



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

January 29, 2023

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

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (30 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (31 st)	9:00am Agnes Swejda
Wed. (1 st)	9:00am +Dean Rushka 3:00pm <i>Ecumenical Prayer Service for those experiencing grief and loss</i>
Thurs. (2 nd)	9:00am +Brian Woodward 2:30pm GLADSTONE SENIORS' RES Dan Dierker
Fri. (3 rd)	9:00am +Raymond O'Hagan
Sat. (4 th)	9:00am +Andre Turgeon
	5:00pm +Mary Diakuw 6:30pm +Victoria Yaremko
Sun. (5 th)	FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9:00am +Adeline Kolodziejak 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.

Ecumenical Prayer Service

for those experiencing grief and loss

The first Wednesday of each month at 3pm
(St. Gerard Church)

The next Prayer Service is Wednesday, Feb. 1st

Fellowship and refreshments to follow.



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

Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Gracious God, you who have blessed us so richly, please give us the grace to be a blessing to others. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

-The Redemptorists

Sunday Connection

First Reading

Zephaniah 2.3,3.12-13

There will be a people who remain sheltered from God's anger.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 146.6-10

The Lord is faithful forever.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1.26-31

God chooses the weak to show his power.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5.1-12a

Jesus teaches what it means to be happy.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading is the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which is found in Matthew's Gospel. The form of the Beatitudes found here is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, in the psalms, and in wisdom literature, for example. They are a way to teach about who will find favor with God.

We quickly note in this reading that the people whom Jesus calls "blessed" and "happy" are not people we think of as blessed or happy . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. This Gospel is one of reversals. Jesus' blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness.

"Blessed" is sometimes translated as happy, fortunate, or favoured. In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favor is upon those who are poor, those who mourn, and those who are persecuted. This news might have been welcome—and surprising—to the crowds who heard Jesus that day.

The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. By referring to the good things that the faithful will experience, Matthew reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Today's Gospel offers a contrast to many of the messages we hear in our society today. If we were to accept uncritically the "get ahead" messages of our culture, we would think that happiness means having money, being successful, having many possessions, and so on. When we think this way, we are not unlike the people who heard Jesus teach on the day that he taught the Beatitudes. The crowd that day also associated happiness with material possessions and status.



Talk as a family about what it means to be happy or to be blessed. Make a list of traits that you would associate with a happy person. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 5:1-12a. Reflect on Jesus' description of happiness. Think about what each of the Beatitudes might have in common and write a family summary of the Beatitudes. Post the summary in a special place as a reminder of what your family will consider "true happiness."

Conclude by praying together prayers of petition based on the Beatitudes, e.g., "We pray that we will be peacemakers who seek to get along with other people even when this is difficult. We pray to the Lord." All respond: "Lord, hear our 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

Catechism Theme: The Beatitudes (CCC 1716-1724)

The Beatitudes lie at the heart of Christ's teaching, for they describe our relationship to the Kingdom in three ways. First, these simple rules address our highest desire: happiness with God. For, only God can satisfy the heart. Second, they describe the path to God for us as individuals and together as a Church. Through the Beatitudes, we share God's very life (sanctifying grace) because we enter into his Kingdom. Finally, they challenge us to live moral lives by putting God first. If we want to know what it truly means to be a Christian, read the Beatitudes in Matthew.

Who is one Christian you know that is truly happy? Why are he or she happy?

While there are many ideals for happiness, we Christians find ours in the Beatitudes. Guides to a Christian's life. Ideals with the goal of the Kingdom. We might not be able to fully live the Beatitudes today. But that is not the point. Like any ideal of happiness, the road is as important as the destination. Striving to live the Beatitudes day by day opens us to God's lead and the way to his Kingdom.

What can you do today to live out the Beatitudes this day?

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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.



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



White Ribbon Campaign - Our council will hold its annual white ribbon campaign the weekend of January 28-29. Knights of Columbus members will be at the church entrance after mass with white ribbons. Even if you don't want to take a ribbon, please stop on the way out and make a donation to this important cause. All money raised will go to Shelwin House. Thank you very much for your generosity! In addition to the funds raised, the campaign seeks to increase awareness of the issue of violence towards women and children.

