



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

June 28, 2020
**Thirteenth 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. 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 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 louisYorkton@gmail.com
Parish Office Administrator.....Sandra Archer
Caretaker.....Mario Guerra

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (29 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (30 th)	7pm Rick Zuback
Wed. (1 st)	CANADA DAY
	7pm Deceased members of the Smith family
Thurs. (2 nd)	7pm Russell Griffith
Fri. (3 rd)	7pm Marcella Fedak
<hr/>	
Sat. (4 th)	5pm +Zygmunt Gebhard
Sun. (5 th)	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	9am Mass for the People
	11am +Joanne Fedirko

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 **75 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 www.stgerard.ca and complete the registration form for you and your household between Monday morning and Thursday at 4pm (or until registration has ended).
 2. **Only if you do not have access to the internet,** phone the Parish Office at 306.782.2449 Monday to Thursday from 9am until 4pm. 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, your death on the cross brought life to the world. Help me follow your example of selfless love.

- 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,

I would like to start my message this week by saying: Believe it or not but each of us has a cross to carry. Why? Because Jesus didn't promise an easy way for those who follow him. He asked that we have to go through a narrow way, or even he said, "*Whoever wishes to follow me, take up his cross daily and follow me*". The cross we carry may be big or small, light or heavy. We don't have to need to take one, or to look for another one. The cross we have is hard enough for us. But the question is: Are we willing to take it up, to accept it as our cross?

Jesus took up his cross. He did not choose the way of ease or evasion. He chose the way of self-sacrifice and suffering. It wasn't that he was in love with suffering. No, he wasn't, but it was because he chose the way of love, and love certainly results in suffering, but then love is the only thing that makes suffering acceptable and fruitful. As parents we have all experienced it. The more, great love that we offer to others, the more we may suffer, but the more we will be fruitful.

Keep in mind that we are saved not by Christ's suffering but by His love, and it was through his suffering that he attained glory. For sure, if we suffer with him on earth, one day we will be crowned with him in heaven.

What we have to do is take up our cross and follow him as he stated in the Gospel for this weekend: "*Anyone who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me*". Our cross is made not of wood but of our burdens, worries, problems, illness, conflict within the family and others... and I would say the list is longer, the list is endless.

The cross we are carrying may not even be visible to others. Not many people can see the cross we are carrying because it may not be external but could be internal: depression, grief, illness. In these cases, I would say the cross is heavier, although we cannot weigh it on a scale.

The most painful cross of all, however, is the one in which we have no choice. For example, the cross of living with a difficult person may be a painful cross. One doesn't want to have to carry this cross, but has no choice.

All crosses come to us because we are Christ's disciples. And now I am giving you my main point of my message at this time: do you know what is the most common reason for giving up the practice of the faith? It is not an intellectual but a moral one. People know that in order to follow Christ it would challenge their plans. There would often be conflict, emptiness, giving up and having to be humble. It would mean saying "no" to themselves about certain things and saying "yes" to God.

My dear Sisters and Brothers, you and I cannot forget that following Christ involves a dying to self. This process of dying to self begins at Baptism. At Baptism we let go of the old life of sin, and became a new creature so we are able to live in the freedom of God's children. This is, of course, a lifelong process in which we can persevere only with the grace of God.

The purpose of death is resurrection, we have to die so we can live and live abundantly. Unless a grain of wheat falls onto the ground and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. The death of the old, selfish ways, results in the birth of the new self, modelled on Christ. If we sacrifice ourselves for Jesus and others, we will find true fulfilment. I invite you to think about that.

Finally, I would like to say that the road of suffering is a narrow and difficult one. It is a great comfort for us to know that Christ, the innocent and sinless One, has walked down this road before us, and he went to the end of this road. You and I are on the same road, we follow Christ, we take up our own cross and follow him. He will take us not to Calvary but to Easter, not to the end but to new life.

We pray for ourselves and for others that we will take up our own cross and follow Jesus daily to the end of our life so we will share with Him in His glory in heaven.

I wish all of you a great weekend and Happy Canada Day! Pray for our country. Blessings always.

Love you all

Rev. Louis Nguyen



Learning Christ Prayer

Teach me, my Lord, to be sweet and gentle in all the events of my life, in disappointments, in the thoughtlessness of others, in the insincerity of those I trusted, in the unfaithfulness of those on whom I relied.

Let me forget myself so that I may enjoy the happiness of others.

Let me always hide my little pains and heartaches so that I may be the only one to suffer from them.

