

# St. Gerard

#### Roman Catholic Parish

July 19, 2020 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Established December 11, 1904

#### LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:

Saturday: 5pm Sunday: 9am & 11am

#### **CONTACT US**

The Parish Office is open reduced hours, but the doors remain locked. <u>Please phone ahead.</u>
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 9am and 4pm.

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

www.stgerard.ca | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca

Pastor.....Fr. Louis Kim Nguyen 306.782.0323 <u>louisyorkton@gmail.com</u>

Parish Office Administrator......Sandra Archer Caretaker.......Mario Guerra

#### **MASS SCHEDULE**

Mon. (20th) NO MASS

Tues. (21st) 7pm +Rose Broda

Wed. (22<sup>nd</sup>) 7pm Russell Griffith

Thurs. (23<sup>rd</sup>) 7pm Denis Dierker

Fri. (24th) 7pm +Olga Cherewyk

Sat. (25th) 9am Fran Meehan

5pm +Kevin O'Callaghan

Sun. (26th) SEVENTEETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9am Mass for the People

11am +Maryanne Kuzminski

<u>PLEASE</u> remember to register for Saturday/Sunday <u>Mass</u>. It helps with preparation, and makes entering the church much smoother, quicker, and safer if everyone registers in advance (see column to the right for instructions). Thank you!

#### RE-OPENING THE CHURCH

**Great news!** Per the Government of Saskatchewan and the Archdiocese of Regina directives, Father Louis will celebrate public Saturday/Sunday Mass for **a limited number of people at 3 Masses**. Please be patient as we are doing our best to follow the guidelines and to welcome as many people as possible.

#### All those wishing to attend must pre-register:

- 1. Check out the link at <a href="www.stgerard.ca">www.stgerard.ca</a> and complete the registration form for you and your household <a href="between Monday morning and Thursday">between Monday morning and Thursday</a> at 4pm (or until registration is full).
- 2. Only if you do not have access to the internet, phone the Parish Office at 306.782.2449 Monday at 9am until Thursday at noon. If leaving a message, please include your name and telephone number and your call will be returned.

All must receive confirmation from the Parish Office prior to attending Mass. Thank you!



Stay
Connected
Online!
www.stgerard.ca



Lord, you revealed the power of the kingdom of heaven on earth. Help me plant the seeds of love, compassion, and peace in the hearts of all people.

> - From Faithful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeny

#### A Note from Your Pastor.....

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Again we hear Jesus using parables to explain the mystery of the Kingdom of God. In the Gospel last Sunday Matthew said "Jesus told them many things in parables". And once again, in the Gospel today, Jesus uses parables to help us to get a clear view about the Kingdom of God. No doubt, the Kingdom of God is a huge mystery, which we cannot understand completely. Jesus uses parables to help us to get a better understanding of things he wants to explain.

When the master says, "Let both of them grow together until the harvest time" it means that he allows the wheat and the weeds to live together until the end of the harvest. It is difficult to understand and may be unacceptable to us because weeds can spoil and even kill a good harvest if they are not separated and destroyed as soon as possible. The master suggests that it is better to not pluck the weeds because his slaves might not recognize the difference between the wheat and the weeds. This may help us to acknowledge that God is a **God of patience**. He is the perfect One, and he is always patient with us. He gives us time and waits for our conversion, so that we may return to him.

Psalm 130 states, "Out of the depths I call to you, Lord. Lord, hear my cry! May your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy? If you, Lord, mark our sins, Lord, who can stand? But with you is forgiveness and so you are revered". When you hear these words, what do you think about?

Indeed, if God doesn't have patience with human beings, we would not have great saints, those who were converted from a negative life in their past such as Peter, Paul, Augustine... "Every Saint has a past and every sinner has a future." (Rediscover the Saints, Matthew Kelly, p. 13). God accepts us just as we are, totally, and with love he waits for us to change and grow in His graces. I believe that this is the message that Jesus wants to tell us throughout the story in the Gospel today.

My dear Sisters and Brothers, you and I, we all have experienced imperfect things within us. Nobody is perfect, we are all sinners. However, it is easy to judge others on their appearance. We are often harder with others than we are with ourselves. It is clear that this parable encourages us not to be too quick to judge others by their appearance. There is often more going on inside a person that we cannot see. Therefore, to judge a person on his or her appearance is unfair.

