



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

March 26, 2023

Fifth 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/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (27 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (28 th)	7:00pm +Teresa Boucher
Wed. (29 th)	7:00pm +Jacalyn Zeljeznez
Thurs. (30 th)	9:00am +Brian Larocque 7:00pm <i>Penitential Service</i>
Fri. (31 st)	12:00pm +Helen Rupchan
Sat. (1 st)	9:00am +Darlene Bernath

5:00pm +Tony & +Theresa Spykerman

Sun. (2 nd)	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
	9:00am +Brian Woodward
	11:00am Mass for the People

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.

NEXT WEEK IS PALM SUNDAY!



**PLEASE MEET IN THE PARISH
HALL 10 MINUTES PRIOR TO
THE BEGINNING OF MASS.**

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

**Stay
Connected
Online!**

www.stgerard.ca



So that we may have the courage to heed your call to come out of the darkness, we pray – Lord, let us be like you.

-The Redemptorists

SUNDAY CONNECTION

First Reading

Ezekiel 37.12-14

God will open the graves and restore the people of Israel

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 130.1-8

With the Lord is forgiveness and mercy.

Second Reading

Romans 8.8-11

The Spirit of God dwells in you.

Gospel Reading

John 11.1-45

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Our Gospel on this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent, is again taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading from John continues the break from Cycle A's focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Today's Gospel reading recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. As our catechumens move closer to the celebration of their Baptisms at the Triduum, today's reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the life.

The context for the story of the raising of Lazarus is the Jewish leaders' growing animosity toward Jesus. Jesus has been in Jerusalem, taking part in the feast of the Dedication, which we have come to know as Hanukkah. The people have been pressing him to declare plainly whether he is the Messiah. Jesus tells them to look to his works, which testify to his coming from God. Many do not believe Jesus, however, and some try to stone him for blasphemy.

Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that his friend is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but he delays his journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus' obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus's resurrection. When Jesus finally declares that he will journey to Bethany, his disciples fear for his life. Thomas declares that he and the other disciples should prepare to die with Jesus.

The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then

Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus' death.

Set against the backdrop of Jesus' impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus' own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the conflict with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb.

With catechumens preparing for their Baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin's power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.

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

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Apr. 6 Thursday of the Lord's Supper

7:00 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
until 11:45pm

Apr. 7 Friday of the Passion of the Lord

The Celebration of the Passion
3:00 pm

Apr. 8 Holy Saturday

2:00 pm – Blessing of Festive Food

The Resurrection of the Lord

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

8:00 pm

Apr. 9 The Mass of Easter Day

9:00 am 11:00 am





BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

The next Baptism Preparation Session will be held at the end of April/beginning of May. If you have a child who you wish to be baptized, or if you are expecting a child, please contact the Parish Office to register: office@stgerard.ca



Penitential Service

Thursday, March 30th @ 7pm

The one-half hour Penitential Service will be celebrated communally with individual absolution (Form B) to follow.

Three priests will be in attendance.

PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY for the Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday ministries!



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. (27th): 7:00pm- CWL Meeting (*lower level*)
- Tues. (28th): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (pinching)
- Wed. (29th): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (packaging)
- 7:30pm- Pastoral Council Meeting



News from the CWL



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 27**. Registration fee (including lunch) is \$10, payable at the workshop.



News from the Knights of Columbus



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

FAMILY CONNECTION

Jesus' promise of eternal life is a central element of our Catholic faith. Even though Easter is still two weeks away, our Gospel today invites us to acknowledge Jesus' power over death, evidenced in the raising of Lazarus, and to anticipate Jesus' conquering of death once and for all in his death and Resurrection. We sometimes use examples from nature to help describe this mystery of our faith. Jesus himself talked about the seed that dies when planted in the ground in order to produce new life (John 12:24). Using that image and others, we find hope and confidence in Jesus, the Resurrection and the life.

Gather your family today and read today's Gospel in its shorter form, John 11:3-7,17,20-27,33b-45. Write Jesus' promise from today's Gospel ("I am the resurrection and the life.") on a large sheet of white paper. As your family talks about what Jesus means by this promise, decorate Jesus' words with symbols that will remind you of his promise of eternal life. Display this reminder of Jesus' promise in a prominent place in your home and keep it there until Easter. Pray that you will always remain confident in Jesus' promise of eternal life. Conclude by praying together the Apostles' Creed.

