



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

March 28, 2021

**Palm Sunday of the
Passion of the Lord**

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:
By pre-registration only until further notice

CONTACT US

The Parish Office is open reduced hours, but the doors remain locked. Please phone ahead.
We continue to take the necessary precautions to keep our parishioners and employees safe & healthy.
You may phone/email the office Monday to Thursday between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

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

Pastor.....Fr. Louis Nguyen 306.782.0323 louis.yorkton@gmail.com

Parish Office Administrator.....Sandra Archer
Caretaker.....Mario Guerra

MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Mon. (29 th) | NO MASS |
| Tues. (30 th) | NO MASS |
| | 6:00pm Private Confessions until 8:30pm (2 Priests attending) |
| Wed. (31 st) | NO MASS |

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

(Pre-registration is required for each Mass/Service)

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Thurs. (1 st) | Thursday of the Lord's Supper 7:00pm +Tony Spykerman |
| Fri. (2 nd) | Friday of the Passion of the Lord The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord 3:00 pm |
| Sat. (3 rd) | Holy Saturday The Resurrection of the Lord At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night 8:00 pm |
| Sun. (4 th) | At the Mass of Easter Day 9:00am +Curtis Burant 11:00am Mass for the People |

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

WELCOME BACK!

Please follow these important notes:

- **Pre-registration for Saturday/Sunday Mass is required.** Online at www.stgerard.ca Monday morning to Thursday at 12 noon. Please note that confirmation of your request may be delayed.
- Each household must register separately.
- Masks are mandatory and are to be worn prior to entering the building. **Please arrive early.**
- *At least two-metres physical distance is to be observed at all times, even with masks on (masks are an additional measure of protection).*
- Please follow the instructions of the Hospitality Ministers (Ushers) and Father Louis.
- The following must stay home for the sake of the wider community:
 - ❖ People with COVID-19 symptoms, who live with someone with COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
 - ❖ Those who have travelled to/from a "hotspot", outside of the province or outside Canada within the last 14 days
 - ❖ Those who are waiting for COVID-19 test results



**Stay
Connected
Online!**

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, you empty yourself out in loving service to all people. Give me a selfless spirit that I may be of service to others.

- 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,

40 days of Lent is finished. This weekend we celebrate Palm Sunday, we celebrate Jesus entering Jerusalem as a gentle, humble bearer of Good News. With the entering of Jesus into Jerusalem we begin Holy Week, and then next weekend we celebrate the death and resurrection of the Lord. It is the most important celebration of the liturgical year.

In the first reading we hear the prophet Isaiah suffers in carrying out his mission, but he believes that God will not abandon him. Because of this belief, he is able to carry on his good works.

And in the second reading St. Paul explains for us that because Jesus takes our human condition on himself he accepts death on a cross. God the Father raises him up and makes him Lord of heaven and earth.

After these readings we hear the story of the Passion of the Lord. We listen; we immerse ourselves in the Passion in order to be with Him, to understand and to share, with him, in his suffering.

Jesus fulfills his mission not only by what he did, but especially by what was done to him - by his Passion. We have to be very clear about one thing: God the Father did not throw him to the enemies... Jesus offered his life in order to save us.

For the whole story of the Passion I just want to remind you:

- ❖ Jesus' Passion was no play-acting. It was real, and it was freely chosen. He suffered the pain of being let down by his people. He suffered the pain of being betrayed by one of his friends, Judah. He suffered fear and anguish in the garden, and he had no one to support him during his agony.
- ❖ By uniting our suffering to the suffering of Jesus, we can find peace. There is no loneliness, hunger, or oppression that have not been suffered by Jesus. There can be no human beings who are completely alone in their suffering since God, in and through Jesus, has become Emmanuel, God with us. The Passion of Jesus gives courage, hope and strength to all who suffer. It means we are not alone.
- ❖ The Passion shows us how Jesus responded to what was done to him. He took all the violence, transformed it and returned it as love and forgiveness. This was the victory of love over all the powers of destruction. In Him, there was nothing but love, even when they nailed his hands and feet to the cross. It helps us to think about that when we are going through hard times.

This week, take time to re-read the story of the Passion of the Lord. Pray and reflect on the suffering of Jesus in order that our sins could be forgiven. He is with you in your suffering. And He loves you above all else. Thank Jesus for giving His life in order to free us from sin.

