



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

February 26, 2023
First Sunday of Lent

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 Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.

Pastor.....Fr. Louis Nguyen 306.782.0323 louisyorkton@gmail.com
306.621.8068 Emergencies
Parish Office Administrator..... Sandra Archer 306.782.2449 office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (27th) NO MASS
Tues. (28th) 7:00pm +Heiner Cattelaens
Wed. (1st) 9:00am +Leonard Sharkey
3:00pm *Ecumenical Prayer Service for those experiencing grief and loss*
Thurs. (2nd) **7:00pm** +August & +Curtis Burant
Fri. (3rd) **7:00pm** +Lauretta Schwitzer
Sat. (4th) 9:00am +Darlene Bernath

5:00pm +Nicholas Bryan Beeson
Sun. (5th) **SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**
9:00am Mass for the People
11:00am +Merlin Mroske

SACRAMENTS

Infant Baptism: Please phone the Parish Office to register for Baptism Preparation. 306.782.2449

RCIA: For adults wishing to be received into the Catholic Church, contact Father Louis. 306.782.0323.

Matrimony: Please contact Fr. Louis 12 months prior to the date when you would like to be married. 306.782.0323

Reconciliation: Saturday at 8:30am or anytime by appointment. 306.782.0323

Anointing: Please contact Father Louis at 306.621.8068.

The **Stations of the Cross** devotion is prayed each Friday at 7pm during Lent (except March 3rd)



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



So that we may observe Lent with fasting, prayer, and sharing with those in need, we pray – Lord, let us be like you.

-The Redemptorists

JESUS IS THE WAY TO THE FATHER

with Fr. Kevin McGee,
Vicar General of the Diocese of Saskatoon

In this Mission, Fr. Kevin will reflect through 4 sessions, how Jesus is the way that leads to an intimate relationship with the Father. This journey involves the purifying stage of the desert and continues into the full participation of his cross and resurrection.

Session 1
Mass followed by talk
Thurs., March 2 @ 7 pm

Session 2
Mass followed by talk
Fri., March 3 @ 7 pm

Session 3
Mass followed by talk
Sat. March 4 @ 9 am

Session 4
Homily
Sat. March 4 @ 5 pm Mass
Sun. March 5 @ 9 am & 11 am Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday and Friday 6 pm to 6:45 pm
Saturday 4 pm to 4:45 pm

After each session, refreshments will be served, and there will be an opportunity to visit with Fr. McGee.

ST. GERARD CHURCH, 125 3RD AVE N, YORKTON

FAMILY CONNECTION

When Jesus resists the temptations presented to him by the devil, he draws on his religious upbringing and tradition. Jesus is able to quote from Scripture because he is the Son of God and because he was a human person who lived his Jewish beliefs fully. We who are responsible for raising children are also called upon to immerse them fully in our Catholic Christian tradition so that they too will be able to draw upon this tradition to resist the temptations they will face in their lives.

Use this Sunday as an opportunity to call your family's attention to the importance of Scripture in our lives. Gather your family around the family Bible and read today's Gospel, Matthew 4:1-11. Recall that Jesus rebuked the devil's temptations by quoting Scripture. Take some time as a family to talk about the words that are found in the Bible and the importance of Scripture to our faith. Perhaps the older members of the family can share a favorite Scripture passage with everyone. Younger family members can tell their favorite story from the Bible and be shown where that story can be found. In each case, encourage a deeper sharing of faith by asking each person to tell why the Scripture passage shared is important to him or her. Conclude your time together by again reading Jesus' reply to the devil found in Matthew 4:4 ("One does not live by bread alone . . .") and praying the Lord's Prayer.



10 Tips for Making the Lenten Season More Meaningful

Slow down Set aside 10 minutes a day for silent prayer or meditation. It will revitalize your body and your spirit.

Read a good book You could choose the life of a saint, a spiritual how-to, or an inspirational book.

Be kind Go out of your way to do something nice for someone else every day.

Get involved Attend the Parish Mission this week.

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.

Reach out Invite an inactive Catholic to come with you to Stations of the Cross, or Friday mass (followed by the Lenten Lunch).

Pray Especially for people you don't like and for people who don't like you.

Tune out Turn off the television and spend quality time talking with family members/friends.

Clean out closets Donate gently used items to Serendipity Yorkton.

Donate Google "Catholic Missions." Then pick one mission and decide how you can help by sending money, clothing or supplies.

There will be a Lenten Lunch served each Friday after the 12 noon Mass. Free-will offering appreciated.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM

The "Strong Foundations" Marriage Preparation Program will begin March 19 (for six weeks). Please contact the Parish Office to register.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 – 7pm
St. Gerard Parish Hall

- To approve the minutes from the 2022 Annual General Meeting
- To appoint an accounting firm for 2023
- To approve the revised Constitution and Bylaws (Rev. March 2023)

All parishioners are encouraged to attend.



