



# St. Gerard

## Roman Catholic Parish

July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Thirteenth 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](http://www.stgerard.ca) | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca)

*St. Gerard Parish is located on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.*

Pastor.....	Fr. Louis Nguyen	306.782.0323	<a href="mailto:louisyorkton@gmail.com">louisyorkton@gmail.com</a>
		306.621.8068	Emergencies
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	<a href="mailto:office@stgerard.ca">office@stgerard.ca</a>
Caretaker.....			

### MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (3<sup>rd</sup>) NO MASS  
 Tues. (4<sup>th</sup>) 7:00pm +Al & +Rita Herchuk  
 Wed. (5<sup>th</sup>) 9:00am Todos family  
*Followed by Divine Mercy Devotion*  
 3:00pm Ecumenical Prayer Service  
*for those experiencing grief and loss*  
 (Please use Third Ave entrance)

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Thurs. (6<sup>th</sup>) 9:00am +Terry Dierker  
 Fri. (7<sup>th</sup>) 9:00am Souls in Purgatory  
 Sat. (8<sup>th</sup>) 9:00am +Rose Ward

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5:00pm +Patricia Fletcher  
 7:00pm **GOOD SPIRIT LAKE HALL**

Sun. (9<sup>th</sup>) **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**  
 9:00am +Anne Kormos  
 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.



Mass will be celebrated at Good Spirit Lake Hall each Saturday at 7pm until August 26<sup>th</sup>.

### 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](http://www.stgerard.ca)



Faithful God, as we each struggle with our own cross, make us mindful of the burdens others must carry, and allow us to be a blessing to them. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

-The Redemptorists

## SUNDAY CONNECTION

### First Reading

*2 Kings 4.8-11,14-16a*

Hospitality extended to Elisha will be rewarded.

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 89.2-3,16-19*

Sing God's praises forever.

### Second Reading

*Romans 6.3-4,8-11*

Through Christ we are dead to sin but alive in God.

### Gospel Reading

*Matthew 10.37-42*

Jesus outlines the costs and rewards of discipleship.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel is the conclusion of the instructions and consolations that we have heard Jesus offering to his disciples during the past few weeks. In this passage, Jesus summarizes both the costs of discipleship and its rewards. Once again our understanding of the Gospel is strengthened by considering the context in which it was written and the perspective of Matthew's audience.

The conditions of discipleship outlined in Matthew's Gospel may appear harsh. Yet they underline for us a truth—choosing anything with one's whole heart has consequences. Choosing life with Christ means that every relationship we have must be understood from a new perspective. For many in Matthew's community, this choice brought division to their family.

Matthew also outlines the reward of hospitality offered to Jesus' followers. In today's Gospel, Jesus explains the difficulties of discipleship, yet reveals that those who welcome the disciples have also welcomed him.

Today's Gospel also highlights for us the importance of hospitality in the Christian life. To welcome another in Jesus' name is to extend hospitality to Jesus himself. We have many opportunities in our daily life to reach out to others, to be a welcoming presence and a sign of God's love.

## FAMILY CONNECTION

One can tell a lot about a family by the way they welcome others into their home. Despite parental efforts to elicit the best behavior from their children, family efforts to entertain guests are sometimes difficult. Practicing a spirit of Christian

hospitality within the family can be an occasion to reflect upon the importance of this virtue. A family spirit of hospitality is a sign of faith.

When your family gathers, ask each person to consider the following questions about manners: What does it mean to be a good host? What does it mean to be a good guest? Invite each person to share their thoughts and experiences about being a guest or a host. When they have finished, read aloud today's Gospel, Matthew 10:37-42.

Ask family members to describe what Jesus says about hospitality extended to his disciples. (Those who receive Jesus' disciples also receive Jesus himself; hospitality to Jesus' disciples will be rewarded.) Then encourage family members to talk about what it means to be a good guest or a good host. You might also talk about ways in which your family's hospitality might be improved upon. Conclude in prayer together that your family grows to be one in which Christian hospitality is experienced by all. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm.

[www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection](http://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection)



### Psalm 89

**R. Forever I will sing of your steadfast love,  
O Lord.**

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever, your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. R.

Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance; they exult in your name all day long, and extol your righteousness. R.

For you are the glory of their strength; by your favour our horn is exalted. For our shield belongs to the Lord, our king to the Holy One of Israel. R.



