



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

August 22nd, 2021

Twenty-first 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

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	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (23 rd)	NO MASS
Tues. (24 th)	7:00pm +Donna Olshewski
Wed. (25 th)	9:00am +Marie Bihun
	10:30am NURSING HOME (NORTH) +Mrs. McGrath
Thurs. (26 th)	9:00am CTCS OPENING MASS (SHHS) FOR TEACHERS & STAFF +Horace & +Mildred Jackson
	2:30pm BENTLEY RETIREMENT COMMUNITY +Bernard Matsalla
Fri. (27 th)	9:00am +Ferdinand Thiele
Sat. (28 th)	9:00am Margaret Sikora
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	5:00pm +Mark Banga
	7:00pm GOOD SPIRIT LAKE HALL +Naphin & +Tedeschi families
Sun. (29 th)	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	9:00am +Anna Marie Zepp
	11:00am Mass for the People

WELCOME BACK!

Please note the following changes for our parish per the Archdiocese of Regina guidelines:

- The faithful continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation until September 1, 2021
- Registration for Mass is no longer required
- Masks and hand sanitizer will be provided. Their use is optional (but encouraged)
- Please sit in the pews that have hymnals so that people are not crowded together
- The choir and singing will resume. If you are not comfortable with singing in a public gathering, you are encouraged to wear a mask
- Holy water will not be available in the Baptismal font at this time
- We will not shake hands when we share the sign of peace
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection will continue

PLEASE COME! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Colleen Haider, Marie Kruger, and the Liturgical Committee



Stay
Connected
Online!
www.stgerard.ca



Lord, you have the words of eternal life. Help me believe and trust in the power of your Word.

- From *Faithful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

A Note from Your Pastor

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In the Gospel reading from two Sundays ago we heard that the Jewish people did not accept and believe that Jesus is "*the bread that has come down from heaven*". This weekend John continues to tell us that story: Jesus claims that "*Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.*" After hearing these words some of the disciples say "*This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?*" Some of them turned back and no longer went with Jesus. His message is so difficult, so shocking to them, and then some of his disciples simply refuse to accept it.

It is obvious that Jesus' message for this weekend is to talk about the Eucharist as the moment of decision for those who follow him because it not only requires understanding but faith.

We are surprised because many of the disciples have witnessed the incredible miracle of the multiplication of the loaves before. But when Jesus tells them about his plan to become truly present in the bread and wine so that his divine life will become their nourishment, immediately they turn away from him.

What is going to happen next? Jesus looks at his disciples, the group of twelve, the ones he has chosen to become the foundation for his Church. He turns to them and asks them: "*Do you also wish to go away?*" He doesn't offer some kind of explanation in order to convince them to stay. He just simply asks them the question and lets them decide.

My dear sisters and brothers, based on the answer of Peter, there is a lesson that we should all consider in our own life of faith: belief is supported by grace, and it is through belief that we would be able to understand some of the deepest mysteries of God.

If we try to start with questions or reasons not to believe, some truths of God will remain out of reach for us. We will fall back on the certainties we know, as happened with some of the disciples when they turned away from Jesus in the Gospel today.

When Jesus asks "*Do you also wish to go away?*" Peter responds to him: "*Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.*" Believing leads to confidence, believing brings strength, a strength in mind and spirit. We can live a life of faith without understanding it thoroughly and, somehow, it all fits together.

We should be aware that God allows us to be free to accept or reject the gift of faith, a gift that we cannot create on our own. It is a gift that always begins with God, comes from God. Jesus clearly confirms it when he says: "*no one can come to me unless it is granted to him by my Father*".

But the choice to accept or reject that gift, to follow Jesus or to turn away from him, remains with each individual: "*Do you also wish to go away?*" Jesus is the Lord of life, but he would never push his rule on the hearts of those who want to stop accompanying him and return to their former way of life.

Through Jesus, God gives us the gift of life, he also gives us freedom to use this gift as we wish, either in communion with him, or not. How near God draws us to him in Jesus Christ! He humbles himself, makes himself weak, almost powerless in human form. He doesn't take freedom away from us, we have our own choice. But remember, he wants to accompany us on our journey forever.

"*Do you also wish to go away?*" We might hear the same question in our hearts, in our minds. Each of us has to give the answer by ourselves. We might say that: No, I will not leave you for I am confident in you, for I believe you are the source of life, and for I know that only you can lead me to eternal life.

It is what I would like to share with you. I would like to invite you all to continue to reflect and think of it more in order to go deeper and deeper in your minds and hearts.

I wish all of you a very blessed happy weekend. Love you all.

Fr. Louis Nguyen



We welcome into our
Catholic Christian Community
those who were baptized
recently at St. Gerard:

Leona Mendoza
Ayva & Liam Leppington

**May these children and their families
experience joy and new life.**



Congratulations to

Zachary Malayney & Melissa Higgins

who were married at St. Gerard on August 14th.

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

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



- 30 minutes before and after Daily Mass (Tuesday – Friday)
- Saturdays at **8:30 am** or by appt.



Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!

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



POLKA MASS
Sunday, August 29th
11:00 am



WELCOMERS, LECTORS, HOSPITALITY MINISTERS (USHERS)

The September–December schedules will be available for pick up in the Sacristy next weekend for those who do not have an email address.

If you were not on the most recent schedule and would like to be added to the new one, please contact the Parish Office **by Thursday, August 26.** Phone 306.782.2449/email office@stgerard.ca



News from the CWL



St. Gerard's C.W.L. will not be having a Garage Sale this fall. Watch the bulletin for more updates.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Aug. 22

Evening Bingo

Aug. 25

Inter-council Golf at 1pm (Deer Park).
Call Steve Popowich @ 306.521.1600
or Terry Ruf @ 306.621.3154



Contact Jeff Krasowski, GPD K of C
Council No. 2031 at 306.621.8640 or
krasowskijeff38@gmail.com for more
information.