Teach me to profit by the suffering that comes across my path.

Let me so use it that it may mellow me, not harden or embitter me; that it may make me patient, not irritable; that it may make me broad in my forgiveness, not narrow or proud or overbearing.

May no one be less good for having come within my influence; no one less pure, less true, less kind, less noble, for having been a fellow traveler with me on our journey towards eternal life.

As I meet with one cross after another, let me whisper a word of love to You.

May my life be lived in the supernatural, full of power for good, and strong in its purpose of sanctity. Amen.

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

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

www.livestream.com/accounts/17094656

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)

www.dailytvmass.com

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

PRIVATE PRAYER IN THE CHURCH

Please phone the Parish Office at 306.782.2449 to make arrangements if you would like to spend time in private prayer in the church.

Subject to change without notice.



**SACRAMENT OF
RECONCILIATION**

Saturdays 8:30 am & 4:30 pm

Or by appointment.

Phone 306.782.2449 or 306.782.0323



An Ignatian Summer Prayer

Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer!

Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight.

Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation.

Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season.

Draw me closer to You this summer.

Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing.

Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence and light my path with Your Word and Counsel.

As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You. Amen.

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!

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!



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



If your address or phone number has changed, or if you no longer have a landline, please inform the Parish Office so that we can keep our records up to date! Thank you!





Bringing Home the Word

To Live with Christ

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

A priest friend of mine visited a family with several sons thinking about the priestly vocation. During his visit he celebrated Mass for them at the local parish. The Gospel reading was the same as today: "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me..." My friend thought twice before reading it, afraid that the father who wasn't open to his sons' vocations would think he picked this passage on purpose. He read it anyway and, yes, got the reaction he suspected he'd get.

Most words in the Gospels are challenging. Jesus calls us to love him above all things. This means he has to come first, and sometimes other loves, as good as they are, cannot be the ultimate criteria. He tells us to "lose our life" to find it, and sometimes that loss is real and painful.

He demands this because he himself experienced its truth. In his public ministry, he put his mission and love of souls ahead of spending more time with family and friends. When religious leaders, government officials, and others criticized and persecuted him, he didn't back down, even if it affected his loved ones. He was faithful in charity. He didn't look for problems, but he didn't run from them, either. He avoided unnecessary conflict when he could, but he completely obeyed God's will and embraced the hardships of loving until the end.

This kind of sacrifice brings great joy if endured with acceptance. As Romans tells us, "If, then, we have died with Christ, ...we shall also live with him."

© 2020 Liguori Publications. Used with permission.

Good and gracious God, open our lips to proclaim your faithfulness.

Especially when our lives are overwhelming or difficult, help us draw deeply on the roots of your goodness, in our lives and for generations before us.

Give us deep trust that you will work all things for good. Amen.

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 [Pre-Authorized Giving Form](#), 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 giving@stgerard.ca 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 giving@stgerard.ca 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 [here](#).

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

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 pre-registered, either online or by phoning the Parish Office (if no internet access) will be contacted immediately.

I didn't register for Mass. May I still come? Yes, you may. However, upon arrival you will be asked your name and contact information, as well as a series of health questions.

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.

Is it safe to attend Mass? Father Louis and his team go to great lengths to ensure that the public health order is met in order to keep our parishioners safe and healthy. However, even with the best cleaning practices, there is a risk of contracting a coronavirus.

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.

*They cried to the Lord in their trouble,
And he saved them from their distress;
He sent out his word and healed them,
And delivered them from destruction.
Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast
love,
For his wonderful works to humankind.*

Psalm 107:19-21

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.

How Does Baptism Change Us?

Kristopher W. Seaman

During the Litany of the Saints at the Easter Vigil, the bishop invited Jenifer and her family to come to the font. This mother and her children had been awaiting Baptism for nearly two years. Jennifer decided she would go first, to show the children (ages eight to fifteen) how she would enter the waters into which they would follow. After the Blessing of the Water, the bishop helped her into the large, deep baptismal font. He then stepped in himself. All of a sudden, the smallest child ran to the bishop, waving his finger and exclaiming, “Do not drown my mom!” The bishop was quite surprised. He reassured this child that he would not drown the mother. Then, turning to the assembly, the bishop said, “Did everyone hear that? He gets what Baptism is about—death, but also, we need to add, new life.” Then, the mother was baptized, followed by her children, and, of course, the most eager to be baptized, the young boy.