## Congratulations to the Children of Our Parish Family



who received the Gift of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation (Second Sacrament of Initiation) and shared in the Banquet of the Lord as they received their First Communion (Third Sacrament of Initiation) Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Zoe	Colton	Anderson	Henry
Sefi	Shayna	Sebastian	Ryker
Kyle	Annika	Vrent Lui	Lycan
Noah	Lauren	Katherine	Angel
Isla	Addison	Shawnette	Marco
Kean	Grayson	Serge Ross	Thane
Tate	Shinaid	Enuj Cinnia	Gabby
Kylie	Anthony	Yvanna Zoey	Logan
Robey	Jhayden	Einjel Clare	Jhuroz
Avery	Madison	Prince Alston	Claire
	Beckett	Trista Nicole	

**Thank you:** to Ophelia & Rene Adane, Catechists, who have served our parish for six years, preparing our children to receive the sacraments; to the parent helpers and teacher volunteers; and to the Liturgical Committee, liturgical ministers and the Family, Community and Social Activities Committee for assisting Father Louis with the Sacrament Retreat and the Celebration.

**ST GERARD CHURCH**

**SACRAMENT PREPARATION PROGRAM**

**2023 - 2024**

FIRST RECONCILIATION  
CONFIRMATION  
FIRST EUCHARIST

**GRADE 2 AND UP**

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO REGISTER

EMAIL US AT  
OFFICE@STGERARD.CA

BEFORE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>



## News from the CWL SPRING EVENTS RECAP



The Spring Tea funds totalled \$1,601.10. The Quilt Raffle ticket sales totalled \$741.00. Proceeds from the raffle donated to AMPO, the outdoor education week for Christ the Teacher School Division students. Thank you to Lorraine Kweens for her donation of the quilt. Congratulations to Agnes Swejda, the winner of the quilt. The Spring Tea Door Prize winner is George Flunder.

The June Wind-up funds totalled \$394.15. "New to You Boutique" proceeds of \$114.40, donated to St. Michael's Camp at Madge Lake (home of AMPO).



## News from the Knights of Columbus



July 5

Bingo – evening – 5pm

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.728.8664. [www.kofc-2031.ca](http://www.kofc-2031.ca)

## News from the Archdiocese of Regina

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry with the Archdiocese of Regina invites all students ENTERING grades 7 to 1st year university to join us at **Leadership Camp 2023**: "Journeying Together". Camp is held at Glen Harbour Kids Camp from July 17-20 for those entering grades 7-9 (\$175) and July 17-21 for those entering grades 10 to 1st year University (\$200) Join us for great community, games, art, sports, as well opportunities to grow in faith and leadership. To register go to: [bit.ly/oyyam-camp](http://bit.ly/oyyam-camp) Contact us at [oyyam@archregina.sk.ca](mailto:oyyam@archregina.sk.ca)

**Go Make Disciples** Strengthen your faith and leadership skills through the Archdiocese of Regina's Lay Formation Program! Join us this fall for a 3-year program that will help you deepen your spiritual life and discern how best to offer your gifts in service to the people of God. We are currently accepting applications for our fall intake. For more information on how to register, contact Deacon Eric Gurash at 306-352-1651 ext 6724 or email him at [egurash@archregina.sk.ca](mailto:egurash@archregina.sk.ca)

## ARE YOU MOVING THIS SUMMER?



Whether it is near or far, please remember to **notify the Parish Office** so that we can update our parish records. Thanks!

And if you are moving away, all the best to you in your new spiritual home!

## Dead and Buried – but Risen

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

“Dead and buried” is a familiar phrase. But add “risen”? That’s something else. It may be that we have heard it so often we might miss how astounding it is. To say that we will die and be buried is one thing, but that we will rise is extraordinary. However, this is really not what St. Paul tells us today. The focus here is Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection—not primarily ours. Paul says that we actually enter into Jesus’ death, burial, and rising. This is amazing! People have always wanted somehow to be divine.

That was the great temptation in the Garden (“...you will be like gods, who know good and evil.” [Genesis 3:5]). Well, by baptism we are somehow divinized. Baptized into his death, we are buried with him and rise with him to “newness of life” (Romans 6:4).

Note the form of the verbs here. This death, burial, and rising do not occur in some future place at some future time. It happens here and now. It all began at our baptism when we were joined to Jesus in his death, burial, and rising. It continues when we die to whatever holds us back from living as we know we should. It continues when, feeling like we are buried with the dead, we stand against injustice, dishonesty, and oppression of any kind. It continues whenever we rise to “newness of life.”

How blessed we are to have died, been buried, and live—here and now—the risen life of Jesus.

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## Honouring Creation

When the days of creation came to completion, “God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good,” the Book of Genesis states. The moon, the sun, the earth, the water, the land, everything that moves and lives in the air or on the land, including humankind, was completely fashioned, and in God’s eyes, it was very good!

This ancient story also tells us that humankind has greater responsibility than any other creature when it comes to cherishing and caring for the earth. Made in God’s image, we are not given the earth to exploit but to stand in authority over it on God’s behalf.

