

The Roman Catholic Parish of St. Gerard

Parish Office: 125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4
Phone: 306.782.2449 Fax: 306.782.8566
www.stgerard.ca office@stgerard.ca

Parish Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8-12/1-4

Rectory: 122 Fourth Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1A7
Phone: 306.782.0323

Parish Hall: 125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4
Phone: 306.783.4255 hall@stgerard.ca



Pastor: Father Francis Hengen
Parish Hall Manager: Jeff Krasowski
Caretaker: Mario Guerra

Parish Office Administrator: Sandra Archer
Office Clerk (casual): Mary Bybliw

SUNDAY MASS TIMES: Saturday 7:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am & 11:00 am
Sacrament of Reconciliation every Saturday at 6:30 pm & by appointment

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 26, 2017

Liturgical/Mass Schedule

Tues. (28th): 9:00 am- +Shelley Kaspick
Wed. (1st): **ASH WEDNESDAY**
(Universal day of fast & abstinence)
9:30 am- +Noreen Skibinsky
11:00 am- *Service @ SHHS*
1:15 pm- +Gladys Molnar
3:00 pm- *Divine Mercy Devotion*
7:00 pm- Deceased family of CWL
Thurs. (2nd): 9:00 am- +Bob Naphin
Fri. (3rd): 9:00 am- +Adolph Sliwa
9:30 am- *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*
10:30 am- *Benediction*
7:00 pm- *Stations of the Cross*
Sat. (4th): 9:30 am- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
10:00 am- +Agnes Stokman

6:30 pm- *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
7:00 pm- Dan Dierker

First Sunday in Lent

Sun. (5th): 9:00 am- Mass for the People
11:00 am- +Elizabeth Alberts

Non-liturgical Schedule

Sun. (26th): 1:30 pm- Share Lent Workshop
7:00 pm- Baptism Class #2
Mon. (27th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm- The First Spiritual Exercises
7:00 pm- CWL Executive Meeting
Tues. (28th): 4:00 pm- K of C Pancake Supper
7:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for 9am Mass
7:00 pm- Finance Council Meeting
Wed. (1st): 7:00 pm- K of C Executive Meeting
7:45 pm- CWL General Meeting
Thurs. (2nd): 7:00 pm- Stewardship Committee Mtg.
Fri. (3rd): **12:00 pm- Deadline for nominations**
4:00 pm- Youth Choir rehearsal
Sat. (4th): 2:00 pm- CWL Spring Tea
Sun. (5th): 7:00 pm- Baptism Class #3



Mass/Service Schedule - March 1, 2017

9:30 am - Mass - St. Paul & St. Mary (Gr. 7/8), & St. Alphonsus Schools
11:00 am - Service @ Sacred Heart High School
1:15 pm - Mass - St. Mary (Gr. 1-6), St. Michael Schools
7:00 pm - Mass

All parishioners may attend the Mass/Service of their choice. The morning and afternoon ministries will be led by CTC Schools.



Lord, you are the source and center of my life. Give me the grace to love you with all my mind, heart, soul, and strength.

—From *Peaceful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney



**ST. GERARD PARISH
PASTORAL COUNCIL
AND
FINANCE COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

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

Pastoral & Finance Council

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| Vice-chairperson | 3 years | Secretary | 3 years |
| Religious Education | 3 years | Family & Social | 3 years |
| Youth | 3 years | Public Relations | 3 years |
| Community Life | 3 years | Ecumenical | 3 years |
| Properties | 3 years | Hall | 3 years |

Nominations forms are available on the large table in the Welcome Area and at the Parish Office.

If you have any questions about these positions, please contact Father Francis or stop by the Parish Office for a copy of the St. Gerard Constitution & Bylaws. Deadline for nominations is noon Friday, March 3rd.

**The Annual General Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 7th @ 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall.
All parishioners are encouraged to attend.**



**Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools News
February 27 - March 3, 2017**



| | Sacred Heart | St. Alphonsus | St. Mary | St. Michael | St. Paul | St. Theodore |
|--------|-----------------------|--|--|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Mon. | | | •Gr. 5 visit the Nursing Home | •Gr. 4 Swimming | | |
| Tues. | •Catch the Spirit Day | •Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast •Girls City Wide Bball Tournament | •Girls Bball Elementary School City Tournament | •Girls Bball Tournament | •Girls Bball Tournament | •Shrove Tuesday Pancake Lunch |
| Wed. | •Catch the Spirit Day | •Mass @ St. Gerard @ 9:30am •Girls City Wide Bball Tournament | •Gr. 7/8 @ St. Gerard @ 9:30am •Gr. 1-6 @ St. Gerard @ 1:15pm •Girls Bball Elementary School City Tournament | •Mass @ St. Gerard @ 1:15pm •Girls Bball Tournament | •Mass @ St. Gerard @ 9:30am •Gr. 4 Swimming •Girls Bball Tournament | |
| Thurs. | •Pep Rally | •Girls City Wide Bball Tournament | •Girls Bball Elementary School City Tournament | •Girls Bball Tournament | •Girls Bball Tournament | •Ash Wednesday Service @ 10:45am |
| Fri. | •Catch the Spirit Day | •Telemiracle Talent Show | | | •Gr. 4 Swimming | |

