



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday
of Lent

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 | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: 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	louisyorkton@gmail.com
		306.621.8068	Emergencies
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....			

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (20th) **SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BVM**
7:00pm Special Intentions

Tues. (21st) 7:00pm +Al & +Rita Herchuk

Wed. (22nd) 9:00am +Richard Zuback
10:00am **NURSING HOME (NORTH)**
+Hilda Streifel

Thurs. (23rd) 2:30pm **BENTLEY SENIORS' RESIDENCE**
Dan & Brenda Dierker
7:00pm Agnes Swejda

Fri. (24th) **12:00pm** +Norbert Dombowksy

Sat. (25th) **THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**
9:00am +Merlin Mroske

5:00pm +Faustina Aballe
6:30pm Mass following Sacrament
Preparation Session

Sun. (26th) **FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**
9:00am Mass for the People
11:00am +Benito & +Loreta Naldo

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.

The **Stations of the Cross**
devotion is prayed
each Friday at 7pm during Lent

Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



So that our eyes may be open to your presence everywhere and in everyone, we pray – Lord, let us be like you.

-The Redemptorists

First Reading

1 Samuel 16.1b,6-7,10-13a

Samuel is sent to anoint David as king.

Responsorial Psalm

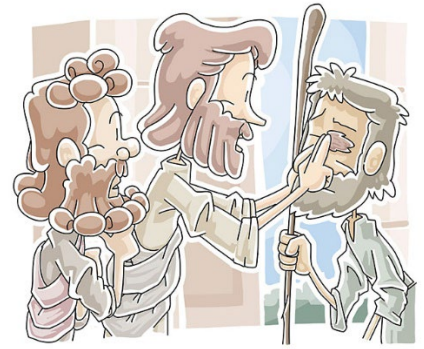
Psalms 23.1-6

The Lord is our shepherd.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5.8-14

The Ephesians are told to live as children of light.



Gospel Reading

John 9.1-41

Jesus heals the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man

Background on the Gospel Reading

As we did last week, we are reading today from the Gospel of John. In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

As in last week's Gospel about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people.

The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

Please register as soon as possible for the next Baptism Preparation Session. Contact the Parish Office: office@stgerard.ca

After a three-year hiatus, CENTERING PRAYER

will begin again:

**Thursday, March 23 at 7pm
(following Mass)**

Lower Level

FAMILY CONNECTION

When infants are baptized, parents, with the help of the godparents, assume responsibility for raising the child as a follower of Jesus. The process of maturation in the faith is much like the example found in the story of the man born blind. The man is cured of his blindness, a symbol of his sin. Each time he meets someone after the healing, the man comes to a deeper awareness of who Jesus is. In a similar way, we who are baptized continue to mature in faith as our relationship with and knowledge about Jesus grows.

Invite each member of your family to draw a timeline of his or her life. On the timelines, ask family members to identify significant moments in their lives, especially their life of faith. Invite each person to reflect upon who Jesus was to him or her at each significant moment. How has each person's relationship with Jesus changed or matured? Then read together today's Gospel, John 9:1-41. Note how the relationship between Jesus and the man born blind changes and grows throughout the Gospel. Pray together that your relationship with Jesus will continue to grow and develop, becoming ever deeper. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection



News from the CWL



The next CWL meeting is on Monday, March 27 @ 7 pm. The Diocesan Convention on May 7 & 8, and one instructed vote are two items on the agenda. We are still in need of members to serve on the executive, namely President, Treasurer, and Committee Members. Co-chairing positions is an option that can be arranged. This may be the last meeting if we can't fill the executive positions. We prayerfully ask you to consider an executive position so our council can move forward. We cannot function without an executive.

