



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

March 27th, 2022

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 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/SERVICE SCHEDULE

There will be no daily Mass or Holy Hour Devotion this week.

Sat. (2nd) 5:00pm Liturgy of the Word with
Communion

Sun. (3rd) **FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

9:00am Mass for the People
11:00am John & Betty Bax
1:00pm Sacrament Preparation
beginning with Mass



If you would like to contribute to Caritas Ukraine, please note "Ukraine" on the memo line of your cheque and mail it to:

Development & Peace
1425 Rene-Levesque Blvd West, 3rd Floor
Montreal, QC H3G 9Z9
Or you may donate online:
<https://www2.devop.org/en/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=3&q=24360>

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 the face of God's compassion in the world. Give me a compassionate heart to embrace my suffering brothers and sisters.

- 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,

There are many lessons in the Gospel for this weekend. It is a parable, and it is important for us to recognize that the father in this story represents God, the older son represents the Pharisee, and the young one represents sinners.

The parable is primarily about the younger son who abandons his father and squanders his life in extreme self-indulgence and sensuality. He wants to enjoy his freedom according to his own will. He often thinks that his father condemns his freedom, not allowing him to do whatever he wants. He believes that he does not have enough freedom and this always bothers him.

The younger son had looked for joy in all the wrong places because he got tired of living under his father's rule. He became self-centered, but that left him unfulfilled. Think about this as it is exactly what happens to us when we go looking for happiness in sin, in disobedience to God's will.

The older son also lost sight of his father's goodness. He let the routine of life embitter his heart. He forgot that his father was actually giving him everything. For all of us, sometimes, we do the same thing: on the outside we seem to be good Catholics, but on the inside we are angry and critical, because we're just going through the motions. We have let the fire go out of our friendship with Christ.

In the Gospel Jesus is giving us a portrait of God, who always takes the first step to bring us back into his friendship, no matter how far we may have strayed. This is also the story of the merciful father, because in a fallen world, mercy is God's main expression of love. That is the kind of joy in which the Gospel invites us to reflect and renew today.

Because God is all-knowing and loving, he knows us and loves us through and through as he pays attention to us. Just as the father does in this story, who does whatever he can for his two sons, God is always paying attention to us. He cannot stop thinking about each one of us.

Routine in our relationship with God is the obstacle to our experiencing Christian joy. Christian joy is precisely the thing that our heart hungers, because that is what it was made for - to be known and loved by God, through and through.

When we turn our attention to God, we see him paying attention to us, knowing and loving us, and that fills us with a joy that doesn't wear out.

Most of us don't always feel that joy. We have faith, and we believe God loves us. So why don't we experience Christian joy more deeply, more constantly? It is because we are falling into a routine in our relationship with God.

Today God's message invites each one of us to renew our Christian joy. In order to do that you are called to refresh your friendship with Christ, because that is the source of Christian joy.

We also ask for forgiveness, and renew our commitment to be more faithful in the future. Since Christ's love for us is personal and total, even our small acts of unfaithfulness sadden him.

Whenever we ignore the teaching of his Church, whenever we ignore the voice of conscience, whenever we fail to forgive, whenever we fail to love our neighbour as our-self, we sadden our Christ, who only wants the best for us. We put distance between him and us. That distance prevents our experience of Christian joy.

My dear sisters and brothers, God always loves us, and pays attention to us. Keep this in mind, and live this in the light of Christian joy.

Again we will continue to pray for the end of war in Ukraine. Enjoy warm weather and have a nice week. May God bless you all. - *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.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Bingos have been cancelled until further notice.

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.



Penitential Service (St. Gerard Church)

Thursday, April 7th @ 7pm

With the celebration of Reconciliation (in sacrament and in Penance celebrations), our Lenten practices allow us to be closer to Christ and to improve our life.

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

PALM SUNDAY & TRIDUUM LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SIGN-UP SHEETS

Please sign up TODAY for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Apr. 14 Thursday of the Lord's Supper

7:00 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
until 11:45pm

**Apr. 15 Friday
of the Passion of the Lord**

The Celebration of the Passion
3:00 pm

Apr. 16 Holy Saturday

2:00 pm – Blessing of Festive Food

The Resurrection of the Lord

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

8:00 pm

Apr. 17 The Mass of Easter Day

9:00 am 11:00 am



News from the Archdiocese of Regina

Indigenous Delegation to Rome

The Indigenous delegation going to Rome, is taking place from March 28 to April 1, 2022. We encourage the whole faith community to embrace this historic moment and prepare to stand in prayerful solidarity with all of those who will be meeting with the Holy Father so that this will be a true encounter on our journey toward reconciliation.

On March 28th as the encounter begins, in solidarity with the Indigenous Fire Keepers keeping the Sacred Fire in your region and across this land, we invite all of you to light a fire or a candle and to pray, wherever you may be: at home, at work, school, at church....

The time zone for Saskatchewan has been designated from 3:00 to 6:00 PM.

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 S0A 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

Rejoice!
Today is Lætare Sunday!



Bringing Home the Word

Living, Loving in the Here and Now

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

It is good that we are here—joined in community for Sunday worship, here, in this moment of prayer.

Our lives are so hectic and fast-paced that it's often hard to enjoy just being in the present moment with God. It's not just the pressure of work, but the added responsibilities of home. You know the routine...getting the kids to school; getting to work on time; leaving from work; running a few errands; preparing dinner; going back out to pick up the kids from practice; then back home for dinner, dishes, laundry, homework; and then finally to bed on time so you can get up early and start again.

