

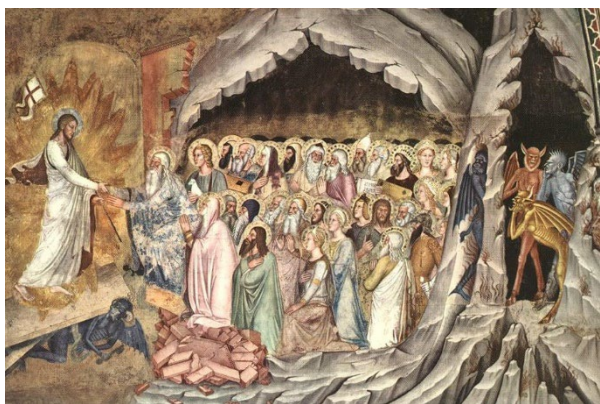


St. Gerard



Roman Catholic Parish





The Lord's descent into hell

Something strange is happening – there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep. The earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began. God has died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear.

He has gone to search for our first parent, as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow the captives Adam and Eve, he who is both God and the son of Eve. The Lord approached them bearing the cross, the weapon that had won him the victory. At the sight of him Adam, the first man he had created, struck his breast in terror and cried out to everyone: “My Lord be with you all”. Christ answered him: “And with your spirit”. He took him by the hand and raised him up, saying: “Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light”.

I am your God, who for your sake have become your son. Out of love for you and for your descendants I now by my own authority command all who are held in bondage to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened, all who are sleeping to arise. I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you; together we form only one person and we cannot be separated. For your sake I, your God, became your son; I, the Lord, took the form of a slave; I, whose home is above the heavens, descended to the earth and beneath the earth.

For your sake, for the sake of man, I became like a man without help, free among the dead. For the sake of you, who left a garden, I was betrayed to the Jews in a garden, and I was crucified in a garden.

See on my face the spittle I received in order to restore to you the life I once breathed into you. See there the marks of the blows I received in order to refashion your warped nature in my image. On my back see the marks of the scourging I endured to remove the burden of sin that weighs upon your back. See my hands, nailed firmly to a tree, for you who once wickedly stretched out your hand to a tree.

I slept on the cross and a sword pierced my side for you who slept in paradise and brought forth Eve from your side. My side has healed the pain in yours. My sleep will rouse you from your sleep in hell. The sword that pierced me has sheathed the sword that was turned against you.

Rise, let us leave this place. The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise. I will not restore you to that paradise, but I will enthrone you in heaven. I forbade you the tree that

was only a symbol of life, but see, I who am life itself am now one with you. I appointed cherubim to guard you as slaves are guarded, but now I make them worship you as God. The throne formed by cherubim awaits you, its bearers swift and eager. The bridal chamber is adorned, the banquet is ready, the eternal dwelling places are prepared, the treasure houses of all good things lie open. The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity.

An Ancient Homily by Early Church Fathers.

http://www.vatican.va/spirit/documents/spirit_20010414_omelia-sabato-santo_en.html

Prayer

Almighty, ever-living God, whose Only-begotten Son descended to the realm of the dead, and rose from there to glory, grant that your faithful people, who were buried with him in baptism, may, by his resurrection, obtain eternal life.

(We make our prayer) through our Lord.

(Through Christ our Lord.)

ST. GERARD PARISH HOLY MASS & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

April	Mon. 1 st		NO MASS
	Tues. 2 nd	7:00 pm	Mass +Peter Loster <i>Followed by a Special Devotion to St. Joseph</i>
	Wed. 3 rd	9:00 am	Mass +Gabrielle Hamilton <i>Followed by Divine Mercy Devotion</i>
	Thurs. 4 th	9:00 am	Mass +Gerald Farkus
	Fri. 5 th	9:00 am	Mass +Mildred Spelay

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

	Sat. 6 th	4:30 pm	<i>Divine Mercy Chaplet</i>
		5:00 pm	Mass for the People
	Sun. 7 th	8:30 am	<i>Divine Mercy Chaplet</i>
		9:00 am	Mass for the People
		10:30 am	<i>Divine Mercy Chaplet</i>
		11:00 am	Mass for the People

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

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, April 1st, 2024



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

April 7th, 2024

We will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet
prior to each Mass:

Saturday	April 6 th	4:30 pm
Sunday	April 7 th	8:30 am
Sunday	April 7 th	10:30 am

CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPTS

The 2024 charitable donation receipts are available for pick up at the Parish Office during regular office hours Monday to Thursday, 8am to 4pm (closed 12noon to 1pm). Thank you to all who contribute financially to our parish to support our good works!