**"Praise you, Lord, for the blessing of learning."
~Catholic Prayers for Every Day and All Day~**



SACRAMENTS of INITIATION PREPARATION



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

CONFIRMATION

The Second Sacrament of Initiation

FIRST EUCHARIST

The Third Sacrament of Initiation

~ COME JOIN US AT THE TABLE ~

Session #4

Sunday, March 12th @ 6:30pm



News from the CWL



The CWL is looking for gently used purses, scarves and jewellery! If you're cleaning your closets and find some of these items to pass on, please leave them by the CWL room. Items will be collected 'til the end of February. These will be part of a fundraiser for the refugee family. Thank you!

St. Gerard's CWL invites you to their **Spring Tea**, Saturday, March 4 from 2pm to 4pm at St. Gerard's Parish Hall, 125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton.

Admission is \$5, twelve and under free.

Bring a friend and enjoy tea sandwiches, dainties, tea and coffee! Browse through our "New to You" Boutique of gently used purses, scarves and jewellery, all at sparkling prices! Proceeds to help refugee family from Eritrea. Everyone is welcome!

But wait, there are more treasures for sale! Beautiful handmade aprons, rice magic bags, and potato microwave bags - great gift ideas! Don't miss it!

Feb. 27 - Executive Meeting @ 7pm
Mar. 1 - General Meeting @ 7:30pm



News from the Knights of Columbus



Feb. 28 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper beginning @ 4pm
Mar. 1 Executive Meeting @ 7pm
Afternoon Bingo
Mar. 3 Knights lead Stations of the Cross

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Brian @ 306.730.7083 or 306.730.7017 after 5pm (or leave a message).



World Day of Prayer Service

"Am I Being Unfair to You?"

Friday, March 3rd @ 7pm
Grace Presbyterian Church
(Church by the water tower)
66 Park St, Yorkton

Service prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of the Philippines

Joint choir rehearsal Thursday, March 2nd @ 7pm.

All women, men and children are invited to attend.



ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED to attend LENTE LUNCHES

which will be held each Tuesday during Lent following the 12:05 pm Mass.

Free-will offering to the Refugee Family Fund & the Salvation Army Food Bank (Lighthouse)

The new **Liturgical Ministries Schedules** are available for pickup from the large table in the Welcome Area (Welcomers, Lectors, Ministers of Holy Communion at Mass). Schedules are also available online this week at www.stgerard.ca

Lenten Retreat with the First Spiritual Exercises Theme: "Inner Peace in Divine Love"

The **First Spiritual Exercises** are a set of prayer exercises, structured in a four-week program, with a particular dynamic of St. Ignatius. The exercises are a single, progressive and powerful experience of grace, built around personal prayer at home and guided spiritual conversation in a small group, allowing one to share his/her own experiences.

The next opportunity to encounter these exercises at St. Gerard will start Monday, March 6th at 7pm in Meeting Room A. Please bring a pen and notebook. Further instructions will be provided at the first session. The sessions will continue each Monday, concluding April 10th.

What are your plans for Lent??

The "Little Black Book" Lent Reflections have arrived! Reflections begin TODAY!!

Live Lent by reading God's word more carefully and by praying more ardently. Six minutes a day, reflecting on the Passion according to John. Pick up your copy today from the table in the Welcome Area!!! Limited quantities available!



Bringing Home the Word **+**

God Simply Loves

By Mary Katharine Deeley

We nod our heads when asked whether God loves us, but what would you say if you were asked, "Does God like you?"

God's love is often difficult to fathom. Some of us are rational: "God loves everyone"—the unspoken thought being, "It's his job to love me." We say this about parents as well: "She's my mom, she has to say that." This idea of God's love never moves further than the head. Other people compartmentalize the love: "God loves me, but only when I'm good," or "God loves only the good parts of me." Still others use God's love as a shield against responsibility: "God forgives me no matter what I do and would never judge me harshly." God becomes a marshmallow—all sugar, no nutrition.

