



# St. Gerard

## Roman Catholic Parish

**March 5, 2023**  
**Second 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](http://www.stgerard.ca) | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: [office@stgerard.ca](mailto: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](mailto:louisyorkton@gmail.com)  
306.621.8068 Emergencies  
Parish Office Administrator..... Sandra Archer 306.782.2449 [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca)  
Caretaker.....

### MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (6<sup>th</sup>) NO MASS  
Tues. (7<sup>th</sup>) **9:00am** James MacKenzie & Linda Beebee  
Wed. (8<sup>th</sup>) 10:00am **ASPEN VILLA**  
+Ed Pilon  
7:00pm +Al & +Rita Herchuk  
Thurs. (9<sup>th</sup>) 9:00am +Leonard Sharkey  
2:30pm **LAKESIDE MANOR**  
Denis Dierker  
Fri. (10<sup>th</sup>) **12:00pm** Raymond Chastkazich  
Sat. (11<sup>th</sup>) 9:00am Marianne Dierker  

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5:00pm +Marge Slugoski  
6:30pm Mass following Sacrament Preparation program  
Sun. (12<sup>th</sup>) **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
9:00am Mass for the People  
11:00am +Helen Rupchan

### 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.

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

**Stay Connected Online!**  
[www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca)



So that the world may know you by our words and actions, we pray – Lord, let us be like you.

-The Redemptorists

## Sunday Connection

### First Reading

*Genesis 12.1-4a*

God promises Abram a great blessing

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 33.4-5,18-20,22*

God's mercy is upon those who trust in God.

### Second Reading

*2 Timothy 1.8b-10*

Through God's grace we are called to holiness.

### Gospel Reading

*Matthew 17.1-9*

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain the presence of Peter, James and John.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

For the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert to his Transfiguration. Each year on the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday of Lent each year, we hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The story of Jesus' Transfiguration is told in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In each of those Gospels, the Transfiguration follows Jesus' first prediction of his death and his teaching about the costs of discipleship. Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory, his Resurrection.

On a mountain in today's reading, a voice affirms that Jesus is God's Son in words reminiscent of the voice at Jesus' baptism. In addition, the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the mountain connects this story with God's relationship to the people of Israel. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word.

The Transfiguration occurs in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples: Peter, James, and John. In Matthew's Gospel, those disciples are among the first whom Jesus calls. The three men are identified as an "inner circle" among Jesus' disciples when Jesus asks them to accompany him to the Garden of Gethsemane just before his arrest.

## FAMILY CONNECTION

As a family, talk about some of your times of highs and lows. How have you been able to use the good times and experiences to sustain you in the difficult ones? Jesus' Transfiguration may have been an event from which Peter, James, and John drew courage when they faced the difficult events of Jesus' Passion.

Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 17:1-9. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the good times and experiences that your family has had together. Pray that your family will use these experiences to sustain you during times of difficulty. Close by praying today's psalm, Psalm 33.

[www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection](http://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection)



### My Prayer for Lent

Jesus, thank you for  
always being with me.  
Please teach me how to  
hear you in my heart, and  
how to love others like you do.

I love you, Jesus.

Amen

### FAMILY LENT ACTIVITY

#### "Family Kindness and Sharing"

On slips of paper, write random acts of kindness, such as give a compliment, say hi to an old friend, carry someone's heavy load. Present each family member with a slip of paper as he or she leaves in the morning. Invite each family member to perform the kindness without seeking recognition. Afterward, talk together about what happened. Pray with one another that your kindnesses will be passed on throughout Lent and beyond.

**There will be a Lenten Lunch served each Friday after the 12 noon Mass. Free-will offering appreciated.**

**Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!**



Eucharistic Holy Hour Devotion  
at 6pm (prior to 7pm Tuesday Mass)

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM

The “Strong Foundations” Marriage Preparation Program will begin March 19 (for six weeks). Please contact the Parish Office to register.

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday, March 7, 2023 – 7pm**  
St. Gerard Parish Hall

- To approve the minutes from the 2022 Annual General Meeting
- To appoint an accounting firm for 2023
- To approve the revised Constitution and Bylaws (Amended March 2023)

*All parishioners are encouraged to attend.*

The 2022 Annual Report is available in the Welcome Area, and online at [www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca)

### Do you know ....

At the first Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting following the election:

- the elected members discuss the needs of the parish and seek the means to meet these needs by bringing forth the ministries required? (*This is the reason why there are no committees listed on the Nomination Form*).
- the elected members decide amongst themselves which member will be the chairperson of a particular committee? (*This is the reason why there are no committees listed on the Nomination Form*).
- the Pastor may appoint two Members at Large (one-year term) to ensure that the Parish Pastoral Council is representative of the various dimensions of our parish family?

### And....

- a committee chairperson will appoint a vice-chairperson and secretary to assist in conducting the business of the committee?
- a committee vice-chairperson, subject to the approval of the PPC, shall represent the committee chairperson in his/her absence at a PPC meeting?