Solemnity of the ANNUNCIATION



The Feast of the Annunciation is an important event in the Christian faith that marks the beginning of the Incarnation, when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The Annunciation is an occasion for Christians to reflect on Mary's faith and humility, and to follow her example of saying "fiat" or "yes" to God's call.

The Annunciation is narrated in the Gospel of Luke, where the Angel Gabriel appears to Mary, announcing that she has been chosen by God to bear a son. Mary is initially afraid, but the Angel reassures her, and she responds with the words "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

This momentous event is celebrated by Christians worldwide as the Solemnity of the Annunciation, which falls on March 25 each year. This day is a time for prayer and reflection, as well as for rejoicing in the gift of Jesus Christ, who came to save humanity. During the Mass, the faithful remember Mary's response to God's call and honor her as the mother of Jesus.

In 2024, because March 25 is in Holy Week, the Solemnity is moved to Monday, April 8. There will be Holy Mass at 7pm that day.





**St. Gerard Parish
Knights of Columbus Council
No. 2031**



The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, Family, Fraternal Service Organization that includes charitable service and financial aid to our communities, parishes, families and members. It strives to build the Catholic Church by developing the spiritual growth of themselves and their families, serving parishes, building communities, and by evangelizing all people according to the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

Icon by the hand of Elizabeth Bergeron. Based on a drawing by Alexandre Sobolev. Photograph by GrapheStudio

The next events for the Knights of Columbus are as follows:

The Knights of Columbus are so pleased to be bringing the Pilgrim Icon of St. Joseph to St. Gerard.

- April 7 Bingo – afternoon – 12.00
- April 10 Combined planning & general meeting - 7.00
- April 12-14 State Convention - Regina
- April 17 Parish Family Brunch

Following Holy Mass on Tuesday, April 2 at 7:00 PM, there will be a short special devotion to St. Joseph.

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.728.8664

Refreshments will follow.

More info: www.kofc-2031.ca

Everyone is welcome to join us and share this special time of prayer with St. Joseph, and fellowship with our parish family.

**St. Gerard Parish
Catholic Women’s League**



The Catholic Women’s League encourages us to live the life intended by Christ and exemplified by Mary.

Membership in the League is a gift that provides the opportunity to care for one another and dedicate ourselves to a life of faith, service, and social justice. It is a wonderful way to develop relationships and friendships with our CWL Sisters.

To learn more about the Catholic Women’s League please contact:

Deanna pell@sasktel.net or
Christine m.shuya@sasktel.net

The next General Meeting is Wednesday, April 3rd at 7:00 pm

*Here I Am Lord, Send Me:
Responding to Holy Moments*



**St. Gerard's
CWL Prayer Retreat**

April 13, 2024 @ St. Gerard Parish Hall

Arrival & Registration: 12:30
Retreat: 1:00 - 4:45 pm

**The regular 5:00 Mass will follow
for those who choose to attend**

Please pre-register by signing up in the welcome area of the church or emailing Deanna – pell@sasktel.net or Christine – m.shuya@sasktel.net

All ladies of the Parish and Region are more than welcome to attend

Free of Charge

SACRAMENTAL LIFE AT ST. GERARD

The Sacraments of Initiation

"The sacraments of Christian initiation - Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist - lay the foundations of every Christian life." (CCC 1212)

By Baptism, we share in Christ's death and resurrection. By Confirmation, we share in the gift of Pentecost. In Eucharist, we share in the food of heaven. This is why they are called sacraments of initiation - we are initiated into the community that holds the paschal mystery as its very life.

Baptism - *The First Sacrament of Initiation* - Through Baptism, God enables us to participate in his life in Jesus Christ and makes us his children. It is through this sacrament that we receive the Holy Spirit and become members of the People of God, of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. Baptism becomes our commitment to grow in this new life and to strive to acquire spiritual maturity. By baptism, God purifies us from sin.

Baptism is the sacrament of faith which has the Risen Christ as its source, and it is the offer of salvation for all people. Intimately linked to Confirmation and to Eucharist, Baptism is, with these two sacraments, Christian Initiation. The child is baptized in the faith of his/her parents, of his/her godparents and of the Church.

Baptisms are celebrated following Sunday Mass, or at another time. Parents and godparents engage in a series of preparatory sessions to enrich and support their role as primary teacher of their children. There are several opportunities during the year for preparation classes. Please contact the Parish Office to register for the next session.

Confirmation - *The Second Sacrament of Initiation* - In the Archdiocese of Regina, children prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation when they are in Grade 2. If your child has yet to be confirmed, please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible.

First Eucharist - *The Third Sacrament of Initiation* - Children who are in Grade 2 also prepare to receive their First Communion through the parish. Children will receive the sacrament of Confirmation followed by the sacrament of First Communion at a parish celebration. Watch the bulletin this fall for pre-registration dates!

