receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist we are able to experience the fruits of this change. Jesus would not come to us in this form if it were not for the resurrection. The resurrection, also, changed the apostles! Through the Eucharist and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit the apostles were able to make sense of all Jesus had been telling them while he was with them before the resurrection.

Although you and I didn't personally witness the resurrection we can be changed in the same way. Each time we attend Mass we can allow ourselves to be willing participants in the changes Jesus wishes to perform in us. The change Jesus offers us, through his resurrection, doesn't cost us anything. While it may seem that we have to give up certain things, the truth is that these things are fleeting, anyway. The change that Jesus offers is everlasting, it's not just some short term reward, no, what Jesus gives will last until the end of this age and beyond!

May the peace of the Risen Jesus bring each of you joy and blessings this Easter season.

Deacon Dave Hudy

A Note from Your Pastor

Thank you everyone who helped to celebrate Easter, especially those who are new to their ministries.

And Happy Easter to everyone! May the Risen Lord be with you and your family, especially in this pandemic time.

Love, Father Louis

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



- 30 minutes before and after Weekday Mass (Tuesday – Friday),
 - Saturdays at **8:30 am**
- or by appointment. Phone: 306.782.2449

Blessing of Festive Foods



It is the tradition in many cultures for people to ask for God's blessing on the festive foods to be used at Easter.

When the Vigil was celebrated on Holy Saturday morning, the blessing of food followed. Now that the Easter vigil has been restored to the night hours, the blessing may be celebrated after the Vigil, on Easter Sunday, or later in the Easter season.

If a priest is not available, [or during the pandemic], the following may be used at home.

At the end of the blessing, if water from the Easter Vigil is available, the leader may sprinkle it over the food and the people.

Leader:

*Lord Jesus Christ,
after you were raised from the dead
you prepared food on a charcoal fire,
and invited your disciples to come and have
breakfast.*

*As we celebrate your resurrection,
come to our table:
open our eyes to your glorious presence,
our minds, to the holy Scriptures,
and bless our food so that we may joyfully
partake
in the sharing of the victory of your love
over hatred
and live over death,
for ever and ever.*

All: Amen

Blessings and Prayer, Concacan Inc., 2004



News from the Knights of Columbus



- Apr. 7th Executive meeting - 7:00 pm
(Virtual or Chambers TBD)
- Apr. 14th General Meeting – 7:00 pm
(Virtual or Chambers TBD)
- Apr. 25th Articles for “The Word” due

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

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

20th Annual Divine Mercy Conference

Due to the pandemic and social isolation we will have our conference at Our Lady of Peace Church available on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11th. You may participate on their website:
www.ourladyofpeaceregina.com

The Conference will be livestreamed at 1:30 PM and will begin with a welcome and presentation by Shirley Oleskiw, EADM Director, Adoration for one hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, accompanied with prayers: Litany of the Holy Eucharist, Praises of Divine Mercy, Litany to Saint Faustina, Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction. Following will be the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass celebrated by Very Rev. James Owolagba and his presentation at the homily. At the end of the Mass there will be a blessing with Saint Faustina's relic.

You can also visit our website EADMCANADA.COM under the conference page.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

An invitation to deepening Stewardship: The next Global Catholic Climate Movement **Laudato Si' Animator course** starts April 14th. In this 6 week program you will explore the deep truths and insights of the Holy Father's encyclical *Laudato Si'*. Join the growing movement of global Catholics concerned about the health of Our Common Home. Find support, resources, and a network to help you on your own journey to Caring for Creation so that future generations may enjoy some of what we enjoy today.

Register at <https://laudatosianimators.org>

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

Y	R	E	N	A	W	A	E	L	S	MARY	SEPULCHRE	EARTHQUAKE
A	R	K	J	E	S	O	J	G	E	ANGEL	STONE	ROBE
M	O	A	U	S	S	T	N	O	M	SNOW	JESUS	RISEN
N	B	U	M	U	S	I	O	S	A	AWE	JOY	GREETINGS
I	E	Q	U	S	T	Y	R	N	M			
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Bringing Home the Word **+**

Victory!

