



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

July 25th, 2021

Seventeenth
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

The Parish Office is open reduced hours, but the doors remain locked. Please phone ahead.
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 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4
www.stgerard.ca | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca

Pastor.....Fr. Louis Nguyen 306.782.0323 louisYorkton@gmail.com

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

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (26th) NO MASS
Tues. (27th) 7:00pm +Donna Olshewski
Wed. (28th) 9:00am +Pat Stevenson
Thurs. (29th) 9:00am +August Burant
Fri. (30th) 9:00am +John Keyowski
Sat. (31st) 9:00am +Joan Kormos

5:00pm +Ferdinand Thiele
7:00pm **GOOD SPIRIT LAKE HALL**
Deceased members of the
Naphin & Tedeschi families

Sun. (1st) **EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
9:00am Mass for the People
11:00am +Laurel Becker

WELCOME BACK!

Please note the following changes for our parish per the Archdiocese of Regina guidelines:

- The faithful continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation until September 1, 2021
- Registration for Mass is no longer required
- Masks and hand sanitizer will be provided. Their use is optional (but encouraged)
- Please sit in the pews that have hymnals so that people are not crowded together
- The choir and singing will resume. If you are not comfortable with singing in a public gathering, you are encouraged to wear a mask
- 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 will continue

PLEASE COME! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Colleen Haider, Marie Kruger, and the Liturgical Committee



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, you are the bread that satisfies hungry hearts.
Remove the selfishness from my heart, that I may be
generous to people in need.

- From *Faithful 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,

This weekend is the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, and through the Gospel of John we see Jesus providing bread for the people who had followed him into the wilderness. What is amazing about this story is that we see Jesus feeding the five thousand people from only five barley loaves and two fish!

I have a question for all those who read my message: Can five loaves and two fish feed a crowd of five thousand people? I believe that all of us who hear this question would say “NO. It is impossible, very much impossible!” However, in the Gospel today, it is possible, and it is true because “**for God, everything is possible**” (Mt 19.26).

Why is this possible? First of all, we hear Jesus ask Philip: “*where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?*” It is very clear that he wants to do something for them, he has a specific plan in his mind because “... *he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd and he began to teach them many things*” (from the Gospel reading last weekend). Before feeding the people, Jesus nourished their spirits and souls with his words, by his teaching, by giving them hope, by inspiring them.

Secondly, we hear how the disciples reply to Jesus’ request. They find a boy who has five barley loaves and two fish. With five barley loaves in his hands, the hands of God, the miracle truly happens. Jesus feeds the hungry and he does so with great generosity. Without food no life is possible. Feeding the hungry is the first of the great corporal works of mercy.

We may say that if, by ourselves, we only have “five loaves and two fish”, we can do nothing. Only when we put all what we have and all who we are into Jesus' hands and allow him to work, we can hope to fulfill our life mission and make a real difference for the good of God's Kingdom - in our hearts, in our community, and in our society as well.

What we can learn from the Gospel today is this:

Like the young boy in the Gospel, we are called to offer to God what belongs to us (even the small things). When we put these things into God’s hands, God will transform them and make miracles for us and others. What we put in his hands will be multiplied many times over.

Also, Jesus continues to ask us the question that he asks Philip: “*where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?*” We should share our food and feed the hungry, to have compassion for them. If we do not reach out to the less-fortunate, we are selfish. And remember that on the last day of judgment, he will say to each of us: “*I was hungry and you gave me food; I was hungry and you didn’t give me food*”.

Finally, the Gospel teaches us God's mercy and compassion. His mercy and compassion are not just a theory but they became real through what Jesus did always.

I have a few more words that I would like to invite you all to think about. In the Gospel we hear Jesus command his disciples: “*Gather up the fragments left over, so nothing may be lost*”. These words remind us of something that happens sometimes in our daily life: we waste food. We are truly blessed for having food and a comfortable life. We are called to not take what we have for granted but to think and relate to others who do not have enough for their daily life.

Let us pray to entrust all to God, the Father of mercy and love, who cares for us with a greatest love. Put into God’s hands what we have, and from that we can care for others as Jesus did in the Gospel today.

Have a wonderful weekend with all God’s blessings.

Fr. Louis Nguyen

ST GERARD CHURCH

**SACRAMENT
PREPARATION
PROGRAM
2021 - 2022**

**FIRST RECONCILIATION
CONFIRMATION
FIRST EUCHARIST**


GRADE 2 AND UP

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO REGISTER

EMAIL US AT
OFFICE@STGERARD.CA


BEFORE JULY 31ST



The Sacrament of Reconciliation



- 30 minutes before and after Daily Mass (Tuesday – Friday)
- Saturdays at **8:30 am** or by appt.