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 the Parish Office.

The Sacraments of Healing

First Reconciliation - Preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (also known as Penance) for the first time is an exciting time. It is a time for focus on God's mercy, how we forgive amongst our family, friends, and community, and how we celebrate forgiveness. At St. Gerard Parish, once a child has received the Sacrament of First Eucharist, s/he will prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Watch the bulletin for program registration dates this fall!

Reconciliation - Parish Penitential Services are scheduled during Advent and Lent. All baptized Catholics should receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once each year and upon returning to the practice of the faith. At St. Gerard individual confessions take place one-half hour prior to daily Mass and by phoning the Parish Office to make an appointment.

Anointing of the Sick - Whenever someone is very or chronically ill or elderly, the reception of the Sacrament of Anointing is appropriate. Opportunities for receiving this sacrament are by contacting the Parish Office to make an appointment with Father Antony.

The Sacraments of Vocation

Matrimony - Couples preparing for Marriage participate in an extended preparation process. Please contact the Parish Office 12 months prior to the marriage date. In the Archdiocese of Regina, engaged couples are required to participate in a Marriage Preparation Program. These programs are offered in Regina, Saskatoon, and Muenster, and occasionally at St. Gerard!

Holy Orders - Please contact Father Parker Love, Vocations Director at 306.352.1651

FAMILY CONNECTION FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Gospel Reading

John 20.1-6

Mary of Magdala finds that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb.

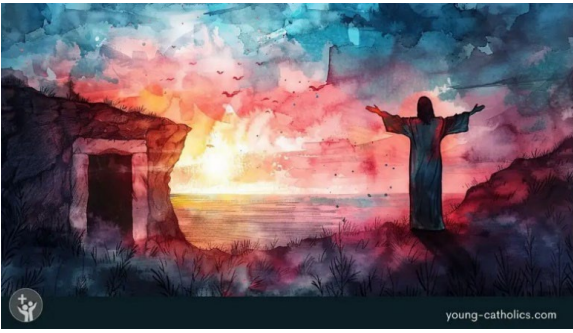
In the Easter Gospel we hear about how the disciples found the tomb empty three days after Jesus' death. We are also told that they do not yet understand the Scriptures or that Jesus had been raised from the dead. That understanding gradually unfolded for the disciples as they began to experience the risen Lord. Similarly, our understanding of Jesus' Resurrection unfolds for us throughout our lives. In the weeks ahead, we will hear how the first disciples moved from confusion, doubt, and skepticism to faith. Their experience can teach us how we too might receive this gift of faith from God.

Gather your family members and ask them to share what they know about the events that happened in the days after Jesus' crucifixion. Invite your family to imagine that they are among Jesus' first disciples. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:1-9. Reflect together on the Gospel with questions such as these: If you had been among the first disciples who heard that the stone had been removed from Jesus' tomb and that Jesus' body was no longer there, what would you think? What did Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved think had happened? Recall that this experience is the first indication Jesus' disciples have that he is risen. Throughout the Easter season, we will learn more about how the disciples came to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

Pray together using today's psalm, Psalm 118:

**This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad!**

YOUTH CONNECTION FOR EASTER SUNDAY



Easter stands at the pinnacle of the Christian liturgical year, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, a cornerstone of faith promising redemption and eternal life to humanity. At the heart of this jubilant time is Easter Sunday, a day brimming with the joy of the Risen Lord, which also begins the Easter Octave—eight days of unbroken celebration, each treated as though they are one and the same day.

This period invites us into deep reflection and joy over the life-giving mysteries of Christ's triumph over death.

The Octave of Easter is an extended season of joy, underscoring the central truth of Christian faith: Christ's victory over death and sin. Throughout this time, the faithful engage in daily Masses that resonate with Easter's hopeful and renewing message, culminating on Divine Mercy Sunday. This special day highlights God's endless mercy and love.

Easter and the ensuing Octave are not just remembrances of a past event but are invitations into a more profound, personal encounter with the Risen Christ today. This season ushers in a time of new beginnings and divine grace, offering a pathway to spiritual renewal and deeper connection with the essence of our faith.

young-catholics.com



Thank you to all who served during the Season of Lent, Holy Week and the Sacred Paschal Triduum: Sacristans, Hospitality Ministers, Altar Servers, Lectors, Ministers of Holy Communion, Music Ministers, Mass Coordinators, and anyone else who helped in anyway.



May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year bring peace and happiness to you and those you hold most dear.



*And may Christ, Our Risen Saviour,
always be there by your side
to bless you most abundantly and be your loving guide.*

- Author Unknown



Easter blessings to you and your family
from Father Antony, Sandra, Glenn and St. Gerard Parish Council.