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

Loving God,

Thank you for the many blessings we enjoy every day. Help us to not take them for granted.

Help us to see those who are poor with God's eyes and share our blessings with them.

Give us the wisdom to seek and value the treasures of your kingdom over the treasures of this world.

Soften our hearts and break down our prejudices toward those who have less.

Help us to depend on you and trust in your care.

Amen.

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Sun. (29th): 3:00pm- Baptism Preparation Session
(Parish Hall)
- Tues. (31st): 9:00am- Cabbage Roll Bee
- Sat. (4th): 5:00pm- Sacrament Preparation
(Parish Hall)



Softening Christianity

By Fr. John F. Kavanaugh, SJ

If we are to judge by the Sermon on the Mount, even Jesus, who is God with us, has a view of human affairs thoroughly at odds with our own. If we have to tune out the prophets' mistrust of humankind, imagine the skills of repression we must employ to ignore Christ's rejection of our every human impulse.

The benighted Nietzsche was clever enough to see the terrible truth in the Sermon on the Mount. What Jesus proposes is a bald reversal of human nature. Nietzsche knew that every last one of us wants wealth abounding and a full stomach. We dread suffering and tears. Being hated, ostracized, and insulted by others is among our greatest nightmares.

But Jesus deemed such conditions blessed. We are to rejoice if we are poor and hungry. We are to take delight in our tears and accept gladly our rejection by the powers of the age. This outright rejection of natural wisdom and desire so infuriated Nietzsche that he raged at those who might dare to follow Christ.

Perhaps the most constant failure of Christians is our reluctance to take our own gospels seriously and accept them in their entirety. We have an uncanny ability to block out those portions of Scripture that challenge our prejudices and to magnify those that confirm our own advantage.

A question much ignored these days is whether our faith has anything to do with justice, economics, poverty, or other sociopolitical issues. We have pried open a yawning gap between the world of faith and the world of "real" issues. As a result, we never have to worry about changing our behavior or confronting our culture. This is quite strange for a people that contends that its way is the way of the Lord Jesus.

Nietzsche realized that there is something in Christianity dreadfully at odds with our natural impulse. He would never settle for some watered-down, feel-good Jesus who pals along with us in our strutting.

Unfortunately, Christians have done just that. Rather than rejecting outright Christ's teachings, we soften and suffocate them with the pillows of our more realistic wisdom. As the great

English writer and theologian Dorothy Sayers observed, we have snared the lion of Judah, trimmed his claws, and turned him into a domesticated kitten.

St. Michael's at Madge Winter Raffle and 50/50



Win a PlayStation 5 Digital Console with Wireless Over-Ear Headset and DualSense Charging Station



PlayStation Raffle Tickets

1380 Sets of Tickets:

1 ticket for \$10.00

3 tickets for \$20.00

10 tickets for \$50.00

Draw Date: April 17, 2023, at 5:00 PM at Christ the Teacher Catholic School Division Office, 45A Palliser Way, Yorkton, SK

50/50 Tickets - 5 for \$10 or 20 for \$20

Draw Date: April 17, 2023, at 5:00 PM at Christ the Teacher Catholic School Division Office, 45A Palliser Way, Yorkton, SK

Tickets: Must be 19 or older to purchase ticket and claim prize

Tickets must be purchased in Saskatchewan

SLGA Raffle License # SR22-3542

SLGA 50/50 License # SR22-3875

BUY TICKETS ONLINE at [Rafflebox:](https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/smm)
(<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/smm>)

All proceeds to St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church Camp Inc.

St. Michael's at Madge is a facility located at Madge Lake, Saskatchewan. The facility is the location for both summer and winter camps for kids. The facility is also the ideal location to host conferences, weddings, reunions, and other family events. All funds raised from this raffle will aid in supporting the facility to continue to host camps and other facility functions.



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



To register visit our website or email us at camp@stmichaelscamp.com