



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

January 17, 2021

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 louis.yorkton@gmail.com
Parish Office Administrator.....Sandra Archer
Caretaker.....Mario Guerra

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (18 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (19 th)	6:00pm Holy Hour Devotion 7:00pm +Fernando Valete
Wed. (20 th)	9:30am +Omana Jose
Thurs. (21 st)	9:30am +Patrick & +Joseph Pasloski
Fri. (22 nd)	9:30am Marcella Fedak
Sat. (23 rd)	9:30am Russell Griffith
	5:00pm +Claude Slogocki 7:00pm +Peter & +Rose Osika
Sun. (24 th)	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9:00am Mass for the People 11:00am +Ferdinand Thiele 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, draw me close to your heart that I may come to know and love you more deeply.

- 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 week we celebrated the Baptism of the Lord. We have learned that through baptism, we have The Divine's life in us. This weekend the Lord sends to us His invitation to follow Him, to build up a strong friendship with Him, for through Him we can find out the true meaning of life.

As we hear in the Gospel, John the Baptist, once he sees Jesus walking by, immediately introduces Him to his disciples, "*Look, here is the Lamb of God*". When Jesus turns and sees them following him, He asks: "*What are you looking for?*" In other words, Jesus could say "*Are you searching for meaning in your life?*" Both of the disciples give the perfect response, "*Lord, where are you staying?*"

The Lord invites the disciples of John the Baptist to discover the meaning of their life by saying, "**Come and See**". He invites them to walk with him, to follow him, to be his companions - and that is the way the Lord answers the question about life's meaning.

What is the meaning of life? It is a personal friendship with Jesus Christ. It doesn't depend just on us - it also depends on God's willingness to offer us His friendship. There is no doubt that He is reminding us that God is not only willing, but developing that friendship is His deepest desire! It is a way of calling us to the fullness of God's identity, to fulfill the mission of Jesus, the Son of God. This is how God relates to each one of us - at least, that is how He wants to.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church expresses this truth wonderfully: "... at **every time** and in **every place**, God **draws close** to man ... God **never ceases** to draw man to himself" (CCC 27). Reflecting on this I would say that on the one hand God is coming close to us, and on the other hand he is drawing us closer to Him.

This is the Lord, one with a special character who is interested in us and is willing to carry our weakness. He wants to be a friend to all of His people. We can see this so clearly in the lives of the Saints. All Saints are the ones who discovered the true value of this intimate, personal relationship, and refused to compromise it (see *Rediscover the Saints*, Matthew Kelly).

My Sisters and Brothers, if the meaning of life is to be found in friendship with Christ, then our highest priority in life should be to continually deepen that friendship. I want to suggest to you three important ways to do this.

First, we need to regularly develop a mature life of prayer. We should pray regularly, but also we should spend more time to read and meditate on the Scripture, and fill our hearts with gratitude for God's many gifts.

Second, we need to build our lives around the sacraments. I say this because when John the Baptist introduces Jesus as the "*Lamb of God*" he uses the image in the Old Testament of the lamb sacrificed before the Exodus from Egypt. And in New Testament, that is fulfilled in the Eucharist. For us, the Body and Blood of Christ is the real sacrificial lamb. It is Christ, he himself, who offered his life to save us from sin.

I strongly believe that adoring the Blessed Sacrament, receiving Holy Communion regularly, opening our hearts to God in confession, anointing of the sick, and participating in the other sacraments, will draw us deeper into intimacy with Christ.

Third, to deepen our friendship with Christ we should make God's will first priority. This means that we should allow whatever God wants to be done in us. I invite you to recite and reflect on the responsorial Psalm today: "*Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will*".

Today let us renew our commitment to the Lord - that we will come closer to Him and build up our friendship with Him. Let us also pray for all those who have been away from Him or disconnected from Him, to know how to change and improve their relationship with Him.

I assure you that you are all in my prayers. I wish all of you a very blessed week and abundant blessings. Love you all.

Fr. Louis Nguyen

SACRAMENTS PREPARATION

BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

Please contact the Parish Office to register for the next Baptism Preparation Session (date to be determined): 306.782.2449 or office@stgerard.ca

Preparation for:

CONFIRMATION

The Second Sacrament of Initiation

and

FIRST EUCHARIST

The Third Sacrament of Initiation

and

FIRST RECONCILIATION

is postponed until further notice.



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. Although the RCIA process is intended for those who are non-baptized, at St. Gerard we also prepare adults for the Rite of Reception of Baptized Christians (including Catholics) 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 THE PARISH OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**



Are you planning a marriage in 2021?

Congratulations!!

