



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

January 16th, 2022

Second 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. (17th) NO MASS

Tues. (18th) 7:00pm Rick & Chris Dubois

Wed. (19th) 9:00am +Florence Kruger
10:00am **NURSING HOME (SOUTH)**
Cancelled

Thurs. (20th) 9:00am +Russell Boychuk
2:30pm **YORKTON CROSSING**
Cancelled

Fri. (21st) 9:00am +Curtis Kryski

Sat. (22nd) 9:00am +Peter & +Irene Cherneski

5:00pm +Verna Speerbrecker

Sun. (23rd) **THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
(Sunday of the Word of God)

9:00am Mass for the People

11:00am +John Monka

1:00pm Sacrament preparation
beginning with Mass

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, send your Spirit and empower me to use my gifts and talents for the common good of all people.

- 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,

This weekend we hear the story of something marvelous that Jesus did, and, as John says, it is “the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory”.

Jesus changed water into wine. He did it at the request of Mary, his mother, after she said “*they have no wine*”. The changing of water into wine is a symbol of Jesus revealing his glory.

In the Gospels we know that everywhere he went, the old was made new. For example, with Zacchaeus, he changed his selfishness into love; with the thief on Calvary, he changed his despair into hope; and on Easter morning he changed death into life.

Jesus’ presence could change lives beyond those with whom he came into contact, and he continues to do this for those who believe and follow him. He transforms our lives into something wonderful; he offers us a share in the divine life, nothing less than the joy of communion with God. I would say that wherever Jesus is, more happiness is there. He can change our sadness into happiness, our sorrows into joy, and our worry into trust.

Jesus’ power is available to every one of us. We need his power in order to change the things in our spiritual lives that need to be changed. I invite all of you to be open and acknowledge his power and allow him to touch and to change you.

As the Gospel for this weekend has a powerful meaning within it, I will continue to do a brief reflection on Mary, based on what she said to the servants at the wedding banquet: “*Do whatever he tells you*”.

First we learn that Mary does not speak often in the sacred scriptures. But anytime she speaks, her words pour out with wisdom. The Gospel today is an example.

Only Mary knew that the wine ran out while the wedding banquet was not quite over, and she knew where to go when the crisis struck: she came to Jesus. As we know, she reported the problem to her son in private and, turning to the servants, she said: “*Do whatever he tells you*”.

She gives us the key to stay on task in our efforts to follow Christ and discover the happiness that only he can give. She is teaching us today how to follow Christ, how to become a mature Christian.

As a mother, she has a good sense of knowing the trouble within us. She shares with us our concerns and helps us by offering these troubles to her son.

She also has a confidence in Jesus, her son. She believes that her son can do great things because he is the Son of God. She acknowledges the divinity in her son. And we learn that she joins her obedience to God's will when she offers it on behalf of the host of the wedding banquet.

What we have learned are great lessons. We will ask Mary to be with us, and to intercede on our behalf, just as she did for the groom and bride at Cana.

My dear sisters and brothers, there is no doubt that life is full of challenges, and temptations, and it is easy to get distracted. Let Jesus be our companion and the Savior he came to be. Let us give him room in our hearts to let his power take action in our lives.

Obviously Jesus came onto the earth in order to make his love touch our everyday lives. But it is up to us to let him in, to come to him. Come to him, as Mary did, and you will see the “water” of your life, everyday life, be transformed into the excellent “wine” of meaning, purpose, wisdom, and true, lasting happiness that Christ comes to give you.

I believe that we cannot give our lives the meaning, the purpose, the joy we long for, by our own efforts. During this week, you and I will continue to search and listen for Jesus’ voice. Do not be afraid, he is all-powerful, he will make his glory shine in our lives and he will change out sorrow to joy, our hopelessness to hope.

Have a blessed weekend and enjoy the warm weather 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:**

Mahatoky Rabe & Manoa Rabe

**May these children and their family
experience joy and new life.**



**Are you planning a marriage in 2022?
Congratulations!!**

Please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible to make arrangements to meet with Father Louis.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



Saturdays at **8:30 am** or by appt.



Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!

Eucharistic Holy Hour Devotion
at 6pm (prior to 7pm Tuesday Mass)



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 will start quilting on Monday January 17. We will be putting the patterns together but the sewing will be done at home. Anyone who is interested please join us on Monday January 17 @ 9:00. Bring a bag lunch.



News from the Knights of Columbus



January 21 Afternoon Bingo

**If you are able to work bingos, please give Gary a call
306-783-6328.**

January 22/23 **White Ribbon Campaign**

The White Ribbon is the world’s largest movement of men and boys to end violence against women and girls. Let us create a future free from gender-based violence.

January 25 Articles for “The Word” due.

