



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

March 24, 2019

**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

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (25 th):	Annunciation of the Lord	
	9:30 am	Ken Pilon
Tues. (26 th):	7:00 pm	+Merv Todos
Wed. (27 th):	10:00 am	NURSING HOME (NORTH)
		+Eileen Griffith
	7:00 pm	+Janet Gress
Thurs. (28 th):	12:05 pm	+Mary Schaan
Fri. (29 th):	9:30 am	+John Mansuy
Sat. (30 th):	9:30 am	Fran Meehan

5:00 pm Mass for the People

Sun. (31 st):	Fourth Sunday of Lent	
	9:00 am	Special Intentions
	11:00 am	+Tony Spykerman

The Divine Mercy Devotion is prayed each Friday at 2pm



Eucharistic Holy Hour Devotion
every Tuesday evening at 6pm

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 1.306.530.0126

CONTACT US

Parish Office Hours: Monday 1pm-4pm; Tuesday-Friday 8am-noon, 1pm-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	louiskimnguyen@yahoo.com
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		



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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

THE HEART OF THE SOWER

by Joyce Rupp

“A sower went out to sow” (Mark 4:3)

Parables, like dreams, have many layers of meaning. They teach us and stretch us into further growth. In one parable Jesus describes how a sower scatters seeds in hope of a harvest, but only the seed that lands on good soil thrives. The rest wither or sprout because they fall on rocks, grow in weedy soil, are trampled, or are quickly devoured by birds. Jesus explains how this is a metaphor for accepting, or not accepting, the Word of God in his listeners’ lives.

We are told what happens to the seeds, but what about the sower? What does the sower experience when seeds, strewn with hope, do not grow? When a field is ready for planting, the farmer feels expectant eagerness, a readiness to spend long hours of work planting, because each seed holds a promise of growth.

When seeds are poor and grow weakly, when hail or windstorms destroy the growing crop, when sun and drought wither it, the farmer often grows discouraged. Did Jesus, the Divine Sower, also feel this when he served his people? Did he feel pained and disheartened when he saw how little effect his message had on their lives, or did he maintain hope in spite of mixed results?

The gospels tell us that Jesus felt disheartened at the lack of receptivity and the failure of his message to change lives, but the Scriptures also remind us that he never quit. Jesus continued to believe in the possibility of change and growth in everyone. He did not withhold his love and openness to the “seeds” that fell on the wayside, or the rocky, weedy soil.

Untested Soil

We’re also sowers of seed. Each of us spreads the gospel message of faith and love by how we live our lives. Being a sower of God’s goodness can be joyful when we see positive results from what we’ve planted. Our hearts flood with happiness and satisfaction when the seeds grow well.

Like Jesus, we also encounter defeat as we plant the seeds of his message. Faith-filled parents with love for their children see them choosing a life of drugs, violence, and immorality. Pastoral teams experience the apathy of parishioners toward faith-formation programs. Seeds of marital faithfulness are destroyed by the rocky soil of adultery or the arid refusal to communicate. Teachers promoting honesty and integrity may find their efforts falling on the stony indifference and hostility of their students. People trying to plant seeds of harmony in their workplaces and communities may watch the seeds fail to develop.

Hope in the Harvest

It takes faith and relentless hope to be a sower of the Word of God, to be untiring in accepting and caring about others. It requires resolve and continual prayer. Like Jesus, we may not see the harvest in our lifetimes but we cannot give up trying to live in God’s kingdom as faithful, compassionate people. Steadfast hope is a vital component of a sower’s heart.

As we live in the spirit of the Divine Sower this Lent, let us keep on sowing the seeds of our good works without giving in to discouragement. Let us sow with confidence, letting go of our expectations for immediate results. Let us trust that the Word of God will take deep root in our own hearts as well as in those with whom we live and work.



Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools News

March 25 - March 29, 2019



	Sacred Heart	St. Alphonsus	St. Mary	St. Michael	St. Paul	St. Theodore
Mon.		•Stations of the Cross			•Lenten Assembly	
Tues.	•Nurse Practitioner	•Pre-K tour of Fire Hall •Student Led Conferences			•Math Bee	•Student-led conferences
Wed.		•Band Festival •Student Led Conferences	•Gr. 4 Swimming •Student-led Conferences		•MADD Presentation •Band performs at Music Festival •Student Led Conferences	
Thurs.		•Band Festival	•MADD presentation •Student-led Conferences		•Student Led Conferences	•Student-led conferences •Family Wellness Night
Fri.		•Band Festival				



SACRAMENTS of INITIATION PREPARATION



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

CONFIRMATION

The Second Sacrament of Initiation

FIRST EUCHARIST

The Third Sacrament of Initiation

The **Stations of the Cross** devotion is prayed each Friday at 7pm during Lent. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

Led by:

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Mar. 29 | Parish Council |
| Apr. 5 | Youth Connect & Liturgical Committee |
| Apr. 12 | Altar Servers |



ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED to attend LENTEN LUNCHES

which will be held each Thursday during Lent following the 12:05 pm Mass.

Free-will offering for
Yorkton Transitional Homes for Youth

~ Organized by the Liturgical Committee ~



Come and spend...

HOURS FOR THE LORD

Friday, March 29th

Begins at 10:00 am with
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (all day)
Benediction at 6:45 pm



FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIE NIGHT

Each Friday during Lent we will have Movie Night (right after the Stations of the Cross)!

No charge! Free popcorn and refreshments!

Everyone is welcome to attend!

~ Organized by the Religious Education Team ~



News from the CWL



REMINDER: Membership fees are overdue. If you haven't paid your 2019 C.W.L. membership fee (\$30.00), please do so as soon as possible. You can put your money (cash or cheque) in an envelope, mark it C.W.L. Membership, and put it in the collection basket, leave it at the parish office, or put it in the C.W.L. mail slot in the sacristy.

The date for the C.W.L. Monthly Meeting has been changed. It will now be held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 10th following Mass. All C.W.L. members are encouraged to attend and enjoy an evening with your C.W.L. Sisters.



News from the Knights of Columbus



- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mar. 25 | Articles for "The Word" due |
| Mar. 26 | Executive meeting – create budget |
| Mar. 29 | Afternoon Bingo |
| Mar. 29 – 30 | Spiritual Enrichment (Saskatoon) |
| Mar. 31 | Fifth Sunday Rosary before 9am Mass |

A District Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 26 at 7:30 pm with Supreme Western Canadian Regional Training Directory Ryan DeHaan and State Deputy Chris Bencharski. If you would like to know more about the new programming, please call Jeff at 306.621.8640 or 306.783.5384 if you would like to attend.

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Brian @ 306.730.7083 or 306.730.7017 after 5pm (or leave a message). More info.: www.kofc-2031.ca

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

Students in grades 9-12 are invited to join the Archdiocese of Regina Youth office on an "**Inner City Missions Trip**" to Winnipeg on the Easter break. This road trip adventure will take place on April 23-26. Spaces are limited!

The days will include a retreat day and two days of service to the people of downtown Winnipeg.

To register or for further info please contact the youth office at yml@archregina.sk.ca or 306 352 1651. Cost of the trip is \$120 includes all food, accommodations and transportation.

YOUTH CONNECT UPDATE (For Youth in Grades 5 to 12)

There will be 11 youth and 4 parent chaperones, as well as students and teachers from Sacred Heart High School, who will participate in the "**My Generation Youth Rally**" on March 30-31, 2019 at Archbishop MC O'Neill High School in Regina.

We ask you to include them in your prayers.



Bringing Home the Word

Finding Humility

By Mary Katharine Deeley

Now that I'm older, I can look back on my life and clearly remember times when I took great pride in my accomplishments, the breadth of my knowledge, and my insight into human dynamics. The problem was that my pride bordered on, and occasionally slipped into, a sense of superiority and hubris. At such times I was not fun to be around. The advantage of maturity is that we become more aware of our shortcomings and, hopefully, develop a humility that appreciates the gifts that everyone brings to the table, recognizes that we always have more to learn, and grows grateful, rather than prideful, at the gifts we have been given.

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges the sense of pride that the Israelites feel from God's choosing them and the sense that they are, therefore, better than the people of the surrounding nations. He also questions their habit of judging those on whom misfortune fell as more sinful than they were. In a way, he was asking them to grow up and find the humility that comes from age, holding them to the same standard with which they held others. He challenged them to spend less time judging others and more time recognizing their sins and need for repentance.

That's a hard lesson for us all, but a necessary one. If we are to accompany one another on this journey through Lent and life, we need to know we are all the same in God's eyes and all in need of God's grace to make it through.

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An open letter to all those who have been wounded by the effects of clergy sexual abuse within the Archdiocese of Regina is available on the pamphlet rack in the Welcome Area. Please pick up a copy for yourself, or for someone you know who is affected.

•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•PEROGIES• PARISH FUNDRAISER

Thursday, APRIL 4TH
3pm to 6pm

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



Share the journey with the Rohingyas of Myanmar



Facing persecution and violence, 723,000 Rohingyas have fled Myanmar since August 2017 and taken refuge across the border, in neighbouring Bangladesh. Development and Peace's long-time partner Caritas Bangladesh is working hard to restore some dignity to these people who simply yearn to live in peace.

Thanks to your donations, Caritas Bangladesh has been able to provide temporary shelters, access to clean water, safe latrines and showers for women and girls, and hygiene kits, and to raise awareness among refugees about safety issues.

Your generosity makes a difference in the lives of the Rohingya! www.devp.org/give

During the Lenten season we wish to remind all members of St. Gerard's Parish of those who are less fortunate, and our continued support of the Salvation Army Food Bank. Please support where you can. The food collection box is in the Welcome Area.

Submitted by the Social Justice Committee

PARISH SURVEY

Please return your completed survey by Monday, April 15th. One per household. Thank you!

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Sun. (24th): 6:30 pm- Tri-sacrament Prep. (Social Hall)
- Mon. (25th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm- Bible Study (Lower Level)
- Tues. (26th): 5:00 pm- Choir rehearsal for 9am Mass
- Thurs. (28th): 7:00 pm- Centering Prayer (Lower Level)
- Fri. (29th): 4:00 pm- Youth Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm- RCIA (Meeting Room B)
7:30 pm- Movie Night (K of C Chambers)
- Sat. (30th): 4:30 pm- Choir rehearsal for 5pm Mass
6:00 pm- Teen Confirmation Prep. (Meeting Room A)

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.

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