News from the CWL



All CWL Members are invited to attend the Workshop "Catholic and Living It" on behalf of the Yorkton/Melville Regional CWL Council on Saturday, March 11th at St. Henry's Church, Melville beginning with registration and coffee & muffins at 9:30 a.m. Connie Crichton, Provincial President, will be involved in a presentation called 'Misconceptions of the League'. Janette Rieger, Diocesan President, will give a presentation on 'Going Forward', discussing the changes happening in the CWL and ideas on how to involve more members as we change to the new format. Registration fee is \$10 (including lunch) and is payable the morning of the workshop. Pre-registration is required by calling Paulette 306-782-7923 before MARCH 2nd.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Feb. 26	Bingo-5pm
Mar. 5	Parish brunch after 9am & 11am Mass
Mar. 11	Bingo-5pm

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.728.8664. www.kofc-2031.ca

Sask K of C Vocations Endowment Weekend

The Bishops of Saskatchewan have partnered with the Sask K of C Charitable Foundation to create the Sask K of C Vocations Endowment. Every year the earnings from this Endowment will be disbursed equally to each seminarian throughout all Saskatchewan Dioceses and Eparchy. These funds will help defray the estimated \$30,000.00 per year it costs to educate each Seminarian.

In support of the K of C Vocation Endowment Knights of Columbus Council is participating with our Parish in a fundraising campaign during the weekend of February 25-26, 2023.

The Bishops, Priests, Knights of Columbus and Catholic faithful thank you in advance for your generous support of the education and development of seminarians through prayer and financial assistance.

ST. GERARD PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL & FINANCE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nominations are now open for positions on both the Pastoral and the Finance Council.

Copies of the nomination form may be picked up in the Parish Office.

Deadline for submission of nomination forms is Thursday, March 2nd at 12 noon.



Bringing Home the Word **+**

Try It! You'll Like It!

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

If only temptation was obvious, we might have a better chance of avoiding it. But sometimes it's so subtle. It often disguises itself as something rather attractive. This is precisely what happened in the Garden of Eden. Scripture says temptation takes on a living form—a serpent that convinces the woman that the fruit of the wisdom tree will make them “like gods, who know good and evil” (Genesis 3:5).

Who wouldn't jump at such a possibility? Actually, who hasn't already fallen into that trap—acting as if we are God, thinking we know everything or wishing to be in complete control? Our faith certainly encourages us to become more and more like God. What made that desire wrong was the way Adam and Eve sought to become like gods in their own way, not God's way.

The Gospel passage tells us that Jesus also was tempted. Who doubts that Jesus wanted to be successful in his ministry? But what would he do to ensure success? Would he use divine power to attract a following? No! Would he call upon God to protect him from misunderstanding, rejection, even physical harm? No! Would he bargain with the devil, who obviously exercised power over many people? No! That was not the way he would be the Messiah. Unlike the couple in the Garden, Jesus recognized what was wrong even when it was disguised as something good. How good are we at recognizing temptation in our lives?

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Established in 1967, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is the official international solidarity organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. We partner with organizations in the Global South that promote alternatives to unjust social, political and economic structures and support women in their quest for equality and justice. With the help of our 11,000+ volunteer members, we inform Canadians about the root causes of impoverishment and mobilize them to act for change. Our Lenten campaign, **Stand for the Land** focuses on people's defence of their territories in Colombia and Honduras.

Sunday Connection

First Reading *Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7*

Eve and Adam eat from the tree that was forbidden to them by God.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 51:3-4,5-6,12-13,17*

A prayer for mercy.

Second Reading *Romans 5:12-19*

Through the obedience of Jesus, many will be made righteous.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 4.1-11*

Jesus fasts for 40 days in the desert and is tempted by the devil.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In each of the three Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), after Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus is reported to have gone to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. In each case, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

Matthew and Luke give more detail than Mark does, but each one tells how the devil tempts Jesus in the desert. In Matthew, as in Luke, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture.

The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted.

Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness.

As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God.

www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection

Raising Children to Give: A Stewardship Workshop

Thursday, March 9 at 3pm

Also available on YouTube at <https://bit.ly/Ecumenical-Stewardship>

Generosity is a spiritual practice, just like prayer. Yet so often children are left out of discussions about stewardship and giving. In this engaging webinar, educators and authors Traci Smith and Laura Alary will share practical ways to open the conversation and nurture generosity and giving with children all year long.

All are welcome to join this free 1-hour online webinar offered in the spirit of the LAURC Covenant by the Ecumenical Stewardship Committee of the Anglican Diocese of Qu'Appelle, the Saskatchewan Synod of the ELCIC, and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina.

Please register at:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErfuGqrjliHtJ67gXFWRwTYdb_BdQeMx8J

For further details contact Nick Jesson at njesson@archregina.sk.ca

Laura Alary is the coordinator of the McKay Educational Resource Centre at Caven Library, Knox College, Toronto. The McKay Centre focuses on faith formation and congregational life and incorporates a growing Picture Books in Ministry collection. A former Christian education coordinator, Laura is also a writer and storyteller. Her books include *Read, Wonder, Listen: Stories from the Bible for Young Readers*, the church year series *Make Room, Breath, and Look!* and most recently *Sun in My Tummy, The Astronomer Who Questioned Everything, and Here: The Dot We Call Home*.