In this parable Jesus teaches us to acknowledge God's patience and how to be patient; once we recognize God's patience it also teaches us the need to be patient with others.

To apply God's word today in our lives, I have one suggestion for both you and I - we should try to think of one time in the past, when we blamed someone or when we were impatient with someone. That person could be your spouse, your parents or your children, your friends or even your priest, ... try to remember one time when you criticized them by words or just in your mind, and then ask a question, why did I do that? Why did I say something bad, or thoughtless to them? Why did I say something bad about them to others? Reflect on this and then ask yourself, do I have enough tolerance, or patience?

My Dear Sisters and Brothers, keep in mind that because our God is patient, God is more tolerant than we are. Therefore, because we are his children, we are called to be patient with ourselves and others. The Gospel today invites us to practice the virtue of patience. May God help us to work on it and exercise it well in our daily life.

Have a wonderful weekend with abundant God's blessings.

### Livestream of Daily and Sunday Masses - Resurrection Parish (Regina) -

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

www.youtube.com/ArchdioceseRegina

Mass may be viewed live, or at any time after the time listed.

#### Daily & Sunday Mass may also be viewed:

Vision TV (check your local TV listing)

<u>www.dailytvmass.com</u>

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

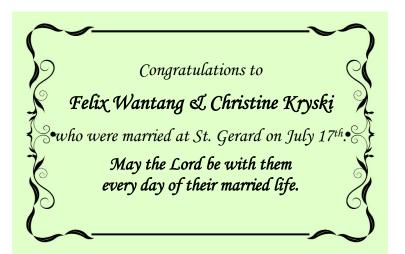


### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 8:30 am & 4:30 pm

Or by appointment. Phone 306.782.2449 or 306.782.0323

Marriage Preparation for Engaged Couples - Fall Session. We are preparing dates for the Fall Session of Marriage Prep. At this point in time the sessions will include private study and Zoom meetings. If you are marrying in the next year and have not taken the Marriage Prep Course, please call Father Louis.



#### Are you moving this summer??



Please remember to notify the Parish Office. We like to keep our records current, and to be able to mail your charitable donation receipt to the correct address at the end of the year. Thanks!



#### News from the CWL



The St. Gerard C.W.L.'s Gigantic Garage Sale has been CANCELLED for September 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Please do not bring items to the church or Father's garage. Thank you!

CWL National will be giving a series of five talks in a Summer Speaker's Series: <a href="https://cwl.ca/summer-speakers-series/">https://cwl.ca/summer-speakers-series/</a>.

There is a limit of 3,000 registrants and 1,500 have already signed up, so please register as soon as possible.

Aug 10th: Speak to the Earth and It Shall Teach

You: On the Christian Vocation to

Tend. Guard. and Heal

Aug 11th: Women Together Caring for our

Common Home

Aug 12th: Women and Healing Our Wounded

Church

Aug 13th: The League of the Future: Part III

Aug 14th: The League in 2020



#### **News from the Knights of Columbus**



August 1 Evening Bingo

August 11-12 St. Philomena Walking Pilgrimage

August 12 Afternoon Bingo

Stay tuned for information re: the distribution and sale of Charity Appeal tickets!

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Rejean Houle @ 306.641.5430 or <a href="mailto:houle\_r@yahoo.fr">houle\_r@yahoo.fr</a> More info.: www.kofc-2031.ca

#### Saint Philomena Walking Pilgrimage

The Saint Philomena Walking Pilgrimage will be happening again this summer, we start on August 11<sup>th</sup> at Yorkton and finish on August 14<sup>th</sup> at the Shrine at Rama. This is a supported pilgrimage with rest stops provided along the way and a trailer carrying tents and sleeping gear to each overnight stop. Pilgrims are invited to join us for all or part of the walk. Precautions are in place to help keep pilgrims safe from the COVID-19 virus. For more information, check out our website at <a href="https://www.stphilomena.ca">www.stphilomena.ca</a> or phone Dave or Bev at 306 728 5525

#### New to the parish?? WELCOME!!!

If you are attending weekday or Sunday Masses, please introduce yourself to Father Louis! New Parishioner forms are available. You may download the form online at



<u>www.stgerard.ca</u> and mail/email it to the Parish Office.



#### A Show of Mercy

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

One of the most important signs of true strength is the ability to show mercy. The Roman emperors understood this and were praised when they showed clemency toward a criminal. The one who has the power to condemn also has power to forgive.

