



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

February 13th, 2022

Sixth 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 | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca

St. Gerard Parish is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nēhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.

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. (14th) 11:00am *Funeral - Helen Piontek*
 Tues. (15th) 7:00pm +Beatrice Ikwueme
 Wed. (16th) 9:00am +Nancy Chillog
 10:00am **NURSING HOME (SOUTH)**

Cancelled

Thurs. (17th) 11:00am *Funeral - Harry Monette*
 2:30pm **YORKTON CROSSING**
 +Marge Slugoski

Fri. (18th) 9:00am Todos Family
 Sat. (19th) 9:00am John Lynch

5:00pm +Debra Churko

Sun. (20th) **SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

9:00am Mass for the People
 11:00am +Leroy Persick

WELCOME!

Please note the following per the **Archdiocese of Regina guidelines** (effective July 11, 2021) and the **Government of Saskatchewan Interim Health Order** (extended until February 28, 2022):

- **Masks must be worn at all times until further notice**
- Masks & hand sanitizer are provided.
- **Please sit in the pews that have hymnals and maintain two metres between households**
- The choir and singing has resumed
- 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 continues

Please come! Everyone is welcome!



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 never forget us; you answer all our needs. Keep me from being anxious about many things.

- From *Peaceful 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,

The Liturgy of the Word of God this weekend reminds us that a strong relationship with the Lord is not optional for us if we truly want a fulfilling and complete life. A life without the Lord is a life without hope.

In the first reading Jeremiah describes the importance of a relationship with the Lord in terms of favourable conditions for growth and unfavourable ones: *“Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. That person shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream”*.

Jeremiah condemns those who put their trust in human beings and turn away from the Lord, and he claims that if they put their trust in human beings, their lives will wither and harden like tumbleweeds in the desert with no roots and no fruit.

Completely placing our trust in the Lord changes our life! It doesn't mean we will not follow the earthly course of life and die, but it means that we will have a new source of life that weathers adversity, even the adversity of physical death.

In the second reading Paul teaches us that a life without the Lord is a life in vain, because a life with the Lord is a life redeemed and transformed by the resurrection into a life of hope. Indeed, Paul teaches us that if Christ wasn't raised from the dead, neither would we. If Christ did not conquer death in the resurrection, he did not conquer sin either, and therefore we would remain in a sinful life that is finite, fleeting, and there would be no reason to hope. Paul says this because Christ has risen from the dead, conquering sin and death not only for himself, but for those who believe in him. Therefore, we now live a redeemed life hoping that one day the Lord will raise us up from the dead too.

In the Gospel, Jesus helps us to see true happiness, or being blessed, through struggle, hardship, suffering and opposition, and not through prosperity, popularity, and pleasure that we might normally associate with happiness. Jesus teaches us that the true path to happiness in this world is paved with life's challenges and hardships. This reminds us that this world is passing and imperfect, and that the only dependable thing in life is our relationship with God. Hardships and challenges teach us to root our lives in knowing, loving, and serving him; then our lives will be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream as in the first reading.

We need to have faith to accept this teaching of Christ. Faith allows us to recognize God's love behind all things, and to acknowledge God's presence in the Eucharist and wisdom at work in suffering. Sickness, betrayal, accidents, money problems, rejection, being made fun of because of our Christian beliefs - these things make us blessed, because in them we can exercise our faith in Christ. They make us more like Christ, who saved us by suffering all these things himself.

Jesus wants us to know him. And so he is telling us what he cares about the most by telling us exactly what he wants, what he came to earth to give us: blessedness. He wants us to be blessed with: happiness, a meaningful life, a fulfillment that goes deeper than the superficial kind that comes with money, or power, or material things. Jesus doesn't want us to waste our lives; he wants us to live them to the fullest.

Enjoy the warmer weather and a blessed weekend to all.

Fr. Louis Nguyen



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

In the Archdiocese of Regina, Baptism Preparation is required prior to your child's baptism.

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



Ash Wednesday is coming!

(March 2nd)

*"Turn away from sin
and be faithful to the Gospel."*

Lent is a time of repentance, change of heart, and prayer.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Family Poor Box



Unlike Matthew's Beatitudes, Luke had a set of Beatitudes and Woes. Luke's Beatitudes comforted the poor, the dejected, and oppressed;

God was with them. His Woe's condemned the rich, haughty, and the arrogant; God would judge such harshly. In the time of Jesus, five percent of the population controlled 95% of the wealth. The few controlled the economy. So, Jesus, in Luke, could easily criticize the rich few.

While economic times have changed, the temptations remain the same. It's easy to forget the poor and the powerless. It's easy to get caught up in one's wealth and self importance. To focus on those in need (and away from the self), set up a family Poor Box. Place you change in the box and encourage your family members to do the same. Display the box in a prominent place to remind your family of those who God will truly bless.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

- Mon. (14th): 9:00am CWL Quilting Bee
7:00pm Bible Study (*lower level*)
- Tues. (15th): 9:00am CWL Quilting Bee
7:30pm Liturgical Committee Mtg



News from the CWL



2022 memberships are \$30.00 and can be placed in an envelope marked 'CWL' and put in the collection basket, or mail to CWL, 125 3rd Ave N, Yorkton, S3N 1C4. For other arrangements please call Paulette 306.782.7923. Paid receipts can be picked up from the grey box on the glass table in the Welcome Area.

