



St. Gerard

March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday
of Lent

Roman Catholic Parish

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:

Saturday at 5:00 pm, Sunday at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

COVID-19 DIRECTIVE

1. Sunday & Weekday Masses are suspended until further notice.

Archbishop Don Bolen has granted to all the Catholic faithful dispensation from their Sunday obligation until further notice.

Daily and Sunday Masses from Resurrection Parish in Regina will be livestreamed:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/17094656>

2. The Chrism Mass scheduled for March 30, 2020 will be closed to the public.
3. All services, events and activities are cancelled, including Holy Hour Devotion, other community prayers/devotions, all Parish Hall activities, all sacrament preparation including RCIA, Marriage, Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation.

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation: Half-hour before Saturday morning and Saturday evening Mass, or anytime by appointment.

Infant Baptism: Please contact Fr. Louis at least one month prior to Baptism.

RCIA: Adults wishing to be received into the Catholic Church should contact Fr. Louis.

Matrimony: Please contact Fr. Louis at least 6 months prior to the time you would like to be married.

Anointing: Please contact Fr. Louis at any time.

For Anointing of the Sick and other emergencies, you may contact Fr. Louis at 306.621.8068

CONTACT US

Parish Office Hours: Please note that the Parish Office is closed until further notice.

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

www.stgerard.ca | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca

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|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Pastor..... | Fr. Louis Kim Nguyen | 306.782.0323 306.621.8068 | louiskimnguyen@yahoo.com |
| Parish Office Administrator..... | Sandra Archer | 306.782.2449 | office@stgerard.ca |
| Caretaker..... | Mario Guerra | | |



Stay
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Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, you are the Word of God that shows me what is good, right, and true. Make me a faithful witness to your Word.

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MARCH 12, 2020

At the Annual General Meeting, the following were elected by acclamation:

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|----------------------|----------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Vice-chairperson: | Wayne Exner | Secretary: | Jenny Baraoidan |
| Religious Education: | Rene Adane & Ophelia Adane | Youth: | Melinda Sevilla |
| Ecumenical: | Carm Molnar | | |

The following positions remain vacant:

Public Relations Family & Social Stewardship Properties

ST. GERARD PARISH 2020-2021 PASTORAL AND FINANCE COUNCILS

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|----------------------|---|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Chairperson | - | Ernie Bobowski | Vice-chairperson- | Wayne Exner | |
| Secretary | - | Jenny Baraoidan | Liturgy | - | Carol Deters/Yvonne Turgeon |
| Religious Education- | | Rene & Ophelia Adane | Social Justice | - | Mark Bell |
| Community Life | - | Maureen Pankoski | Public Relations | - | VACANT |
| Family & Social | - | VACANT | Youth | - | Melinda Sevilla |
| Ecumenical | - | Carm Molnar | Stewardship | - | VACANT |
| CWL Rep. | - | Paulette Cooper | K of C Rep. | - | Jeff Krasowski |
| <hr/> | | | | | |
| Finance | - | Brian Kruger | Secretary | - | Richard Dubois |
| Properties | - | VACANT | Members at Large- | | Conrad Rodney, Dwight Guy |
| Hall | - | Lorne Wanner | | | |

Catechism Themes: The Characteristics of Faith (CCC 153-165)

When Jesus cured the blind man, he gave him a choice to change, to chance to trust in God. Jesus invited the man to faith.

Faith is a gift of God, a supernatural virtue infused by him. (CCC 153). We cannot obtain faith by our own efforts or merit. A faith in God comes from God; he initiates the faith relationship and every step in that relationship.

But faith always remains a choice we make. When we choose to trust in God and believe in what he reveals to us, we exercise our freedom. Our minds and wills freely cooperate with God's grace. Faith is not and can never be an act coerced by God or others.

Faith and understanding are compatible because:

- 1) Faith is certain. We have complete trust God will help us through times of doubt.
- 2) Faith seeks understanding. In faith, we seek reasonable answers to life's problems and the troubles of the world. We also seek a deeper awareness of God acting in the world.
- 3) Faith and science are compatible. Since science and revelation have their source in the same God, scientific study carried out in an ethical manner cannot conflict with faith. Indeed, study can cause the same awe and humility in the scientist as reflection on creation causes in the believer.

It is impossible to have a relationship with God without faith. In the same vein, we cannot grow closer to God without perseverance; just as in human relationships, trust can never be lax. With perseverance, we have hope, for we are supported by others and we see the goal of faith. We can look to the witness of others for inspiration in times of trial. And, as we are drawn closer by God, we can see the goal of faith, to see God "face to face" "as he truly is" (CCC 163).

Have you seen God change someone for the better? What sort of changes came about? How was faith involved?

John's gospel presents us with a challenge. Are we willing to be changed for the sake of faith? Are we willing to see things as they are, not as we wish them to be?

The man born blind gained true sight, simply because he was willing to be changed. Like the man born blind, we, too, must have open eyes and an open heart, a willingness to let God change us.

How has God changed you in the past? What sort of change is God calling you to now?

Stations of the Cross

An online version of the Stations of the Cross may be found at:

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/stations.html>

Please note that audio versions are available.



News from the CWL



All meetings and activities have been cancelled/ postponed.



News from the Knights of Columbus



All meetings and activities have been cancelled/ postponed.

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Rejean Houle @ 306.641.5430 or houle_r@yahoo.fr
More info.: www.kofc-2031.ca

This Lent, give from the heart.

Share
Lent 2020



Development
and Peace
CARITAS CANADA

For our
COMMON
HOME



The *seringueiros*: protectors in peril

On reserves created by the Brazilian state, the *seringueiros* tap rubber trees and gather nuts and fruits for subsistence. But their lands are now coveted by powerful loggers, hunters, ranchers, soybean farmers, etc. they are facing increasing threats, intimidation and persecution. Despite these hardships, the *seringueiros* prefer remaining in place to tend their beloved forest. Development and Peace's partner, the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT), supports the *seringueiros* by documenting violations of their rights and by helping them legally contest the seizure of their lands.

"Those who want to help us should immediately come to see what is happening here so that we may keep the forest standing."

– Ederson Chaves Dias, *seringueiro*, Angelim Reserve, Machadinho d'Oeste

Watch the *seringueiros*' testimony at:
www.devp.org/campaign/seringueiros



Bringing Home the Word

To Live by Faith

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Our Lenten practices are transforming our hearts to receive the love of Jesus in his passion, death, and resurrection. Today's Gospel revolves around this theme of learning to live by faith. The apostles take for granted that the man's blindness is due to someone's sin. The Pharisees call the man a sinner, born in sin. In their self righteousness they judge both the blind man and Jesus.

Jesus sees and judges differently. He asserts that the man's blindness was not due to a sin of his own or that of his parents and restores his sight. He challenges the wise, educated, and insightful Pharisees by saying, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains" (John 9:41).

While they can see physically, they cannot see the simple truth that Jesus is the Son of God and has the authority to heal, even on the Sabbath. They are so blinded by their "fidelity to God"—which is really fidelity to their distorted interpretation of the traditions and regulations God gave them—that they cannot see his spirit of mercy. They fail to see with eyes of faith.

Being merciful like Jesus doesn't mean merely condemning blind legalism, it means showing God's love to those in need. First we need to see as God sees. Then we need to love others and to enlighten them with the truth. Jesus heals one man's blindness in the hope of opening the minds and hearts of the Pharisees—and us today.

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| S | R | E | N | N | I | S | L | E | T | BLIND | SPAT | PASTE |
| S | E | D | E | V | O | U | T | H | S | SPITTLE | SIGHT | RESTORED |
| P | E | I | R | T | R | O | H | R | T | PROPHET | PARENTS | DISCIPLES |
| I | S | L | A | S | A | R | G | E | N | SINNERS | DEVOUT | BELIEVE |
| T | E | H | P | O | R | P | I | S | E | | | |
| T | A | S | P | I | A | A | S | T | R | | | |
| L | H | G | I | S | C | O | P | O | A | | | |
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YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"The Man Born Blind"

This Week...

God chooses Jesse's youngest son David to be anointed as the new king, even though others do not "see" David's potential yet. When Jesus heals a man born blind, it is clear that he who was blind was able to "see" more clearly than the Pharisees, who supposedly have excellent sight. We all have been given the light of faith to see with; no longer spiritually blind, no longer walking in spiritual darkness.

For Your Reflection

- Stevie Wonder, the famous singer and musician who is blind, once remarked that just because a man lacks the use of his eyes doesn't mean he lacks vision. What do you think he meant? What do you think we need to learn from him?
- Jesus cured a man born blind. That man had more "vision" than the Pharisees, who could see. What do you think Jesus was trying to teach us about spiritual and physical blindness?
- What is the most incredible thing you have ever seen: a lunar eclipse? A rainbow? A shooting star? A peacock showing off its feathers? A butterfly on a flower? Fireworks? How could you describe this incredible sight to a person who is blind?
- What do you think would be the most difficult part of being blind? If you are blind, talk about what the most difficult part is for you.

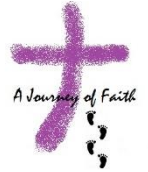
Excerpt from In Touch With the Word, Cycle A for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter St. Mary's Press, 2004



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