Have a blessed Holy Week,

Fr. Louis Nguyen

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



PRIVATE CONFESSIONS

Tuesday, March 30th 6pm to 8:30pm

Two priests in attendance
No pre-registration required.

Please wear a mask AND maintain two metres between households at all times.

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Apr. 1 Thursday of the Lord's Supper**

7:00 pm

**Apr. 2 Friday
of the Passion of the Lord**

The Celebration of the Passion**

3:00 pm

The church will be open 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm for those unable to attend the 3pm Service. Veneration of the Cross, Reconciliation & Communion available.

Apr. 3 Holy Saturday

The Resurrection of the Lord

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night**

8:00 pm

Apr. 4 The Mass of Easter Day**

9:00 am 11:00 am

**** ALL MUST PRE-REGISTER BEGINNING
MON., March 29 until THURS., April 1
at 12 noon.** www.stgerard.ca**

THE PASCHAL FAST

In the Roman Rite, including Canada, Good Friday is a day of fasting and of abstinence from meat. Where possible, the Paschal Fast is continued through Holy Saturday.

The law of "abstinence from meat" binds those who are 14 and older, the law of "fasting" binds those from 18 to 59 years of age.



News from the CWL



C.W.L. Membership fees for 2021 are now due. The fee is \$30.00. If you haven't submitted your membership fee, please do so as soon as possible.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Apr. 2nd Good Friday attendance program
Apr. 7th Executive meeting - 7:00 pm
(Virtual or Chambers TBD)

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

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

My Gen Rally Update

March is always the month that our diocesan young church comes together to celebrate the "My Gen" Youth Rally. This year, My Gen will happen on Saturday May 29th and will be a hybrid of a live streamed event AND a gathered (in person) event at multiple host sites around the diocese. Communities interested in hosting approx. 15 young people and leaders at their parish facilities and grounds. The My Gen committee will provide leadership support for all rally sites. As always, all of these plans are contingent on health guidelines at that time. If your parish is interested in being a rally host site, please contact the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for further information. oyyam@archregina.sk.ca or call 306-352-1651.

Holy Week Livestream Schedule

Palm Sunday
9:00 AM
Holy Thursday
7:00 PM
Good Friday
3:00 PM
Easter Vigil
8:30 PM
Easter Sunday
9:00 AM

Livestream:

• archregina.sk.ca/live

Radio: Yorkton's 98.5 FM 'The Rock'

• Tune into: 98.5 FM
• <https://www.therock985.ca/listen-live>
• Radioplayer Canada App
• Max TV: Channel 839



Bringing Home the Word

Acceptance of the Passion

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

There is a sharp contrast between Jesus' and Peter's acceptance of Christ's passion. Both are afraid, but while Jesus faces and embraces, Peter hides and denies.

We understand Peter's gloomy darkness and identify with the confusion and weakness leading to his failure. Like us, he tries to follow Jesus, but at a safe distance. He wants to be close, but not too close. He wants to feel he hasn't abandoned him, to be there—but remains on the fringe. But following Jesus always leads to moments of truth. Jesus and life have a way of bringing us full circle to face our true selves. Are we in or out? How deep is our love? This time, Peter's love for Jesus fails. But like us, Jesus looks at him with understanding and gives him a chance to be honest, repent, and follow him once again.

Jesus' acceptance of his passion is our example. First, he suffers freely. He's not being forced into a fate he cannot escape. As a result, he is calm, self-possessed, in control of his heart, and patient. Second, he suffers peacefully without resentment. He isn't constantly recriminating against Judas, Peter, or John during his trial or flagellation. He doesn't seek blame or payback.

Not only is he not bitter or resentful, but he is full of compassion and focused on others: on the elderly women, his Mother, John the Apostle, forgiving his tormenters, and leading the good thief to heaven. Let's enter this holiest week following our Redeemer and imitating his example.

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STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Your mission is proving that a love for the earth, and for the things of the earth, is possible without materialism, a love without greed... I entreat you not to be turned by the call of vulgar strength, of stupendous size, by the spirit of storage, by the multiplication of millions, without meaning and without end. Cherish the ideal of perfection, and to that, relate all your work and all your movements. Though you love the material things of earth, they will not hurt you and you will bring heaven to earth and soul into things. - Rabindranath Tagore

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

Journey to Joy

By Kathleen M. Basi



I first noticed it at Thanksgiving several years ago when everyone was posting what-I'm-thankful-for lists. Counting my blessings only seemed to underscore the sadness I was feeling on behalf of the multitudes whose lives consisted of suffering: refugees, sick children, communities torn apart by racism, and worlds blown apart by gunfire and suicide bombs. I felt powerless—and at the same time deeply aware that I really wasn't trying very hard to make a difference, especially considering how much I have been given.

