



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

August 8th, 2021

Nineteenth 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/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (9 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (10 th)	7:00pm +Brigitte Washenfelder
Wed. (11 th)	9:00am +Helen Snape
	10:30am ASPEN VILLA
	+Horace & +Mildred Jackson
Thurs. (12 th)	9:00am +Desmond Anderson
	2:30pm LAKESIDE MANOR-SALTCOATS
	+Harvey Manyk
Fri. (13 th)	9:00am Margaret Sikora
Sat. (14 th)	9:00am +Ferdinand Thiele
	1:00pm <i>Malayney-Higgins Wedding</i>
	5:00pm +Grace Skaluba
	7:00pm GOOD SPIRIT LAKE HALL
	Deceased members of the Naphin & Tedeschi families
Sun. (15 th)	THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
	9:00am +Corazon Mabasa
	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 give us your Spirit to renew the earth. Instill in my heart the spirit of love, compassion, forgiveness, and peace, that I may be a source of healing.

- 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,

I would like to begin my message for this weekend by saying that through today's Gospel, we can see God himself, through his Son, who has come to accompany us on our journey, and who tries to teach us that He is the Bread of Life who sustains us on our pilgrimage toward eternal life.

The Jewish people know Jesus, where he is from and who his parents are, so it is difficult for them to accept and believe that he is "the bread that has come down from heaven". Their earthly knowledge and reasoning are not enough. They need to have faith.

How about us? In order to understand the real meaning of "*I am the bread that came down from heaven*" we need to acknowledge three important points in the Gospel today:

First, Jesus points out the mystery of faith, the faith "*that no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw them; and I will raise that person up on the last day*".

It is very clear that Faith in Jesus Christ helps us to realize that we need him, and yet faith in Jesus is God's gift - no one can get it on their own.

When we receive a small host, we are unable to see that Jesus Christ is truly present there: body, blood, soul, and divinity. But we know that he is. We have received Jesus; we have been given the gift of faith. This is why, as a priest, I solemnly proclaim "*the mystery of faith*" after the consecration at each Mass.

Second, this faith in Christ leads us to "eternal life". As we hear at the very end of the Gospel, Jesus tells us that "*whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh*". We receive Jesus, and through this we are in communion with him and with God. At that very moment we are in a true, deep, personal, and intimate relationship with him, the kind of relationship we all desire. God never keeps his distance from us sinners. He wants us to know him, to be with him and to share his life.

Third, Jesus himself is the "bread" of this eternal life, its source and sustenance. How can we live without bread, without food? Our physical life will perish if we have no food. The same is true of our spiritual life: without Jesus, without his "*flesh for the life of the world*" in the Eucharist, our life of intimate communion with God would perish. It's that simple - and it's that crucial.

My dear sisters and brothers, to conclude my message, I have two suggestions for you to do:

- 1 Let us activate our faith, so that as we continue with this celebration of the Eucharist, to which the Father has drawn us, we will allow the Lord to strengthen us for everlasting life for which he offered his life to give us. And, more specifically, I invite you all to come to church to celebrate, to participate, to be with the Lord in the Eucharist. We will gather together as a family to celebrate the Bread of Life.
- 2 When you receive the Holy Communion, receive it with reverence, in a proper way, by extending your hands high enough, responding "Amen" clearly, and consuming it immediately, full of love and appreciation. And then after you consume it, in silence tell him how happy you are when you are in communion with him, and ask him to remain in you and fill your heart with great joy and holiness. Tell him in simple words: Lord Jesus, I love you, thank you for being with me. I love you for you are my bread of life. Strengthen me and journey with me.

I wish all of you a blessed weekend. Enjoy your time with your family members this weekend. Love you all.

Fr. Louis Nguyen



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

The next Baptism Preparation Session is **Wednesday, August 18th at 6:30 pm** in the Parish Hall.

Please contact the Parish Office to register: 306.782.2449 or office@stgerard.ca



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

Sofie Reponte

May this child and her family experience joy and new 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)



The Art & Environment Committee welcomes garden flowers for the church each Saturday morning between 8:30 am and 9:00 am.

P	O	T	S	A	I	R	E	T	S
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F	E	N	D	E	D	H	I	R	F
J	A	V	N	A	W	T	A	S	I
M	S	T	E	H	P	O	R	P	L
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R	N	E	V	A	E	H	B	W	S
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JEW
FATHER
MOTHER
DRAWN
PROPHETS
HEAR
LEARN
BELIEVES
MANNA
DESERT
DEAD
LIFE



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

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>

FOOD BANK DONATIONS continue to be a priority over the summer months.

Please consider helping those less fortunate.



