



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

May 16th, 2021

The Ascension 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 louisyorkton@gmail.com

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (17 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (18 th)	7:00pm +Jenna Hunt
Wed. (19 th)	9:00am +Joan Kormos
Thurs. (20 th)	9:00am +Art Scherr
Fri. (21 st)	9:00am +Ferdinand Thiele
Sat. (22 nd)	9:00am Rose Marchinko
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	5:00pm +Gabriel Macalino
	7:00pm Agnes Zubach
Sun. (23 rd)	PENTECOST SUNDAY
	9:00am Mass for the People
	11:00am +Horace & +Mildred Jackson
	5:00pm

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

- **EVERYONE** must pre-register for Saturday/Sunday Mass. Online at www.stgerard.ca beginning Monday morning until all seats are reserved or until Thursday at 12 noon (whichever comes first.)
- Each household must register separately
- **Maximum 30** people may attend Mass
- Members of the same household may sit together at the marked seating
- At least two-metres separation is required between households at all times, even with masks on. **Please arrive early.**
- 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 Saskatchewan or outside Canada within the last 14 days
 - ❖ Those who are waiting for COVID-19 test results, or have someone in their household waiting for test results

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



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



Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Risen Lord, your death, resurrection, and ascension are good news for us. Help me to share this message of hope with all people.

- From *Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost*
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

A Note from Deacon Dave Hudy

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate the feast of the Ascension of our Lord into heaven, yet it seems that a good part of the focus of our readings has to do with the work the rest of us have to do before we join Jesus in Heaven. In the first reading the disciples are asked “Why do you stand looking up to heaven?” It’s as if to say, “don’t just focus on what will happen in heaven, there’s plenty to do here on earth in the meantime”. One of our second readings tells us about the gifts that God has given to us, each of us has some sort of gift, it may be great, it may seem small. But, all our gifts can become great if we allow God to guide us in how we use them. The Gospel makes it clear, we have a mission to continue Jesus’ work, we are called to “proclaim the Good News to the whole creation”. And, the Gospel adds it’s own Good News, God will be there with us to help us spread the Good News guiding us with signs and miracles. God may want nothing more than our approval and cooperation.

The late Father Bob Bedard who was the founder of the Companions of the Cross religious order was considered to be an expert in parish renewal back in the 1980’s. In 1984 he was called upon to speak at parishes across Canada, mainly on the topic of parish renewal. In September of that year Father Bob was assigned to a very quiet, lackluster parish in Ottawa. Here was the perfect chance for Father Bob to practice the evangelizing that he was talking about, but he felt that God was calling him to hold back and keep a low profile. It didn’t seem right, Father Bob Bedard was a leader in evangelizing and parish revitalization, but, here in this parish God didn’t want him to do anything except lay low and relax. Then God let Father Bob know that He had a vision for the parish and that God wanted Father Bob’s permission and cooperation in instituting that new vision in whatever way God wished. Not only that, but it seemed like God wanted permission from the parishioners, as well, to allow God to lead the parish revitalization. One of the questions that needed to be asked was, “Are you satisfied with the life of the Church, of this parish and of your own families?” Another question was, “Do you think God is happy with the Church, this parish and the situations in your families?” The obvious answer to these questions was a resounding “no”. The next question was, “Do you think God has the power to change things for the better?” Of course the answer was “yes” to that one and to the next one which asked people if they were willing to let God take control of the parish.

Then, the parish waited just as Father Bob Bedard had been waiting. And, then, slowly, good things began to happen! There seemed to be a new holiness at Mass, and people could feel the sanctity. One person who hadn’t been to Mass for 11 years came and couldn’t stop crying. This person cried before Mass and right through to the end! The whole parish began to come alive, people were coming back to church. Father Bob said that he really had nothing to do with the revival and could never have envisioned what would happen.

There is a lesson here for all of us who seek to spread the Good News to others. Don’t leave God out of it by having our own agenda, instead let God call the agenda. And follow God’s leading, always in a spirit of prayer and humility. Another lesson, I think, is to never discount the holiness of the Mass or the power of the Mass to bring about change in peoples’ hearts!

Have a blessed week!

Deacon Dave

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



- 30 minutes before and after Daily Mass (Tuesday – Friday)
- Saturdays at **8:30 am** or by appt.

May is MARIAN MONTH and REVERENCE FOR LIFE MONTH



The Knights of Columbus
will lead the
Rosary Prayer
Mondays at 5:30pm
during the month of May.
Everyone welcome! (Max. 30)

Reverence for Life Prayer

O Mary, to you do we entrust the cause of life.

Look down O Mother upon the vast number of babies not allowed to be born, on the poor whose lives are made difficult, on those who are victims of brutal violence, on the elderly and sick killed by indifference or misguided mercy.

We ask for the grace to accept Gospel of Life as a gift ever new, and the courage to bear witness to it.

To the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life.

Amen!