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



News from the CWL



Memberships for 2021 It's that time of year to be thinking about renewing our 2021 CWL Membership. Membership fees are still \$30.00 and can be paid by cash or cheque and mailed to St. Gerard's C.W.L, 125 3rd Ave. N., Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4. If you feel comfortable paying by e-transfer, contact Paulette Cooper 306-782-7923. If you have any questions or concerns regarding memberships, contact Paulette. Even though our Council has not been active due to COVID, we are required to collect and submit membership fees to the National CWL Office. Any member can access the National website (www.cwl.ca) at anytime to learn more about the CWL of Canada. If you are not a member and would like to join our League, contact Paulette or any member of St. Gerard's Catholic Women's League.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Jan. 25

Articles for "The Word" due

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

Livestream of Daily and Sunday Masses Resurrection, Christ the King, & Our Lady of Peace Parishes (Regina)

are available at **9am** at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ArchdioceseofRegina/videos>

Daily & Sunday Mass may also be viewed:

Vision TV (check your local TV listing)

www.dailytvmass.com

www.saltandlighttv.org/live/?muid=1

The Diocese Tonight Episode 4 The Church: Forever Young

The next episode of "The Diocese Tonight" airs on **Sunday February 7, 2021 at 7 pm.**

It can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ArchdioceseofRegina>

The Diocese Tonight is a "virtual family gathering" that celebrates the diversity of people that make up our diocesan faith family. Join us to laugh, learn, pray, sing and celebrate.



Bringing Home the Word

What's in a Name?

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

In Giorgio Vasari's painting, *The Calling of St. Peter and St. Andrew*, the upper scene shows Peter and Andrew walking toward Jesus. The lower central scene depicts Peter in the center, with Andrew behind him, and Jesus enthroned on a rock pointing toward him.

The scene is simple for a reason. Jesus' call is simple: Follow me. Our response should be simple, too. We often complicate the call with questions, fears, or doubts, wanting clarifications and assurances. But it is a simple imperative that requires a one-word answer: yes, or no. Or as Samuel responded, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9).

Once accepted, the call implies a new identity born of a new, deeper relationship. When Jesus calls Simon, he changes his name. In the Bible, a name change indicates a new mission or purpose. Abram was renamed Abraham to father the Old Testament people in faith.

Simon is now Cephas, or rock. His mission is to father the New Testament people in faith. He is to be a solid, unbreakable foundation for his brothers—and eventually the whole Church. His strength comes not from perfection, for we know Peter was weak, but from his acceptance of Jesus' love and call no matter his own weakness. Similarly, in baptism and confirmation we take new names that come with our new, deeper calls. It is a meaningful Catholic tradition that parents name their children after a saint who becomes a model for their lives. Like Peter, we are called to greatness by Jesus, who looks at us, names us, and says, "Follow me" (John 1:43). Let's live up to that beautiful, simple invitation!

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Catechism Theme: "The Lamb who takes away the sins of the world" (CCC 606-609)

When John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as the "Lamb of God," he recognized not only the role of Jesus in salvation; he inferred the relationship of the Son to the Father. As he had come from the Father, Jesus gave himself back to the Father. His self-giving began with his Incarnation, became explicit in his baptism, continued through his ministry, and culminated on the cross. He gave himself because he loved the Father and loved all God's creatures. The Baptist's declaration ("The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world") revealed both the character and the mission of Jesus. Through his love, he accepted the role of the Suffering Servant. He gave himself to his Father for our sake in spite of suffering and death.

Why is self-giving so unusual? Have you ever been impressed by others who give their time and talent to others? Have they ever asked you to join them? What happened? Did their invitation change you?

A simple invitation can be life-changing. Come and see . . . That invitation can come in different ways, from a letter or a look to a simple act of unselfish love. Come and see . . . When we invite others to faith, we ask them to encounter the One after whom we pattern our lives. Come and see . . . the Lord. He will show us the loving way to live and he will give us a new identity as a Christian. He will show us the way to the Father. Come and see . . .

How have you influenced others to become Christ-like? Have you extended them acts of love? Have you ever asked them to join you at Church? Try to help someone this week and invite him or her closer to the Lord.

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STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." - Matthew 22:21

Everything we are and everything we have belongs to God. We aren't 'owners' of anything, we are merely 'stewards' of the gifts God has given each of us. All God is asking is that we give back a portion of what He gave us. This is the essence of Stewardship. God should be our first priority in everything. All else comes second, especially our money.

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

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

YOUTH REFLECTION

"We are Called"

This Week...

We are being called. Sometimes we don't realize it at first. Like Samuel we are asleep or we need someone wise to help us discern our calling. Sometimes we do realize it, and we must change our life, as Paul suggests, to reflect the holiness of our call. Sometimes it is more obvious, as if Jesus is boldly asking us what we're looking for. What are we being called to? Discipleship.

For Your Reflection

Samuel is a young person, living with Eli, who is his spiritual guide. Samuel is inexperienced, and he needs Eli to walk with him and experience life with him so he is not alone.

- Who is a spiritual guide for you? Who is an adult with life experience whom you can trust and open up to when you have deep questions of the heart? How does this take place? When has this helped you?

God calls Samuel as God calls each of us. Samuel needs Eli's help to understand God's call, and Eli helps Samuel to listen and be open to what God has to say.

- Do you think you really listen to God? Do you think you are open to what God has to say to you? How can you improve in this area?

In the Gospel Jesus asks the curious passerby what they are looking for.

- What are you looking for in life? What do you think most teenagers your age are looking for?
- Do you think Jesus is the answer to everything most people are looking for? If not, why not? If so, why? And if so, why don't most teenagers realize that Jesus is the answer?

In the Gospel Jesus invites curious ones to "come and see" what his life is all about.

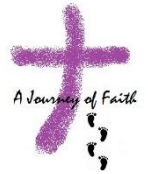
- What do you think Jesus' life is all about?
- If you invited a complete stranger to "come and see" what your life is all about, what would they think about you and your values and priorities after following you around for a week?



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