



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

February 6th, 2022

Fifth 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.

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| 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. (7th) NO MASS

Tues. (8th) 7:00pm +Frances Vandenameele

Wed. (9th) 9:00am Family of Verna Off
10:00am **ASPEN VILLA**
James Mackenzie

Thurs. (10th) 9:00am Mass of Thanksgiving
2:30pm **LAKESIDE MANOR**
David & Mary Ryhorski

Fri. (11th) **World Day of the Sick**
(Healing Mass)
10:00am +Gabriel Macalino (1 year)

Sat. (12th) 9:00am Special Intentions

5:00pm +Mary Diakuw

Sun. (13th) **SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
9:00am +Craig Pierce
11:00am Mass for the People

WELCOME!

Please note the following per the **Archdiocese of Regina guidelines** (effective July 11, 2021) and the **Government of Saskatchewan Interim Health Order** (extended until February 28, 2022):

- **Masks must be worn at all times until further notice**
- Masks & hand sanitizer are provided.
- **Please sit in the pews that have hymnals and maintain two metres between households**
- The choir and singing has resumed
- Holy water will not be available in the Baptismal font at this time
- We will not shake hands when we share the sign of peace
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection continues

Please come! Everyone is welcome!

Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, you are the Word made flesh. Open my heart to share your message of love and hope with the people around me.

- 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,

What we hear in the Gospel this weekend is a story about Peter and his friends, fishermen, who had done their best. They had worked all night but had caught nothing; all their time and effort had been for nothing. They are now tired.

However, when the Lord is with them all things change. We hear a beautiful conversation between Peter and the Lord: *“Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch”* to which Peter replies *“Lord, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets”*.

We recall what happened at the Wedding Feast at Cana after Mary said to the servants *“Do whatever he tells you”*. Again in this story Peter puts his trust in the Lord by saying *“We have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so I will let down the nets”*.

Fishing is a worthy calling. However, Jesus sees that Peter is capable of other things. He is the kind of man that Jesus wants to have helping him with his mission. What qualities does Jesus see in Peter that makes him call Peter to share in his work? Peter has the first and most essential one - faith in Jesus. He also has humility.

It is very clear that the Gospel story is not so much a story about fishing, but about trust. We should not forget that Jesus is a carpenter's son. He is not familiar with fishing. However, he offers Peter a chance to put his trust in him for what Peter will do later in his entire life: fish for people.

The Lord still calls people, and the need is just as great today. And there still are those who respond. Some people are called to dedicate themselves totally to the following of Christ, but not all Christians are called to follow Christ in this way.

By our own Baptism we are called to follow Christ. But what does the following of Christ mean for us? It means to be a Christian wherever we are and have great love in our actions.

What Jesus says to Peter he is saying to us: go further and do your best in whatever responsibilities you have. He invites us to put our trust in him and he will look after the rest. We might hear his voice: *“Do not be afraid, from now on you will be catching people”*. We all have a mission and the Lord is with us. He challenges us but also helps us to fulfill our mission.

Simon teaches us a great lesson today: When we give everything up for Jesus, we find even more. Indeed, we can see that the Lord always does something much more beautiful and much more challenging. He invites Simon to leave everything behind and to follow him - he invites Simon to share his own life.

And as Simon and his friends leave everything behind and follow Jesus, they recognize that although they are leaving their boats, they have found Jesus.

My dear sisters and brothers, we may lose a sense of personal security, we may feel like we're losing control, but it's worth it. When we leave everything and follow Jesus, we find so much more. Our hearts are set free, and Christ becomes the centre of our life.

To conclude, I would like to invite you to read what Pope Benedict XVI says in his homily on April 24th, 2005:

“If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great. No! Only in this friendship are the doors of life opened wide... Only in this friendship do we experience beauty and liberation. And so, today, with great strength and great conviction, on the basis of long personal experience of life, I say to you, dear people: Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ – and you will find true life.”

I wish you a blessed weekend and keep warm when the weather is cold on these days. *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.



We welcome into our Catholic Christian Community those who were baptized recently at St. Gerard:

Brynlee Poirier

May this child and her family experience joy and new life.



News from the CWL



2022 memberships are \$30.00 and can be placed in an envelope marked 'CWL' and put in the collection basket, or mail to CWL, 125 3rd Ave N, Yorkton, S3N 1C4. For other arrangements please call Paulette 306.782.7923. Paid receipts can be picked up from the grey box on the glass table in the Welcome Area.

The CWL Valentines quilt raffle is here!

The funds raised will be put towards quilting supplies. Tickets are \$2.00 each and will be available before and after each mass. Draw will be made February 14th.



The CWL designs and creates quilts to be given to people in need – primarily to those who are experiencing a period of crisis. In the past quilts have been donated to Shelwin House, the Salvation Army, and SIGN (to name a few).



News from the Knights of Columbus



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



The Myriam Family of the Prairies would like to invite you to an afternoon retreat with the theme:

Learning to be a disciple led by the Holy Spirit!

February 12th from 1h30 to 4h30 pm

In person at their House of Prayer in McLean or on Zoom. The retreat is including a time of talk and sharing, a time of deepening the Word of God and Eucharistic Adoration. **For registration, please contact us at 306-761-0528 or email: pss.prairies@famillemyriam.org**

You Can Be a Stealth Evangelist

By Kathleen M. Basi



My paternal grandmother used to pray the rosary every morning before Mass. On Sundays, when my sisters and I would file into the pew, she would greet us with hugs and kisses, her beads swaying, and then return to her prayer. In adulthood, I learned that she began this practice on the day Pearl Harbor was attacked.

That same grandmother had a magnetic Holy Family statue on the dashboard of her car right up until dashboards stopped being made of metal. I'm pretty sure she taped it down for a while after that.