The CWL Regional Workshop that was scheduled for Saturday, March 11 was cancelled and rescheduled for Saturday, April 1 @ 9:30 am at St. Henry's Church, Melville. This is an opportunity to learn more about the new executive format and also misconceptions about the CWL. If you haven't pre-registered for the workshop and would like to attend, call Paulette 306-782-7923 before March 30. Registration fee (including lunch) is \$10, payable at the workshop.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Mar. 23 Special Needs Lunch – Parish Hall

Friends, please join the Knights of Columbus for Mass on Monday, March 20 at 7:00 pm in honour of St. Joseph. He is the Principal Patron Saint of Canada, Patron of the Universal Church, Patron Saint of fathers, and is a Father to all of us. We hope that everyone will join us to pray for St. Joseph. Learn how other countries honour St. Joseph. *St. Joseph, pray for us.* The Knights invite you to stay for coffee after the service as part of the celebration.

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.728.8664. www.kofc-2031.ca



Development and Peace, Caritas Canada works in solidarity with dispossessed, marginalized, and impoverished people in the global south. Your Share Lent donation to Caritas Canada helps build a world of justice. Share Lent envelopes are available in the Welcome Area or donate online at www.devp.org/en/

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Mon. (20th): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (prep)
- Tues. (21st): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (pinching)
7:30pm- Liturgical Committee Meeting
(Meeting Room A)
- Wed. (22nd): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (packaging)
- Thurs. (23rd): 7:30pm- Centering Prayer
(Lower Level)
- Sat. (25th): 5:00pm- Sacrament Preparation
(Social Hall)



Bringing Home
the Word **+**

I See

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Do we? Do we really see? Do we understand? There is so much that is simply misunderstood or unnoticed. Little about life is uncomplicated, and even that which is uncomplicated so often slips right by us. This is true about a life lived alone or with others. It is also true about our life with God.

The first reading is an example of this. God will choose one of the sons of Jesse to be king. Will it be the eldest, the rightful heir? If not him, perhaps it will be the brightest one or the most pious. All of these highly valued characteristics would certainly be necessary for one to be an effective king. However, Jesse and his sons did not see in the same way as God. Their youngest brother, the one tending the sheep, would be God's choice. He was the one God wanted, and so David was anointed in the presence of his family.

The Gospel tells another story about seeing. In it, Jesus restores a man's sight. What began as a story about physical blindness and sight then becomes a lesson about seeing and understanding the mystery of God's power as opposed to refusing to see and understand it. No one in the story could claim that the man had not really been blind. Then why did they refuse to acknowledge that God's power had done something marvelous in their presence? But they did refuse. We can, indeed, choose to be blind.

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•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•PEROGIES•
•CABBAGE ROLLS•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•

PARISH FUNDRAISER

Saturday, March 25th

11am – 2pm

(while supplies last!!!)

Potato & onion perogies	\$45 (10 dozen)
Potato & cheddar perogies	\$50 (10 dozen)
Cabbage rolls	\$30 (5 dozen)



Rejoice!
Today is
Lăutară Sunday!

FAITH IN THE CHURCH

The Four Marks of the Church

The Church is "**One.**" As members of the Church, we are united in faith. We share the same Lord, the same Baptism, the same Holy Spirit, and the same hope in the future.

The Church is "**Holy.**" As members of the Church, God the Father gave us his Son to save us. He gave us his Spirit and called us together to follow Jesus. He gave us the sacraments as a way to worship and experience him.

The Church is "**Catholic.**" The word "catholic" can mean "for everyone at every time." The Church serves every kind of people all over the world. The word "catholic" can also mean "complete, total." The Church has the complete faith; it has everything God wanted us to know and believe.

The Church is "**Apostolic.**" The faith we have came through Peter (the first Pope) and the Apostles. Today, the Pope and the bishops united with him teach the same faith and govern the Church with the same power Jesus gave the Apostles.

Three Images of the Church

Based upon these four adjectives, there are three images that describe the Church.

The Church is the "**People of God.**" God calls his people together, so they can work together for the same goal: to help others believe in Jesus.

The Church is the "**Body of Christ.**" As believers, we have a relationship with Jesus. We call him "Lord." So Jesus is like the head of his body. As parts of his body, we all have different jobs, but we all have the same dignity. We are all God's children.