Non-perishable food items may be left in the wooden chest in the Welcome Area before Mass, or at the Salvation Army Food Bank (78 South Front Street) Tuesday to Thursday from 10am to 2pm.

- Submitted by the St. Gerard Social Justice Committee





The Opposite Reaction

By Kathleen M. Barsi

Go and learn the meaning of the words,
"I desire mercy, not sacrifice."

Matthew 9:13

Mercy. It's such a familiar word. It bookends every Mass, rolling glibly off our tongues until it's more a catch phrase than a word with real meaning. Really, how much is there to say about God's forgiveness?

When I dug into it, though, I realized my definition was too limited. Mercy isn't just something God gives to us. It's something we're called to give to others. Nor is it just about forgiveness. It's about the attitudes that shape our actions.

Think of that one person who knows all the right buttons to push and does so with glee. You can spend your whole life tied up in knots about how—or whether—to respond. You can waste countless hours and endless emotional energy locked inside your head, having arguments with this person, putting words in her mouth that she never spoke and assuming the worst about her intentions. You might even write off the relationship altogether.

Mercy calls us to do the opposite. Mercy invites us to open our minds and hearts to the people we find most difficult. What influences have shaped them? What wounds are hidden beneath their antagonism? Mercy asks us to consider the things we cannot know and approach conflict with a spirit of compassion rather than judgment. In short, give people the benefit of the doubt.

This is not easy. In fact, it's superhuman. That's why we need God's help. That's why we need to receive the sacraments regularly—because they offer us the spiritual nourishment we need in order to do the real work of Christian living. And what is that real work?

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25:35–36).

This passage, the source of the corporal works of mercy, leaves no doubt that the work of mercy is the heart of Christian discipleship and the standard by which we will be judged at the end of time. There is no distinction between those who deserve help and those who do not. We are called to show mercy to everyone.

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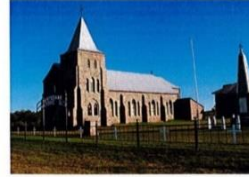
Kaposvar Pilgrimage

Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine

Sunday August 22, 2021

3 miles South & ½ mile West of Esterhazy on Grid 637

Souvenir Shop opens at 11:00



11:00 am – 12:00 noon.....	Visitors arrive and sign guest book
12:00 noon – 1:00 pm.....	Individual Stations of the Cross
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm.....	Rosary in the Church
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm.....	Private Confessions in the Church
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm.....	Procession from the Church to the Shrine
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm.....	Holy Mass & Anointing of the Sick
4:00 pm.....	Procession back to the Church
4:15 pm.....	Supper



Ethnic Attire is encouraged
Bring your own Lawn chairs
Concession Booth on Site

For more information Contact:
Eola Stevenson @ 306-853-7880
**** Please Note that we will be adhering to COVID protocols in effect August 22, 2021

Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine Rama, SK Pilgrimage – August 14 & 15

Saturday, August 14

- 4:00 pm Stations of the Cross
- 5:45-7:45 pm Confessions
- 8:00 pm Mass
 - Plenary Indulgence
 - Rosary
 - Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday, August 15

- 12:15 pm Mass
 - Anointing of the Sick

NO FOOD SERVICE
PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR

NEW TO THE PARISH? WELCOME!

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



YOUTH REFLECTION

"Food for the Journey"

This Week...

Elijah is exhausted and ready to give up. But an angel brings food and drink to nourish him for his journey. Jesus is telling the crowds that he is their food for the journey. His flesh and blood are all the food we need. Paul tells us to forgive one another and to love others the way Jesus loves us.

For Your Reflection

Elijah is exhausted and ready to give up. He asks God to take his life.

- Have you ever felt that way? If so, what were the stresses and pressures that led you to that point? How did you get through it? If not, do you know anyone who has felt that way? Can you imagine being in that situation? What would you do?

Elijah doesn't want to take care of himself. He just wants to die. But an angel tells him to take care of his bodily needs or he won't have the strength he needs for the journey ahead.

- Do you take good care of yourself? If so, how? If not, why not? Do your parents ever encourage you to take better care of yourself? What do they tell you? Does it make sense? Do you follow their advice? Why or why not?

God has big plans for Elijah, who already has done so much work telling people about God. And God is there for Elijah, helping him out when he doesn't know what to do or where to go.

- Do you think God has big plans for you? Why or why not? What might God's plans be for you? What are your plans? Do you think your plans will ever get in the way of God's plans? Do you think God's plans could ever get in the way of your plans? Why or why not? How can someone figure out what plans God has in mind for their life?

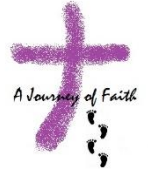
Excerpt adapted from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle B for Ordinary Time* - St. Mary's Press, 2005



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