The Art & Environment Committee welcomes garden flowers for the church each Saturday morning between 8:30 am and 9:00 am.



 **News from the CWL** 

St. Gerard's C.W.L. will not be having a Garage Sale this fall. Watch the bulletin for more updates.

 **News from the Knights of Columbus** 

July 31 Evening Bingo

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


News from the Archdiocese of Regina

Reconciliation and healing for residential school survivors and their communities– financial appeal announced by Saskatchewan bishops:

The five Catholic bishops of Saskatchewan on July 13 released more details about a planned fund-raising appeal entitled “Catholic TRC healing response.” The Saskatchewan bishops said that the appeal’s goal is “to support Residential School survivors and their communities and to engage more deeply in our own ongoing commitment and response to the Truth and Reconciliation process” with funds going to the priorities of healing and reconciliation; cemeteries on the sites of former residential schools; and education and cultural support. “We are collaborating with potential participants, and consulting with Indigenous dialogue partners, including Survivors, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Chiefs, and other community members.

Out of these conversations, each diocese and eparchy will discern and communicate separately how they will proceed with the Appeal in their respective dioceses and communities,” said the bishops.

For those who wish to donate immediately or make a long-term pledge, see the online giving options at: <https://dscf.ca/catholic-trc-healing-response>


BAPTISM
The First Sacrament of Initiation


The next Baptism Preparation Session is **Wednesday, August 18th at 6:30 pm** in the Parish Hall.

Please contact the Parish Office to register: 306.782.2449 or office@stgerard.ca


**We welcome into our
Catholic Christian Community
those who were baptized
recently at St. Gerard:**

Keaton Diduch Asher Wonitowy

**May these children and their families
experience joy and new life.**


Congratulations to
Luke Nicholson & Nicole Limacher
who were married at St. Gerard on July 16th.

*May the Lord be with them
every day of their married life.*



Bringing Home the Word **+**

Gifts to be Shared

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The multiplication of the loaves and fish was a scene commonly sculpted on the tombs of Christians in ancient Rome. These early Christians, an ocean away, not only heard the story but believed it and sealed their lives with it. What powerful message of life and death did they find?

Aside from being a symbol of the Eucharist, the center of early Christian worship then as today, this miracle is a call to generosity. By giving your life to Jesus, he can multiply it and raise it up to new life.

Jesus sees the hunger of the crowd and wants to satisfy them. He asks what provisions they have, and all they can muster is two fish and five loaves. Andrew questions what good that is for so many. Implicit is that it may be better to save what little there is for themselves.

Jesus sees things differently. He gives thanks for the little they have and has the apostles give it away. He knows the Father will multiply this generosity. Rather than look at what they have as a scarcity of goods, he sees them as gifts to share.

This is the radical change of heart that Jesus asks of us. Everything we have is a gift to be shared. When we live in love, and not in selfish fear of how to satisfy ourselves, then God multiplies what little we have and provides everything we need.

When the Gospel declares the apostles had collected twelve baskets of leftovers, the text shouts that God is a God of abundance, not of scarcity.

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NEW TO THE PARISH? WELCOME!



Please complete a parish registration form, available in the Welcome Area and online at www.stgerard.ca

And if you are moving away or within our parish, please notify the Parish Office. Thanks!



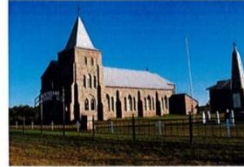
Kaposvar Pilgrimage

Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine

Sunday August 22, 2021

3 miles South & 1/2 mile West of Esterhazy on Grid 637

Souvenir Shop opens at 11:00



11:00 am – 12:00 noon.....	Visitors arrive and sign guest book
12:00 noon – 1:00 pm.....	Individual Stations of the Cross
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm.....	Rosary in the Church
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm.....	Private Confessions in the Church
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm.....	Procession from the Church to the Shrine
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm.....	Holy Mass & Anointing of the Sick
4:00 pm.....	Procession back to the Church
4:15 pm.....	Supper



Ethnic Attire is encouraged
Bring your own Lawn chairs
Concession Booth on Site

For more information Contact:
Eola Stevenson @ 306-853-7880
**** Please Note that we will be adhering to COVID protocols in effect August 22, 2021

For the Eucharist is the Sacrament of the Love which conquers death.

