



# St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Twentieth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

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. Sathi Antony	306.782.2449	Office
		306.782.0323	Rectory
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	<a href="mailto:office@stgerard.ca">office@stgerard.ca</a>

## MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (21<sup>st</sup>) NO MASS  
 Tues. (22<sup>nd</sup>) 7:00pm Sabadash Family  
 Wed. (23<sup>rd</sup>) 9:00am Lorraine Flunder  
     *Followed by Divine Mercy Devotion*  
     10:00am **NURSING HOME (NORTH)**  
 Thurs. (24<sup>th</sup>) 9:00am +Walter Wintonyk  
     2:30pm **BENTLEY SENIORS' RES.**  
 Fri. (25<sup>th</sup>) 9:00am Todos Family  
 Sat. (26<sup>th</sup>) 9:00am Mary Ryhorski

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5:00pm +Gerald Lund  
 7:00pm **GOOD SPIRIT LAKE HALL**  
 Sun. (27<sup>th</sup>) **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**  
     9:00am +Mark Banga  
     11:00am Mass for the People

**Holy Hour Devotion**  
at 6pm (prior to 7pm Tuesday Mass)

**Reconciliation**  
½ hour before Mass Tuesday-Friday (or by appt.)

The Most Reverend Donald Bolen,  
Archbishop of Regina  
will install

**Father Sathi Antony**

as Pastor of St. Gerard's Church

**Saturday, September 2, 2023**  
at the 5:00pm Mass.

All parishioners  
are encouraged to attend.



**New to the parish?? WELCOME!!!**

Please complete a New Parishioner Form and place it in the collection basket at Mass. Or stop by the Parish Office. We'd love to meet you!

**Stay  
Connected  
Online!**

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



God of all nations, hear the prayers of your people this day and unite our prayers to those of believers everywhere. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

-The Redemptorists

## SUNDAY CONNECTION

### First Reading

*Isaiah 56.1,6-7*

The Lord reveals his salvation to all.

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 67.2-3,5-6,8*

All the nations will praise God.

### Second Reading

*Romans 11.13-15,29-32*

God's favour to Israel is irrevocable.

### Gospel Reading

*Matthew 15.21-28*

Jesus heals the daughter of the Canaanite woman because of her great faith.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel. Last week we read about Jesus walking on the water and the disciples' confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew's entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean.

Knowing about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today's Gospel. In fact, the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus' exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, "dog." But the woman cleverly turns Jesus' insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus' unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today's Gospel, do

we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world.

Behind Matthew's text we can hear this early Christian community's struggle to understand how God's selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles' acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today's second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.

## FAMILY CONNECTION

Even when spurned by Jesus, the faith of the Canaanite woman makes her bold enough to argue and ask again for what she needs. Her persistence and great confidence that Jesus could heal her daughter reminds us of the confidence with which our children bring to us their own needs. In their faith and trust we can find modern examples of how we might approach God in prayer.

As a family recall some times when a request for something was presented by one family member to another with confidence and persistence. If the request was denied, talk about why that was so. If the request was eventually granted, talk about what led to the change of heart. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 15:21-28. Was anyone surprised by Jesus' response to the Canaanite woman? Why or why not? What makes Jesus change his mind and heal the woman's daughter? When we pray, God wants us to be as confident in his mercy. Invite family members to identify the things that they most need from God. Pray these prayers of petition together as a family, confident that God will hear and answer your prayers.



## BAPTISM

*The First Sacrament of Initiation*

To register for the next Baptism Preparation session, please contact the Parish Office 306.782.2449.

**ST GERARD CHURCH**

**SACRAMENT PREPARATION PROGRAM 2023 - 2024**

**FIRST RECONCILIATION  
CONFIRMATION  
FIRST EUCHARIST**

**GRADE 2 AND UP**

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO REGISTER

EMAIL US AT [OFFICE@STGERARD.CA](mailto:OFFICE@STGERARD.CA)

BEFORE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>



*Congratulations to*

***Audrey Santos & Katherine Valencia***

*who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage  
Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at St. Gerard's Church*

***May the Lord be with them  
every day of their married life.***



### News from the Knights of Columbus



August 27      Bingo-evening-5pm

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



Welcome!!

### **New to the parish?? WELCOME!!!**

Please complete a New Parishioner Form and place it in the collection basket at Mass. Or stop by the Parish Office. We'd love to meet you!

## Catechism Theme: Social Justice (CCC 1928-1942)

Respect for the God-given dignity of the person must underlie any sense of justice. The dignity of the person is the only legitimate end in any society. The rights of the individual precede the rights of the state, or the rights of the majority within a society. If the state or the majority do not insure the dignity of the individual, they lose moral legitimacy.

Respect for the individual transcends mere legal means. Those in society must foster the virtue of solidarity: to treat others as self. This includes the poor, the disadvantaged, the illiterate. This also includes those who look, think, or act differently. Prejudice based upon social or cultural differences is incompatible with God's plan.

