



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

February 21, 2021

First Sunday of Lent

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:
By pre-registration only until further notice

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 louis.yorkton@gmail.com

Parish Office Administrator.....Sandra Archer
Caretaker.....Mario Guerra

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (22 nd)	NO MASS
Tues. (23 rd)	6:00pm Holy Hour Devotion 7:00pm Mass of Thanksgiving
Wed. (24 th)	12:05pm +Mike Hornung
Thurs. (25 th)	9:30am Mary Puchala
Fri. (26 th)	9:30am +Joanne Fedirko 7:00pm Stations of the Cross
Sat. (27 th)	9:30am +Mervin Krasowski
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	5:00pm +Art Scherr 7:00pm Dan & Brenda Dierker
Sun. (28 th)	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 9:00am +Emil Sereda 11:00am Mass for the People 5:00pm

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

- **Pre-registration for Saturday/Sunday Mass is required.** Online at www.stgerard.ca Monday morning to Thursday at 12 noon.
- **Maximum 30** people may attend Mass.
- Each household must register separately.
- Masks are mandatory. This includes from the time you leave your vehicle until you return to your vehicle after Mass.
- Members of the same household may sit together at the marked seating.
- *At least two-metres physical distance is to be observed at all times, even with masks on (masks are an additional measure of protection).*
- **Please arrive early.**
- The following must stay home for the sake of the wider community:
 - ❖ People with COVID-19 symptoms, who live with someone with COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
 - ❖ The sick, including those with a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath
 - ❖ Those who have travelled outside of the province or Canada within the last 14 days



**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, strengthen my resolve to be faithful to your covenant of love and be more compassionate and generous toward all people.

- From *Mindful Meditations for Every Day of Lent and Easter*,
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

A Note from your Pastor....

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This weekend we celebrate the First Sunday of Lent. Lent is a special time for us, with a sincere desire to grow in love, preparing us worthily to celebrate the Passion of the Lord and Easter.

The first reading introduces the friendship agreement which God establishes with Noah and His descendants after the flood. God says, "*this is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations...*".

Like Noah and his family, we are saved by the water of baptism. We have been baptized by water and the Holy Spirit and through it we have a new life. We belong to God. We are in a permanent covenant with the living God, and He is our protector.

It is through baptism that we enter into the new covenant relationship with God, and that Christ's victory over sin and death is communicated to us. Today we are called to renew what we (or our parents) promised on the day of our own baptism: reject Satan, reject all his works, ...

And in the Gospel, Mark tells us that Jesus, after John baptized Him, spends 40 days in the wilderness, and during this time he is tempted by Satan.

He is tempted even though He is God. It reminds me of the message in St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews when he says that "*Jesus was made completely like his sisters and brothers. In him we have a high priest who can feel our weakness with us, for he was tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin*" (Heb. 2: 17-18).

Because He himself has been through temptation Jesus understands and is able to help us. Therefore, we can approach Him with confidence, knowing that He will have mercy and compassion for us and we will find grace in our time of need.

After spending 40 days in the wilderness, Jesus proclaims His first message in public. It seems to be a simple way to say: "*Repent and believe in the Gospel*". Let's focus on the two parts of this statement for the sake of our spiritual lives during this Lenten season.

The first is **repent**. It means that we are called to turn away from self-centered and selfish habits; we are called to change! The same devil that tempted Jesus in the desert is tempting us in the desert of our own world. Jesus invites us to repent, and He also gives us the perfect way to do so: the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus invented confession because He knew we absolutely need it. It is true because repentance and confession give God a chance to pour his unconditional mercy into our thirsty souls. I invite all of you to think about it.

And the second Lenten exercise is to "**believe in the gospel**".

Believing in the Gospel means trusting Jesus enough to do His will; it means believing in the Gospel when we make decisions, through our actions and deeds, not just our words. It also means exercising what He taught us in generosity, faithfulness, responsibility, sincerity, and patient kindness. Again, I would like to invite all of you to work on this.

My dear sisters and brothers, this weekend we see Christ's vision for our lives, one that He will help us live out, if we give Him the chance. Thank you Jesus for allowing us to live in *the time of fulfillment*, and let's ask Him to help us repent and believe in the Gospel.

We continue to pray for the end of the pandemic so that we can celebrate Easter together as a parish family.

