



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

January 23rd, 2022

Third 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. (24th) NO MASS

Tues. (25th) 7:00pm +Marge Slugoski

Wed. (26th) 9:00am Howard & Michelle Dominguez
10:00am **NURSING HOME (NORTH)**
Cancelled

Thurs. (27th) 9:00am +Tessier Family
2:30pm **BENTLEY SENIORS' RESIDENCE**
+Angie Van Parys

Fri. (28th) 9:00am Leroy Persick

Sat. (29th) 9:00am Bernadette Marchinko

5:00pm +Mary Diakuw

Sun. (30th) **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

9:00am +Tom Pasloski

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 created all people equal. Open my eyes to recognize the dignity of all people and my heart to love unconditionally.

- 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 this weekend reminds us of the importance of the Word of God in our lives, and of those who help us to understand it. It reminds us of one extremely effective way to pour God's grace into our hearts: daily Scripture reading. Ezra reads from the Scripture at the gathering in Jerusalem, and Jesus himself reads from the Scripture at the synagogue of Nazareth, his home town. Therefore, I invite you all to review all the readings and to reflect deeply.

In the first reading, Ezra, a priest, reads the book of the law for hours to the Israelites and helps them to understand how to live it. It is so important for God's people to listen to His Word, to understand and live according to what He says to them. If God's people follow what he says, they may experience his Word, as we hear in the responsorial psalm, "*Your words, Lord, are spirit and life*" (Ps 19).

We cannot understand the Scriptures just as individuals. The Word of God has a rich meaning and is full of power. On the Lord's Day, and daily as well, we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, but the first part of the Mass is celebrating The Word of God. We are helped in understanding the Word of God by our ordained ministers: Bishops, Priests, and Deacons. These people have been trained and called to serve the Word. They are always reminded to allow the Holy Spirit to speak through them. The ambo is a very holy place, where we proclaim God's Word to His people and share the message in the homily or reflection.

What we hear in the Second Reading helps us to see the Church as one great body composed of many members with different functions, strengths, and weaknesses. Note that the Church has certain members of the body that help all to understand the Word of God.

Indeed, as the Church, we are one body in Christ: through Baptism, we are incorporated into a mystical Body of Christ. It was one Spirit that moved us to believe in Jesus and to seek the Holy Spirit, and that same Spirit sustains the unity of the Body.

We became a part of this Body after we not only heard the Word of God, bringing out the faith in our souls, but also as we put our love, faith, and trust in the Word, meaning Jesus, completely, through Baptism, which makes our lives Christian in a way that we never have to be alone.

In the Gospel Luke explains to Theophilus that he worked hard as he tried to bring together all information of Jesus that had been written in the Gospel. He asks Theophilus to help him and offers him the final version to be painstakingly copied so that the manuscript can be handed down to other Ministers of the Word, so that everyone who reads or hears God's Word will receive the great benefit of salvation.

Jesus has come to fulfill everything promised through the prophets, and to give meaning to the history of salvation lived until that moment. Here we might say that without God's Word, we would soon lose our identity and our way in a world overwhelmed by ignorance, confusion, and evil.

The Scripture continues to ensure that we have access to the Word of God, spoken through all of salvation history, and remain united in the Word of God, Jesus Christ. Therefore, just like Ezra, Paul, and Jesus himself, the Lord blesses us with people who conserve and interpret what God has said to us throughout salvation history.

We believe God speaks through the Scripture and the Holy Spirit helps us to understand him clearly. You will be surprised how much the Spirit speaks to you even as you are trying to speak about him to others.

It is important for me to remind you that the Scripture is a unique writing, written by human authors but inspired by God himself. It is God's love letter to each and every one of us. It is a flowing fountain of wisdom, comfort, guidance, and strength. If we take time to read, study, and reflect on it each day, our spiritual life will be filled with "spirit and life," as today's Psalm reminds us.

Therefore, I invite you all: If you don't have the Sunday Missal, please help yourself to one and read it, prepare yourself before coming here for the Eucharist; and if you have time, please come on Monday to join Bible Study together.

May God bless us all and may the Holy Spirit be upon us and make us be his messengers for His Word.

Have a blessed weekend and keep warm when the weather is very 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.

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)

FAMILY ACTIVITY



Bible Prayer Corner

In Luke's gospel, Jesus read from the Scriptures and commented on its meaning. This was the usual tradition at a synagogue service. What made this service unique was the commentary of Jesus. One line. What the audience heard from the prophet of Isaiah was fulfilled.

Family Bible reading and sharing is important. (You would not be reading this if you did not agree.) Re-enforce the point with a prayer corner that highlights the Bible. Set candles and flowers around pictures of Jesus and a Bible. Use a small book holder to hold the Bible and to highlight the prayer corner. Dedicate the prayer corner by sharing Luke 4:21-30 with your family and by praising God for the gift of his Son.



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 quilting ladies will be working on the quilting project on Mondays and Tuesdays. We will be sewing at the church, so anyone who wants to join us, bring your sewing machine and good humor. We will start at 9:00. Bring your lunch. See you there!



News from the Knights of Columbus



Bingos have been cancelled until further notice.

January 22/23 White Ribbon Campaign

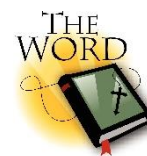
The White Ribbon is the world's largest movement of men and boys to end violence against women and girls. Let us create a future free from gender-based violence.

January 25 Articles for "The Word" due.