The artist Ippolito Scarsellino—in his painting Virgin and Angels Imploring Christ Not to Punish Lust, Avarice and Pride—depicts this mercy, as it applies to Jesus, in classic allegorical fashion. Mary and the angels are shown pleading with Jesus to hold back his wrath against lust, avarice, and pride. Jesus is rearing back to launch arrows upon them, yet Mary begs him to withhold his judgment.

The Book of Wisdom praises God, for he is "master of might," but governs with lenience (12:18). The fact is, he would be fully justified to reprimand every vice of his creatures, yet he chooses mercy. What a wonderful lesson for all persons in authority!

It's enough to just look at the Gospel. The weeds are not immediately torn out or burned out of consideration of the wheat. Both are allowed to grow and develop to maturity to ensure the harvest. Permitting the good to struggle with evil allows the good to grow in perfection. It also gives the bad a chance to convert.

God gives every grace to those who love him so that we may not succumb to the challenges around us. His mercy gives the sinner every possible chance to repent and be saved. This is the heart we must have for one another and why we should never gloat about our goodness or despair of our weaknesses. While there is life, there is hope.

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#### GIVING TO YOUR PARISH

The COVID-19 virus has impacted individuals world-wide. St. Gerard's Parish is no exception.

One of the consequences of not being able to gather together for Mass is that our revenue has decreased. Despite availing ourselves to government relief programs, our expenses continue.

Thank you to those who are able to contribute by one of the following methods:

#### **Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)**

After downloading the <u>Pre-Authorized Giving Form</u>, please complete it, attach a void cheque, & mail it to:

St. Gerard Parish 125 Third Ave N Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

#### **Interac e-Transfer**

- 1. Log into your online banking account.
- 2. Find e-Transfer and add <u>giving@stgerard.ca</u> to your recipient list.
- 3. Enter the desired amount.
- 4. A question, answer, or password is not required by St. Gerard Church, however it may be required by your financial institution. If so, please email the question and answer to <a href="mailto:giving@stgerard.ca">giving@stgerard.ca</a> with your name, mailing address and telephone number so that we can ensure your contribution is recorded properly.

Please note that this is a secure transfer deposited directly to the church's account.

If you have an envelope number, your donation will be reflected in your annual charitable donation receipt. All others will receive a receipt by mail, so PLEASE include your mailing address in the follow-up email. Thanks!

#### Online through CanadaHelps

Credit card donations may be made through CanadaHelps by clicking <u>here</u>.

#### Mail envelopes to the church

You may mail cheques (not cash), enclosed in your offertory envelope to:

St. Gerard Parish 125 Third Ave N Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4



# Drawing the Saints Close

#### Kathryn Ball-Boruff

Not long ago, I was discussing the saints with a group of nine- to twelve-year-old children. After I mentioned that each of us is called by God to be a saint, a little girl asked, "But do you want to be a saint?"

"Yes," I answered, reflexively.

"But do you really want to be one?" she asked, with a bit more skepticism than I would prefer to acknowledge.

I thought about it for a moment. "Yes, I do," I said. "It isn't important to me to be a canonized saint, one of the ones whose intercession we have been asking for just now, but I would very much like to be a saint."

As I was thinking about the girl's skepticism later, I realized that the saints can seem very far away. Sometimes we focus on details of piety

or asceticism that are removed from our everyday experience. The saints, however, were human just as we are human, and their lives were filled with experiences similar to ours. On closer study, many saints are incredibly relatable.

# Sometimes interest in one saint can lead to another.

In the same group, a girl came to me after looking at depictions of the saints and said, "in the early Church, the women all look different from one another, but then it's almost all women religious and queens." It was clear that she was looking for a more diverse image of what holiness can look like for women. I mentioned to her that St. Zelie Martin was a successful businesswoman and that St. Gianna Beretta Molla was a doctor, and that both were also mothers. She resumed her research, not only interested in those two, but realizing that even those who looked the same on first glance had among them tremendous variety in their lived experience.

Children love to hear stories of the saints. These ordinary men and women who lived extraordinarily inspire them,



By learning about the saints, children will discover that there are many ways to follow Jesus.

give them examples of what holiness looks like, and demonstrate that there is no one way to follow Jesus. Exposing children to a variety of these stories gives them an opportunity to find a saint with whom they have a connection, whom they might ask to intercede for them and whom they might look to as a model for emulation.