It is the Sacrament of the Covenant, pure Gift of Love for the reconciliation of all humanity.



It is the gift of the Real Presence of Jesus the Redeemer, in the bread which is His Body given up for us, in the wine which is His Blood poured out for all.

Thanks to the Eucharist, constantly renewed among all peoples of the world, Christ continues to build His church: He brings us together in praise and thanksgiving for salvation, in the communion which only infinite love can forge.

St John Paul II, Homily World Youth Day, Paris 1997

FOOD BANK DONATIONS continue to be a priority over the summer months. Please consider helping those less fortunate. Non-perishable food items may be left in the wooden chest in the Welcome Area before Mass, or at the Salvation Army Food Bank (78 South Front Street) Tuesday to Thursday from 10am to 2pm.



Feeding the Community

- Submitted by the St. Gerard Social Justice Committee

St. Gerard Parish
Comparative Income Statement to June 30, 2021

	2021	2020	Change		2021	2020	Change
REVENUE							
Collections	118,794	119,768	-974	Hall:			
Other (Donations, rel. articles)	4,435	7,353	-2,918	Wages, Salaries, etc.	5,203	5,727	-524
Perogies & cabbage rolls (net)	4,619	3477	1,142	Catering	146	2,762	-2,616
Annual Fall Supper (net)	0	0	0	Administrative Expenses	0	76	-76
Catering	0	4,791	-4,791	Total Hall	5,349	8,565	-3,216
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	127,848	135,388	-7,540				
Building Fund Donations	2,775	5,706	-2,931	Rectory	5,541	5,225	316
Trust Fund Donations	0	0	0				
Federal Wage Subsidy Program	8,546	0	8,546	COMMITTEE EXPENSES			
TOTAL REVENUE	139,169	141,094	-1,926	Family & Social	0	0	0
OPERATING EXPENSES				Ecumenical	0	0	0
Pastoral	1,083	264	819	Liturgy	2,197	2,555	-358
Parish Office	5,120	5,091	28	Stewardship	0	0	0
Other Administrative Expenses	26,498	5,546	20,952	Religious Education	76	812	-736
COVID-19 Expenses	383	549	-167	Social Justice	261	182	78
Diocesan Assessments	25,050	25,425	-376	Youth	0	0	0
Wages, Salaries, etc.	35,722	58,217	-22,495	Community Life	0	0	0
Building:				Public Relations	0	0	0
Sask Energy	3,920	4166	-246	Pastoral & Finance Council	0	75	-75
Sask Power	6,175	6,767	-592	Refugee Family Committee (net)	0	0	0
Water	423	795	-372	Cemetery Expense	150	0	150
Property Taxes	0	0	0	Total Committee Expenses	2,683	3,623	-941
Insurance	11,843	9,636	2,206				
Parking Lot	1,331	4,693	-3,362	TOTAL EXPENSES	137,037	143,540	-6,503
Garbage/recycling	450	628	-178				
Repairs & maintenance	5,467	4,349	1,118	NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$2,132	(\$2,445)	\$4,577
Total Building	29,609	31,034	-1,425				

Notes:

1. Effective January 1, 2021 compensation to the Parish Priest is paid by the Archdiocese, with the parish paying a monthly contract amount to the Archdiocese.
2. Effective January 1, 2021 the following expenses have been re-categorized as "Other Administrative Expenses":

Bank Charges Collection Envelopes Review Engagement Priest Contract

Approved by Parish Council

Baptized to Serve and Minister as Priest, Prophet, and King

Kathy Kuczka

Images of water naturally surface when one thinks of baptism. The central sacramental act by which a person is immersed in baptismal waters or has those waters poured over them is powerful. The image of the baptismal water bath is so awe-inspiring that one can easily miss what follows. Equally significant to the water bath is the act of anointing that takes place immediately after the baptism.

This act begins when the minister says:

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
has freed you from sin,
given you new birth by water and the Holy Spirit,
and joined you to be his people.
He now anoints you with the Chrism of salvation,
so that you may remain members of Christ, Priest,
Prophet, and King,
unto eternal life. (*Order of Baptism of Children*, 62)

Anointing persons with oil is rooted in ancient Israel. Individuals who were called to the divine offices of priest, prophet, or king were anointed with oil poured on their head. Olive oil was used because it was known to heal, to protect, and to rejuvenate.