LIFE IS A GIFT WEBINAR

The Reverence for Life Commission is hosting a panel discussion entitled "Life is a Gift" on Wednesday, May 19th, at 7:00 PM CST. Our speakers include Mary Deutscher-Heilman from the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS); Sister Avelina Joseph, Sisters of Life; Jose Argerami, Jenna Daly, and Sharon Martorana from Birthright; and Scott Hayward from Right Now. Our presenters will seek to reaffirm the value of human life, its sacredness and call us to respect, protect, heal, love, and serve every human life (c.f. EV. 5). There will be an opportunity for questions from the audience. **For more information or to register, please email mqurash@archregina.sk.ca**



News from the Knights of Columbus



- May 8th - 16th Novena for Life
- May 9th - 16th March for Life www.marchforlife.ca
- May 15th-16th Mary's Meals promotion
- May 25th Articles for "The Word" due

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

Mary's Meals is a recently-born charity with a simple mandate and a low overhead. The mandate is to provide one good meal per day to children in their place of education in the poorest countries of the world. The food is prepared by local volunteers and is purchased from local farmers, thus helping local economies. It's a simple plan and the plan is working! Although Mary's Meals is less than twenty years old, it's already feeding over 1.6 million children! Many children are attending school who would not be if it were not for the meals they are receiving.



Mary's Meals was started by a Scotland native, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow in response to a famine in Malawi, Africa in 2002. Magnus felt a call to get involved in helping others after a pilgrimage to Medjugorje and he is still very involved in Mary's Meals.

The Knights of Columbus will be offering more information about Mary's Meals at Masses at St. Gerard's this weekend. They ask you to please consider supporting this worthy cause.

ASCENSION PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus Christ,

Right before your Ascension into heaven you told your apostles to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth upon receiving the Holy Spirit.



May I be similarly inspired to spread your Gospel message in word and deed, according to your will for me.

And may I do so prudently and joyfully, with your help, your guidance, and your grace!

And remembering this glorious event, help me to seek what is above, Heaven, where you are seated at the right hand of God the Father! Amen.



Bringing Home the Word

Sent to be Missionaries

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The beginning of the Book of Acts presents a summary of the life of Christ and. How he called and taught the apostles in the Holy Spirit. After his resurrection, Christ kept the apostles in Jerusalem, where they prayed together with the Virgin and awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit which would give them power to witness to him beyond the city and into the outlying countries and regions, just as the Gospel reading commands.


This Spirit given to them by Christ is a spirit of mission and witness. When Jesus was finished speaking, when his revelation had finished, he was taken to heaven. And the apostles were left standing there, looking up after him.

That looking up can be interpreted as a longing for Jesus' presence that was no longer in human form. Things had radically changed. Jesus' mission had finished, and now theirs was beginning. Their situation is the same as ours. We are sent on a mission!

An essential element of being Christian is to understand that we are sent into the world to build Christ's kingdom. We are his missionaries, his representatives. He counts on us to go into the world and bring his message to all his beloved children just as he did—with preaching, testimony, and love. Jesus doesn't send us to be comfortable, professionally successful, and wealthy. He sends us to be missionaries!

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GIVING TO YOUR PARISH

Thank you to those who are able to contribute by one of the following methods:

Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)

After downloading the [Pre-Authorized Giving Form](#), please complete it, attach a void cheque, & mail it to:

St. Gerard Parish
125 Third Ave N
Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

Interac e-Transfer

- 1 Log into your online banking account.
- 2 Find **e-Transfer** and add giving@stgerard.ca to your recipient list.
- 3 Enter the desired amount.
- 4 A question, answer, or password is not required by St. Gerard Church, however it may be required by your financial institution. If so, please email the question and answer to giving@stgerard.ca with your name, mailing address and telephone number so that we can ensure your contribution is recorded properly.

If you have an envelope number, your donation will be reflected in your annual charitable donation receipt. All others will receive a receipt by mail, so PLEASE include your mailing address in the follow-up email. Thanks!

Mail envelopes to the church

You may mail cheques (not cash) to:

St. Gerard Parish
125 Third Ave N
Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

May 16 to 24th is **Laudato Si' Week**, the crowning event of the Special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year, and a celebration of the great progress the whole Church has made on its journey to ecological conversion.

Every day there will be speakers, online events, prayer services and more.

You are invited to sign up at <https://laudatosiweek.org> to join the celebration, learn and share as we journey toward Care for Creation.

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues. (18th): 7:30pm- Liturgical Committee Meeting
(Parish Hall)

YOUTH REFLECTION

"The God of Every Nation"

This Week...

In every nation, the people who love are doing the work of God. No one country is better than another. We are called to love each other regardless of which nation we call home.

For Your Reflection

Gang-related violence is becoming a concern all over. In Jesus' and Peter's world, the two big "gangs" were the Jews and the Gentiles. Jesus started building bridges between the two groups, and Peter and the other disciples continue the work. At first, it was difficult for most Jews who grew up thinking themselves superior to Gentiles to live with them as equals and as friends.

- Is there a group of people you feel superior to? a group you feel inferior to? How many friends do you have who are Native [Canadian]? African [Canadian]? Hispanic [Canadian]? Asian [Canadian]? European [Canadian]?
- Is there racial tension where you live and attend school? In [Canada], everyone is supposed to be treated equally. Do you believe this is what happens? Why or why not?
- Gangs are not formed only along racial lines. Gangs or cliques can form in any community. Sometimes athletes associate only with other athletes; sometimes actors and musicians hang out together; sometimes people with high incomes socialize only with people in the same income bracket. Are there cliques in your school? Are some groups seen as superior to others? What is the social structure? Why do you think it exists? What can be done about it?

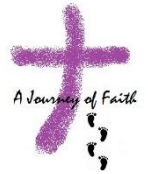
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle A for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter* St. Mary's Press, 2012



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