The liturgical calendar hanging in our dining room reminds us that the rhythm of the year is punctuated by celebrations of these holy men and women. Our family celebrates the feast days of the saints whose names were given to our children by going out for ice cream. We make beautiful saint books available in our home for our children to look at for inspiration. A friend and her daughters have a saint of the month. They have no method to

choosing these saints; they just select them randomly. Her younger daughter was interested in chess, so she chose St. Teresa of Avila, the patron of that game. The lack of a comprehensive structure makes no difference to her girls, who love the tradition.

If a particular saint seems to resonate with your child, provide that natural interest an opportunity to grow with a holy card or a book about the person. Look up prayers that the person loved or wrote and prayers asking for his or her intercession. Many children love St. Francis because of his connection to animals, the poor, and peace. There are dozens of beautiful children's books about his life. Sometimes interest in one saint can lead to interest in another. Many saints had particular devotion to a man or a woman who came before them, and children may want to know why, sparking a new devotion. We can never have too many friends in heaven.

As children grow older, you can ask them to think about the lives of the saints more deeply. How did they live a life of heroic virtue? What challenges did they face? How do you want to grow to be more like them? Perhaps someday some future boy or girl will be reflecting on the life of your child, hoping to grow in holiness, inspired by his or her life.

Text by Kathryn Ball-Boruff. Photo © John Zich. © 2019 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 3949 South Racine Avenue, Chicago, IL 60609; 800-933-1800; www.LTP.org. Pastoral Liturgy\* magazine, July/August 2019, www.Pastoral Liturgy.org.

St. Gerard Parish
Comparative Income Statement to June 30, 2020

|                                     |       | 2020    |        | 2019    | Change   |                                 |           | 2020      |         | 2019          | Change   |
|-------------------------------------|-------|---------|--------|---------|----------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------------|----------|
| REVENUE                             |       | 2020    |        | 2019    | Change   | COMMITTEE EXPENSES              |           | 2020      |         | 2019          | Cilarige |
| Collections                         |       | 119,768 |        | 135.882 | -16,114  | Family & Social                 | 0         |           | 261     |               | -261     |
| Other (Donations, rel. articles)    |       | 7,352   |        | 5,326   | 2,026    | Ecumenical                      | 0         |           | 28      |               | -28      |
| Perogies & cabbage rolls (net)      |       | 3,477   |        | 7,609   | -4,132   | Liturgy                         | 2,951     |           | 3,720   |               | -769     |
| Annual Fall Supper (net)            |       | 0       |        | 0       | 0        | Stewardship                     | 0         |           | 0       |               | 0        |
| Catering                            |       | 4,791   |        |         | -16,493  | Religious Education             | 812       |           | 1,474   |               | -662     |
| TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE             | -     | 135,388 | _      | 170,102 |          | Social Justice                  | 182       |           | 892     |               | -710     |
| Building Fund Donations             |       | 5,706   |        | 5,339   | 367      | Youth                           | 0         |           | 1,112   |               | -1,112   |
| Trust Fund Donations                |       | 0       |        | 0       | 0        | Community Life                  | 0         |           | 94      |               | -94      |
| TOTAL REVENUE                       | -     | 141,094 | _      |         | -34,346  | Public Relations                | 0         |           | 0       |               | 0        |
|                                     |       | ,       |        | ,       | - ',- '- | Pastoral & Finance Council      | 75        |           | 971     |               | -896     |
| OPERATING EXPENSES                  |       |         |        |         |          | Refugee Family Committee (net)  | 0         |           | 15,764  |               | -15,764  |
| Pastoral                            |       | 75      |        | 739     | -664     | Cemetery Expense                | 0         |           | 0       |               | 0        |
| Parish Office                       |       | 10,826  |        | 11,607  | -782     | Total Committee Expenses        |           | 4,020     |         | 24,315        | -20,295  |
| Diocesan Assessments                |       | 25,425  |        | 26,140  | -715     | •                               |           |           |         | ,             | ,        |
| Pastor/Office Wages, Salaries, etc. |       | 58,217  |        | 55,944  | 2,273    | TOTAL EXPENSES                  |           | 144,928   |         | 190,903       | -45,975  |
| Building:                           |       |         |        |         |          |                                 |           |           |         |               |          |
| Sask Energy                         | 4,166 |         | 4,078  |         |          | NET INCOME (LOSS)               |           | (\$3,834) |         | (\$15,462)    | \$11,628 |
| Sask Power                          | 6,767 |         | 8,750  |         |          |                                 |           |           |         |               |          |
| Water                               | 795   |         | 1,354  |         |          |                                 |           |           |         |               |          |
| Property Taxes                      | 0     |         | 6,554  |         |          | Appr                            | oved by P | arish Cou | ıncil   |               |          |
| Insurance                           | 9,636 |         | 10,929 |         |          |                                 |           |           |         |               |          |
| Parking Lot                         | 4,693 |         | 4,071  |         |          | Please note that we continue to | avail our | selves to | governn | nent relief p | rograms. |
| Garbage/recycling                   | 628   |         | 1,468  |         |          |                                 |           |           |         |               |          |
| Repairs & maintenance               | 4,482 |         | 9,643  |         |          |                                 |           |           |         |               |          |
| Total Building                      |       | 31,167  |        | 46,848  | -15,681  |                                 |           |           |         |               |          |
| Hall:                               |       | _       |        |         |          |                                 |           |           |         |               |          |
| Wages, Salaries, etc.               | 5,727 |         | 10,834 |         | -5,108   |                                 |           |           |         |               |          |
| Catering                            | 2,762 |         | 8,279  |         | -5,517   |                                 |           |           |         |               |          |
| Administrative Expenses             | 76    |         | 915    |         | -839     |                                 |           |           |         |               |          |
| Total Hall                          |       | 8,565   |        | 20,028  | -11,464  |                                 |           |           |         |               |          |
| Rectory                             |       | 6,635   |        | 5,282   | 1,353    |                                 |           |           |         |               |          |