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

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

Emmaus Family Support

One in four families experience chronic mental health challenges. You do not have to walk this path alone. If you care for a loved one with mental health challenges and feel you could benefit from the support and prayers of peers, contact www.emmaussupport.ca to join a meeting. Meetings are currently held on the fourth Thursday of each month, via Zoom.



Measuring God's Love

By Kathleen M. Basi

Anyone who has suffered loss— death, miscarriage, infertility, unemployment, natural disaster—can list the well-meaning yet deeply hurtful things people say. Most of them invoke God: God doesn't give you anything you can't handle. God's will is perfect. And so on.

You can't argue with statements like these, but they can be damaging. They set up God as the cause of one's suffering, which can isolate a person from the very grace he or she most needs: the certainty of God's love.

Perhaps it's human nature. When we lack easy answers, we blame the divine. When a storm decimates a town, it's punishment for human wickedness. If we escape harm, it's a personal blessing. When we're diagnosed with major illness, it's because God is testing us; when the biopsy comes up negative, it's a sign of his favor. In short, we sometimes treat God as if he's sitting on his heavenly sofa, hitting the "fire" button on some celestial Xbox controller.

The trouble is, if everything is God's fault, then when someone walks into a nightclub and starts shooting or when civil war spirals into war crimes perpetrated by all sides of the conflict, forcing millions to flee, some people will view it as proof that God doesn't exist at all. What loving God could possibly allow such things to happen?

Bad things happen because we live in a fallen world. People who have been formed by prejudice and raised in an atmosphere of violence may do things that average sinners like us can't fathom. Yet it's still sin, not God that bears the responsibility.

Nor should we blame God's wrath when extreme weather events cause great suffering and destruction. Instead, we should examine our own behaviors, looking for ways in which consumption and pollution are damaging the balance of nature.

God's love is not measured by physical bounty or beneficence. Neither should we view misfortune or loss as a sign of his displeasure. God's love is evident in the beauty of this world; in the incredible goodness of humanity—the goodness we are capable of when we remember that we are made in his image. Most of all, it's measured by the cross and the resurrection.

When we encounter the pain of others, it may be hard to know what to say. Sometimes it's better to say nothing at all—to offer a hug, a listening ear, and service. Then, perhaps, those who suffer will know the love of God because they have felt it—through us.

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Lord Jesus, you
prepare a table for us
and your Cup overflows.

Teach us to do your will in our lives
and to proclaim your wondrous deeds
you achieve within and for us.

Help us to find ways to celebrate you
within our families, even in small and
simple ways.

Amen.

2022 Giving Program

The 2022 Sunday collection (offertory) envelopes are in the Welcome Area for those who had contributed by this method in 2021. If you do not have envelopes and would like to receive a set for 2022, **please complete a Parish Registration Form**, located in the Welcome Area.

THE WEEKS AHEAD

- Sun. (16th): 1:00pm Sacrament Preparation
(beginning with Mass)
- Mon. (17th): 9:00am CWL Quilting
7:00pm Bible Study (lower level)
- Tues. (18th): 7:30pm Liturgical Committee Meeting
- Sun. (23rd): 1:00pm Sacrament Preparation
(beginning with Mass)

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Jesus Turns Water into Wine"

This Week...

There is something wonderful about a union —everyone loves a good wedding story where the two individuals promise to become one flesh, one entity. Isaiah reminds us that God loves us like a bride and groom love each other. But we need to remember that it is the individuality of each separate person that makes each union so enriching. When different gifts from the same Spirit come together and are allowed to grow and to be shared - in a marriage, a friendship, a business partnership, or in a parent-child relationship like Jesus and Mary's - the union is blessed and is made fuller.

For Your Reflection

Jesus isn't interested in listening to his mother at first. But he seems to rethink the situation. After some thought, he goes ahead and does something that she probably would approve of.

When was a time that your mother or father or some older relative was trying to get you to consider an option, and you just didn't want to go along with their idea? But later, when you thought about it, you came to understand his or her point of view and did what he or she wanted you to do? How did it work out?

Jesus' first miracle wasn't very splashy. Most people didn't even know what had happened. The waiters kept it low-key and didn't make a big deal about the wine that had just been water in the six jars only moments before. Mary doesn't seem to say anything more about it, and Jesus also plays it cool. Yet the needs were met - without a lot of fuss.

When was a time that you took matters into your own hands to take care of a pressing need, but did it in a very low-key way?

Was there a kind of delight to such a secret act of kindness - a kind of self-satisfaction that comes from inside? Why is that?

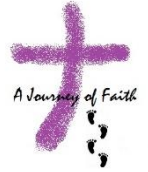
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word*, Cycle A, Saint Mary's Press , 2008



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