Enjoy the warm weather and May God bless you all.

Fr. Louis Nguyen

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



- 30 minutes before and after Weekday Mass (Tuesday – Friday)
- Saturdays at 9:00 am
or by appointment. Phone: 306.782.2449

The **Stations of the Cross** devotion is prayed Friday at 7pm during Lent. Maximum 30 people.

Led by:

Feb. 19	Knights of Columbus
Feb. 26	CWL
Mar. 5	Youth Connect
Mar. 12	CTTCS Staff
Mar. 19	Parish Pastoral Council
Mar. 26	Altar Servers



News from the CWL



C.W.L. Membership fees for 2021 are now due. The fee is \$30.00. If you haven't submitted your membership fee, please do so as soon as possible.

National CWL is proposing to raise their portion that they receive from membership fees from \$13 to \$25 in 2023. Our \$30 membership fee includes \$13 for National, \$7 for Provincial, and \$10 for Diocesan CWL. Our council pays \$.45 per member for insurance. This is something every member should think about as you will be given a chance to vote on this proposed increase later this year.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Feb. 25 Articles for "The Word" due

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

A Word from Pope Francis



Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them. Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God's strength... He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.

—Extraordinary Moment of Prayer for the COVID-19 Pandemic, March 27, 2020

Catechism Theme: Jesus' Temptation and the Proclamation of the Kingdom (CCC 538-542)

Christ in the desert revealed the new Adam, the One who would vanquish the Tempter. Unlike Adam (and, later, the Israelites in the desert), Jesus did not fall to whims of selfish ambition. No, Jesus remained the faithful Son. And in his fidelity, he claimed victory over Satan. He also foreshadowed his obedient acceptance of the cross.

His fidelity was not only pointed toward his Father. When he answered "NO!" to Satan, he answered "YES!" for us. He would be a faithful servant to us. We who turn away from God find ourselves pursued and served by God in the person of Jesus. When we become his followers, his "NO!" becomes our rejection of evil. His "YES!" becomes our battle cry of hope for the Father.

With his victory over evil, Christ can now proclaim the coming of the Kingdom, for he can announce that which he possesses. When we are bonded to him (and each other) we can taste the Kingdom. As he was lifted up in obedience on the cross, we are lifted up with him, so we can share in the relationship of the Father and the Son, the very essence of the Kingdom.

What plans do you have for this Lent? How can you turn away from self-centered interests of the world, the flesh, and the devil? How can you turn toward God this Lenten season?

Modern conveniences have made life easier. For those of us with computers, the comfortable life is the norm, not the exception. Yet, would we be ready to make a few sacrifices, to make life just a little uncomfortable, so we could realize a taste of the Kingdom? Let us take these next forty days and reduce our comfort level a little bit. It may help us open our eyes and realize how precarious our existence is. It may help us realize how dependent we really are on the Lord. And how much we need the life he offers us in Christ.

Reflect on past Lenten seasons. Which one has changed you? Which ones were wastes of time? How can your plans for this Lent make a difference in your life and the lives of others?

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Bringing Home the Word

Navigating the Desert

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Like Noah being prepared to navigate the Flood, so the Spirit sent Jesus into the desert. Why was he sent there? Did he need to learn something he didn't know? Did he lack something he needed? Jesus as God didn't lack anything, of course, but he needed time to pray, reflect, and prepare for his mission. He also wanted to set an example to follow. Another Scripture says he went into the desert to be tempted by the devil. That time of spiritual combat was helpful for him.

We also need to go through trials and crises to grow both in our spiritual lives and human maturity. We each have had our desert where we are challenged to our core and stretched beyond our limits. Perhaps it was a crisis such as a health, employment, or relational issue. But it doesn't always have to be such a dramatic event. It can be as simple and constant as the prolonged embracing of daily challenges in a manner that leads to life. We probably look back and see these as some of our best times—if we truly encountered ourselves and our Lord.

The key is in peaceful acceptance, looking for what good can be learned from these inconveniences. In every cross there is a resurrection; in every storm a rainbow assures us of God's presence and victory. It tells us that clouds and storms will not lead to total death, but rather to a purified rebirth, growth, and newfound life and strength. He has promised us this.

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STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

The Lord created all things, and he never transferred the ownership of his creation to mankind. You and I own nothing! Absolutely nothing! Recognizing God's ownership of all things is crucial.

