



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

August 29th, 2021

Twenty-second
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. (30 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (31 st)	7:00pm Special Intentions
Wed. (1 st)	9:00am +Art Scherr
Thurs. (2 nd)	9:00am Darlene Jakubowski 2:30pm GLADSTONE SENIORS' RES Agnes Zuback
Fri. (3 rd)	9:00am +Donna Olshewski
Sat. (4 th)	9:00am +Ferdinand Thiele

5:00pm +Don Forer
7:00pm **GOOD SPIRIT LAKE HALL**
+Naphin & +Tedeschi families

Sun. (5 th)	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9:00am +Bienvenido Bacalso 11:00am Mass for the People
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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



Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!

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



Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, you come from the heart of the Trinity. Give me a pure heart, that I may reflect goodness and love.

- 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,

Do you know that God cares more about what happens on the inside of our lives than what happens on the outside? He really wants our hearts to belong to him. That is what Jesus is trying to explain to the Pharisees, to all his disciples, and to us, as well, in the Gospel today.

If we do a quick review of the readings, we see that the source of good and evil is in the heart, not in external things. The heart is our inner sanctum where we can be pure or defiled, and both conditions try to go beyond their confines to influence the lives of others.

The first reading reminds us that the purpose of the Law is to enable us to grow closer to God and to show our intelligence and wisdom. Moses reminds people that the Law is to be followed so that they not only have intelligence and wisdom but they are to demonstrate it.

In the second reading St. James says to us that to please God we should strive “to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world”. How can we take care of the orphans and widows if we are selfish or self-centered? We cannot do this if we do not have an open heart and a concern for others.

The world in which we live believes that “if it feels good, do it.” But the world is also witnessing a great amount of destructive behavior that comes from following that principle.

We are wounded by original sin and our own sins when we use our freedom to choose to do wrong. We know that not everything that feels good is good. For example, addicts destroy themselves by trying to feel good in a harmful way.

The Pharisees in the Gospel were focused on externals and had lost sight of the bigger picture. Jesus reminds us that defilement comes from hearts and endangers other hearts, and we should strive to maintain a purity of heart, not just ritual cleanliness.

The heart is the place where we decide for or against our conscience, for or against God's will. Today we are reminded that our friendship with Christ, and the purpose, strength, and vigor that comes out of that friendship, depends on our own inner commitment to him.

God doesn't care what we look like to others; he cares about who we really are, and so, that is what we should care about too.

Therefore, we would say that the true followers of Jesus Christ can never be satisfied with merely exterior piety; we can never consider ourselves superior to others just because our sins are less visible. True religion has external manifestations, certainly, but they are meant to flow from and give expression to the experience of the heart.

Let us pray that we will pay more attention to what is inside of us. We need a humble, a contrite and a sincere heart. We pray that we would be aware that God cares more about what happens on the inside of our lives than what happens on the outside, he “desires mercy and not sacrifice.” (Mt 12.7)

Have a blessed weekend to you all.

Fr. Louis Nguyen

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



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



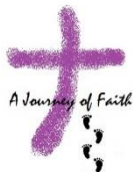
RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) is an incredible journey of discovery, the discovery of God's love in Jesus. If you or someone you know is interested in exploring the friendship and saving grace of Jesus

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.

NEW TO THE PARISH? WELCOME!

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



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

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Family Traditions and God's Love

Jesus and the Pharisees did not merely fight over hygiene. They fought over the means to spiritual purity. The Pharisees insisted purity meant being different from non-Jews, to act and live separately. Jews were to wash as a transition from contact with the secular world to a meal where God was present. For Jews, meal time was prayer time and community time. A time to be with God and his chosen people. Jesus, however, pointed away from rituals that defined religious life and focused upon the heart. For Jesus, this was the focal point of the spiritual life.

We still fight this battle today. Some show off their spiritual "maturity" through behaviors (gestures, prayer practices, habitual rituals). There is nothing wrong with these behaviors. In fact, they should be encouraged, but only as a means to an end, not as an end in themselves. Behaviors do not make us holy. A relationship with God does. That relationship begins with the heart.