God distributed talents and wealth for the good of all, not for the benefit of the few. Solidarity demands a distribution of wealth that benefits all people. It asks sacrifice from the few not only financially, but also in services rendered. Those with time, talent, and treasure should contribute to the benefit of all.

The end of solidarity is not the merely a sense of equity between members of a society. Solidarity transcends the material need. The virtue bonds people from different social backgrounds, classes, and cultures together in a common purpose that finds its source in faith.

*When was the last time you reached out to others different from you? When did you serve the poor, the sick, or the needy? How did that experience change you?*

God made us all in his image. We all possess the power to choose. When we choose to serve others, especially those different from ourselves, we choose to be formed in God's likeness. Because we serve God's creatures in the same way God serves them, we take on divine qualities. We take steps closer to his likeness.

Prejudice, injustice, and social separation promote the likeness of the demon. To battle this image, we all need the faith of the Canaanite woman whose loyalty broke down barriers. May our prayer be as persistent as hers and our trust as strong.

*A wise person once said: "We all have prejudices. What we do with them is the important issue." Consider your own prejudices. What plan do you have this week to battle one or two of them?*

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Bringing Home  
the Word **+**

### **Insider Versus Outsider**

*By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

Our need to belong often creates community. As nurturing and supportive as communities can be, they can also be exclusive, concerned only with the insiders and marginalizing the outsiders. Today's readings depict something remarkable. We read that foreigners, or outsiders, enjoy hospitality and privilege that one would expect only insiders to receive.

The prophet Isaiah states that even foreigners will worship in the temple. This is not a story after conversion to the religion of Israel, but of Israel taking a step toward universality: "My house shall be called / a house of prayer for all peoples" (Isaiah 56:7).

The Gospel story recounts a discussion between Jesus and a Canaanite woman. She was doubly marginalized— as an inferior woman and as a despised Canaanite. Yet, her love for her daughter compelled her to approach Jesus, pleading for help—something a "proper" Jewish woman would never do to a man, nor a Canaanite to a Jew. Many in Israel certainly had a sense of exclusivity, and a disdain for the Canaanites. Those may be evident in Jesus' reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 15:24). But we can be sure that Jesus—God's love in the flesh—didn't share his countrymen's disdain for anyone. The woman, having heard that Jesus was a healer, remains undaunted. She crosses restrictive gender and ethnic lines in her search for help. Jesus finally praises her, not for her love, but for the faith that her love engendered. And she was a Canaanite!

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### **News from the Archdiocese of Regina**

**Go Make Disciples** Strengthen your faith and leadership skills through the Archdiocese of Regina's Lay Formation Program! Join us this fall for a 3-year program that will help you deepen your spiritual life and discern how best to offer your gifts in service to the people of God. We are currently accepting applications for our fall intake. For more information on how to register, contact Deacon Eric Gurash at 306-352-1651 ext 6724 or email him at [egurash@archregina.sk.ca](mailto:egurash@archregina.sk.ca)

### **CHURCH CARETAKER POSITION AVAILABLE**

Our parish is in search of a caretaker:

- roughly 30 hours per week (flexible)
- care and maintenance of the entire church, rectory, and grounds
- interviews will be arranged for the selected individuals made by Parish Finance Council
- stop by the Parish Office for a copy of the job description/duties

Please hand in resumes at the Parish Office or email Nathan Bewcyk at:

[nate.bewcyk@gmail.com](mailto:nate.bewcyk@gmail.com)

Deadline: August 26, 2023

### **RECTORY HOUSEKEEPER POSITION AVAILABLE**

Our parish is in search of housekeeper for our Rectory:

- roughly 3 hours every two weeks (casual position)
- keeping the Rectory tidy
- duties will be small and pre-arranged based on Father Antony's recommendations during each bi-week

Please hand in resumes or a letter of application at the Parish Office or email Nathan Bewcyk at [nate.bewcyk@gmail.com](mailto:nate.bewcyk@gmail.com)

Deadline: August 26, 2023

Nathan Bewcyk, Finance Council Chairperson  
Mark Bell, Pastoral Council Chairperson  
Fr. Sathi Antony, Pastor

### **LET US PRAY...**

In these last weeks of summer, Lord, we ask your blessing on this season of rest and relaxation.

We thank you for slower hours, gentle conversations, picnics, and time outdoors in your Creation.

May we be more appreciative of the beauty around us, especially in the children of God we meet every day. Amen.

## ***HOMILY PROCLAIMED***

**19th Sunday August 13, 2023**

1 Kings 19:9.11-13; Rom:9:1-5 Mt:14:22-33

God comes to us in gentle little ways and is present when we need him the most. He expects from us the openness to call on him for help and he will be there to support and guide us. He wants us to be aware of his voice in our life which often goes unnoticed. Our confidence that Jesus is always there presents extending his guiding and supporting hand builds up our faith.