When we acknowledge God's ownership, every spending decision becomes a spiritual decision. We no longer ask, "Lord, what do you want me to do with **my** money?" The question becomes, "Lord, what do you want me to do with **your** money?" When we handle His money according to His wishes, spending and saving decisions become as spiritual as giving decisions.

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

GET INVOLVED
Make a Difference!



ST. GERARD PARISH PASTORAL & FINANCE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

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

Secretary	2 years
Liturgical	3 years
Public Relations	1 year
Family & Social	1 year
Community Life	3 years
Social Justice	3 years
Finance Chairperson	3 years
Properties	1 year
Hall	3 years

Nominations forms are available online and at the Parish Office. If you have any questions about these positions, please contact Father Louis or stop by the Parish Office for a copy of the St. Gerard Constitution & Bylaws (also available on our website). **Deadline for submission of nomination forms is Thursday, February 25th at 12 noon.**

ST. GERARD PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Virtual)

Wednesday, March 3rd @ 7:00 pm

If you are a registered parishioner and would like to attend the Virtual AGM, please email your request beginning Monday, March 1st to office@stgerard.ca Instructions will be provided. Deadline is 12 noon Wednesday, March 3rd.

The Annual Report will be available in the near future - online at www.stgerard.ca If you require a printed copy, please phone the Parish Office between February 24th and March 2nd.

Lord God,
you who breathed the spirit of life within me.
Draw out of me the light and life you created.
Help me to find my way back to you.
Help me to use my life to reflect your glory
and to serve others as your son Jesus did.

Amen.

GET INVOLVED
Make a Difference!



Everyone belongs to the family of God and has a role to play in that family. God, our Father, chose to share His love with us. Jesus Christ, His Son, has made known to us by His life and word this great message of love. This is called “The Good News”. And all Christians are called to stewardship. As stewards, we recognize that all we have comes from God. Our possessions are given to us in trust. And as good stewards know, we are to cultivate these and return them with increase to God. Through our faith commitment to baptism, all have the responsibility of living this life of love and of bringing it to the people of God. As stewards, we use our unique gifts to build up the Church. This leads people to share the mission of the Church: proclaiming, teaching, serving, and sanctifying. We know we cannot do all things, but we can do what our gifts lead us to do. Thus, each one of us has the commission and task of bringing this Good News to the people of God in the Christian community. The Spirit of God is with us in this task. Every task-oriented community needs organization to accomplish its work so that all the persons and resources dedicated to the task can be used to the best advantage. Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Councils provide clergy, laity and religious with the necessary organization structure to carry out the task in a parish.

The laity are called, with priests, to fulfill the responsibility for liturgy, catechesis, pastoral care of the sick and elderly if the Church is to remain strong. Parish pastoral councils and parish finance councils are needed to organize the faithful to carry out those responsibilities. Therefore, as consultative bodies, it is critical that members of the Pastoral Council and members of the Finance Council work in cooperation with each other to bring about a life-giving Parish Community.

The parish pastoral council brings together lay people, religious and the pastor who work together to build the parish as a living Christian Faith community. The parish pastoral council members should care about the pastoral needs of their parish, of other communities in the archdiocese and of the universal church. They should strive to bring the Gospel message to all people in their neighbourhood.

The finance council is responsible for the administration of the financial affairs of the parish, being governed by universal law, the archdiocese financial and building regulations and by the norms laid down by the diocese. The finance council ...is the steward of parish material resources.

(Guidelines Parish Pastoral Council & Parish Finance Council, Archdiocese of Regina, 2010)

Lay Leadership is vital to our parish. Lay Leaders help to set the direction and vision, set goals and action steps that align with parish priorities, and implement these action steps.

Any registered parishioner who is fully initiated in the Catholic Church, is sixteen years of age or over, and worships regularly with the parish community, is eligible to serve on parish council.