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Fr. Lorenzo Ricci, SJ, placed the painting, *The Resurrection* by Domenico Cresti, in the chapel commemorating the spot outside Rome where Ignatius had a vision confirming his desire to ask the pope to found the Jesuit order. It's significant because Fr. Lorenzo enthroned this painting as a symbolic act just before his order was suppressed throughout the Portuguese and Spanish Empires. It was one of their darkest hours.

We all have dark moments in our histories. It seems death will swallow us; that God has abandoned us, and there is no solution. The darkness in the painting suggests just that—the world of darkness and despair without the light of Christ. The soldiers sleep, the cold world waits below, and a once-strong trunk is dry and sapped of vigor.

Above, the beautiful Christ figure is surrounded in light, while he hoists the victory standard: the blood-red cross of martyrdom set upon the pure white of resurrection. He, like a new Moses, is leading them into the promised land of eternal life.

These contrasting scenes of darkness and light are the message of the painting and of the resurrection itself. Peter, John, and Mary Magdalene had locked themselves at home, engulfed in darkness, fear, and sadness. The next morning, they arrive to the tomb only to find it open and the body of their beloved Savior gone. Victory was being won even as they slept.

Entrust your ways to the Lord and he will act. God is at work winning your salvation! Do not let hope be vanquished! Hold on. Trust in him. Victory is right around the corner!

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ST. GERARD PARISH 2021-2022 PASTORAL AND FINANCE COUNCILS

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Break Open the Tomb

Lord of Easter's Promise,

I live in faith of the Resurrection, but such is the nature of my faith that so much of me remains entombed. Break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my compassion, break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my sense of mercy, break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my humility, break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my humanity, break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my love for my Heavenly Father, break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my sense of joy, break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my willingness to forgive, break open the tomb.

Lord, in you I've found a Savior no grave can withstand. Help me to roll away this stone and find the miracle of new life, that I may live more fully in your saving grace. Amen.

YOUTH REFLECTION

"The Folded Linen Cloths"

This Week...

To believe that Jesus rose from the dead is to believe in something that never happened before. Minds have to adjust to seeing things differently. Old ways of thinking have to be thrown out and new ways of thinking brought in. The Resurrection happened, Jesus is the Messiah, and the only remaining trace of death is the folded linen cloths left in the tomb.

For Your Reflection

Jesus' tomb was empty. It had even been cleaned up. The napkin and linen cloths were folded and rolled up neatly. Everything was left in order and taken care of. Jesus was clearly finished with this grave. No more of this "death business" for him. He left it totally behind, and was fully alive, never to now the sufferings of death again.

- Have you ever made a transition in life? Did you ever take a step and know that a part of your former life was totally behind you? What happened? How did you feel? Did you find yourself trying to take care of things or leave things in order in any way?

Obviously Mary, Peter, and the other disciples were close friends with one another and with Jesus. It is easy to picture the three of them running to the tomb together to be sure of what actually happened.

- Who are the Marys and Peters in your life? Have you ever hurried to get to some important place? Have you ever struggled with someone else to figure out what was really happening in an important situation that affected you or a friend of yours? What happened and how did that affect your relationship?

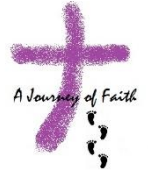
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter*, 2004



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.

The Healing and Growth Centre St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission

St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission – Searching for God's purpose in your life? Want to live life more fully, and take your faith to the next level? Then, come to St. Therese! At St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission, adults of all ages can explore their faith, discern their vocation in life, foster their prayer life and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. Visit on line at www.sttherese.ca

Rachel's Vineyard: a psychological and spiritual journey for healing after abortion.

Are you hurting because of an abortion? **Rachel's Vineyard** is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. For more information, please contact Elaine at 1.306.480.8911 or email r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY offers distance education courses for adults seeking faith formation for personal and professional development: ***Diploma in Ministry; Certificate in Lay Ministry; Come Let Us Worship: A course in liturgical foundations; Certificate in Spirituality; and Diploma in Intellectual Disability Studies.***

For an information package please contact Continuing & Distance Education, St. Francis Xavier University, toll free 1-877-867-5562, diplomainministry@stfx.ca