Opening ourselves to joy also sensitizes us to sorrow—and vice versa. The two go hand in hand.

Holy Week illustrates this in a profound way. In a handful of days, we travel from the bleakest stage of the Christian journey to its most glorious. In fact, the power of the latter depends upon the apparent hopelessness of the former.

If we want to live the joy of the resurrection to its fullest, we have to be willing to shine a light on the dark underbelly of our own lives and clean up our acts. To recognize the ways in which our actions—or lack thereof—contribute to the pain of the world. We need to be willing to acknowledge that, all too often, we're part of the problem.

But wait—didn't we just spend all of Lent doing exactly that? It's Easter now. Isn't it time to move beyond penance and focus on, you know...joy?

The potential for great good and for great evil resides within every heart, and the opportunity to choose comes to us every day, regardless of the season. Jesus didn't endure the Way of the Cross to give us a fifty-day vacation from examining our consciences. He went through it to show us that the pathway to the fullness of life passes through pain: through dying to our sins, our selfishness, the grudges we hold, and the preconceived lenses through which we view the world and the people in it.

To grieve for the suffering of others and acknowledge the ways in which our own failure to act can contribute to that suffering joins us to the heart of God. When we unite ourselves to the heart of God, we feel compelled to change—to act as God's hands and feet in the world. And it is through this action that we discover the full joy of the resurrection.

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THE PASSION READINGS

Each year we Christians celebrate the central mystery of our faith, the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, and each year our Jewish neighbours celebrate the Feast of Passover commemorating God's liberation and protection of the Jewish people in the Exodus from Egypt. The links between the two Feasts are profound. Easter, the Christian Feast of liberation, grew out of the Jewish Feast of the Passover. Jesus and his disciples, as faithful Jews, were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the great festival. It was in the context of this festival that Jesus' life drew to and end.

The importance of our Jewish heritage cannot be overemphasized. Pope Pius XI called us to remember that spiritually we are all Semites. Abraham, Sarah, Moses, the prophets, Ruth, Esther, Mary, the apostles, Paul: all these heroes and models of our faith are Jews. Historically and theologically, Jewish Christians are the nucleus of the universal Church.

As we read or meditate on the Passion accounts during Holy Week, we must be careful that we do not unwittingly or unwillingly carry away or transmit anti-Jewish or anti-Semitic impressions, especially with respect to the account of St. Matthew or St. John. Historically, these later accounts reflect first century conflicts between Jewish Christians and the synagogue over the identity of Jesus. Taken and used out of context, they have been responsible for great harm in relations between Christians and Jews throughout the history of the Church. Before reading these accounts (especially according to John) it would be well for us to recall that when the evangelist refers to "the Jews," we know he is not saying that all Jews, either of Jesus' time or our time, are responsible for his death. Pilate, along with some members of the Sanhedrin, cannot avoid their responsibility, but as Christians we must remember: "Christ, out of infinite love, freely underwent suffering and death because of the sins of all people, so that all might attain salvation. It is the duty of the Church, therefore, in its preaching to proclaim the cross of Christ as the sign of God's universal love and the source of all grace" (Vatican Council II, Declaration on the *Relations of the Church to Non-Christian Religions*, no. 4).

– ORDO, CCCB Publications

YOUTH REFLECTION

"The Crucifixion"

This Week...

To follow Jesus means to accept pain we can hardly bear. It means to humble ourselves to powerlessness. It means to keep on loving even when we are betrayed and abandoned. And it means to continue the celebration of life, even when death threatens.

For Your Reflection

- Jesus was in great agony and torture. He felt so alone, he even thought God had forsaken him. Have you even been so upset, and in such pain, that you, like Jesus, felt as if God had forgotten you? What happened?
- As children, we learned that Jesus died for our sins. What does that really mean? Why did Jesus have to die? Do you believe that Jesus dies again, every day, with the innocent victims of tragedy all over the world? Explain.

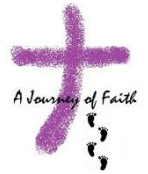
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter* - St. Mary's Press, 2004



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