The CWL Valentines quilt raffle is here!

The funds raised will be put towards quilting supplies. Tickets are \$2.00 each and will be available before and after each mass. Draw will be made February 14th.



The CWL designs and creates quilts to be given to people in need – primarily to those who are experiencing a period of crisis. In the past quilts have been donated to Shelwin House, the Salvation Army, and SIGN (to name a few).



News from the Knights of Columbus



Bingos have been cancelled until further notice.

- February 21 Family Day
- February 25 Articles for "The Word" due

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

Sask. K of C Vocations Endowment Support

The Bishops of Saskatchewan, in partnership with the Sask. Knights of Columbus, request your financial support for Seminarians in Saskatchewan. There are currently 13 Seminarians from the Dioceses and Eparchy in Saskatchewan preparing to become future leaders within our Church. The Sask. K of C Vocation Endowment was established to help defray the annual cost of over \$30,000.00 per Seminarian.

A fund raising campaign will take place in parishes throughout the province during the month of February. Please view our website at www.saskkofc.foundation for further information on how you may make a contribution. The Bishops, Dioceses, K of C and Catholic faithful thank you in advance for your generous support of the education and development of Seminarians through prayer and financial assistance. Packages and envelopes will be available next week.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

St. Gerard Church
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 7pm
St. Gerard Social Hall

All parishioners are urged to attend.



ST. GERARD PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AND FINANCE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nominations are now open for the following positions (and terms):

Pastoral Council & Finance Council*

Chairperson	3 years	Family & Social	3 years
Public Relations	3 years	Properties*	3 years

The Parish Council is a body that:

- Is advisory to the pastor
- Listens to the parish
- Creates a pastoral plan of action
- Invites others to help carry out that plan
- Assists parishioners with implementation through resources and evaluation.

Do you know a parishioner who:

- Is prayerful
- Is able to listen
- Has a sense of understanding where the church is today
- Understands or is willing to learn about the Mission of the Church and the Archdiocese of Regina
- Is enthusiastic about the future of this parish
- Is willing and able to make the commitment to this ministry

If so, then nominate them today!

Nominations forms and copies of the *St. Gerard Constitution and Bylaws* are available in the Welcome Area and at the Parish Office.

**Members of the Council must be members of Christ's faithful who are in full communion with the Catholic Church and who strive to be examples of Christian commitment. Only registered parishioners 16 years of age or older shall be eligible to serve on Council or any committee and be eligible to vote. **



Bringing Home
the Word **+**

Pursuing a Higher Moral Standard

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus offers a rather radical call to holiness. Many of us have a hard time accepting that we are all called to such levels of morality. Yet, read to whom Jesus is speaking here. The Gospel says his audience is everyone: his apostles, his disciples, and a large number of other people from around the region. The Second Vatican Council offers a reminder when it says, "Fortified by so many and such powerful means of salvation, all the faithful, whatever their condition or state, are called by the Lord, each in his own way, to that perfect holiness whereby the Father himself is perfect" (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church [*Lumen Gentium*], 11).

A key to progress in any personal area is keeping hungry, never being fully satisfied. The same goes for our faith and relationship with our Lord. If our goal is to be comfortable, to follow the path of least resistance, then mediocrity is our goal. Jesus is anything but mediocre. He proposes to us a high moral standard that isn't reached by coasting.

Our souls are hungry by design. They are never fully satisfied in this life because we desire the Infinite—we desire God.

Luckily, our Lord not only proposes a high moral ideal of holiness, but he also gives us his very Spirit so we can reach the heights he proposes. And so, we can pray with St. Augustine, "Give me what you command, and command what you will."

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Blessed are You, Woe to You"

This Week...

Today is a day for looking at opposites. Sometimes we are blessed, and other times we are cursed, depending on where God is in our life. And sometimes when we are cursed by others, or by misfortune, that is when we are most blessed. How can we be blessed when we are feeling most cursed? The answer is in the paschal mystery - Jesus did not rise until after he died. Through death we receive our life. We are fools if we do not believe in a risen Christ.

How we look at comedy and tragedy can tell us a lot about our relationship with God and where we are heading.

For Your Reflection

This Gospel is a warning to examine the things that make us happy and sad.

- What kinds of things make you the most happy?
- If you have plenty of money, high social status, fine foods, and expensive material possessions, you might be drifting away from God. Why might this be true?
- What kinds of things make you sad?
- If you are filled with jealousy, greed, and lust, you might be drifting away from God. Why might this be true?
- If you yourself are living fairly well, yet things like poverty, oppression, and injustice still make you angry because they bring suffering to others, maybe you are coming closer to God. Why might this be true?
- If you feel joy and contentment when other people succeed, earn compliments, and experience good luck, then maybe you are coming closer to God. Why might this be true?

Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle C*, 2006, Saint Mary's Press



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