*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

Reconciliation and healing for residential school survivors and their communities– financial appeal announced by Saskatchewan bishops:

The five Catholic bishops of Saskatchewan on July 13 released more details about a planned fund-raising appeal entitled “Catholic TRC healing response.” The Saskatchewan bishops said that the appeal’s goal is “to support Residential School survivors and their communities and to engage more deeply in our own ongoing commitment and response to the Truth and Reconciliation process” with funds going to the priorities of healing and reconciliation; cemeteries on the sites of former residential schools; and education and cultural support. “We are collaborating with potential participants, and consulting with Indigenous dialogue partners, including Survivors, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Chiefs, and other community members.

Out of these conversations, each diocese and eparchy will discern and communicate separately how they will proceed with the Appeal in their respective dioceses and communities,” said the bishops.

For those who wish to donate immediately or make a long-term pledge, see the online giving options at: <https://dscf.ca/catholic-trc-healing-response>

NEW TO THE PARISH? WELCOME!

Please complete a parish registration form, available in the Welcome Area and online at www.stgerard.ca





Bringing Home the Word **+**

Our Legacy of Faith

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

We all want to leave a legacy, to be remembered when we're gone. A legacy comes from faithfully and lovingly living your convictions. Joshua challenges the Israelites, making a definitive statement as their leader and head of his family: "We will serve the LORD." Notice that it isn't a question of *if* you will serve someone, but *who* you will serve.

The easiest way to find out who you are serving is to look where your heart, thoughts, and worries are. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be" (Matthew 6:21).

Peter also had this hard choice placed to him, and he spoke up as the first pope, the head of a family of believers. When Jesus revealed the doctrine of the Eucharist, that it was truly his body and blood, many left him over this difficult saying.

Jesus asks the apostles if they want to leave, too. He could have said this was just a symbol—that those who left had misunderstood. But he doesn't change his teaching. He merely asks the apostles if they accept and believe him.

Peter's answer, like Joshua's, is a fundamental option. He finds in Jesus' words eternal life. There is nowhere else to go when you have tasted the goodness and truth of Jesus. As hard as some of those truths may be, for Peter there is no turning away. Following Jesus faithfully will lead him to lay down his life for Jesus, crucified upside down, and buried on Vatican Hill where you can visit his tomb today. How's that for a legacy?

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STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"The disappearance of a culture can be just as serious as, or even more serious than, the disappearance of a species of plant or animal" (LS, no. 145). As Pope Francis puts it, "Ecology, then, also involves protecting the cultural treasures of humanity in the broadest sense. More specifically, it calls for greater attention to local cultures when studying environmental problems" (LS, no. 143).

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

Catechism Theme: Wounds to Christian Unity (CCC 817)

Faith in Christ does indeed bring scandal. But many leave the Catholic Church or Christianity itself because of sinfulness. Power, possessions, and position can drive more away than the scandal of faith. Each must take responsibility for his or her actions and their consequences, no matter which side he or she may stand.

But, just because one leaves the Church or joins another congregation does not mean God has rejected him or her. Those in other Churches and ecclesial communities offer their followers means of sanctification: God's written word and a life of grace (the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity, along with the gifts of the Spirit). Those washed in the waters of Baptism and living a life of faith have the right to be called Christian. Even those who reject Christ and his Church are called to return by means we may never know. So, those who leave the Catholic Church for another community, and those who leave Christianity altogether need to be treated with respect and charity, not distance and disdain. For our actions may be part of God's plan that will eventually bring the lost back to Christ and the fullness of Christian life.

Do you know of someone who has left the Church or rejected Christ? What sort of relationship do you have with that person? How can you help them return?

In an era of "cafeteria Christianity" let us remember why we are Catholics, but let us also empathize with those who have doubts. Let us lead those in a faith crisis by prayer, compassion, and honesty. Finally, let us remember that faith and faithfulness are gifts from God. We cannot impose them on others.

Take a moment to reflect on your relationship with Christ. How has your trust in Jesus grown with your maturity in the Christian life? Where would you like to take that relationship? Where do you think Christ wants to take that relationship? Take a few steps closer to Christ this week.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues. (24th): 7:30 pm- Finance Council Meeting
Wed. (25th): 7:00 pm- Pastoral Council Meeting

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Serving God"

This Week...

God has always been faithful and loyal to us. The question is this: Will we be faithful? Joshua directs that pointed question to the tribes of Israel. They choose to follow the God who led them and their ancestors out of Egypt. Jesus asks that pointed question as well. Simon Peter's famous reply is, "To whom shall we go?" In other words, there is no one else to follow. Paul asks husbands and wives to be loyal and faithful to each other the way the church is to be faithful to Jesus. Loyalty and faithfulness start in the home, with the family.

For Your Reflection

When Joshua tells the tribes of Israelites that he and his family have chosen to serve the one true God, he is able to speak on behalf of his wife and children. In his culture children and women are property. Whatever the husband and father says the wife and children have to agree with.

- Do you disagree with any of the opinions that your parents have? Do you and your parents have the same preferences in the area of religious beliefs and practices? Or do you have different styles of faith and prayer? If there are differences, how are they dealt with at home?
- Do you think that life would be simpler, better and easier if all children were required to agree with their parents and go along with whatever they say? Why or why not?
- When children disagree with parents, what are some respectful and courteous ways to communicate with parents and discuss important issues? How can children and parents get along and deal with huge differences that can separate them and cause negative feelings?

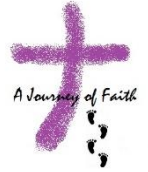
Excerpt adapted from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle B for Ordinary Time* - St. Mary's Press, 2005



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