



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

January 30th, 2022

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
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (31 st)	NO MASS
Tues. (1 st)	7:00pm +Muriel Guy
Wed. (2 nd)	9:00am Carter Halliday
Thurs. (3 rd)	9:00am +Peter Suwala
	2:30pm GLADSTONE SRS' RESIDENCE
	+Joanne Fedirko
Fri. (4 th)	9:00am +Andre Turgeon
Sat. (5 th)	9:00am +Darlene Bernath

5:00pm +Ambrose Wolfe

Sun. (6th) **FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

9:00am Mass for the People
11:00am +Darlene Bernath

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!



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, your love never fails. Help me to embrace life with gratitude and love and joyfully welcome all people into my heart.

- From *Peaceful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*,
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

A Reflection by Deacon Dave Hudy

Dear Friends,

This weekend's gospel invites us to ask the question "Why does God answer some prayers and not others?" I had a friend who prayed fervently for his daughter's recovery from cancer. He asked Jesus to take his life instead the life of his daughter. His daughter's healing was the focus of his life at the time, he would pray while working in the fields with his tractor. He told me that one time he could feel Jesus' presence in the tractor with him while he was praying. It felt like Jesus was riding along with him in the tractor. But, his daughter was not healed, she died from her cancer. Yet, God answered this family's prayers at other times, both this man and his wife experienced what I would call miracles of healing. My friend has since passed on from this life, I pray that both he and his daughter are now in heaven. So, why did God seem to let him down when he really needed help?

In our gospel, Jesus gets into trouble for the same issue, why some prayers answered and others are not. People are so angry that they attempt to throw him off a cliff. These people are from Jesus' home town and are expecting him to perform, at least, the same type of miracles that they heard he has been doing elsewhere. But Jesus implies that they will get no special treatment just because they are his neighbours. He gives them two examples from the Old Testament of foreigners who were helped while people from Israel, though also in need, apparently received no help. The message is clear to the people of Nazareth - expect no special favours just because he's from your home town! Even foreigners may receive help ahead of you! Is the gospel not a reminder that we do are all God's children whether we be Christians, Muslims, atheists or what have you? God loves everyone and does not play favourites!

I think the gospel is also a reminder that **we do not earn miracles** by our prayers. We can place our hopes and dreams before God, but we need to remember that we may need to let "God be God". The one who made the universe is in charge! Sometimes miracles do happen, though. Sometimes God wishes to partner with us to bring about something good. Never stop praying! The biggest miracle through some of our prayers may be a change in those of us who are praying. Or God may answer our prayers in a way we are not expecting. Prayer changes things, it's just that the changes are not always obvious to us.

The last few words that I have to say about miracles are said to have come from Jesus, himself. Before the Rwandan genocide Jesus is said to have appeared to a young man by the name of Segatashya. Segatashya was killed in the genocide. Segatashya said that Jesus indicated to him that people don't usually realize it but miracles are happening all around them. Our very lives are miracles!

'A true miracle is a child in the womb: a mother's love is a miracle; a forgiving heart is a miracle. Your lives are filled with miracles, but you are too distracted by material things to see them.' (Quote from 'The Boy who Met Jesus' page 32)

May God bless you all.

Dc Dave Hudy



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:

Philippa McCabe

May this child and her family experience joy and new life.



World Day for Consecrated Life

Wednesday, February 2 is the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the World Day for Consecrated Life.

St. John Paul II started this annual observance in 1997 to "help the entire Church to esteem even more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of the practice of the evangelical counsels", of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

All are invited to keep members of Religious Life, Secular Institutes, Associations of the Faithful and the Eremitical Life, and those discerning this vocation in prayer!



The Myriam Family of the Prairies would like to invite you to an afternoon retreat with the theme:

Learning to be a disciple led by the Holy Spirit!

February 12th from 1h30 to 4h30 pm

In person at their House of Prayer in McLean or on Zoom.

The retreat is including a time of talk and sharing, a time of deepening the Word of God and Eucharistic Adoration.

For registration, please contact us at 306-761-0528 or email: pss.prairies@famillemyriam.org



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.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Bingos have been cancelled until further notice.

February 2 Planning Meeting @ 7pm

The Yorkton K of C #2031 would like to thank the parishioners of St. Gerard for their generosity to the White Ribbon campaign last weekend.

\$543.00 will be given to Shelwin House!

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

FAMILY ACTIVITY

"Happy-Mad Faces" Game



This gospel reading falls on the heels of last week's. Jesus told the synagogue audience a prophecy in Isaiah was fulfilled. Now the audience reacted. Who was this traveling preacher? Wasn't he the son of a carpenter? (This was a "put down" since carpenters were really semi-skilled day laborers.) The skepticism grew to the point the audience grew into an angry mob ready to kill Jesus.