My maternal grandparents used to invite their grandkids on long RV vacations. I remember praying the rosary on my knees behind the cab of the camper as the interstate unfolded (well before seat-belt laws).

My father used to begin every day with a reflection on Scripture. Often, as my sisters and I tore through the living room looking for shoes and getting breakfast before the country bus arrived, Dad would be sitting in his easy chair with his eyes closed, praying.

My childhood was steeped in the devotions of the Catholic Church, and although I never questioned it then, I realize now that those continuous contacts with the faith of my elders were a silent witness, an unobtrusive evangelization. I don't think I ever had a conversation on matters of faith with my father's mother, for instance. Yet I knew her faith was central to her identity.

Usually I interpret that statement attributed to St. Francis — "Preach Jesus, and if necessary use words"— to mean "live a good life, and if people know you're Catholic, you'll be inviting them in." Sometimes, though, it is the overt, yet quiet, practice of our faith that makes the biggest impact on those within our spheres of influence.

Perhaps what we need is a "stealthy" approach to witnessing, one in which we do what nourishes us spiritually without trying either to hide or to display it.

What part of Catholic culture and spirituality is meaningful in your life? Where and when can you set aside a few minutes in your day for a rosary, for quiet contemplative prayer, for Scripture and Catechism study? Is there space on your cubicle wall for an unobtrusive yet meaningful work of religious art? What about a screen saver with an inspirational message?

If we can find a way to simply be ourselves in the world—devoted Catholic Christians— then perhaps, we'll find we not only evangelize to others but also to ourselves

30TH WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

February 11, 2022

We will be celebrating World Day of the Sick on Friday, February 11. I invite you to come to celebrate the **Healing Mass at 10:00 am**. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, there will be a special seating area reserved for you in the church.

In order to help you to understand this sacrament, please read the following excerpt from “Anointing of the Sick – Joined to Christ, Witnesses of Hope and Healing” by the USCCB:

Anointing of the Sick is the sacrament that is received by those who are ill or suffering. By the sacred anointing and the prayer of the priest, the whole Church commends those who are sick to Christ. The sick person receives the Holy Spirit’s gifts of strength, faith, peace, and courage, and his or her suffering is united with the suffering of Christ for the building up of the Church (*Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC], nos. 1520-23*).

Through the Sacrament of Anointing on the Sick, the Church carries out Jesus’ mission of compassion and healing for the sick. The one who is ill can also be a minister to others. By uniting their suffering to Christ, those who are sick can be signs of faith and witnesses of Christ’s Resurrection to the entire community (Pope John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici [The Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the church and in the World], no. 54*).

Father Louis

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

For those who are ill: Pope Paul VI, at the closing of the Second Vatican Council said:

All of you who feel heavily the weight of the cross...you the unknown victims of suffering, take courage. You are the preferred children of the kingdom of God, the kingdom of hope, happiness and life. You are the brothers of the suffering Christ, and with Him, if you wish, you are saving the world. (Address to the poor, the sick, and the suffering)

What role do you play in ministering to the People of God?

For those who are healthy: Pope Benedict XVI noted.

Following [Christ’s] example, every Christian is called to relive, in different and ever new contexts, the Parable of the Good Samaritan who, passing by a man whom robbers had left half-dead by the roadside, “saw him and had compassion.” (2010 Message for the World Day of the Sick)

How are you called to follow Christ’s example?

O Jesus, you suffered and died for us;

You understand suffering;

Teach me to understand my suffering as you do;

To bear it in union with you;

To offer it with you to atone for my sins and to bring your grace to souls in need.

Calm my fears; increase my trust.

May I gladly accept your holy will and become more like you in trial.

If it be your will restore me to health so that I may work for your honour and glory and the salvation of all. Amen.

A Book of Catholic Prayers

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Fishers of Men and Women"

This Week...

Sins and faults abound! Isaiah, Paul, and Peter - all great people - were also sinners. So are you and so am I. Their sinfulness affected their ability to believe in themselves and to think themselves worthy to serve God's purpose. But actually, because every human is imperfect and flawed, every human is a sinner. We are each equally "unfit to serve." That means we are also equally "fit to serve."

Not to worry! Jesus showed us that we need not be perfect. God can weave great things out of all of us, even though we are sinners.

For Your Reflection

Try to picture what Simon Peter was like. He was a very proud man, and his reputation as a fisherman was probably very important to him. It was a sad day after spending the night fishing and having nothing to show for it. But at least his reputation was somewhat protected if no one else had caught any fish either! Then along comes Jesus, and he has Simon Peter lower the same nets from the same boat, in the same place. The result? Fish jumping all over the place! Imagine how Simon felt! Obviously, this Jesus is a miracle worker. Simon was taken aback that such a holy man would come to him - a sinner, and probably not that great a fisherman, if the truth be told. All Simon could say was, "Leave me, go away. I am a sinful man." The scene is almost comical. The great fisherman can't catch a thing all night, but this carpenter has him lower the nets once and he immediately hauls in a giant load of fish. But Jesus sticks with him: "So what if you can't catch fish? You'll be catching men and women instead."

Have you ever been embarrassed by your sudden inability to do what you have always been able to do?

Did you ever "freeze up" or "choke" during an athletic event, a musical performance, or a speech? What happened? How did you recover? What did your friends say? Who supported you?

We don't hear about Simon Peter's individual sins, but we know he must have been a sinner because nobody is perfect. Everyone has faults.

What kinds of things do you think Simon Peter did that were sinful? What could have been some of his faults?

What are some of your faults? How do you deal with them?

What areas in your life have you improved upon?

Do you have a close friend - so close that each of you can give each other the negative feedback that each of you needs without feeling slighted? What is that like?



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