

ST. GERARD PARISH ~ 2017-2018 ~ PASTORAL AND FINANCE COUNCILS

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**Catechism Themes: The Transfiguration (CCC 554-556)
and The Revelation of God (CCC 51-67)**

The Transfiguration was a moment of revelation, a grace-filled moment of clarity for the disciples. But it was only a moment along the journey of their lives.

The all-powerful and unknowable God revealed himself gradually to his people. God showed himself through the majesty and beauty of his creation. In spite of humanity’s sin and folly, God still revealed his care for all creatures. He made covenants with the upright, like Noah and Abraham. He blessed his people with a leader, (Moses), a Law, and a Land. He sent judges to seek the right, kings to rule with honor, and prophets to return the lost. Along the way, there were divine moments of great clarity.

All of God’s activity points to Jesus, for he sums up the totality of God’s revelation. In Christ, we know the Father intimately. In Christ, we know his Word, his will, his purpose. In Christ, we know his love. Like the Transfiguration, we may see our life with the Father in Christ snap into focus. But, there will be other times away from the mountain, times of struggle and darkness, times of reflection and prayer. We need this time to fully realize so overwhelming a gift as the Father’s grace.

Just as in our lives, so to the Church needs time to unfold the full value of God’s revelation in Christ. The totality of revelation lies in the Church, but its significance has not been made fully explicit. While revelation ended with the death of the last apostle, the Church constantly realizes and proclaims anew what intimacy with the Father in Christ truly means. The Church proclaims Christ’s transfiguration as it is transfigured by God’s grace.

How has God called to me in my life? What changes do I see now from his call?

Yes, the transfiguration amazed Peter, James, and John. The amazement, however, led to fear of losing control and the peace that came with trusting God, not the entertaining awes of simple disbelief. The amazement helped change Jesus disciples from common fishermen to uncommon apostles.

As Jesus reveals himself to us (as he did to the three disciples), he changes us. Revelation can shake us up. It can mean losing control of a situation, only to be opened to new opportunities of grace. In small ways and large, Jesus constantly calls to us for a deeper walk with him. Do we heed the call and take the chance?

How is God calling me now? What can I do to hear that call?



SACRAMENTS of INITIATION PREPARATION



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

CONFIRMATION

The Second Sacrament of Initiation

FIRST EUCHARIST

The Third Sacrament of Initiation

**** If you have a child who is in Grade 2 or older and has not received the sacraments of initiation, please contact the Parish Office to ensure that you are registered with the parish.****

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

Do you know that the Archdiocese of Regina publishes a bulletin?

Check it out online at www.stgerard.ca Click on the "Archdiocesan News" icon on the homepage.

Archdiocese of Regina Annual Pilgrimage Sites

Aug. 12&13 Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Kronau
Aug. 14&15 Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, Rama
Aug. 20 Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Kaposvar

For more information, including directions to the sites, visit <https://archregina.sk.ca/archbishop-elect-donald-bolen/annual-pilgrimage-sites>



Parish-Based Catechetical Home Program



Does your child attend public school?

Please contact the Parish Office by August 15th to register your child for the parish-based home program that is offered at St. Gerard.



We welcome into our Catholic Christian Community

Livia Kitzul

who was baptized recently at St. Gerard.

May this child and her family experience joy and new life.

Are you called to visit the sick, elderly or homebound?

"Ministry of Care Training" (sponsored by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina) is open to all faith communities.

This one-day program is an introduction to those who would like to know more about being a Spiritual Care Visitor within a health care facility but also valuable for parish/church home and nursing home ministry. The workshop will be held at Christ the King Parish (3239 Garnet Street, Regina), Saturday, September 9, 2017 (registration 8:00 a.m. until about 4:00 p.m.). Cost \$25 (includes lunch).

Please contact Karen Ziegler at 306-766-5991 or Susan Askin at 639-625-7092 for further information or for a registration form.

The Archdiocese of Regina Lay Formation Program

Mission-Discipleship-Service-Faith

One weekend per month from October until June, Catholics who want to know, love and serve Christ more deeply come together at Campion College in Regina. Are you ready to fall more deeply in love with Jesus Christ and his Church?

We are currently accepting applications for the Fall intake of this three-year program. For more information or to register, please contact our Program Coordinator, Eric Gurash at 306-325-1651 Ext. 211 or email him at egurash@archregina.sk.ca

Spanish Mass is usually held once a month on the second Sunday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at St. Cecilia Parish, 5020 - 7th Avenue, Regina.

There is a change for August. Mass will be August 20. All are welcome!



News from the CWL



Garage Sale items can be dropped off using the 4th Avenue entrance Monday to Friday from 8am to noon and 1pm to 4pm.

If you require assistance, please contact Rosella at 306.782.7042.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Aug. 16 Evening bingo
Aug. 24 Inter-council Golf Tournament

For more info. re: the golf tournament, please call Jeff at 306.621.8640

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Brian @ 306.730.7083 or 306.730.7017 after 5pm (or leave a message). More info.: www.kofc-2031.ca