Traci Smith is a pastor, mother of three, and author of three books *Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home, Prayers for Faithful Families: Everyday Prayers for Everyday Life, and Faithful Families for Advent and Christmas: 100 Ways to Make the Season Sacred*. Traci's passion is helping families find times for connection and spiritual nourishment amid the hustle and bustle of daily life. Traci speaks to both ministry leaders and families about faith formation at home and trends in faith formation within the church. Her weekly newsletter, *Treasure Box Tuesday*, provides weekly resources, links, and inspiration. Traci has a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and undergraduate degrees from Calvin College.

- Submitted by Carm Molnar,
Ecumenical Committee Chairperson

Bear Witness to Canada's Past at the Witness Blanket

The **Witness Blanket** at the RCMP Heritage Centre in Regina holds stories of the residential school experiences from survivors across the country. Bearing witness means taking responsibility for the future, and by visiting the Witness Blanket, you can actively engage in the reconciliation process. View the blanket individually or as a group, with or without a tour guide.

Admission is free for Indigenous people and survivors. A small fee applies to non-Indigenous visitors.

Bookings can be made through Educational Programming Coordinator Debbie LeDressay at deb.ledressay@rcmphc.com.

Free parking is available on-site.

Learn more at www.witnessblanket.ca

A PRAYER FOR EVERY DAY OF LENT

Lord,

Let everything I do this day and in this season of Lent come from you, be inspired by you.

I long to be closer to you. Help me to remember that nothing is important in my life unless it glorifies you in some way.

It's so easy to get caught up in the day to day of my life and keep saying, "Tomorrow, I will spend more time in prayer," but now my longing meets your love and I want to do it now. Help me to rely on you for help.

The prayer asks you that I reach perfection. Please, Lord, remind me that "perfection" isn't the crazy, "successful" way I try to live my life, but a perfection of my most authentic, real self. My "perfection" might be holding my many flaws in my open hands, asking you to help me accept them.

Heal me, Lord, and help me to find you in the darkness of my life.

Let me reach out in this darkness and feel your hand and love there to guide me.

Amen

Lent: A Time for Inner Cleansing

Kathy Kuczka

Every year my mother would rearrange the furniture in the living room and family room and change the drapes. Then she would open the cupboards and drawers in the kitchen, remove all the dishes, glasses, cups, goblets, plates, pitchers, platters, bowls, casseroles, china, and silverware to clean them. It was as if we were preparing for the biggest banquet of the year. She called this cleansing fury “spring cleaning.”

Every year at this time the Church gives us the opportunity to do some inner spring cleaning. In fact, the word *Lent* is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word meaning “spring.” Lent is a prime time to rearrange our priorities, to open the cupboards of our hearts and hold our egos to the light to see those areas that need to be cleaned and polished. Inner cleansing, or conversion, has always been at the heart of Lent. In the early Church, Lent was the final leg of the journey for the catechumens preparing for Baptism. It was also a time when already baptized penitents, isolated from the assembly because of their sins, would prepare to be reconciled to God and the community. The journeys of the catechumen and the penitent were related in that both embraced conversion. As the catechumen looked forward to Baptism, the penitent looked forward to reconciliation. To this day, the focus of Lent remains both baptismal and penitential.

Return, repent, reconcile, and renew are words that we hear in the liturgies of Lent. A common factor among these words is the prefix *re-*. That prefix expresses the meaning “again,” as in words such as *redo*, *remake*, and *revise*; but it also indicates withdrawal or backward motion, as in words such as *return*, *revert*, and *remember*. During Lent, we are called to change by going back to childlike innocence, simplicity, and joy.

Prayer helps us to return to childlike innocence. Prayer prompts us to withdraw. As Jesus said, “When you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret” (Matthew 6:6, *New American Bible, Revised Edition*). Prayer nurtures our relationship with God. Prayer also nurtures our relationship with ourselves. Prayer peels away the masks we wear and the layers of ego defenses we think we need to survive. Prayer tells us that it’s okay to be who we really are. Prayer changes us.

Fasting helps us to return to childlike simplicity. Fasting challenges us to trust that God will provide all that we need. Fasting helps us to sort our priorities. Because the digestive system doesn’t have to work as hard when we fast, we have



Prayer helps us to return to childlike innocence.

more energy to focus on what matters. Fasting creates a hunger for God. Fasting changes us.

Almsgiving helps us to return to childlike joy. Almsgiving moves us to acknowledge how much we have been given and that fills us with gratitude and praise. Almsgiving frees us from fear by compelling us to surrender what we have and who we are to others. Almsgiving requires humility. As Jesus said, “When you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret” (Matthew 6:2). True humility always leads to joy. Almsgiving changes us.

It is God who calls us to conversion, and it is God’s transforming grace that accompanies us on the Lenten journey as we pray, fast, and give alms. Let us pray for the courage to be open to this grace that we might come to Easter, the biggest banquet of the liturgical year, with hearts cleansed and spirits renewed.