It is no surprise then that from the earliest centuries the Church has used oil, particularly olive oil, to symbolize transformation and renewal in its sacramental rites, primarily in baptism. The sacred chrism used to anoint the newly baptized is made of olive oil mixed with a fragrant liquid, usually balsam. Chrism is one of three holy oils, along with the oil of catechumens and the oil of the sick, that are blessed by the bishop each year at the Chrism Mass. In the prayer of blessing, the bishop calls on the Holy Spirit to sanctify the chrism oil and prays that those who are anointed with it are strengthened to share with Christ the ministry of priest, prophet, and king.

The Spirit that sanctifies the chrism oil and anoints the baptized is the same Spirit that descended upon Jesus at his baptism. As the synoptic Gospels note, Jesus' baptism culminates when the Spirit descends upon or after his coming out of the water, designating him the messiah, or the anointed one. The Spirit inaugurates Jesus' public ministry, empowering him to carry out the mission for which he was sent.



Anointed with the Chrism of salvation, the baptized remain in Christ, priest, prophet, and king.

Likewise, the Spirit empowers all the baptized to share Christ's ministry as priests, prophets, and kings. It may be a challenge for many people to envision themselves as a priest, a prophet, or a king. After all, the baptized don't wear priestly robes or royal crowns, but then again, neither did Jesus.

Jesus did ordinary things with extraordinary faith. He fulfilled his calling with simple means, with words, with human touch, with water, with saliva, even with dirt and whatever else may have been at his disposal.

We who are baptized, like Jesus, are called to do ordinary things with extraordinary faith. When we pray for the needs of the world, when we sacrifice our time and our talents for others, we exercise the ministry of priest. When we preach the Gospel, when we speak on behalf of the vulnerable, when we speak out against injustice, we exercise our ministry as prophet. When we serve those unable to provide for themselves, when we respect the dignity of all human beings and care for God's creation, we exercise our ministry as king.

As awe-inspiring as the water bath in a baptism may be, it is the words, gestures, and symbols in the anointing that follows that helps unfold the meaning of this foundational sacrament. Ultimately, it is living out the roles of priest, prophet, and king that witness to God's love long after baptism.

Text by Kathy Kuczka, author of *Connecting the Liturgy with Our Lives: Print and Digital Resources for Faith Formation* (LTP, 2019).
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It also may be downloaded at <http://www.pastoralliturgy.org/resources/BaptizedtoServe.pdf>.*

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Jesus Feeds a Multitude"

This Week...

At this point in the cycle of readings, we have a shift from the *Gospel of Mark* to the *Gospel of John*. But this week there is no lack of continuity. The story of Jesus feeding the five thousand is the very next story in *Mark's Gospel*, following last week's reading. In fact, this story appears in all four *Gospels*, and an additional story about Jesus feeding a crowd of four thousand appears in *Matthew's* and *Mark's Gospels* as well. Elisha's miraculous feeding is a foreshadowing of Jesus' miraculous feeding. The humility, meekness, and patience that Paul speaks about in the second reading certainly can be found in a person who would give up a personal lunch in order to feed a crowd.

For Your Reflection

Who has the courage to bring forth those five barley loaves and two fish? A young person! It is a young person who makes the decision to share personal food with a crowd of people. That young person gives us an example of how we should be. That one young person makes a difference.

- Have you ever been in that situation? Have you ever done something that served as an example to adults as well as to other young people? If so, what did you do? What happened?

So often we want to make a difference, but feel as if we cannot. "I am only one person. How can I make a difference?" is what we often ask ourselves. But most major changes in the world happen because one or two people have the courage to try something new.

- Have you ever tried something new? Have you ever had a dream about doing something different or starting a movement that might bring about a major change in people's behaviour or attitude? If so, what is it? If not, what do you wish you could accomplish?

- If you had been the only person in a hungry crowd who would admit to having brought any food along, would you have offered it to Jesus so it might be shared with more than five thousand people? Why or why not?

Lots of times we try something new and it fails. At that point we have two choices. We can either give up or we can try again in a way that applies our learning from the first failed attempt. Sooner or later we will make a discovery: we will discover the right way to do something new, or we will discover that we've put enough time and energy into a difficult quest and it's time to change gears and focus on something else.

- Have you ever failed at some attempt, then learned enough to try and try again until you finally succeeded? If so, what happened?

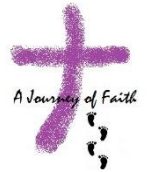
- Have you ever failed at some attempt, tried again a few times, and finally decided that it was time to stop trying and to move on with something else? If so, what happened?



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