#### Your St. Gerard Parish COVID-19 Questions Answered

On March 18, 2020, Archbishop Donald Bolen, in keeping with the Code of Canon Law no. 87, granted to all the Catholic faithful dispensation from their Sunday obligation. This is still in effect.

What does this mean? As Roman Catholics, we have an obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Until further notice, Archbishop Don has granted an exemption from this obligation. For those who are unable or choose not to attend Sunday Mass at this time, you do not have to. Other ways to participate in Sunday Mass is to watch it on television or watch the livestream Mass online, courtesy of Resurrection Parish (Regina) and the Archdiocese of Regina.

What happens if someone at Mass develops COVID-19? All parishioners who have preregistered, either online or by phoning the Parish Office (if no internet access) will be contacted. immediately.

**I have seasonal allergies. May I still attend Mass?** Yes, but for your own comfort and for the peace of mind of other parishioners, please wear a mask.

Why do I need to register each time when I would like to attend Mass? We are blessed at St. Gerard's to have a large parish family! In order to provide all parishioners with an equal opportunity to attend Sunday Mass, it is necessary to register each week.

Why can't I sit in my usual place? In order to accommodate as many singles, couples, and families as possible, it is necessary to assign seat numbers so that all are able to celebrate safely.

\*\*Carefully attending [to the directives] is the best way to ensure that we won't contribute to the spreading of the virus, and the most helpful step we can take in convincing government and health officials that opening our churches to larger numbers is a safe and responsible thing to do.\*\*

#### PRAYER FOR ANXIETY

Today, I pray for all those who suffer from anxiety in the midst of this exceptional situation we are going through.

May they get comfort, Lord, both in your unlimited Love and in the community.

Holy Spirit, be our light so that we keep faith in the heart of our daily lives and in that way, we may transform fear into hope. Amen. Lord God.

I pray for all who have become sick or died by the coronavirus that has been spreading around the world.

In your mercy and compassion, deliver us from this disease,

In your holy wisdom, guide all who are working to contain the outbreak,

In your steadfast love, bring healing to all your children who have become sick,

Welcome into your arms the ones that died, comfort the ones they left behind.

In faith, I place my trust in you.

In hope, I turn to you in my time of need.

In love, I give glory to your name.

In gratitude, I will praise you with my life.

In your Son's name I pray. Amen.

#### News from the Archdiocese of Regina

#### **Calling Teens and University Students**

Are you looking to meet some new people, look at some of life's big questions and have a few laughs along the way?

Please join us for "Alpha" Online. There will be a few opportunities for us to potentially gather in person as a group, but the majority of the gatherings will happen online. We promise it will be an hour WELL SPENT each week!