February 2 Planning Meeting @ 7pm

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

Sunday of the Word of God



In the Apostolic Letter *Aperuit illis*, Pope Francis instituted the Sunday of the Word of God, which is celebrated on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world.”

- Pope Francis, *Aperuit illis*, 2



Bringing Home the Word **+**

Rediscovering God's Love

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Have you ever lost something and then, after some time passes, finally found it? Perhaps your keys, a cell phone, or worse still, a credit card? When we find utilitarian items that we've lost or misplaced, we're so relieved and happy because we need these things for daily living. But what if we lose our whole purpose for living? Then we're really in trouble.

The people to whom Nehemiah was speaking lost more than something material; they lost the key to who they were as a people. They lost the law of God that had been given to them through Moses hundreds of years before. They were now listening to it for the first time. Upon hearing all its wisdom and prescriptions, they were cut to the heart and wept. There was so much they had forgotten and were no longer practicing. As exiles in Babylon, they had lost so much.

Yet the response toward this rediscovery could have been joy, because now they knew once again what made for happiness and living in the Lord. They had discovered the love that called them into existence.

We have been given the Holy Spirit who leads us into all truth and reminds us of everything Jesus taught us in Scriptures and Tradition. Knowing God's truth is the deepest source of joy. Finding him is like finding what was lost. Like the found key, God unlocks our happiness. Like a cell phone, he gives us a constant connection with him. And like a credit card—but infinitely better—God is the love that fulfills our desires. And we never have to pay him back.

© 2022 Liguori Publications. Used with permission

The Proclamation of the Kingdom

When Jesus proclaimed Isaiah's prophecy fulfilled, he proclaimed the presence of the Kingdom. With his proclamation, Jesus invited everyone to enter, Jew and Gentile alike. To enter the Kingdom, however, we must accept his word. In doing so, we become dependent upon him to lead us to the Father. "The kingdom belongs to 'the poor and lowly,' which means those who have accepted it with humble hearts." (CCC 544) With the proclamation of the Kingdom comes an invitation to receive the Spirit, its guidance and its consolation.

How have you experienced the Good News? How have you seen the power of the Spirit in this experience?

In this short reflection, we've looked at the content and the reason for the Good News. The Good News is a revelation of God's presence among us. In Luke, the activity of the Spirit represents that presence. Jesus proclaimed that presence now and at the end of time.

Luke wrote his gospel to distill the oral faith tradition that immersed him. And he wrote it to promote that faith tradition to his contemporaries. Our reflections on Luke's gospel fulfill his purpose for writing it.

The Spirit compelled Jesus to proclaim the Kingdom. But, when the Spirit began to blow, it did not cease. It breathed through the community, right onto the pages of Luke. And it continues to breathe among us, in our worship, in our studies, in our faith sharing, and in our service to the poor, the blind, and the oppressed. It compels us to proclaim, as Jesus did, a year of the Lord's favor.

As you reflect on Luke's message, look at this coming week and ask yourself one question. Where does the Spirit blow in your life?

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 WEEK AHEAD

- Mon. (24th): 9:00am CWL Quilting Bee
7:00pm Bible Study (*lower level*)
- Tues. (25th): 9:00am CWL Quilting Bee
7:30pm Finance Council Meeting
- Wed. (26th): 7:00pm Pastoral Council Meeting

D	N	I	L	B	P	A	C	Y	R
E	I	N	N	E	W	S	A	E	T
L	B	D	O	O	G	E	P	U	E
L	L	O	R	C	S	U	T	G	H
I	R	D	I	T	T	T	I	O	P
F	A	T	O	A	N	H	V	G	O
L	E	R	T	T	E	G	E	A	R
U	Y	I	O	X	V	U	S	N	P
F	O	O	N	O	E	A	N	Y	E
N	R	A	E	L	P	T	E	S	T

REPUTATION
SYNAGOGUE
CAPTIVES
PROPHET
STORY
WORD
SCROLL
POOR
BLIND
GOOD
TEXT
NEWS



YOUTH REFLECTION

"Many Members, One Body"

This Week...

Every member of the body is important. The hand is not better than the foot, and the eye is not more important than the ear. The hand would look silly all by itself without the rest of the body, and so would the eye, foot, or ear.

Every person in a group is also important. Some have the job of reading from the scroll, and some have the job of responding. The reader would look pretty silly all alone, proclaiming the truth from the holy book, if no one was there to hear the words and rejoice.

For Your Reflection

Saint Paul reminds us that every member of a group or body is important.

- At your school, is one group of students perceived as being "more important" than the others? If so, why is that? Who are they - the smartest students? The best athletes? The most attractive looking males and females? The teens with the most money?
- Is it true that these students are any more important than the others? Where does this false perception come from?

The study of biology can show us how the different parts of our body work together. The heart pumps the blood around, the lungs clean out the blood, the stomach and intestines process the food that fuels the body, the eyes and ears help direct the way the feet walk and the hands move. If something happens to one leg, the other leg and arms grow stronger, often with the help of crutches, in an effort to keep the body going. If the skin is bruised or broken, blood rushes to cleanse and clot in the area. Even if the eyesight is poor, the ears and nose cooperate in order to keep a pair of glasses in place!

- Is this the way your school or community functions? Do people generally watch out for one another when someone is weakened or hurt or in need of help? If so, how? If not, why not?
- Is this the way your family works? Do some family members come to the aid of others in need? If so, how? If not, why not?

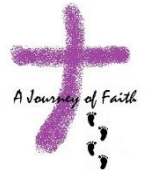
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word*, Cycle C, 2008, Saint Mary's Press



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