The St. Gerard Parish Council is seeking candidates to fill vacancies on both the Pastoral Council and the Finance Council. If you, or someone you know, would be a strong candidate, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members:

Rejean Houle	306.641.5430
Lorne Wanner	306.641.7838
Jacqueline Gotengco	306.316.1561

NOMINATION FORM

I nominate _____ for one of the following positions:

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary | (two year term) | <input type="checkbox"/> Liturgical | (three year term) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | (one year term) | <input type="checkbox"/> Family & Social | (one year term) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Life | (three year term) | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Justice | (three year term) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance Chairperson | (three year term) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Properties | (one year term) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hall | (three year term) |

Nominator: _____
(Signature) (Print Name)

Phone Number: _____

Nominee: _____
(Signature) (Print Name)

Phone Number: _____ Date: _____

Please print form, complete, and return to the Parish Office in a sealed envelope marked "Parish Council Nomination"
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25TH @ 12:00 NOON

Secretary - Records the minutes of all regular council and assembly meetings. Maintains those records for the parish files. Writes letters, thank you, or other correspondence with the approval of council. Ensures that each newly elected member is in possession of the current St. Gerard's Pastoral Constitution and the current Archdiocese of Regina Guidelines. Prepares highlights of the Parish Council meeting for the following Sunday bulletin.

Liturgical Committee - The Liturgy Committee consists of the following sub-committees: Sacristans; Altar Linen; Children's Liturgy; Ministries as Lectors, Welcomers, Communion Ministers, Communion to the Shut-ins, Hospitality and Altar Servers; Scheduling; Banners; Art and Environment; Music; and Office Liaison. Is responsible for working with the Pastor to promote, prepare, and provide for meaningful participation in all liturgical and para-liturgical celebrations. Shall, in conjunction with the Pastor, plan so as all members of the parish community may participate intelligently, prayerfully, and actively in liturgical celebrations.

Public Relations Committee – Keeps parishioners informed by means of newsletters and ensures the distribution of them. Promotes St. Gerard parish through the media. Maintains parish history, updates photo albums and scrapbooks, and arranges for photos/videos to be taken at parish functions.

Family and Social Committee- Organizes and carries out parish social activities, for example, the social functions associated with the Sacraments and Sacramental preparation. Coordinates coffee/lunch after Sunday Masses and for other occasions.

Community Life Committee - Sets up a "Welcome Ministry Team" for new parishioners, provides an information kit, and sets up a program to provide rides to Mass/parish functions for seniors and other parishioners in need of this service. Organizes newcomer socials. In cooperation with the Pastor, Hall Manager, and team captains, makes decisions on how best to serve funeral lunches for our bereaved families.

Social Justice Committee – Promotes education on the work of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, and promotes and administers the project during Lent.

Finance Council Chairperson – Shall carry out his/her duties as mandated in Article IX and X of the Parish Constitution. Shall present a detailed written financial statement and report at each meeting of council and be prepared to answer questions from council members. Prepares an audited financial statement for the annual meeting. Prepares an annual budget of the parish.

Hall Committee – Determines rental fees, approves operational regulations, ensures proper financial records, oversees the maintenance and repair of the plant, monitors the performance of the Hall Manager, and provides a separate financial statement in detail for the Annual Report and annual Meeting.

Properties Committee - Is responsible for the maintenance and operational care of the Church, the Rectory, the Hall, the grounds, and the equipment belonging to St. Gerard Parish.

YOUTH REFLECTION

"The Rainbow in the Clouds"

This Week...

In Noah's day, only a few were saved from the waters. Today, all can be saved with the waters - the waters of baptism. Lent is a time to repent and believe in the Good News - the Good News that began when God told Noah about the Covenant. The Covenant is marked by the rainbow.

For Your Reflection

A rainbow is a symbol of diversity in harmony. In a rainbow, the individual colours are unique, but they blend together and form a beautiful unity. Being a "Rainbow People" means we are a people of diversity who live together in harmony.

- Can you think of people who are different from you yet live in the harmony of friendship with you? How are they different from you? How are these differences a blessing to your friendship?
- A rainbow is a symbol of covenant, a symbol of promise, a symbol of faithfulness. Have you ever broken a promise? Has anyone ever broken a promise to you? Have you ever had an experience of unfaithfulness in a friendship? What happened?
- God said the rainbow was a sign of the covenant between God and the earth. How is your relationship to our planet earth and all of its life? What are some of the problems human beings are creating for other forms of life, and what are some things you can do to help solve those problems?

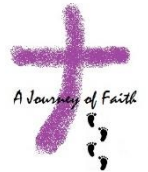
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter* - St. Mary's Press, 2004



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. 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