So Join us Wednesday evenings at 6:30PM, starting on July 8th. No need to register. Just join us on ZOOM at <a href="https://zoom.us/j/643587934">https://zoom.us/j/643587934</a>

Any questions contact Michelle: mbraden@archregina.sk.ca

#### Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry Event

# A DAY RETREAT "Redefining Normal; Faithfully Stepping into the Unknown"

It will be held on Aug. 22 from 10am-10pm out at Glen Harbour Camp. (on Long Lake approx. 40 minutes NW of Regina) Cost is \$60. Everyone 19 and up is welcome but spaces are limited.

To register or get more info, please go to <a href="https://archregina.sk.ca/youth-ministry/young-adult-ministry">https://archregina.sk.ca/youth-ministry/young-adult-ministry</a>

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, is thrilled to announce a new dynamic in young adult ministry coming soon! Watch for more info about small group ministry starting in the early Fall!

#### Blogs and Podcasts and Websites

(Ctrl+Click to follow the link)

- Amazing Parish Thrive
- <u>Thinking Faith</u> with Dr. Brett Salkeld and Deacon Eric Gurash
- Barefoot and Preaching Leah Perrault

#### **Books and Other Resources**

(Ctrl+Click to follow the link)

- Free Catholic Novels
- What's Next for the Church A PDF book from Word on Fire
- A Celebration of the Word of God St. Therese Institute

#### **An Ignatian Prayer Adventure**

You are invited to join in **An Ignatian Prayer Adventure** with commentary and reflection by: Fr. Larry Gillick SJ—Director of The Deglman Centre for Ignatian Spirituality, Creighton University - Omaha, Nebraska.

A 10 - part video series. Fr. Gillick will provide videos containing his reflections on various aspects of the exercises as your journey progresses. These videos are being prepared especially for the Archdiocese of Regina.

These videos will be released every 2 to 3 weeks, and come with guided prayer material. *This is a work at your own pace retreat.* The retreat uses the book 'An Ignatian Adventure, by Kevin O'Brien S.J.'

Subscribe to our YouTube page at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/ArchdioceseRegina">www.youtube.com/user/ArchdioceseRegina</a> and you will be notified when new videos are released.

#### Archdiocese of Regina on Social Media

We invite you to like us on Facebook, we will have regular Facebook Live prayers and we would love to have you join us!

#### www.facebook.com/ArchdioceseofRegina/

You can also find us on Twitter @archioceseofreg and on Instagram archdioceseofregina.

#### **Compassionate Listening**

If you find that during this difficult time you need a compassionate listening ear, visit:

#### https://archregina.sk.ca/archregina-outreach

for a list of spiritual directors and candidates in training who have volunteered their time to be there for anyone who is struggling.

### Prayers, Devotions and Resources



Visit the Prayers and Devotions page to find information on daily mass, daily readings and reflections, prayers, stations of the cross and other resources that may be valuable during this time of social distancing.

https://archregina.sk.ca/prayers-devotions-resources

#### YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

#### "God's Universal Care"

#### This Week...

God knows what is in our heart. God understands. God forgives. God allows sinners and saints to live together and grow together right up to harvest time. It is too hard for us to separate the weeds from the wheat without hurting the wheat. It's not our job. Let's allow God to do it.

#### For Your Reflection

It's lucky for us that God is the only one who distinguishes the weeds from the wheat.

- Think of your teachers at school. Would all of them completely agree on whether you should be characterized as a weed or as wheat? If so, what would they say? If not, how might they disagree? What would the "wheat voters" say about you? What would the "weed voters" say about you? Do you think any of the wheat voters might convince the others of your good qualities? Or do you think it would be more likely that the weed voters would be the convincing ones? Why?
- Think of a person you might consider to be a weed. Can you see any positive characteristics in that person? If you concentrated on those positives for a whole month, do you think your opinion of this person might change? Why or why not?
- Do you know anyone who is perfectly good, perfectly wonderful all the time? Do you know anyone who isn't perfect but who could be called saintly? Describe why you see this person in this way. Would anyone disagree with your opinion? If so, why?

Excerpt from In Touch With the Word, Cycle A for Ordinary Time St. Mary's Press, 2004



**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 <a href="https://www.sttherese.ca">www.sttherese.ca</a>

#### 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, <u>diplomainministry@stfx.ca</u>