In reality, God's love holds us in delight as parents delight in their children. God's love rejoices in us as the Creator rejoices in endless variety and hidden mystery. God's love doesn't come out of necessity. Rather, it springs out of the nature of God. Out of love, God holds us accountable for our actions, forgives us when we ask, and is an abiding presence, whether we recognize it or not. When we turn away, God is there. When we suffer, God walks with us. When we sin, God is the source of our conversion.

God grounds us in peace and joy. God doesn't love us because we're the greatest and best. If that were the case, none of us would be worthy. God simply loves. We have only to seek his righteousness to know that and believe it.

© 2017 Liguori Publications. Used with permission.

St. Gerard's Development & Peace Share Lent workshop: The 2017 Share Lent theme is "*Women at the Heart of Change*".

What does this mean in development work?

Please join us in exploring this theme and preparing for the Share Lent campaign.

Everyone is welcome! **TODAY at 1:30 pm**

PARISH PASTORAL AND FINANCE COUNCIL ELECTION

Over the next few weeks, a brief description of the Council positions that are up for nomination will be printed in the bulletin:

Public Relations – The Committee consists of a min. of four people with designated responsibilities: Photography, Scrapbook, Media, History Records, & Newsletters. Is responsible for developing, maintaining and promoting favourable relations with parishioners, other parishes and churches, and the public.

Community Life – The Committee is responsible for the following: Welcome Ministry, Transportation, Newcomers Social, and Funeral Lunches.

Properties – The Committee is responsible for the maintenance and operation care of the Church, the Rectory, the Hall, the grounds, and the equipment belonging to S. Gerard Parish.

Hall - Chairperson is a member of the Finance Committee. The Hall Committee is responsible for the following: determines rental fees, approves operation regulations, ensures proper financial record-keeping of hall operations, oversees maintenance and repair of the plant in conjunction with the Properties Committee, monitors the performance of the Hall Manager.

For more information on these or any of the other positions on Council, please contact Father Francis or stop by the Parish Office for a copy of the Constitution & Bylaws.

Stewards Serve Others

"For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather serve one another through love." Galatians 5.13

We like to celebrate the fact that we are free to "live the good life." But Jesus calls us to **Stewardship**. St. Paul reminds us that Jesus sets us free so that we can serve one another, share our gifts and promote God's work here on earth to glorify His name and not honour ourselves. We are called to live our lives Christ-centered rather than self-centered. We can do this by serving others.

PARISH CENTRE HAPPENINGS

306-783-4255 - PEROGY HOTLINE – 306-783-4255

****Perogy Bee****

| | | |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| Mon. | Feb. 27 | 9:00 am –Preparing: dough, potatoes, cheese |
| Tues. | Feb. 28 | 9:00 am - Pinching |
| Wed. | Mar. 1 | 9:00 am - Bagging |

10 TIPS FOR MAKING THE LENTEN SEASON MORE MEANINGFUL

1. **Slow down** - Set aside 10 minutes a day for silent prayer or meditation. It will revitalize your body and your spirit.
2. **Read a good book** - You could choose the life of a saint, a spiritual how-to, or an inspirational book.
3. **Be kind** - Go out of your way to do something nice for someone else every day.
4. **Get involved** - Attend a Lenten lecture or spiritual program.
5. **Volunteer** - Whether it's the parish perogy bee, cleaning the church or helping with the food drive, it will give you a chance to help others.
6. **Reach out** - Invite an inactive Catholic to come with you to Stations of the Cross, or Tuesday mass (followed by the Lenten Lunch).
7. **Pray** - Especially for people you don't like and for people who don't like you.
8. **Tune out** - Turn off the television and spend quality time talking with family members/friends.
9. **Clean out closets** - Donate gently used items to the Salvation Army.
10. **Donate** - Google "Catholic Missions." Then pick one mission and decide how you can help by sending money, clothing or supplies.

Living Lent Attentively and Gently

Lent is the most important time of the year to nurture our inner life. It is the time during which we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus, but also the death and resurrection that constantly takes place within us. Life is a continuing process of the death of the old and the familiar, and being reborn again into a new hope, a new trust, and a new love. The death and resurrection of Jesus therefore is not just an historical event that took place a long time ago, but an inner event that takes place in our heart when we are willing to be attentive to it.

Lent offers a beautiful opportunity to discover the mystery of Christ within us. It is a gentle but also demanding time. It is a time of solitude but also community, it is a time of listening to the voice within, but also a time of paying attention to other people's needs. It is a time to continuously make the passage to new inner life as well as to life with those around us.