This story illustrates the power of sacramental symbols to evoke meaning at a deeply human or cosmic level. The child’s experience of water meant that he knew the destructive quality of water—it can unleash floods or quench one’s breath in drowning. But there is another side to water—it sustains life. The human body needs water to stay alive, specifically for the continual activity of the cells within the human body. The production of food requires water. Life at its fundamental is dependent on water. Baptism changes us to see the human and the cosmic as imbued with life-giving and death-wielding power.

DYING AND RISING

But there is also a theological significance to water. The theological meaning is tied to death and life, but particularly to the life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ Jesus. His life, Death, and Resurrection give meaning to Baptism. The baptized enter cosmically and bodily into the very life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ. The blessed water ritually cleanses the person, provides access to Christ’s renewed life, and gives entrance into the Body of Christ, the Church. From the waters of Baptism, one receives the Holy Spirit, is washed clean from sin, and is renewed in the life and mission of Christ, a life and mission the Church promises to serve. Baptism changes us in such a way we are given a new mission, a new calling, and a new body because of the work of Christ’s Spirit in the font.

The anointing that may go along with the Baptism is also tied to Christ’s life, which is given in Baptism.



Baptism immerses us in Christ’s person and mission.

St. Augustine remarked that the anointing with the Cross, a symbol of Christ’s Death and life, is tied to the person and mission of Christ. (The word *Christ* is Greek for *anointed one*.) To be anointed, therefore, is to be marked a Christian, a person dedicated and joined to the person and mission of Christ.

These baptismal waters are sometimes referred to as waters of regeneration. The waters not only drown our old selves but regenerate, or recreate, us into disciples of Christ. If Baptism immerses us into Christ’s person and mission, the rest of life is potentially a response to that baptismal call. Each day we are to discern how we might live as Christ. Baptism changes not only how we see the world but how we live according to Christ’s mission.

The Diocese Tonight!

Thank you to everyone who worked on our first ever 'The Diocese Tonight' and to all of you who tuned in to watch! If you missed it, you can watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIO9rYXSaDs>.

Also, mark your calendar for our next 'The Diocese Tonight', which will go live on **Sunday, August 2 at 7:00 PM.**

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 www.youtube.com/user/ArchdioceseRegina and you will be notified when new videos are released.

The Archdiocese of Regina, in communication with Catholic health leaders, has compiled a series of one-page directives and guidelines on a variety of issues affecting churches and sacramental practice during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Information is provided on current government directives, private prayer in church, sacraments, weddings, funerals, and more.

www.archregina.sk.ca/content/church-and-sacramental-guidelines-covid-19-pandemic

Archdiocese of Regina Weekly Report

Sign up for our Archdiocese of Regina Weekly Report and stay up to date on COVID-19 Updates and other news, delivered to your inbox every Friday morning. Free! Sign up now: <https://bit.ly/2QIMB0o>

Online Catechetical Resources

Our Catechist Robert Barr has put together a wide variety of online resources for children, teens, adult and families:



www.archregina.sk.ca/catechetical-support-parishes

COVID-19 UPDATES

The Pastoral office is now closed to the public until further notice, if you need to reach a staff member, the best way to contact them is by email.

A full list of their contact information is available on the COVID-19 Updates page.

www.archregina.sk.ca/content/covid-19-updates

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 @archdioceseofreg 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

"Service"

This Week...

Being baptized into the death and life of Jesus means living for Jesus, following Jesus, and being a disciple of Jesus'. Welcoming such disciples, as well as prophets and holy people, will bring a reward. Anything we can do - even just giving a cup of cold water - is an act of service that will be appreciated.

For Your Reflection

In today's Gospel Jesus talks to us about service.

- I Jesus appeared to you in the flesh and asked you to be a special disciple, what do you imagine that might entail?
- How do you picture "big-time" service - living in the inner city? Volunteering at a shelter? Spending a week in Appalachia? Going to South America for a summer? Or joining a missionary order and spending the rest of your life in Africa?
- How do you picture "ordinary" service? Give some examples.

Some jobs have great potential for simple human service, for example, smiling and being extra friendly as you bag groceries, looking out for what the children may need as you baby-sit, noticing whose coffee cup is empty as you wait tables, or being sure the newspapers you deliver are always placed close to your customers' door.

- What are some simple things that you might do every day that can be compared to giving someone a cup of cold water?
- What kind of reward do you think comes to someone who serves another?

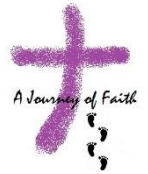
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle A for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter* St. Mary's Press, 2004



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 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