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



Jesus, Good Shepherd, you care for us. We are sad when someone dies. But you promise we will all live in Heaven with you one day. We pray that all who die will enjoy Heaven forever. Amen.



New Life Awaits

By Fr. Paul Turner

Phil was recruiting fellow travelers for the missionary trip to Guatemala he made a few times a year. He wanted his friends and acquaintances at home to experience the discomforts of poverty in another part of the world. He wanted the poor of Guatemala to receive the compassion and help of the faithful from the North.

People who responded to him opened their wallets to provide water filtration systems and other projects, but Phil wanted more than their money. He wanted their hearts. He wanted to build relationships.

He succeeded. Over the years, he introduced hundreds of people to the plight of Guatemalans. He opened the eyes of people in the first world to the difficult demands of life in the third. People came home from his trips with a new sense of their priorities.

Once, when asked why he did this, Phil told a story. He was planning a trip with friends, and their connecting flight in Newark was delayed. The airline found seats on another flight for them to take. He doesn't know why, but the switch didn't feel right to him. He talked his friends out of getting on that plane.

It was United Airlines Flight 93. The day was September 11, 2001.

After escaping a horrifying death at the hands of terrorists, Phil decided he should do something positive with his life.

He wanted others to have a chance at living better, too. He got inspired to help the poor in Guatemala. Once he made the trip, he fell in love with the country and its people. He knew that if he could get others to go, they would have the same experience. They did. Some people get a second chance at life. When that happens, they often suspect God has a grander purpose in mind for them.

When Jerusalem was ransacked by Babylon, the people went into exile, and their city was destroyed. But they were invited to return to their homeland to rebuild it again. Suddenly they had a new purpose. They began to spread God's word through a message of hope.

When we witness someone's loss, we mourn with them. When we witness their surprising gain, we rejoice. After a horrifying experience, when people have a new mission for their lives, they may extend an invitation for others to see the world as they do. It can open eyes.

We don't know what Lazarus did after he was brought out of the tomb. His home with Mary and Martha was a haven of hospitality for Jesus. Perhaps they continued to welcome Jesus' followers, disciples who needed rest and respite. We don't know, but it seems likely that it was a life well-lived.

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•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•PEROGIES•
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PARISH FUNDRAISER

Saturday, April 1st
11am – 2pm
(while supplies last!!!)

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

LAST CHANCE BEFORE EASTER!



The Good Friday Collection is requested by the Holy See to help maintain the Church's holy places in the Holy Land, so important to the faith of Christians everywhere, and also to support the faithful who struggle to survive under political and economic oppression and persecution.

This Pontifical Collection will be taken during the Good Friday celebration on April 7 2023

Notes from St. Gerard's Church Annual General Meeting

By Mark Bell – Chairperson of Parish Pastoral Council

I would like to thank the members of our parish who attended the Annual General Meeting held on March 7, 2023. The meeting was not only our reaffirmation of the role of Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council to our parish community, but an opportunity to acknowledge the successes and directions of St. Gerard's Parish as we move forward.

A final edit to our adopted 2022 Constitution and Bylaws saw this final document adhering to Canada Revenue requirements under the Charities Directorate. The revised 2023 Constitution and 2023 Bylaws of St. Gerard's Church was adopted at this meeting. A copy is available from the Parish Office upon request.

There are several vacant positions within Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council as we saw 8 vacancies because of the completion of term of office or personal resignations. We continue to need volunteers to step forward and assist our parish in meeting the goals and challenges of the committees/organizations that are represented by St. Gerard's. If you can donate your time and energy to assist/serve in any of our committees, please contact Father Louis, the Parish Office, or any member of the current councils.

I would like to thank Fr. Louis and all members past and present of our Parish Council, the committees, and especially the volunteers who make our parish successful and well recognized in supporting the needs of residents of within Yorkton, the surrounding area, and beyond. We should all be proud of the successes for 2022. All committee reports, including the Annual Financial Review, are available within the 2022 Annual Report. Printed copies of the report are available at each entrance to the church as well as on the parish website www.stgerard.ca

At the **Annual General Meeting** held March 7, 2023, there were no nominations reported.

The 2023-2024 Parish Council is as follows:

Parish Pastoral Council

Mark Bell
Joanne Geysen
Colleen Haider
Jonathan Rosas
Paulette Cooper (CWL Rep.)
Keith Hayward (K of C Rep.)

***(4 vacancies plus
2 Members-at-large to be appointed)***

Parish Finance Council

Nathan Bewcyk
Nick Andrusyk

***(2 vacancies plus
1 Member-at-large to be appointed)***

Thank you to the following who have completed their terms serving on Council:

Pastoral Council: Wayne Exner, Rene & Ophelia Adane, Melinda Sevilla, Carm Molnar,
Linda Maddaford

Finance Council: Gary Colbow, Richard Dubois, Dwight Guy & Conrad Rodney

A Journey to New Life in Christ

Kathy Kuczka

Each procession during Holy Week has a different tone and solemnity. On Palm Sunday, the faithful joyfully sing *hosanna*. After the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the mood is somber as the journey is made to the altar of repose. On Good Friday, the community quietly processes to reverence the cross. Hope fills the community at the Easter Vigil as they sing "Thanks be to God," while following the minister carrying the Paschal candle and singing "The Light of Christ." These processions help us to journey with Christ into solitude and surrender, into desertion and death, resurrection and new life.

PALM SUNDAY

The procession on Palm Sunday is modeled after the ancient liturgies of Jerusalem. The fourth-century pilgrim known as Egeria wrote that the Palm Sunday procession began at the Mount of Olives and ended at the city gates. Today, the faithful gather in a place other than inside the church so that a fitting procession to the church can take place. After palm, olive, or other branches are blessed and sprinkled with holy water, the Gospel account of Jesus' triumphant journey to Jerusalem is proclaimed. The procession into the church that follows is joyous, with incense rising from a swinging thurible, servers carrying a cross decorated with palms and candles, and the faithful singing and acclaiming Christ as King. The entrance procession propels the community to enter the heart of the Paschal Mystery.

HOLY THURSDAY

At the end of the liturgy during the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, the faithful will follow the priest in procession as he brings the Blessed Sacrament from the altar to a place of repose. This is not an ordinary procession. It begins after the priest has incensed the Eucharist, continues with the faithful singing "Pange, Lingua" or another Eucharistic hymn, and ends with silent adoration. This procession symbolizes the community's journey with Jesus as he moves closer to his passion and death.



In the procession into the church on Holy Saturday, the faithful follow Christ our light into new life.

GOOD FRIDAY

On Good Friday, the community gathers to remember the death of the Lord but with faith and hope of resurrection. This liturgy includes the ancient ritual of the veneration of the cross. According to Egeria, the community gathered at Golgotha to venerate the relics of the true cross that had recently been discovered in Jerusalem. People revered the wood by touching it with their foreheads and by kissing it. The community is invited to revere the cross as in ancient Jerusalem, with a touch or a kiss, signs that our whole bodies are immersed in the dying of Christ.

HOLY SATURDAY

At the Easter Vigil, our prayer begins in the dark. Gathered around a blazing fire, we see who we truly are, the beloved of God. After the blessing of the fire, the community processes behind the Paschal candle, sign of the Risen Lord, responding three times, "Thanks be to God" to the deacon's "The Light of Christ." These three stations echo those of the cross at the Good Friday liturgy. The cross and the candle are symbols of our salvation. On this night, the community follows Christ our light into new life.

Before the baptismal liturgy, the holy women and men who have gone before us are recalled during the Litany of the Saints, and those who are to be baptized process to the font with their godparents. The singing of the litany is a sign of the throngs of people who have experienced the journey through the Paschal Mystery.

Our liturgical processions do more than move us from one point to another. They help identify who we are and whose we are. During Holy Week, our processions help us experience in our bodies a movement of dying and rising with Christ. To process with the community is to remind ourselves that we do not travel this journey alone. With this assurance, we, like the women at the tomb, can run with the news, telling the world of God's great love.