



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

January 22, 2023

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Sunday of the Word of God)

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
		306.621.8068	Emergencies
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....			

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (23 rd)	NO MASS
Tues. (24 th)	9:00am +Patricia Smith 7:00pm <i>Prayer Vigil</i> +Nestor Kindratsky
Wed. (25 th)	10:00am NURSING HOME (NORTH) +Ted Gorhan 11:00am <i>Funeral Mass</i> +Nestor Kindratsky
Thurs. (26 th)	9:00am +John Jason Himpe 2:30pm BENTLEY SENIORS' RES +Donna Appell
Fri. (27 th)	9:00am +Alfredo Muyargas
Sat. (28 th)	9:00am +Divina Muyargas
	5:00pm +Mary Diakuw
Sun. (29 th)	FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9:00am +Edna Lockhart 11:00am Mass for the People

SACRAMENTS

Infant Baptism: Please phone the Parish Office to register for Baptism Preparation. 306.782.2449

RCIA: For adults wishing to be received into the Catholic Church, contact Father Louis. 306.782.0323.

Matrimony: Please contact Fr. Louis 12 months prior to the date when you would like to be married. 306.782.0323

Reconciliation: Saturday at 8:30am or anytime by appointment. 306.782.0323

Anointing: Please contact Father Louis at 306.621.8068.



The Knights of Columbus will lead the Rosary (For life, and for personal intentions for 2023)

Monday, January 23rd at 5:30pm

Stay Connected Online!

www.stgerard.ca



God of all people, open our eyes to see what we hold in common with each other so that we may build your kingdom together. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

-The Redemptorists

Sunday Connection

First Reading *Isaiah 8.23-9.3*

The people in darkness have seen a great light.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 27.1,4,13-14*

The Lord is our refuge, our light, our salvation

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 1.10-13,17*

Paul urges the community at Corinth to be united as people baptized in Christ's name.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 4.12-23*

Jesus begins to preach in Galilee and calls his first disciples.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel describes the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke (called the Synoptic Gospels), Jesus' public ministry begins after his baptism by John the Baptist and after his retreat to the desert where he was tempted by the devil. When Jesus returns from the desert, he hears that John has been arrested.

The first part of today's Gospel places Jesus' ministry in the context of the writings of the prophet, Isaiah. Matthew wants to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies given to the people of Israel, and he refers to Isaiah to do so. Isaiah says that the Messiah will begin his ministry in Galilee, the land of the Gentiles. When Jesus begins to preach in Galilee, Matthew points to his ministry as a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, proof that Jesus is the Messiah.

When Jesus called his first disciples, the Gospel tells us that the fishermen (Peter and Andrew, James and John) dropped everything to follow Jesus immediately. Yet this Gospel tells us little about the prior experience that the fishermen had of Jesus. Did they know him? Had they heard him preach? What kind of person must Jesus have been to invoke such a response? We can imagine that Jesus was a powerful presence to elicit a response as immediate and complete as these first disciples gave.

The Gospel concludes with a description of the ministry that Jesus begins in Galilee. Jesus inaugurates the Kingdom of God with his work. He teaches in the synagogue and preaches the kingdom. His ability to cure people's diseases and illness is a sign of the kingdom. In Jesus' ministry, we already begin to see the Kingdom of God among us.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Today's Gospel tells us little about the background of these fishermen, their work, and their families. In today's Gospel, we are simply told that James and John left their father, Zebedee, in the boat and followed Jesus.

Some details about the families of these first followers of Jesus are found later in Matthew's Gospel, however. In Matthew 8:14-15 for example, Jesus goes to the home of Peter and heals his mother-in-law of a fever. Matthew 20:20-28 relates how the mother of the sons of Zebedee (James and John) approaches Jesus with the request that her sons be given places of honor in Jesus' kingdom. These brief references suggest that the first disciples' separation from their families may not have been as complete as the verses in today's Gospel might lead us to believe. Matthew points out the separation because he wants to show that Christian discipleship can require a change in our lives and even our family relationships.

Perhaps the message for us today is to balance the radical call to be a follower of Jesus with the challenge to be "fishers of men" even within our own families. Creating this balance may require that we change some of the priorities of our own family life.

As a family, detail the activities of a typical day. Discuss together what priorities are reflected in this daily schedule. How does your family respond when your daily plans are interrupted or must be changed? Together read today's Gospel, Matthew 4:12-23. Reflect together on the example of the first disciples who dropped everything to follow Jesus. Ask: Does our family schedule give evidence that we put God first in our family life? What might we do to better reflect that God is our priority?

Pray together that your family will always give evidence that God comes first in your family life. Pray today's Psalm or the Lord's Prayer.



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

The next Baptism Preparation Session is planned for Sunday, January 29th at 3:00pm in the Parish Hall.