When we live Lent attentively and gently, then Easter can truly be a celebration during which the full proclamation of the risen Christ will reverberate into the deepest place of our being.

With Burning Hearts: A Meditation on the Eucharistic Life, by Henri Nouwen.
Copyright © 1994 Henri J.M. Nouwen. Published by Orbis Books

LENTEN NOTES - Do you know....

The weekdays of Lent are a time of penance for the Church around the world. Fulfillment of this duty involves prayer, works of piety and charity, and self-denial by fulfilling one's obligations more faithfully.

In the Roman rite, including Canada, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence from meat.

The law of abstinence from meat binds those who are 14 and older; the law of fasting binds those from 18 to 59 years of age.

- Purple is the colour of this liturgical season.
- Flowers are not used to decorate the altar or the area around it throughout the season (GIRM, no. 305).
- Musical instruments are used only to give necessary support to singing, not for solo playing (GIRM, no. 313).
- The "Glory to God" is omitted
- The Gospel Acclamation is "Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ"

The World Day of Prayer Service Friday, March 3 at 7:00 pm

Grace Presbyterian Church
(by the water tower) in Yorkton

This year's theme is "Am I Being Unfair to You?"

The service was prepared by the WDP Committee in the Philippines.

All Christians: women, men and children are invited to come together to pray and learn about the Philippines.

What is the World Day of Prayer?

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement that brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year.

Through preparation and participation in the worship service, we can come to know how our sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the Biblical passages in their context.

We can hear their concerns and needs and can feel ourselves in solidarity with them as we pray with and for them. In this way, it is possible to enrich our Christian faith, as it grows deeper and broader in an international, ecumenical expression.

The motto of the World Day of Prayer movement is ***Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action***. Through our participation in the World Day of Prayer, we affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence on the world.

World Day of Prayer in Canada

The World Day of Prayer began in the 19th century when Christian women of Canada and the United States started to be involved in missions at home and in other parts of the world.

Since 1812, women have encouraged one another to engage in personal prayer and take leadership in communal prayer within their mission auxiliaries and associations. Presbyterian women in the United States then called for a national day of prayer in 1887, and Anglican women in Canada established a national day of corporate intercessions for mission in 1895.

On October 19, 1918, Presbyterian women in Canada called together representatives of five Women's Missionary Boards – Anglican, Baptist, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian – "to promote the spreading of Christ's kingdom through united prayer and action." That first inter-church meeting gave birth to the Interim Committee on the Federation of the Women's Missionary Society Boards of Canada, which organized a national and inter denominational day of prayer on January 9, 1920.

In 1922, the Canadian committee agreed to use the same theme and day for the Day of Prayer as U.S. women. This annual event became the Women's World Day of Prayer in 1927.

In **1969**, The World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations decided to change their international day of prayer from March to May in order to take part in the World Day of Prayer. **While this program began with women, it is for all Christians: women, men and children, called to come together in prayer and unity.**

YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"Trust in God"

This Week...

Trust God. God will not forget us. God will not judge us harshly or unfairly. God will provide for us what we need. We do not need to be overly anxious about things that are not very important. We are more significant than the lilies of the field, yet they are beautiful. If God takes such good care of the field, we can be sure that God will take good care of us.

For Your Reflection

Jesus tells us to look to the flowers. They are beautiful just as they are, even though they are not concerned with designer clothes and are not obsessed with overeating or dieting.

Magazine ads and TV commercials do their best to convince us that a person becomes more popular, more intelligent, more successful, and better looking if he or she wears their brand of clothing or uses their skin and hair products.

Fast food was first created to serve a need - it was a convenient way to feed people who were too busy to prepare quality meals for themselves. Fast food generally isn't very healthy or nutritious, and it was never meant to be a substitute for home-cooked meals, but because of advertising it has become the food of choice for some people. Many children would rather eat out at a fast-food place than eat quality home cooking at their own dinner table!

- Why are many teenagers willing to be brainwashed into believing obviously false advertising?
- How can teenagers see what is true when much time and money are spent promoting what is false?

Flowers need a balanced ecology in order to thrive. God has done a wonderful job of creating the earth, but human beings have sometimes done a poor job as stewards. When we pay more attention to advertising and products and having "the right look," we end up neglecting things that really matter. Many factories and industries are hurting the environment.

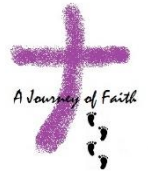
- The environment has no voice of its own. How can you be its voice?
- How are consumerism and materialism related to the destruction of the planet? How are teenagers partially responsible?



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