



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

February 27th, 2022

Eighth 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. (28 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (1 st)	7:00pm +Tom Pasloski
Wed. (2 nd)	ASH WEDNESDAY <i>(Universal day of fasting and abstinence from meat)</i>
	9:00am +August & +Curtis Burant
	7:00pm Mass for the People
Thurs. (3 rd)	9:00am Zack Halliday
	2:30pm GLADSTONE SENIORS' RES Denis Dierker
Fri. (4 th)	9:00am Deceased members of the Poirier family
Sat. (5 th)	9:00am +Helen Piontek
	5:00pm +Ambrose Wolfe
Sun. (6 th)	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
	9:00am Mass of the People
	11:00am +Beatrice Ikwueme
	1:00pm Sacrament Preparation beginning with Mass

NEW GUIDELINES FROM THE DIOCESE

Effective Monday, February 28th, we ask that you continue to remain vigilant in your actions and decisions, considering the greater good, and to follow the directives per the Archdiocese of Regina:

- **We are a "mask-friendly" parish,** meaning that wearing a mask is optional, and we respect those who continue to do so.
- Please sanitize your hands when entering and leaving the church.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection continues.
- We will not shake hands when we share the sign of peace.
- Communion Ministers will wear a mask.
- If you are ill, elderly, or medically vulnerable in any way, you are urged to continue to take every precaution to keep yourself and others safe.

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

Stay Connected Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, you show me the pathway of goodness and truth. Help me to bear the fruit of love, compassion, and peace.

- 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,

Last weekend Jesus taught us to *“love your enemies, do good to those who hate you; ...do not judge, and you will not be judged, do not condemn and you will not be condemned.”* This weekend, he continues to invite us to check what we have deep inside ourselves before seeing what is in others: *“Why do you see the speck in your neighbour’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?”*

It is easy to see another’s weaknesses and faults. Yes, it is easy and once we see it, we always have a tendency to comment, blame or judge on what we see. I would say that it’s a very human fault when we judge or comment on the weakness of others. Jesus, in his message, is very clear - He is warning us that we need to be careful because it is very easy for us to be hypocritical. He asks us to be humble to *“take the log out of our own eyes, and then we will see clearly to take the speck out of our neighbour’s eye.”*

Jesus invites us to take time, to slow down our thinking, to check what is in us first before commenting. It is good to help or correct others so that they may be better. However, how can we do this if we are not good enough or if we are at the same level as others?

I would like to share with you very good lessons that I have learned through English sayings: *“Count to ten before speaking,” “Engage brain before starting mouth,”* or one by the American humorist, Evan Esar, *“Anger is a feeling that makes your mouth work faster than your mind.”*

Each of us has a plank in our eyes which blinds us to our own faults. We can be blind to certain facts about ourselves which are perfectly clear to anyone who has ever lived in the same house with us or worked with us.

Jesus reminds us today that we must try to see and live clearly before helping others or it will be a case of “the blind leading the blind”. We live in a society where people seek the virtuous thing to do and give advice to anyone, but don’t necessarily want to check themselves first.

We, as Christians, need to spend time in prayer and reflection to determine the solid foundation on which to live and to be guided. We cannot just invent this on our own: we need help from God’s grace, and we also need help from dependable people and solid traditions.

Remember that Jesus teaches us not to judge people, but to judge actions: evil people do evil things, just as good people do good things. We can see it in the first reading from the Book of Sirach when we are invited to be the “sieve” of our words as well as the words of others. It teaches us to sift the words of others in order to separate the good from the evil. But Jesus teaches us that we should start by “sifting” our own words first.

I would like to offer you some questions to reflect deeper on this topic. Ask yourself:

Do I profit from the wisdom of others or their foolishness in facing the trial?

Do I see wisdom or folly come out of my mouth as a result?

Does this trial end up making others better, more noble, more holy?

Does it make me better, more noble, more holy?

Or does it help me identify the good and evil in my life and others’ lives?

Have a blessed weekend and be ready for Lent coming.

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.



Congratulations to

Tram The Tran & Thu Thi Anh Tran

who were married at St. Gerard on February 21st.

*May the Lord be with them
every day of their married life.*



Countdown for Lent

Lent is a time for prayer, penance and fasting, and almsgiving.

Do you know...

- this is the last Sunday that we sing "Alleluia" in any hymn or text until the Easter Vigil?
- Fridays are days of abstinence from meat (those 14 and older), but Catholics in Canada may substitute special acts of charity or piety on this day
- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday in the Roman Rite are days of fasting and abstinence from meat.
- The law of fasting binds those from 18 to 59 years of age.
- Christian fasting obtains its full meaning when we deprive ourselves of food in order to be more open to prayer, to share more in the suffering of those who are starving and to save money to give to the poor.
- Fasting is a penitential discipline intended to open our hearts to God and others, a means of purification and spiritual liberation, a witness of the depth of our faith.



News from the CWL



The CWL meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9th with Mass at 7 pm, followed by the meeting to take place in the hall. Every member is urged to attend as we will have an instructed vote on 8 amendments (one through eight) to the Constitution and Bylaws (2013) and also a secret ballot vote on the proposed \$12.00 increase in the per capital fee which would result in an increase in membership fees from \$30.00 to \$42.00 if the vote is passed across Canada. One of the amendments that will be voted on is the proposed name change from 'Our Lady of Good Counsel' to 'Our Lady of Guadalupe'. Make your vote count by attending the meeting.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Bingos have been cancelled until further notice.

March 2	Planning meeting cancelled
March 4	Knights lead Stations of the Cross
March 9	General Meeting

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



\$20 per plate

2 Sausages, 6 Perogies, 3 Cabbage Rolls,
Coleslaw, Lemon Dessert

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY

Tickets available March 1st 'til March 21st at 4pm

Contact:	Elaine 306.782.0550
Sonia 306.783.0952	Kathy 306.783.8173

Ignatian Spirituality Conference

The Jesuits of Canada are hosting their first-ever online Ignatian Spirituality Conference this spring! Register to take part in this **free** event from April 2-3, 2022, and experience time-tested methods to delve deeper in the spiritual life, recognizing our call to collaborate in Jesus' project of hope, reconciliation and justice. Eight sessions with speakers including James Martin, SJ, Laurence Loubières, XMCJ, and Greg Kennedy, SJ

Learn more and register today:

https://ignatienne-ignatian.vfairs.com/?utm_source=email-social&utm_medium=email-social&utm_campaign=ARCHREGINA&utm_id=ARCHREGINA&utm_term=%20ARCHREGINA&utm_content=ARCHREGINA



Silence Regenerates Our Inner Sanctuary

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Silence. A fresco by Paris Nogari with that name, *Silence*, appears outside the pope's residence where the Swiss Guards stand. It reminds us of an important virtue that is often absent in modern times: the capacity to be silent. "Be still and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:11).

The figure in the fresco holds a finger over his mouth, indicating that silence starts with us. Speak less! Then we should muffle the background noise, represented by the stork with a stone in its bill to stifle its squawk.

How often do we have times of silence in our lives—and not just moments when there doesn't happen to be a radio or TV on? I mean purposeful, intentional periods of quiet to be alone with God and ourselves.

Regular times of quiet offer many benefits. They help us reflect, order our thoughts, and contemplate what's happening inside our hearts and minds. Silence is regenerative and gives us new energy, clarity, and serenity. If we add to this quietude an internal dialogue with ourselves and our Lord, it can take our inner sanctuary to a new level. One will not only find strength but also purpose and focus. Silence is the natural habitat of a flourishing soul, yet we often lock out our inner self in the mayhem of the external world, never allowing it to take in what gives it life—silence.

How about taking an hour without phones, radios, TVs, and computers to dedicate yourself to some meditative work or recreation? Or better yet, take a moment and go to a local perpetual adoration chapel to quietly sit with our Lord.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ST. GERARD CHURCH

Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 7pm
St. Gerard Social Hall

All parishioners are urged to attend.



This year, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's *People and Planet First* campaign calls you to support our sisters and brothers in the Global South in defending their rights and the planet. Do this by:

1. **Donating** online at devp.org/give or during the Solidarity Sunday collection on April 3, the fifth Sunday of Lent. Your generosity helps support over 85 projects in 27 countries around the world!
2. **Learning more by reading the Mini-magazine** and other resources available at: devp.org/lent/resources.
3. **Signing the petition** for strong laws to control Canadian corporations' behaviour abroad at devp.org/act

GET INVOLVED
Make a Difference!



ST. GERARD PARISH PASTORAL & FINANCE* COUNCIL ELECTIONS

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

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

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

Deadline for submission of nomination forms is Thursday, March 10th at 12 noon.

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Sun. (27th): 1:00pm Sacrament Preparation
Beginning with Mass
- Mon. (28th): 9:00am CWL Quilting Bee
7:00pm Bible Study (lower level)
- Tues. (1st): 9:00am CWL Quilting Bee
- Sun. (6th): 1:00pm Sacrament Preparation
Beginning with Mass

Follow the bulletin or the Events Calendar at www.stgerard.ca for the date and time of the next Perogy & Cabbage Roll Fundraiser!

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Good Fruit, Good Tree"

This Week...

Jesus condemns hypocrisy more than any other sin or fault. The ones we follow need to be good people, good teachers. We don't want to be led by blind leaders. Just as we can tell trees are good by the goodness of their fruit, we can tell teachers and leaders are good by the goodness of their words and their actions.

For Your Reflection

The fruit reflects the tree, just as parents are often reflected in their sons and daughters.

- If someone said you were like your parents, would you see that as a compliment or an insult? Why?
- What do you do that makes your parents proud?
- What do you do that sometimes upsets or embarrasses your parents?
- What do your parents do that you are proud of?
- What do your parents do that you are uncomfortable with?
- Do you like being seen as a reflection of your parents, or would you prefer to be seen as an independent person, free from their influence?

Legally, if you are a minor, your parents are responsible for what you do, even if they are not at fault for your actions.

- How does that affect your decisions on how to act?
- How does that affect your parents' decisions regarding family rules?
- Do you think you are a trustworthy person?
- Do your parents trust you? Why or why not?
- Do your friends trust you? Why or why not?
- Do you trust all your friends or just some of them? Why?

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