Luke's gospel points out an obvious fact: some will believe, others will not. Those who believe will be happy. Those who do not will be angry. Emphasize this point with the "Happy-Mad Face" game. Draw happy and mad faces on paper plates. Read Luke 4:15-30. As you read have your family hold up the happy face when Jesus talks. Have them hold up a mad face when the crowd reacts to his words. At the end of the reading, ask your family if they want to throw away the happy face of Jesus, like the crowd did when they tried to kill him. Or, would they like to throw away the mad face of the crowd? (Throw away the plates with the mad faces and hold up the happy faces.) End the game with prayer where your family accepts Jesus and his word.



Bringing Home the Word **+**

Developing the Strength of a Prophet

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The consoling words from the prophet Jeremiah give comfort to all of us. God told him that he, like each of us, was known even in his mother's womb. It was the knowledge of being known and loved that gave Jeremiah the strength to stand before his people and prophesy some very strong and harsh words. He was set as a strong pillar, a wall of brass, a fortified city. He was rooted in love, because he needed to be so as not to be crushed by the anger and resentment stirred up by his prophetic words.

Jesus faces the same ire when visiting his hometown. At first the Nazarenes praise him, but soon, as if they had some entitlement, they presumptuously demand that he perform miracles to satisfy their vanity—not to change their hearts. When Jesus challenges them, their response is to want to throw him off a cliff!

As Christians, we all have a prophetic mission. We're called to preach the truths of the gospel, and at times this isn't popular. In the public square, the Church and Christians are often praised for their charitable work but asked to silence their religious voice when morality is discussed. We need the strength and conviction of prophets as well as the love that drives them.

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Catechism Themes: Praying at Difficult Times (CCC 2752-2758)

Expectations can be caused by frustration. We want something to happen. So we look to others for fulfillment. Faith can become confused. And prayer can dry up.

Why does prayer sometimes seem so hard? Prayer is sometimes difficult because we fight against ourselves and the temptations around us (including the devil). Prayer can become hard when we use prayer for selfish ends (praying only for a particular need or to reduce stress), or when we don't take the time to pray on a regular basis, or when we reject prayer as a "waste of time." Prayer can be extremely hard when we sense personal failure; we have the temptation to give up instead of persevering. As a result, we can feel dry and can be easily distracted in prayer; we can even lose faith and become depressed. (2752, 2753, 2754, 2755)

What can we do when prayer becomes hard? We can take two strategies when prayer becomes hard. First, we can realize that our faith is being tested; we can change our prayer in order to seek God's will for us. Second, we can realize that prayer is never wasted; we are challenged to use prayer as a means to overcome frustration in prayer. As St. Paul said, "Pray constantly." (1 Thess. 5:17) (2756, 2757)

How did Jesus pray in his time of difficulty? In John 17, Jesus prayed a prayer for his disciples called the "priestly prayer." Even before his death, he prayed for the unity of his followers and for union with his followers. His prayer teaches us the true measure of prayer, the desire to be one with God at every point in life. (2758)

What do you expect from prayer? How have your expectations been fulfilled? How has your prayer life helped (or hindered) your faith life?

Expectations are always hard to fulfill. But, faith is not based upon expectations, but on a relationship with God. We must recognize the difference between the two. And place our expectations before God. (Not the other way around!)

Make a list of expectations you have of others, especially of the Church and its leaders? Take a moment and place those expectations before God. Do this for the next week. Then review your list. How have your expectations changed?

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A	R	E	D	F	S	U	H	T	E
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R	H	S	R	E	P	E	L	T	A
P	S	D	E	G	A	R	N	E	Y

SYNAGOGUE	WORDS	PHYSICIAN
LIPS	HEAL	PROPHET
COUNTRY	WIDOWS	SHUT
FAMINE	LEPERS	NONE



THE WEEK AHEAD

- Mon. (31st): 9:00am CWL Quilting Bee
7:00pm Bible Study (*lower level*)
- Tues. (1st): 9:00am CWL Quilting Bee
- Wed. (2nd): 7:00pm K of C Planning Meeting

YOUTH REFLECTION

"The Greatest of These is Love"

This Week...

Love is the most important virtue there is. Without love, nothing matters. With love, everything matters. Love brings courage, support, strength, and even miracles. Jeremiah could do anything, because he was assured of God's love. Jesus could do very little when he felt no love from the people.

For Your Reflection

Love empowered Jeremiah. Lack of love stopped Jesus in his tracks.

When has love empowered you to do something you didn't think you could do?

Saint Paul was writing about love. His words in First Corinthians are almost poetic.

What modern song do you think captures the essence of what love is all about? How so?

Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle A*, 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