



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

March 20th, 2022

Third 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 Nēhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.

Pastor.....	Fr. Louis Nguyen	306.782.0323	louisyorkton@gmail.com
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (21st) NO MASS

Tues. (22nd) **9:00am** Special Intentions

Wed. (23rd) 9:00am David Ryhorski
10:00am **NURSING HOME NORTH**
CANCELLED

Thurs. (24th) 9:00am +Divina Muyargas
2:30pm **BENTLEY SENIORS' RESIDENCE**
+Tom Pasloski

Fri. (25th) **THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**
9:00am +Russell Boychuk

Sat. (26th) 9:00am +Peter & +Irene Cherneski

5:00pm Mass for the People

Sun. (27th) **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**
9:00am +Tyler Dobko
11:00am +Walle Head
1:00pm Sacrament Preparation
beginning with Mass

NEW GUIDELINES FROM THE DIOCESE

We ask that you continue to remain vigilant in your actions and decisions, considering the greater good, and to follow the directives per the Archdiocese of Regina:

- **We are a "mask-friendly" parish**, meaning that wearing a mask is optional, and we respect those who continue to do so.
- Please sanitize your hands when entering and leaving the church.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection continues.
- We will not shake hands when we share the sign of peace.
- Communion Ministers will wear a mask.
- If you are ill, elderly, or medically vulnerable in any way, you are urged to continue to take every precaution to keep yourself and others safe.

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

Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, you are patient with me and never withhold your love and mercy from me. Strengthen me with your grace to become fully human, fully alive in the world.

- From *Mindful Meditations for Every Day of Lent and Easter*,
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

A Note from Your Pastor

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

“Unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.” I would say that these words of Jesus are addressed to us in today’s Gospel. However, I also have another interesting lesson that I would like to share with you as well from the first reading this weekend.

In the first reading we hear how God appears to Moses in the burning bush and reveals his name as “I AM WHO I AM”. God has heard the cries of his people and sends Moses to liberate them. Through Moses God saves his people, Israel, from slavery in Egypt. We see how God reveals himself to Moses and chooses him as leader of His people.

We all have had experiences when, sometimes, God seems far away, mysterious, frightening. However, this far away-ness of God isn't the whole story. It is not even the most important part of the story.

It is very interesting to know that according to the Biblical scholars, the word “being” in Hebrew (used in God's name, "I AM") doesn't just mean existence in the abstract. It also means to be near, to be close.

God came close to Moses, and drew Moses close to him. God tells Moses that he has heard the cry of his suffering people. Christ, too, is God's answer to the yearning of every human heart - his definitive answer.

Therefore, from the first reading, we learn that God is far away, because he is God, but he is also close by, because he cares. We acknowledge that God is close by, in Jesus Christ, in his Words and in the Eucharist that we celebrate.

And in the Gospel, we hear that the Pharisees have no tolerance for sinners. They believe that sinners should just be written off, but Jesus does not agree. He tells them a story and this story reminds them, and us as well, that God is patient.

We hear Jesus' comment about the people who had died tragically in the incident with Pilate's soldiers and in the collapse of the tower. These comments would have surprised those who shared this story with him. As humans, it is easy to explain that these victims died because of their personal sins. But in Jesus’ view, it is different.

The barren fig tree symbolizes someone who lacks the fruits of repentance. Jesus emphasizes that everyone who refuses to repent will stay separated from God, and if they die in such a state of alienation, as we know death can come at any time, they will continue in this state for all eternity: *"If you do not repent, you will all perish."*

This is an uncomfortable truth, but that is what the Church wants us to consider deeply, especially during the penitential season of Lent.

My dear sisters and brothers, we need to repent for our sins. God is always ready to forgive us, if we ask. We need to live each moment of our lives in communion with God. The end can come at anytime, anywhere, unexpectedly.

We should remember that Jesus started his mission with a call to repentance. “Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand.” On Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, we were called: “repent and believe in the Gospel.” When we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, we are invited to acknowledge our sins and pray for mercy and love. Indeed, the call to repentance is at the heart of the Gospel this weekend.

Have a blessed weekend and remember to pray for the end of war in Ukraine.

Fr. Louis Nguyen



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

In the Archdiocese of Regina, Baptism Preparation is required prior to your child's baptism.

To register for the next Baptism Preparation session, please contact the Parish Office 306.782.2449.



THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD MARCH 25

The Solemnity of the Annunciation celebrates the coming of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to announce to her the special mission God had chosen for her in being the mother of His only son.

We are continually reminded of the importance of this feast to our salvation in various devotional prayers. Two examples that highlight the importance of this feast are the joyous mysteries of the Rosary and the Angelus.

The feast of the Annunciation began to be celebrated on this day during the fourth and fifth centuries, soon after the date for celebrating Christmas was universalized throughout the Church. This feast celebrates the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Trinity and the salvation of all mankind. This point of our salvation was deeply discussed by many of the Church fathers, to explain it to the faithful and to show the deep love God has for us. Some of the Church fathers who wrote on this were St. Athanasius, St. Gregory of Nyssa and St. Augustine.

****The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) is nine months following the Annunciation of the Lord****



SYNOD LISTENING CIRCLES

This is a reminder to sign up for Parish Listening Circles - reflections in a small group setting. We will prepare for parish Listening Circles in March and begin the circles after Easter.

Contact Linda Maddaford, 306.783.3924 or Carm Molnar, 306.620.2284 to register.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Bingos have been cancelled until further notice.

March 23 Visit by travelling icon – St. Joseph
March 25 Articles for "The Word" due
April 12 Travelling Silver Rose service

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

A reminder to all who have not made a donation to the seminarian fund and wish to do so. Please use the envelope supplied or a blank envelope and put in collection basket. We need priests.

St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church 100 Years (Rama, SK) July 2nd & 3rd, 2022

www.ramashrine.ca

Registration and non-refundable payment due **April 1, 2022**. Cheques payable to:

St. Anthony's 100th Anniversary
PO Box 86
Rama, SK SoA 3H0

Check the poster on the bulletin board, or online at <http://stpatricksturgis.ca/rama.php> for the schedule, registration fee and meal fees.

RSVP by April 1, 2022:

omimichal@gmail.com or maryjoe@sasktel.net
or phone 306.593.6120



The power of mobilized citizens

One of Development and Peace's strengths is our ability to mobilize thousands of Canadians like you to amplify marginalized voices from the Global South. Our partners want businesses to not be able to perpetrate abuses in their countries with impunity. That is why our *People and Planet First* campaign is asking you to help ensure that Canada adopts strong due diligence laws to prevent Canadian corporations from abusing human and environmental rights across their global operations. Sign our petition for this at devp.org/act and spread the word.

Thank you for supporting our campaign!



Bringing Home the Word

Appreciating God's Patience

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

God is very patient, but his patience doesn't last forever.

In the Old Testament, after God spoke to Abraham and Lot's subsequent rebellion, some 500 years passed before God revealed himself again—this time to Moses. God takes the first step toward Abraham and, when his descendants turned away, he steps back. He reached out again to Moses and revealed his name so that Moses could enter into a personal relationship with him and explain his name to others. God wants to be known by his people and by you!

So here we learn that with this revelation of God comes a responsibility. He unveils his mysterious face, but he also desires a loving response and for us to witness about him to others.

Saint Paul makes it clear that God eventually ran out of patience with the Chosen People in the desert. After freeing the Israelites from Egypt with signs and wonders, giving them his law, and feeding them in the desert, they complained against him. Like the fig tree in the Gospel, he gave them ample time and multiple encores of his love and mercy. Yet eventually, his love took the form of tough love—forty years of desert wanderings.


Lent is another expression of God's patience toward us. He is once again sowing the seeds of conversion, hoping for the fruits of our change of heart— fruits of love, forgiveness, repentance, and renewal.

He gives time for his cultivating efforts to take effect and for fruit to appear, but our life on earth is finite, so that time isn't unlimited.

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PERISH EIGHTEEN TOWER SILOAM
GUILTY PARABLE FIG THREE



OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

ST. MARY'S UKR. CATHOLIC CHURCH



As you may have heard it has been decided to demolish the St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church rectory.

St. Mary's Parish will now be faced with the cost of having to rebuild the wall for the church that it shares with the rectory.

They are hoping and praying that the people in our community will help them to raise funds needed for this rebuilding project.

How can you help? Purchase tickets for the

50/50 FUNDRAISER

Total prize value of \$10,000

Guaranteed prize of \$2,000

See the poster on the bulletin for details.
(Deadline April 25, 2022)

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

PARISH FUNDRAISER

Friday, April 1st

2pm – 5pm

(while supplies last!!!)