Bringing Home the Word

Climbing the Mountain

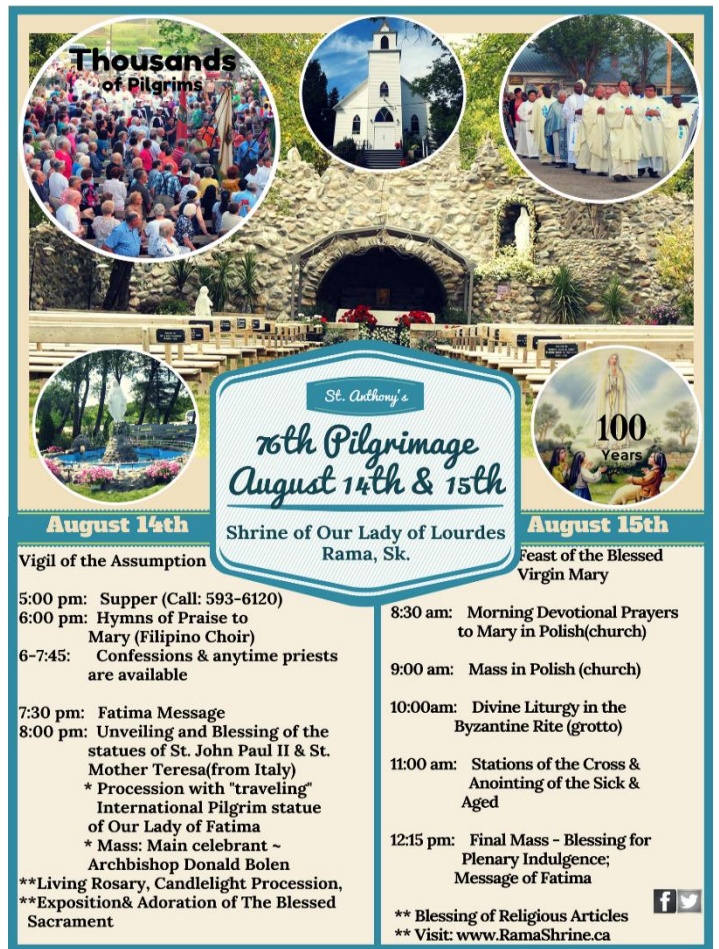
By Mary Katharine Deeley

From the top of Mount Tabor in Israel, the supposed site of Jesus' transfiguration, visitors can see clearly across the valley to the distant Golan Heights some forty-five miles away. The view takes your breath away. When I was in the valley, I could only see the immediate area, but at the top I was mesmerized by both the distance and the beauty of the land.

Maybe that's why mountains have always been places of prayer, divine unveiling, and why Jesus took Peter, James, and John up to the top of a mountain to experience this vision of his glory. He wanted them to see more than their daily life and work. He wanted them to see further than they ever thought they could. He wanted them to see the depths of who he was in a new and profound way. It was important that they do this. The transfiguration happens in the midst of Jesus' predictions of his passion and death, before he begins his deliberate journey to Jerusalem. Without an image of the glorified Christ, the apostles might not have had the courage to continue following him.

Like the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert, we also hear this transfiguration account during Lent. Jesus takes the Church and each one of us up the mountain and dares us to see further, better, more deeply than ever before. He challenges us to leave what we know, listen to him, and follow in his footsteps. May we have the courage to accept that challenge.

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Thousands of Pilgrims

St. Anthony's
76th Pilgrimage
August 14th & 15th

August 14th
Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes
Rama, Sk.

August 15th
Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Vigil of the Assumption

5:00 pm: Supper (Call: 593-6120)
6:00 pm: Hymns of Praise to Mary (Filipino Choir)
6-7:45: Confessions & anytime priests are available

7:30 pm: Fatima Message
8:00 pm: Unveiling and Blessing of the statues of St. John Paul II & St. Mother Teresa (from Italy)
* Procession with "traveling" International Pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima
* Mass: Main celebrant - Archbishop Donald Bolen

** Living Rosary, Candlelight Procession,
** Exposition & Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament

8:30 am: Morning Devotional Prayers to Mary in Polish (church)
9:00 am: Mass in Polish (church)
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy in the Byzantine Rite (grotto)
11:00 am: Stations of the Cross & Anointing of the Sick & Aged
12:15 pm: Final Mass - Blessing for Plenary Indulgence; Message of Fatima

** Blessing of Religious Articles
** Visit: www.RamaShrine.ca

Coming up in August.....

Annual Fall Supper Planning Meeting
Wednesday, August 16th

K of C Inter-council Golf Tournament
August 24th

CWL Executive Meeting
Monday, August 28th

CWL General Meeting
Wednesday, August 30th

(watch the bulletin for locations and times, or check the online Events Calendar at www.stgerard.ca)

Jesus took Peter, James and John to the mountaintop. There, Jesus changed, his face shone like the sun, his clothes were white as the light. Jesus was talking with Moses and Elijah. Disciples heard a voice from the cloud saying "This is my beloved Son, he pleased me well, listen to him".

YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"The Reign of God"

This Week...

The Reign of God is both delightful and frightening. It is delightful to come across a treasure buried in a field or a perfect pearl. For such a precious commodity, we might invest our life savings. However, the image of everything being divided into the "useless" and the "worthwhile" is rather frightening.

For Your Reflection

The Reign (power and control) of God is also known as the Kingdom of Heaven. It takes place on earth and reaches its fullness in heaven.

- Often in school, business, politics, and even social settings people try to assert their own power and take control of things. Where have you seen this happen?

When people surrender their life to God's power, life is different. Then people don't try to control things or one another; they try to work together so that God's way rules. This rarely occurs on earth, but it happens once in a while. There is peace, understanding, and cooperation, and no fear, competition, or dishonesty.

- Have you ever seen this happen? If so, where? What was the situation?
- Do you think you can do anything to help bring forth the Reign of God - at home, at school, at your job, with your friends? Why or why not? What would have to happen to create a little heaven on earth?

Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle A for Ordinary Time* St. Mary's Press, 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. Francis Hengen, or if you would like more information contact the RCIA Co-ordinator, Mary Bybliw, through the parish office at 306-782-2449 or email office@stgerard.ca

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 our city 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 or check the website:

www.mystfx.ca/academic/continuinged/Ministry.html