Pope Francis’ encyclical, *Laudato Si’* (Praise be to You) invites all of humanity to become conscious and active in caring for our common home. It is from Mother Earth that we receive all we need for life—our food, the water that replenishes us, and the air that we breathe. Distressed that we have neglected care of creation, the Holy Father observed that the earth “is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor” and called on us to work together to shape the future of our planet.

In our lives, how can we honour creation? Care begins at home. Start by looking at how you use natural resources. Even young family members can monitor how much they use water, for example. Discuss how leaving lights on and keeping the heat high affects fuel consumption in your home. What could your family do to use less energy? Will using more blankets at night help? Brainstorm!

Cutting back on waste is also kind to Mother Earth. Less refuse means smaller landfills. Be rigorous about recycling what you can, including bottles, cans, and paper. Can you give up prepackaged small water bottles in favor of reusable sippers? When you shop, talk about how things are packaged, and consider buying products that have less cardboard or plastic. Are there items you can borrow or rent rather than buy? Or toys and sporting equipment that you can give to others, so that they will buy less?

Using our voices is one of the most powerful ways we care for creation. We can share ideas for how to reduce, reuse, and recycle in our schools and parishes. We can challenge others to avoid littering or to turn off the water if it’s running nonstop. We can educate others on issues and how to impact them by doing such things as planting milkweed to support rebuilding the monarch migration or hanging bat houses to protect vulnerable bats. God created the sky, and the sky is the limit in how we can become good stewards of the great gifts God has given us!



## **Let Justice and Peace Flow**

Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River  
Amos 5: 24

### **Let Justice and Peace Flow: Celebrating the Season of Creation**

#### **A Pastoral Letter on the Season of Creation from Christian leaders in Saskatchewan**

June 2023

Beloved of Christ,

The prophet Amos urges us to "... let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24) in all aspects of our lives, including our care and regard for God's wonderful Creation.

Beginning in 1989 with the first Day of Prayer for Creation established by Dimitrios I, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, the Season of Creation has become an annual Christian celebration of prayer and action for our common home. It has been increasingly observed by many churches in Saskatchewan, including those that we serve. The global Christian family is invited to deepen our relationship with God and each other by giving particular attention to prayer, service, and protection of God's Creation.

The Season of Creation begins on September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and culminates on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron of ecology and animals. This Season offers a holy moment in the midst of our day-to-day lives to contemplate the fabric of life into which we are woven, to rejoice in the good gift of Creation, and to reflect on how we can better respect it. Pope Francis reminds us, "The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God" (*Laudato Si'*, no. 84).

Oftentimes, those most drastically affected by climate change are already those who are vulnerable. We invite all people of faith and goodwill to join God's mighty river of justice and peace, working towards climate and ecological justice and speaking out with and for the people, creatures, and habitats most vulnerable to environmental and climate injustice and loss of biodiversity.

Parishes and congregations can participate in myriad ways. Summer is an excellent time to learn and prepare. Resources are available at <https://seasonofcreation.org> and through denominational

websites. Begin your preparations for the Season by joining the June 22 webinar from the Ecumenical Stewardship Committee:

**“Let Justice and Peace Flow: Celebrating the Season of Creation”**

The Ecumenical Stewardship Committee, in the spirit of the LAURC Covenant, will be hosting a free 75-minute online webinar on **June 22, 2023, at 3 pm**, on ways to prepare our congregations for this season. Our panel consists of Rev. Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball, Executive Minister for Theological Leadership, United Church of Canada; Very Rev. Ken Gray, retired Dean of St. Paul’s Anglican Cathedral in Kamloops; and Dr. Carl Bear, Music Director, St. Mark’s Anglican Church, Ottawa. For further details, contact Deacon Christine Burton at [christinemburton1@gmail.com](mailto:christinemburton1@gmail.com). To register: <https://bit.ly/42p2rzb>.

We earnestly invite clergy, congregations, and all people to join this journey of faith, walking towards greater awareness and stewardship of our place in Creation.

In the love of Christ, our Saviour,

Most Rev. Donald Bolen, *Archbishop, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina*

Most Rev. Murray Chatlain, *Archbishop, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas*

Most Rev. Mark Hagemoen, *Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon*

Rev. Dr. Sid Haugen, *Bishop, Saskatchewan Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada*

Most Rev. Stephen Hero, *Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert*

Rt. Rev. Helen Kennedy, *Bishop, Anglican Diocese of Qu’Appelle*

Ven. Alex Parsons, *Executive Archdeacon, Anglican Diocese of Saskatoon*

Rev. Devon Pattermore, *Moderator, Synod of Saskatchewan, Presbyterian Church in Canada*

Rev. Darrell Reine, *Convenor, Living Skies Regional Council, United Church of Canada*

Rev. Josh Wallace, *Church Engagement Minister, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan*