



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

June 13th, 2021

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES: By pre-registration only until further notice
Beginning July 3rd, the 7pm Saturday Mass will be celebrated at Good Spirit Lake Hall

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. (14th) NO MASS
Tues. (15th) 7:00pm +Joan Kormos
Wed. (16th) 9:00am +Art Scherr
Thurs. (17th) 9:00am +Donna Olshewski
Fri. (18th) 9:00am +John Fedirko
Sat. (19th) 9:00am +Ferdinand Thiele

5:00pm +Mike Diakuw
7:00pm Mass for the People

Sun. (20th) **TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

9:00am +Bruce Wonchulanko
11:00am +Andre Turgeon

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

- **EACH HOUSEHOLD must pre-register separately for Saturday/Sunday Mass.** Online at www.stgerard.ca beginning Monday morning until all seats are reserved or until Thursday at 12 noon (whichever comes first)
- **Max. 100** (approx.) people may attend Mass
- Members of the same household may sit together at the marked seating
- Two-metres separation is required between households at all times, even with masks on.
- **Please arrive early.**
- The following must stay home for the sake of the wider community:
 - ❖ People with COVID-19 symptoms, who live with someone with COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
 - ❖ Those who have travelled to/from a "hotspot", inside/outside of Saskatchewan or outside Canada within the last 14 days
 - ❖ Those who are waiting for COVID-19 test results, or have someone in their household waiting for test results



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 reveal the kingdom of God to all people. Help me bear witness to God's kingdom of compassion and peace.

- 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 we celebrate the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings remind us that the Lord has already sown the Kingdom of God in us and the seeds continue to grow because "... *the seed would sprout and grow without his knowing how*". I would say that the Kingdom of God grows in us due to God's power, and it can grow stronger, too, if we cultivate the seeds and live with God's grace in our hearts.

As we hear in the first reading, Ezekiel describes the Messiah as a tender shoot taken off the main tree, which represents the royal stock of David. The tender shoot will grow, and the Messiah will be established. It will grow to be the tallest tree, and it will provide shelter for all those who can reach those heights.

In the second reading St. Paul reminds us that the way we live will determine how our dying, mortal selves will grow in eternity. Year after year our mortal bodies grow old and slowly die whether we like it or not. Our eternal life, however, will live forever and depends on how we act in our earthly life.

We are reminded that the seed of eternal life is sown in us through Baptism. We can "nurture" and "water" it with God's grace, or we can neglect it and focus so much on pleasing a dying, earthly body that our eternal life is at risk. The Lord wants our earthly life to flourish and blossom into something wonderful and, for sure, he wants the same for our eternal life as well.

We recall that when Jesus begins his public ministry the core of his message is that "*the Kingdom of God is at hand*". He asked his followers for a true conversion and faith in the Gospel as he said "*repent and believe in the Gospel*". And therefore, as we hear in the Gospel today, he uses parables to help us to understand what the Kingdom of God is: the sowing and reaping of grain and the growth of a mustard seed. By using parables, he explains, using everyday language, the deeper spiritual realities so that we may understand a huge mystery: The Kingdom of God.

Indeed, the Kingdom of God reflects this insight: it is reflected in the Church, but it is also the entire work of salvation.

The parable of the grain shows us that grain requires cultivation and waiting for the right time to reap the spiritual harvest, but it also shows that God does the heavy lifting. The growth is quiet, slow, and unseen, even when we are not doing anything. All comes from Him as His grace is working in our souls.

The example of the mustard seed shows that even though it starts small it will be great. We can see this in Jesus when he started with a small group - the group of twelve. This "tiny seed" led to an explosion of Christianity, reaching out to the whole world. It is God who brings about His kingdom, and He invites us to join with Him in building it here on earth until it reaches perfection and fullness in heaven.

My dear sisters and brothers, think about this:

The Kingdom of God is sown in our hearts and cultivated by God's grace: it grows and spreads to the degree that holiness grows and spreads. You and I, we are all called to continue to have faith in the Gospel and exercise it in our daily life. We can be open to God's grace by changing the way we live.

Today if I want to change the world, I will start by being holy. The Lord will lead me from there. How about you?

Have a blessed week with God's blessings.

Fr. Louis Nguyen

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



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

LECTORS & HOSPITALITY MINISTERS

The July to September Lector and Hospitality Minister schedules will be available soon.

If you have been unable to serve in one of these ministries due to the pandemic and would like to be included on the next schedule, please phone or email the Parish Office by Wednesday, June 23rd.

Lectors please note: there will be one Lector scheduled per Mass until further notice (due to public health restrictions).



Around 64,000,000 of the world's hungriest children do not attend school. In order to survive, they have to work or beg. Mary's Meals provides life-changing meals to

some of the world's poorest children every day they attend school.

By providing a daily meal in a place of learning, we meet the immediate needs of hungry children and encourage them to go to school to gain an education that can, in the future, be their ladder out of poverty.

\$26.40 is all it costs for us to feed a child for a whole school year.

FIND OUT MORE. Visit www.marysmeals.ca or pick up a brochure from the display in the Welcome Area. Thank you.

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News from the Archdiocese of Regina

Lay Formation Program One weekend a month from October to June, Catholics just like you are gathering in Regina as they become more deeply aware of God's personal love and activity in their lives. Why not make their story, your story? We are currently accepting applications for our Fall intake. For more information on how to register or our COVID-19 health and safety protocols, please contact our Program Coordinator, Deacon Eric Gurash at 306-352-1651 ext 211 or email him at egurash@archregina.sk.ca

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER??

Kenosee COVID Safe Family Camps! Looking for a summer getaway for your family? Want to rent a cabin or bring your RV? Check out the Kenosee Boys and Girls Family Camps. We offer great kids programming during the days, parent time, family time, and lots of fun and games for everyone! This year we have adjusted our programming to ensure a COVID safe camp, with space to properly distance and safe washroom access for each family. We have 4 weeks of camp, 2 weeks of Cana Catholic Family Camp and 2 weeks of Birch Ecumenical Family Camp. To learn more or to register visit www.campkenosee.net



CAMP MONAHAN is back and looking better than ever! We are excited to offer all the fun of our traditional camps in both a day camp and family camp. Come explore your faith and all of God's natural wonder

while swimming canoeing, crafting, hiking and more! Bussing for day camps will be available from Regina. You can register and learn more about our summer at www.campmonahan.ca

St. Michael's Camp is running both Youth Day camps and Family Day camps in July. Camp is all about fun



where you meet new people and have a safe adventure outdoors. Check out our daily themes and join us for the days that might spark interest in your camper. Parents can drop off your children for the day and spend some time at Duck Mountain Provincial Park or come together to join us for activities and fun at Family camp. For more information and to pre-register:

www.stmichaelscamp.com/camps/register/



LEADERSHIP CAMP The Archdiocese of Regina Youth Office invites teens to join us for our annual leadership camp, in a "day camp" format this year. Participants will enjoy adventures in faith and leadership that will take us to "destinations all over the world." Those entering grades 7-9 are invited to join us on July 13 and/or 15. Students entering grades 10- 1st year University are welcome July 12 and/or 14. Cost is \$60 and further details can be found at <https://archregina.sk.ca/youth-ministry/youthsummer-camps> or by emailing oyyam@archregina.sk.ca



Bringing Home the Word

Spreading Seeds

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The kingdom of God has an inward power, an effervescence with which it is equipped, that makes it a force of growth and multiplication. Jesus compares the kingdom with a seed. You plant it in favorable soil and, you know not how, it springs up into a little plant and then eventually into a full-grown tree. Its life principle is not given by the soil—although that helps it grow—but rather it has power of itself to expand.

The Christian life and the kingdom are very much like this. At baptism we have received supernatural grace in our souls. And if given suitable support, that faith will grow and become the transformative element of our lives. It will drive us toward a life of faith, hope, and love. It will lead us to forgive others, improve society, and transform everything for good.

The same can be said of the Church, Christ's kingdom of love. Christ planted the seed of faith in his apostles and that seed spread and thrived all across Europe. Their faith multiplied and grew until all throughout the world the fruits of their faith are on display as a veritable kingdom of charity: hospitals, universities, soup kitchens, hospices, shelters for the battered and homeless, retreat centers, chapels, churches, museums, research and rehabilitation centers, religious orders, lay associations, volunteer groups, and the list could and does continue on and on. There is a force in faith and love that cannot be contained!

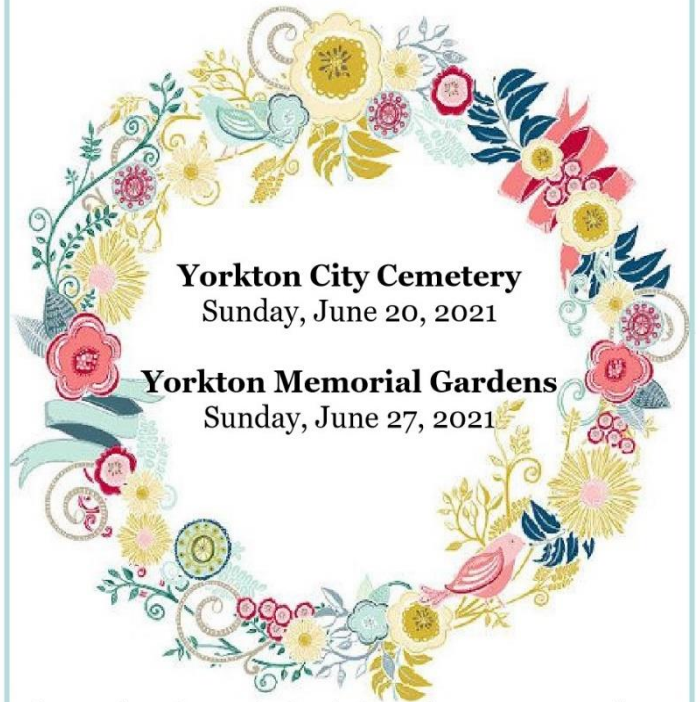
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STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

The principle of the universal destination of goods, found in Catholic Social Teaching, reminds us that the gifts of the earth are to serve the needs of all and not just the few. Pope Francis recalls the words of Pope Saint John Paul II: "God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members, without excluding or favouring anyone" (LS, no. 93, emphasis in original). We have a solemn duty to ensure that the earth's goods are equitably shared by all.

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

Blessing of the Graves



Yorkton City Cemetery
Sunday, June 20, 2021

Yorkton Memorial Gardens
Sunday, June 27, 2021

If your loved one is buried at the cemetery, please meet there at 1:00 pm. There will be a Prayer Service for all in attendance, and then Father Louis will bless the grave of your loved one. *Please follow all current public health protocols.*

ST. GERARD PARISH 2021-2022 PASTORAL AND FINANCE COUNCILS

Chairperson	-	Ernie Bobowski
Vice-chairperson	-	Wayne Exner
Secretary	-	Joanne Geysen
Liturgy	-	Colleen Haider
Religious Education	-	Rene & Ophelia Adane
Social Justice	-	Mark Bell
Community Life	-	Rose Marchinko
Public Relations	-	VACANT
Family & Social	-	VACANT
Youth	-	Melinda Sevilla
Ecumenical	-	Carm Molnar
Stewardship	-	Linda Maddaford
CWL Rep.	-	Paulette Cooper
K of C Rep.	-	Rejean Houle

Finance	-	Nathan Bewcyk
Properties	-	Gary Colbow
Hall	-	Lorne Wanner

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!

YOUTH REFLECTION

"From the Tiniest Seed"

This Week...

Seeds are such tiny and unassuming things - who would imagine the power and force they can release as they grow and become something huge and magnificent. How it happens is a mystery - even to the farmers who plant them and nurture them. They sow by faith, not by sight, believing that somehow the miracle will happen again and they will have a crop. Ezekiel tells us how Yahweh will bring new life to the lifeless and will wither the life that is growing badly. Jesus tells us that the Reign of God is as mysterious as the seed that grows, and as surprisingly powerful as the tiniest seed that becomes the biggest shrub.

For Your Reflection

Jesus tells us that a tiny seed can blossom into a huge growth.

- What is a tiny interest or hobby you may have started a long time ago as a "seed" that has now grown into a big, important part of your life?
- Who is a person that started out as just an acquaintance of yours but whose relationship with you has now grown into an important and very close friendship?

In the early church, the Christians are recognized right away as honest, selfless, generous, loving, forgiving people. People can tell they are Christians just by the way they live, and it is so inspiring that people want to join their faith community and be just like them. Christians didn't have to carry signs or wear T-shirts to advertise themselves; people just knew how wonderful they were.

- Is it easy to tell who's a Christian today? Can you observe someone's behaviour and know whether they are a follower of Jesus? Why or why not?
- Some very violent behaviour is happening in the world today in the name of God and religion. Can you think of any examples? Some very helpful, peaceful behaviours is also happening today that has nothing to do with formal religion. Can you think of any examples? How do these trends affect the way many young people view religion? How do these trends affect the way you yourself view the church?

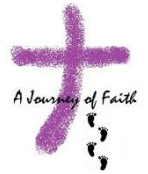
Excerpt adapted from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle B for Ordinary Time* - St. Mary's Press, 2005



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