To register, please email the Parish Office as soon as possible. office@stgerard.ca



Divine Mercy Devotion
Wednesdays at 2pm
(except the first Wed. of the month)



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

**8 Days of online Biblical Reflection,
January 18-25, 2023**

An online Bible study led by a diverse selection of ministers 12:15-1:00 pm daily (Saskatchewan time) except Sunday, Jan. 22 which will be at 3 pm. Please be sure to register using this link: <https://bit.ly/WPCU-2023-Bible-Study>

This Bible Study series will also be available on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/@PrairieCentreforEcumenism>

The 2023 theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, "Do good; seek justice" (Isaiah 1:17), was prepared by the Minnesota Council of Churches. The themes for each day should be familiar to everyone who lives in Canada. The issues facing the churches in the United States affect us because of their proximity to our borders and as they relate to our present situation in Canada.

Although Canadians often speak of building a diverse, inclusive, and just society, we know that racism is deeply embedded in our society and that we have seen great violence against people of colour and against ethnic and religious minorities. As we undertake these Bible Studies, let us bring the honest questions and reflections that come when the light of the gospel illuminates the truth of both our past and our present. As we seek greater unity, may it be in service to the love and justice God has revealed in Jesus.



News from the CWL



CWL Memberships for 2023 are due now. The fee is \$35.00 and can be paid by cheque or cash and put in the Sunday Collection marked CWL, or mailed to CWL, 125 3rd Ave. N., Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4. Make cheques payable to CWL.

All CWL Members are invited to attend a Workshop on behalf of the Yorkton/Melville CWL Regional Council on Saturday, March 11, 2023. It will be held at St. Henry's Church, Melville and hosted by St. Henry's CWL Council. The theme is "Catholic and Living It". The registration fee is \$10.00 which includes lunch. More information will be provided in upcoming bulletins.



News from the Knights of Columbus



January 23 Rosary - 5:30pm
January 25 Articles for "The Word" due
Bingo – evening – 5:00pm

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.782.8664. www.kofc-2031.ca



Missionary Families of Christ
Defending Faith, Family & Life

INVITATION

WHO: All Parishioner and guests

WHAT: Family Prayer and Worship Night with Missionary Families of Christ and Knights of Columbus - Yorkton

WHEN: January 28, 2023 Saturday from 7:00 to 8:30pm

WHERE: Saint Gerard's lower-level hall

Bring your family and friends to join us for an hour of prayer and worship. Enjoy singing and praising the Lord with joyful songs of praise and worship.

Please contact Bro. Ferdie at 306.620.2239 for more information.

Admission is free. Refreshment will be served during our fellowship.

Matthew 18:20 **"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."**





Harmony

By Paige Byrne Shortal

Saint Paul's letters to the Christians in Corinth are also letters to us. In them, he addresses problems that were particular to that community; problems that recur down through the ages so that we can find striking similarities between the issues in the church at Corinth and those in a modern parish or diocese.

In today's second reading, St. Paul sternly corrects the Corinthians, exhorting them to cease their rivalry in the name of those who first brought them to Christ. He had heard that the Corinthian Christians were boasting: "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ."

The significance of these divisions is both intellectual and social. Apollos, a brilliant Jewish scholar and engaging speaker, appealed to the educated members of the community who wanted a more sophisticated presentation of the gospel. The Jewish Christians from Palestine boasted of their attachment to Cephas, (the Aramaic name for Peter). The majority of the community were poor and less educated, and they tried to compensate for their lack of social status by aligning themselves to Paul, who brought the gospel to Corinth. Less is known about the "Christ party," but some scholars think it might refer to the "Gnostics"—those who follow no disciple but claim to receive divine revelation directly from Christ.

Paul begs them to understand that Christ cannot be divided. He is especially pained because he himself is being used as a source of division, and so he asks, "Was Paul crucified for you?"

Saint Paul's letters are not just interesting documents for the student of church history. They are the living word of God and, properly understood, are a source of wisdom and sound advice for the church in the modern world.

This is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18–25). Many Christians feel the pain of the division of the body of Christ and hear the call to unity while still remaining faithful to their home church. In my community we began an effort we call the Combined Christian Choirs—over one hundred singers from twenty-five different congregations, including Lutheran, Presbyterian, Catholic, Methodist, United Church of Christ, Baptist, and several nondenominational churches.

While theologians find the paths to unity and church leaders take the necessary tentative steps, perhaps we people of the Church might prepare the way by singing together. The beauty of the music is often in the blend, the harmony of different voices creating a sound that moves the spirit and makes the difficult task of unity seem not only possible but inevitable. We are one in Christ Jesus; we truly are.

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Age 8-14 February 19-25, 2023
Co-ed \$300 Limited Space
Come & Join US!
WINTER CAMP 2023
Activities Included: At Madge Lake Saskatchewan
Down Hill Skiing Skating tobogganing
Snow Shoeing Cross Country Skiing
St. Michael's Camp
To register visit our website or email us at
camp@stmichaelscamp.com



Please pick up your 2023 offertory envelopes, available in the Welcome Area when you are at Mass. Or stop into the Parish Office during regular office hours. Thank you!

The 2022 annual charitable donation ("tax") receipts will be available for pick up by the end of February.

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Mon. (23rd): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (prep)
- Tues. (24th): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (pinching)
7:00pm- Finance Council Meeting
- Wed. (25th): 7:00pm- Pastoral Council Meeting
- Thurs. (26th): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (packaging)
- Sun. (29th): 3:00pm- Baptism Prep (*Parish Hall*)