The Church is also the "**Temple of the Holy Spirit.**" As the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is the power of God. We believers are like the stones that build a temple. But the temple would be dead without someone living in it. That "someone" is the Holy Spirit. The Spirit brings the Church alive with special gifts that bring people to Jesus.

There are many ways to define and describe the Church. But there is one thing that binds us together as a Church: trust in Jesus.

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SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Principal Patron of Canada, Patron of the Universal Church
March 19 (observed Monday, March 20, 2023)

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being an upright man and wanting to spare her disgrace, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.

She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.” Now all this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

Look! The virgin is with child and will give birth to a son whom they will call Immanuel, (see Isaiah 7:14) a name which means “God-is-with-us.” When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home; he had not had intercourse with her when she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus. — Matthew 1:18–25 NJB

A few verses in Matthew and Luke tell us all we know about St. Joseph. They provide just enough information to demonstrate why he was the divine choice to become the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus. Joseph was genealogically perfect for these roles. A distant descendant of King David, he gave Christ the King his royal lineage. Joseph also came from the right hometown. He was from Bethlehem, the city that Scripture predicted would produce the messiah (see Micah 5:1). And as a carpenter (see Matthew 13:55), Joseph was poor—Christ’s condition of preference.

Scripture portrays Joseph as open to God, obedient, upright, and, above all, kind. The saint displayed all of these qualities in his handling of Mary’s surprise pregnancy. Imagine the confusion of emotions that must have flooded him when Mary confided that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit! As a devout observer of the law, Joseph knew that he might have to repudiate his betrothal. But his kindness and confidence in Mary prevented his taking such a harsh step, which would have shamed her. It may have even put her in danger of capital punishment (see Deuteronomy 22:20–21). Joseph must have agonized over his decision, praying intently about it. Finally, he decided to divorce Mary quietly. But Joseph was open to God, and in a dream a divine messenger told him to take Mary home as his wife. Joseph did exactly as he was told.

Joseph’s wise dealing with Mary is a model for us when we face complex moral and personal issues. He subordinated his feelings to do what God required. He was open to whatever God wanted, and when he sensed the divine will, he obeyed.

Saint Joseph, Illustrious Descendant of David,
Husband of the Mother of God,
Foster-father of the Son of God,
in dream you received from the Almighty
the task of taking Mary as your wife
and Jesus as your Son, conceived from the Holy Spirit,
and of caring for them in the difficult beginnings
of the New Covenant.
Intercede for us so that your example may remind us
to care for the presence of Jesus and Mary in our lives,
in the trials of today’s world.



SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD March 25th

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him . . . might have eternal life." (John 3:16)

At the Annunciation, God revealed this good news to Mary. She was the first to hear and to believe that God would do what he promised. Her faith told her that nothing is impossible for God. Mary also heard God's invitation calling her to be the Virgin Mother of his Son.

This call meant that Jesus would be formed in her womb, and she, as his mother, would nourish and care for him. This call meant that she had a special place in God's plan for salvation. Mary replied, "I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)

In saying yes, Mary agreed to God's plan because she wanted what God wanted. She was willing to accept all the joy and pain, all the unexpected events. She was willing to bring Christ to a waiting world.

Suggestions

- Discuss the picture of the Annunciation.
- Divide Luke 1:26-38 into nine sections: verses 26-27; verse 28; verses 29-30; verses 31-33; verse 34; verse 35; verse 36; verse 37; verse 38. Pray the First Joyful Mystery of the Rosary.
- Teach your children to pray the Angelus, a traditional prayer about the Incarnation that is usually prayed each day in the morning, at noon, and in the evening.

ANGELUS

V/. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,

R/. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;

blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners

now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

V/. Behold the handmaid of the Lord,

R/. Be it done unto me according to your Word.

Hail Mary...

V/. And the Word was made flesh,

R/. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

V/. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts: that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen