



St. Gerard

February 28, 2021

Second Sunday
of Lent

Roman Catholic Parish

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 louisYorkton@gmail.com

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

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (1 st)	NO MASS
Tues. (2 nd)	6:00pm <i>Holy Hour Devotion</i> 7:00pm +Art Scherr
Wed. (3 rd)	12:05pm +Peter & +Rose Osika
Thurs. (4 th)	9:30am +Alice Baumgartner
Fri. (5 th)	9:30am +Joan Kormos 7:00pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat. (6 th)	9:30am +Darlene Bernath
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	5:00pm +Roch Pilon 7:00pm +Ferdinand Thiele
Sun. (7 th)	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 9:00am Mass for the People 11:00am +Henry Kuruliak 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, you watch over me and love me as your child.
Help me to see all people as your children and treat them with gentleness, love, and respect.

- 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,

The first reading for this week is one of the most beautiful stories in the Bible. It shows us the depth of Abraham's faith in God. He did what he thought that God wanted him to do.

This story illustrates God's trustworthiness more than we think. I say it because first, it gives us an example of Abraham who trusts God even though he doesn't fully understand what God is planning - and his trust is not disappointed. Second, it shows us that the true God is different from other gods. When God asks Abraham to offer his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice, it seems to be an extraordinary request. However, at the last minute, the Angel tells Abraham to stop, to not harm the child; it reveals the face of God, a loving God.

The other gods put humans as slaves and destroy; but our God liberates and gives us life. We would say that the devil, the leader of all false gods, destroyed Jesus on the cross, but God the Father raised him up from the dead: our God is totally different.

And third, the story shows us that our God is the Lord of all history. Indeed, the story tells us that God asks Abraham to go to Moriah to offer his sacrifice. Do you know that almost one thousand years later, in this place, the king Solomon built the Temple, the holy place of worship for Israelites? Do you know that this place is nearby where Christ would offer himself to be sacrificed on Calvary?

It was the Father who offered Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins, just as Abraham was prepared to offer Isaac. And Jesus carried his cross to Calvary, just as Isaac carried the wood for the sacrificial fire up Mount Moriah.

The second reading, connected to the first reading, shows us the depth of God's love for us. God did not even spare his own Son, but gave him up for us.

St. Paul tells us that God is on our side. Therefore, neither suffering nor tragedy nor death should separate us from the love of God, a love which we have seen in Christ.

St. Paul points out that the whole message of Christ's death and resurrection is, without any doubt, entirely for us. Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, suffered and died on the cross not because he had sinned, but because we had sinned. He put himself into the power of the devil, giving himself as a ransom for us, and this is how much God loves us. And then, by his resurrection, he proved that this love is more powerful than evil and death.

That is why Paul expresses: *This is the God who is for us, so who can possibly stand against us?*

When we acknowledge that God, with his infinite power and mercy, is on our side, that He is for us, all our problems and difficulties look entirely different.

My dear sisters and brothers, our problem is that as soon as we run into trouble our faith fails us. Sometimes we think that God has abandoned us, but actually He is present in our suffering. At all times, but especially in time of the difficulty of the pandemic, remember what St. Paul says: *God is on our side, and with God on our side, we can face anything.*

You are in my prayers. Enjoy the warm weather and have a blessed weekend. Pray that we may all have the vaccine, and we will soon be free from Covid. I love 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



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

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

In his recent encyclical, Pope Francis calls upon us to live the love that would make us “one great family, where all of us can feel at home”; a love that “exudes compassion and dignity.” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 62.)

With the entire human family suffering from COVID-19, the Development & Peace *Share Lent* campaign invites us to **share love** and **express solidarity** with our sisters and brothers in the Global South, **whose vulnerabilities are being exacerbated** by the pandemic. Remembering the inherent dignity of all human beings, let us heed the Pope's reminder that “justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day.” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 11.)

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee



The *Share Love, Share Lent* campaign is inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti* and its call “for a love that transcends... Geography and distance” and “allows us to acknowledge, appreciate and love each person.”

Each week, the campaign explores a different aspect of Development and Peace's work and offers you ways to become involved.

Follow the solidarity calendar at www.devp.org/lent

The special collection for Development & Peace is March 21, 2021. Please give generously!

A Prayer to the Creator

Lord, Father of our human family, you created all human beings equal in dignity: pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter, dialogue, justice and peace. Move us to create healthier societies and a more dignified world, a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war. May our hearts be open to all the peoples and nations of the earth. May we recognize the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us, and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects, and shared dreams. Amen.

Prayer by Pope Francis, from the 2020 Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*.



Bringing Home the Word

Let Go and Let God

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

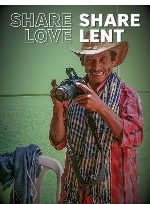
A Vatican mural by Raphael Sanzio, *The Sacrifice of Isaac*, depicts the promised Isaac, the son of Abraham's old age, kneeling humbly on an altar. He was the answer to a prayer, a commitment by God that, through this child, Abraham would have descendants as numerous as the stars. Yet God was asking him to sacrifice that hope and promise. And Abraham, although surely not understanding, was willing to obey the Father. It represents the supreme test of faith. Abraham is called "our Father in Faith" for a reason. Abraham is looking up to God, not focused on the creatures, even as much as he loved his son. We also need to be looking up to God in order to rightly value the things below.

Abraham understands that no godly gift should take God's place in the human heart—even something as precious as his God-given child. When dealing with all the good things God gives us, even those he has promised and those we love most, we must be willing to submit to his plans. God doesn't always make sense to us and we are painfully aware that his ways are not always our ways.

Isaac is a young boy, but certainly big enough to put up a fight as his elderly father's plans become evident. Yet we see Isaac kneeling in acceptance of the sacrifice God requests. Although he wants to understand, he doesn't make the reason an absolute. Isaac foreshadows the trusting lamb led to slaughter, the ram whose head will be caught in a crown of thorns, and the Son who will not be spared by the heavenly Father.

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Strengthening vulnerable communities



Did you know that Development and Peace supports a school for peasant filmmakers in Colombia? This week in the *Share Love, Share Lent* campaign, discover the creative ways in which we assist communities in speaking for and taking charge of their own development. In keeping with the Catholic Social Teaching principle of participation, let your Lenten journey make a difference in the world. Learn about our work and consider giving to help sustain it.

GET INVOLVED
Make a Difference!



ST. GERARD PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Virtual)

Wednesday, March 3rd @ 7:00 pm

HOW DO I TAKE PART IN THE AGM?

1. To register for the virtual AGM, email the Parish Office **by 12 noon Tuesday, March 2nd**. office@stgerard.ca Please include your first and last name and telephone number.

Only those parishioners who have pre-registered with the Parish Office will be able to participate.

2. A meeting package will be emailed to you when you register. The package will include the agenda, the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, and the Annual Report (including the Financial Statement).
3. **ALL QUESTIONS** pertaining to the contents of the Annual Report are to be **EMAILED** to the Parish Office by **12 noon Wednesday, March 3rd**. office@stgerard.ca

The questions will be forwarded to the committee chairperson(s), who will answer the questions during the meeting.

First time taking part in a virtual meeting? *No problem! Instructions will be emailed to you with your registration confirmation.*

No electronic device? Still want to take part? *There will be limited seating available for those who DO NOT have access to the internet. Call the Parish Office by NOON Wednesday for details!*

Unable to take part in the meeting? *The approved Annual Report will be available online by the end of next week. Check out the Parish Council section under the "Our Parish" tab! OR contact the Parish Office for a printed copy.*

YOUTH REFLECTION

"The Transfiguration"

This Week...

Abraham's experience of God was so strong that he was willing to do anything God wanted. Peter's insight into the mystery of Jesus in the Transfiguration was so strong that he wanted to stay on the mountaintop and revel in it. Yet, God led them beyond these experiences. If God is with us, who can oppose us?

For Your Reflection

- Have you ever experienced a place or situation that was breathtaking, incredible, glorious, and awesome? something you did not want to leave behind? something that filled you with joy and life and zeal? What was it like? Where was it? What made it so special? Were you alone or with others? Were you able to explain it to someone who was not there? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Jesus wanted Peter, James, and John to experience him as a glistening, dazzling, transfigured vision? How do you think that affect their faith? How would it have affected your faith? How does it affect your faith just reading about it?
- Peter did not want to leave that mountaintop experience. He wanted to build some booths and just "camp out" there for a while. Why was it better for Jesus and Peter and the others to come down from the mountain? Why is it important for us to enjoy and remember our "peak" experiences, but leave them behind and come back to our everyday life?

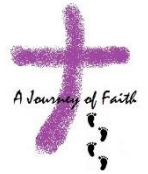
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter* - St. Mary's Press, 2004



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