In the Gospel Jesus miraculously saves the frightened disciples. They were caught in the midst of a storm and Jesus comes to them walking on water. They are far out on the lake by now, battling with a heavy sea and fighting a strong headwind. They are there in the lake without Jesus. Matthew gives us the vivid picture of Jesus walking on water towards the boat containing his struggling disciples in the storm. They do not recognize him. They are terrified and quickly conclude that he is a ghost. In our lives too, there are times when we misunderstand God's presence through others. Let us pray that our trust in Him will be strong in any circumstances of our lives that we will be saved.

In the first reading prophet Elijah stands at a significant threshold in his career as a prophet. He had been a great prophet. His victory over the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel and the execution of four hundred of them, had incurred the wrath of Queen Jezebel. He moves away to Mount Horeb, the Mountain of the Lord and is instructed to await God's passing before him. The prophet sees or hears three natural dramatic phenomena associated with God's presence. First there is the driving wind. This is followed by an earthquake. Finally, there is a blazing fire. After this came the most ordinary of events, namely, a tiny whispering Sound. In this most simple gentle breeze, the prophet discovers God's presence, realizing the divine presence and worshipped him.

In the second reading St. Paul enumerates the tremendous privileges enjoyed by us, the first of these privileges is the adoption, by which we are the children of God. Let us live our lives that we are the children of God.

Blessings to everyone.

# Cultivating Prayer in the Family

Greetings!

We know prayer is important. We gather on Sunday to pray together at Mass. We thank God at mealtimes. We might start the day with the Rosary and end it asking God to watch over the ones we love. Yet teaching prayer can be difficult. Because of self-consciousness about our prayer, we do not feel able to cultivate prayer in others. Fortunately, like prayer itself, we learn to teach prayer through practice. The following will help families cultivate prayer:

- Take your children to Mass from an early age. Children learn full and active participation in the liturgy through fully and actively participating. Young children, developmentally primed for acquiring language, also find the language that will become their personal prayer from the Mass.

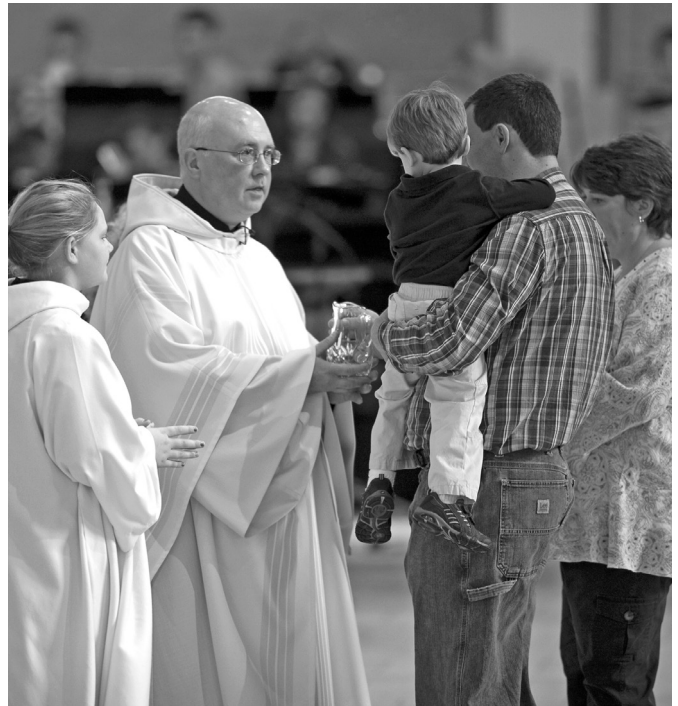
## Like prayer itself, we learn to teach prayer through practice.

- Pray at mealtimes. Our family prays the classic Grace before Meals. Keeping this prayer as a constant—while adding to it for particular feasts, seasons, and family occasions, like the celebration of a baptismal anniversary—guarantees that we are, even on our busiest day, thanking God for our many blessings.

- Set aside time for family prayer, even if it is just once a week. Don't be too concerned with outward expressions of reverence. Children need to move their bodies. Include rote prayers. Memorized prayers are acquired more easily when they are prayed together.

- Allow children to take leadership roles in family prayer. They might choose a song to sing together, and an older child might like to read from the Bible or write intentions.

- Model prayer. My friend begins her day with the Rosary, and occasionally one of her children joins her, often just sitting near his mom while she prays. I pray the Rosary before I fall asleep, as my grandmother did every day. I feel



When young children attend Mass, they find the language for prayer that will become their personal prayer.

my prayer connect to hers, though she is gone from this world. This was a model for me, and it is a model for my children.

- Designate a particular time of day for individual prayer to emphasize its importance.
- Encourage thanksgiving. A child whose natural prayer of thanksgiving is honored and cultivated will maintain this prayer long after other prayers have been learned and incorporated.

Perhaps we might feel more satisfied with our prayer life if we took our cues from “these little ones,” thanking God abundantly for the many gifts we have received each day.