- Potato & onion perogies \$35 (10 dozen)
- Potato & cheddar perogies \$40 (10 dozen)
- Cabbage rolls \$25 (5 dozen)

After driving up to the Parish Hall entrance, please remain in your vehicle and someone will come out to take your order.

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Sun. (20th): 1:00pm Sacrament Preparation
Beginning with Mass
- Mon. (21st): 9:00am CWL Quilting Bee
9:00am Perogy Bee (dough)
7:00pm Bible Study (lower level)
- Tues. (22nd): 9:00am CWL Quilting Bee
9:00am Perogy Bee (pinching)
- Wed. (23rd): 9:00am Perogy Bee (packaging)
7:30pm Liturgical Committee Mtg.
- Fri. (25th): 9:30am Cabbage Roll Bee
- Sun. (27th): 1:00pm Sacrament Preparation
Beginning with Mass

NOTICE OF POLL

St. Gerard Parish
125 Third Ave N
Yorkton, SK

This is a notice to Parishioners of St. Gerard Parish that a Vote will be held for the following position:

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Saturday the 27th day of March 2022
between the hours of 4:00pm and 5:00pm, and 6:00pm and 7:00pm

Sunday the 28th day of March 2022
between the hours of 8:00am and 9:00am, 10:00am and 11:00am,
and 12:00pm and 1:00pm

Saturday the 2nd day of April 2022
between the hours of 4:00pm and 5:00pm, and 6:00pm and 7:00pm

Sunday the 3rd day of April 2022
between the hours of 8:00am and 9:00am, 10:00am and 11:00am,
and 12:00pm and 1:00pm

St. Gerard Parish Hall

*Please note that all registered parishioners 16 years of age and older may vote one time only.

Results of the vote, as well as the names of those who have been elected by acclamation, will be published in the parish bulletin dated Sunday, April 10th, 2022

CANDIDATE PROFILES

LUKE NICHOLSON

I am Luke Nicholson. I am running for Parish Council Chairperson and would like you to get to know me better. I was born and raised in Williams Lake, British Columbia in 1981. I moved here to Yorkton via Saskatoon in March of 2010 after pursuing a degree in Political Science at the University of Saskatchewan. I meandered outside the Catholic Church for almost 20 years until I was moved to return to the Church after settling in Yorkton.

Since then I've been making up for lost time by studying to understand Faith and Tradition so I can live it out authentically and passionately. As such evangelization is near and dear to my heart and I am most passionate for those Catholics who have lost the Faith or no longer attend Church. I'm running for council Chairperson because I want to help evangelize the fallen away Catholics here in Yorkton.

MARK BELL

My wife, Doreen, and I moved to Yorkton in 1993 and shortly after I became involved in parish life at St. Gerard's. Attending Saturday evening Mass on a regular basis, I have served as Lector and Welcomer. Most recently I have been the Social Justice Committee Chairperson at St. Gerard's 5 years.

For 40 years I have worked with the Saskatchewan Housing Authority. To the Parish Council Chairperson position, I bring experience from my time with various not-for-profit organizations with the Housing Authority, as well as my position as a teacher in the Property Management program with the Real Estate Institute of Canada.

It is our baptismal call to be deeply connected to God's invitation to discipleship, outreach, and sharing the Good News. Thus, I am passionate about giving back to the parish community and the community at large. My aspiration is to encourage as many people as I can to return to the Church.

YOUTH REFLECTION

"The Burning Bush"

This Week...

God speaks to Moses in a bush that is on fire but is not burning up. Moses, an exile from Egypt for having killed someone there, is called back to lead the people he deserted. The fig tree, which has not given any figs, is given another year to bear fruit. Moses' second chance is like the fig tree's second chance and like our second chance. And God, who created us, calls to us from within a flame and urges us to begin again.

For Your Reflection

The bush is on fire, but it is not burning anything. Moses is fascinated with that. Have you ever watched a campfire, a fireplace, or a candle with fascination? Do you know anyone who has? What is so fascinating about flames? What is so fascinating about our God?

Moses is getting a second chance at greatness. He would actually rather stay where his is, with the flocks at Midian, but God has greater plans for him. Have you ever gotten a second chance? Did you feel relieved? Did you feel burdened? What happened? Did you need a third chance?

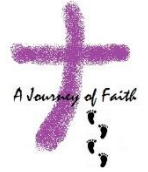
Excerpt from In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, 2004



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.

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