But just stop! Take the time to enjoy the grace of the Eucharist, to rejoice in one another and savor Christ who reveals his love to you. Give yourself this gift. Each moment has power, poetry, and grace. Each instant is a gift from God, and each moment is an opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ. It's an occasion to return within ourselves and turn back to our Father who is eagerly waiting for us.

It's good to be here—not somewhere else, not in another time when we were happier, healthier, or life was easier and simpler. Right here, right now, right where God has you is where he is revealing his love. It may not be easy, but this is where God is, and it's good to reflect on the graces each moment presents.

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

PARISH FUNDRAISER

Friday, April 1st

2pm – 5pm

While quantities 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.



Standing up to corporate power in Honduras

The *People and Planet First* campaign is about helping communities stand up to corporate power. In Honduras, as in much of the Global South, corporations often threaten and criminalize activists who speak up against their abuses. The Lenca Indigenous leader Víctor Vásquez was imprisoned for fighting the corporate takeover of his people's ancestral territory. Development and Peace's partner, the Honduran Centre for the Promotion of Community Development (CEHPRODEC), helped free him from jail. Another partner, Caritas Cholteca, trains and accompanies community leaders in advocating for policies that respect human rights and the environment. Recently, they got mayoral election candidates to undertake to declare the municipality of Orocuina a mining-free zone if elected. Read more about these people's victories in our Mini-magazine at devp.org/lent/resources.

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)

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Sun. (27th): 1:00pm Sacrament Preparation
Beginning with Mass
- Mon. (28th): 9:00am CWL Quilting Bee
7:00pm Bible Study (lower level)
- Tues. (29th): 9:00am CWL Quilting Bee
- Sun. (3rd): 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.

Sacred Fire and Prayer Wave for Healing and Reconciliation
In Support of Indigenous Delegation to Rome – March 28 – April 1, 2022
Friends in the Lord, Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle

Proverbs 28:13 Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

This year has brought great sadness and shame to this land called Canada and to its Catholic faithful with the sweeping discoveries of unmarked graves raising awareness of our part in residential school history. These events have increased the discomfort of the Catholic faithful trying to reconcile their understanding of the Catholic faith and how the horrors of residential school experiences occurred under the care of its leaders.

The summer and fall of 2021 witnessed individual apologies from many dioceses involved in running residential schools across Canada, a formal apology by all Catholic bishops in Canada followed by a \$30M National Financial Pledge to support healing and reconciliation initiatives, and an announcement of Pope Francis' willingness to visit Canada.

This time of heightened awareness has potential to be a pivotal moment in the history of the Catholic church in Canada as Pope Francis hears directly from Indigenous Peoples in personal encounters with each of three distinct groups of delegates - First Nations, Metis, and Inuit – and in a final audience with all delegates together. We, the Catholic faithful, have an opportunity to be in spiritual solidarity with the delegation in Rome, by educating ourselves on the history of residential schools in Canada and by praying that Spirit may guide these grace-filled encounters.

We express our gratitude to you as you receive this invitation. We will pray that Our Lady of Guadalupe intercede with her Son to shower abundant graces among and between us, for the conversion and healing of hearts, as we continue our journey of truth and reconciliation.

In the Catholic church, light has always had a special significance because it represents Christ. The light signifies our prayer, which is offered in faith, entering the light of God. In Indigenous spirituality, the Sacred Fire starts a ceremony or sacred event; it is a sacred practice meant to make individuals feel open, grounded, and connected with people on Earth and those who have moved on.

On March 28, 2022, as the encounter begins, in solidarity with the Indigenous Fire Keepers keeping the Sacred Fire in your region and across this land, we invite all of you to light a fire or a candle and to pray. It is suggested each Diocese partner with Catholic Women's League of Canada, Knights of Columbus, and other groups to ensure commitment to continuous prayer across each region's prayer time.



“Who is this that comes forth like the dawn, as beautiful as the moon, as resplendent as the sun...?” Song 6:10 (Vg)

O Blessed Virgin, Our Lady of Guadalupe
Intercede for us with your Son
That we who live in this land,
Indigenous and non-Indigenous together
may experience healing and
reconciliation,
on a renewed journey for justice
and peace for our children.

Mother of the Church, pray for us.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle is a Catholic coalition of Indigenous people, bishops, clergy, lay movements and institutes of consecrated life, engaged in renewing and fostering relationships between the Catholic Church and Indigenous Peoples in Canada

www.ourladyofguadalupecircle.ca

YOUTH REFLECTION

"The Prodigal Child"

This Week...

The guilt from the days in Egypt is forgiven. Our God is a forgiving God. Jesus tells us the story about a family member who sinned and was greeted with presents and a party upon returning home. The prodigal wasn't even sorry - just merely hungry and tired and looking for a way to get basic needs met! But forgiveness is bountiful with [God]. We need that reconciliation. And it is waiting for us.

For Your Reflection

Which one are you most like, the "good" sibling who does the right thing and sits in judgment of the "bad" sibling? Or the "bad" sibling who does the wrong thing and comes home to partying and presents and a jealous "good" sibling? Why?

Have you ever been surprised by someone's willingness to forgive you? Have you ever felt the simple, patient compassion of a parent like the one in this story? What happened? What is your relationship like with that parent now?

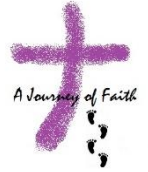
Excerpt from In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, 2004



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