### News from the Knights of Columbus



Mar. 8 Combined Meeting – 7pm  
Mar. 11 Bingo - 5pm  
Mar. 19 Bingo - 12 noon  
Mar. 23 Special Needs Lunch – Parish Hall

*If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.728.8664. [www.kofc-2031.ca](http://www.kofc-2031.ca)*



### The Courage to Create Hope

To delegates at the 4th World Meeting of Popular Movements, Pope Francis said, “...you have the ability and the courage to create hope where there appears to be only waste and exclusion.” These are the words that inspired the choice of “Create Hope” as a five-year guiding theme at Development and Peace — Caritas Canada. The courage to Create Hope is rooted in actions big and small. For to drive away anguish and despair, it is best to act. Every action we take has a positive effect on us, our neighbours, our great human family, our children and their descendants. What will you do this Lent to Create Hope? Join our campaign at [devp.org/lent](http://devp.org/lent)

### BEAR WITNESS TO CANADA'S PAST AT THE WITNESS BLANKET

The **Witness Blanket** at the RCMP Heritage Centre in Regina holds stories of the residential school experiences from survivors across the country. Bearing witness means taking responsibility for the future, and by visiting the Witness Blanket, you can actively engage in the reconciliation process. View the blanket individually or as a group, with or without a tour guide. Admission is free for Indigenous people and survivors. A small fee applies to non-Indigenous visitors. Bookings can be made through Educational Programming Coordinator Debbie LeDressay at [deb.ledressay@rcmphc.com](mailto:deb.ledressay@rcmphc.com) Free parking is available on-site. Learn more at [www.witnessblanket.ca](http://www.witnessblanket.ca)

### THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues. (7<sup>th</sup>): 7:00pm- **Annual General Meeting**  
(Parish Hall)  
Wed. (8<sup>th</sup>): 7:00pm- K of C Combined Meeting  
Sat. (11<sup>th</sup>): 5:00pm- Sacrament Prep Program  
(Parish Hall)

Today's readings don't seem Lenten. They are uplifting, not penitential. God makes promises to Abram of extraordinary good fortune, political protection, and international status. The man must have been thrilled. Paul reminds Timothy that the life of holiness and blessing to which we have been called is a gift from God; always available to us, and not a reward for any good works we might have performed. And then we hear of Jesus' transfiguration in the sight of a few disciples. They were so overwhelmed by that spectacular experience they wanted to pitch tents so they wouldn't have to leave the place. How are such wondrous ideas penitential?

While God's marvelous blessings are free gifts, we are expected to respond to them appropriately, to accept them and use them for the common good. Abram's blessings were not simply for him and his family. "All the families of the earth will find blessing in you" (Genesis 12:3). His blessings would open a door to others— other nations, other ethnic groups, other religious communities. Abram was not simply chosen by God. He was chosen so that others might be blessed through him.

Timothy was instructed to "bear your share of hardship for the gospel" (2 Timothy 1:8). The blessing might be a gift, but it carried the responsibilities of discipleship. The voice from heaven told the disciples, "Listen to him" (Matthew 17:5). Being chosen by God or having seen the glory of Jesus calls for a change of mind and heart. This change isn't easy to accomplish. It is the reason for penance.

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### **“Fasting: A Way to Turn to God” by Kristopher W. Seaman**

In the last five years, five weddings have occurred within my family: brothers, nieces, and a nephew have married. Each family was deeply grateful for the wedding, but remarked that the detailed preparations were demanding. Their preparations had to do with the ritual (the wedding ceremony) but also with processes that aimed to help the couple sustain a spiritual, holy, and deeply loving relationship.

You might wonder how preparing for a wedding relates to fasting. When fasting is viewed as a preparation, it is seen in a more spiritual manner than simply “giving something up.” Some persons may view fasting as giving something up, and in a negative way, view the process as a trial. However, throughout the Church's history, fasting has been a part of the preparation for both initiation (the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) as well as for repentance. Even today in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the elect (those persons who are seeking Christian initiation) join with the Christian community—or rather, we join them—in fasting during the liturgical season of Lent in preparation for their initiation at the Paschal Vigil on Holy Saturday night. Fasting in this regard has two characteristics: preparation and penitence.

During Lent the elect and those already baptized as Christian mark the period with fasting. This period prepares the elect for life as a Christian, and those already Christian are reminded that they, too, are always on the journey of conversion, that is, of turning away from all that is not of God, what we call sin, and turning toward God's call and presence, which heals us

of sin and brings us into a deeper life of holiness. In an ancient liturgical rite, this was ritually marked by the elect turning toward the west, the direction of sin, evil, the Devil, and spitting while renouncing these very things. Then, turning to the east, the rising sun, that is the Son, Christ Jesus, they would affirm their faith in God the Father, Christ Jesus, who rose to take away sin, and the Spirit, who cleanses us of sins and brings us into deeper union with the Father through Christ Jesus.

Lent, then, is when the parish community, and those seeking to become disciples within the Church, begin a period of purifying themselves so that God might liberate them for a deeper union with God. At the same time, all of us are called to deepen our life of holiness, both within the Church and during our daily lives, to follow God's invitation to be holy in the world.

When fasting is viewed in a fuller context of preparation, it is not simply giving something up, but rather, the turning away from all that fractures our relationships with God, the Church, our families, and all humankind. Through the spiritual practice of fasting, then, we express our desire not to be held under the power of things and turn our attention toward growing in God's call to holiness. During this Lent, we can ask ourselves how our fasting connects to preparing ourselves for deeper holiness and as a way of repentance, of turning from sin toward God's gracious and merciful presence. Fasting, then, is part of our process for deepening our discipleship.