During your family prayers, take a few moments and discuss God's love for your family. Tell them it's more important than anything you or your family could do for God. All the prayers or rituals or gestures in the world are useless if they mark points of pride. But, they have infinite value if they lead us to God and his loving heart.

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A Profound Connection

By Kathleen M. Basi

I was young when my great-grandparents passed away. I remember being afraid of them. I was intimidated by their vast age and had difficulty communicating with them.

So, it has been a beautiful thing for me to see my children developing relationships with their great-grandmothers—relationships that cross the boundaries of this world. They prayed for my grandmother before she died, and they pray for her now, two years after her death.

In a world that depends on the tangible and measurable, even people of faith sometimes shy away from praying for the dead. What, really, is the point? They're dead! Yet popular inspirational culture is peppered with stories of people who sense that their loved ones are still with them.

As Catholics, we have inherited a beautifully holistic approach to death and resurrection. Believing in eternal life means those we love are dead only in the body. They're still able to care about us... and it is still worth praying for them.

Our Catholic faith also gives us a realistic perspective on holiness. We know how few of us are really worthy of the kingdom when we die—yet we also believe that God is too merciful to condemn us for all eternity. Just as we prayed for those we love in life, so we pray for them in death.

Even more beautifully, we can ask them to pray for us. That's a pretty wonderful thing. Those who formed us in faith—not only family members but also teachers and mentors—are still in our lives. We talk a lot about the role of saints as inspiration for daily living, but it's those we knew in person who influence us most. We find ourselves repeating our fathers' wisdom, our mothers' mannerisms, and pondering the life philosophy of the grandmother whose sugar jar we dip into while making cookies.

I'm not saying anything new here, but it bears repeating. Catholics may not suffer from overt discrimination these days, but we are still very aware of the ways in which our beliefs don't quite jibe with those of the broader Christian culture. We can be hesitant to embrace the profound connection between us and the communion of saints—both the big "S" and the little "s" varieties.

Today is as good a time as any to reconnect with those who have gone before—to remember what they taught us, to imagine them standing by our side at our toughest moments, whispering the advice we treasured (or perhaps didn't treasure enough) when they were here in the flesh. This month, try to remember—and we will be better Christians because of it.

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STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

We begin the Season of Creation on Sept 1st with World Day of Prayer for Creation; Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so. (Gen 1:29 -30)

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

Lord, dwell among us as we open our lives to you and welcome you into the homes of our hearts.

Inspire us to bring you into the darkest places, that we might step past being afraid of your punishment, instead of being satisfied only with growing in the freedom of being loved and shaped by you.

Amen.



YOUTH REFLECTION

"Purity of Heart"

This Week...

Moses wants the people to blend the spirit of the law with the letter of the law. Following the Commandments is important because of the effect it will have on the people. They will be better people because of the choices they make. Jesus makes a distinction between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law. Those who criticize him are far more concerned with the letter of the law - following the cleansing rituals in order to remain ritually clean. Jesus is more concerned with the spirit of the law - doing those things that are virtuous and avoiding those things that are sinful. Anything else is hypocrisy. We cannot become "unclean" from anything we touch or eat. Our cleanliness (or uncleanness) comes from the inside. James emphasizes a similar point. Acting on the word makes all the difference. We know we are doing what God wants when we take action, and not when we merely hear about the action we ought to be taking.

For Your Reflection

Jesus emphasizes the purity that is in our hearts and the purity reflected by our actions. The people criticizing him emphasize the appearance of purity and the cleansing rituals required by Law in order to avoid becoming "ritually unclean."

- How much time, money and energy is invested in cosmetics, hair products, fashionable clothing, and the like - just so we have the appearance of being popular and successful? Can any of these products actually make someone a better person? How so? What would Jesus say about our addiction to these products?

- As a society and a culture, do you think we are more interested in actual success or in the appearance of success? What is your definition of success?

- How much energy of effort goes into making ourselves better people? What opportunities are there for people to address what's on the inside of a person? What steps do you take (or can you take) to improve yourself from the inside out?

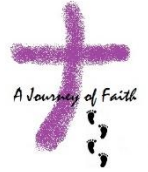
Excerpt adapted from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle B for Ordinary Time* - St. Mary's Press, 2005



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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