



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

May 29th, 2022

The Ascension
of the Lord

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 SCHEDULE

Mon. (30 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (31 st)	7:00pm +Russell Boychuk
Wed. (1 st)	9:00am +Marge Slugoski
Thurs. (2 nd)	2:30pm GLADSTONE SENIORS' RES <i>Postponed until 06.08.2022</i> 7:00pm Dan & Brenda Dierker
Fri. (3 rd)	9:00am MASS AT AMPO (Madge Lake) 7:00pm +Marge Slugoski
Sat. (4 th)	9:00am Miles & Christine Shuya <hr/> 5:00pm +Art Scherr
Sun. (5 th)	PENTECOST SUNDAY 9:00am Mass for the People 11:00am +Russell Griffith

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.



Rosary Prayer Mondays at 5:30pm
during the month of May,
led by the Knights of Columbus



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 resurrection and ascension give witness to God's power. May my life bear witness to God's love, compassion, forgiveness, and peace.

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

A Note from Your Pastor

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This weekend we celebrate The Ascension of the Lord. The Father raises Jesus up in glory, and now in the glorious presence of his Father, he continues to act through the Holy Spirit and through his followers. In the Gospel, the Risen Lord gives his disciples a mission and promise to send the Holy Spirit to them. They all return to Jerusalem with joy, to await the Holy Spirit. Luke helps us to know that the ascension of the Lord starts the Church's mission.

The meaning of the feast is expressed in the second reading. I invite you to read it again: *“God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”* (Ephesians 1.20-23)

And here are some of what we can see on this feast day:

1. On the Feast of the Ascension we celebrate the glorification of Jesus. He suffered and died now reigns in glory at the right hand of the Father. We should be aware that it wasn't the suffering as such that earned him that glory, it was his life - a life of service and self-sacrifice even to death. He didn't seek his own glory, but the glory of his Father.
2. After seeing Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples returned to Jerusalem with joy. It is because now they are convinced that their master is alive! All of this shows them the goodness of God, who makes all things work for the good of those who place their trust in him. He brings good out of evil, life out of death, and glory out of pain and suffering.

There are times in our lives when we may find ourselves going down into sadness and loneliness. We must remember that we are not alone. The Risen Lord journeys with us, and he knows all about human suffering. He is so close to us. His ascension also shows us the goal of our earthly journey. We live in the hope that the words of Jesus will come true for us: “where I am, you too shall be”.

3. Before leaving his disciples Jesus commissioned them to preach the Gospel to the whole world. In order to help them to carry out that mission he promised to send them the Holy Spirit.

My dear sisters and brothers, the task of preaching the Gospel to the world now depends on us. We are Christ's witnesses. It is a great privilege but a heavy duty. However, we can rely on the help of the Holy Spirit.

There are two different kinds of witnesses: the witness of words (by professing of our faith) and the witness of deeds (by giving witness by actions) and we all know that nowadays people want to see the Gospel in action. Sermons are effective, but doing in the Christian way is much more powerful.

The Ascension of Christ gives us the impression that Jesus' life and work on earth had ended. As his followers, you and I, must continue his work on earth. We, by the virtue of baptism and confirmation are called upon to bear witness to the faith we received. We do not have to go to a distant land to bear witness. A housekeeper can be a witness at home and in her neighborhood; an office worker can be a witness in his/her office; a factory worker can be a witness in his/her factory; a police officer can be a witness in society by maintaining law and order. Even a high school or college student can be a witness at school. To do things for the love of God and for the service of his people, that is apostolic work.

That is what I would like to share with you this weekend. We will continue to reflect and pray that we are truly witnesses of the Lord in our daily life.

Have a wonderful weekend with abundance of God's blessings.

Fr. Louis Nguyen



Are you planning a marriage in 2022? Congratulations!!

Please contact the Parish Office before the end of June to make arrangements to meet with Father Louis.



Graduation Blessing

As your classes and grading are now complete, may you strive toward excellence in all you do.

As the speeches conclude, may your voices rise up to pronounce justice and peace in the world.

As the fanfares cease, may you sing of joy, even in the dark and lonely places.

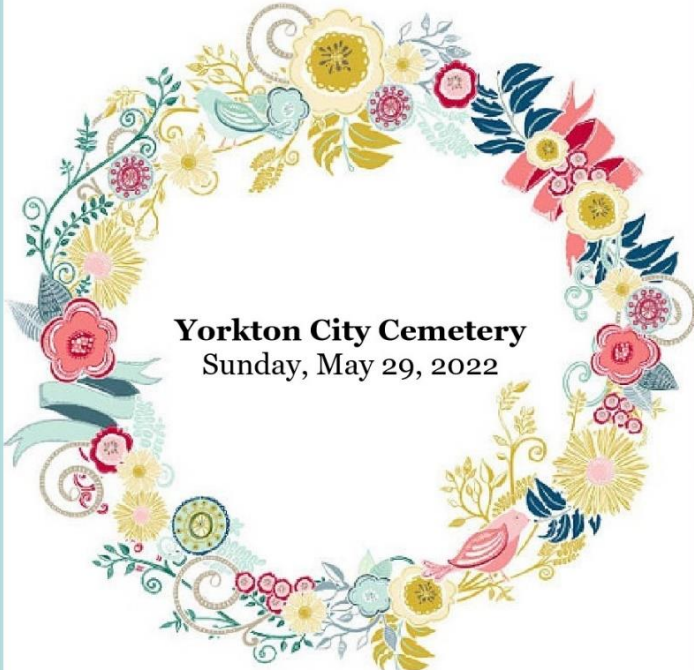
As the applause quiets, may you celebrate and lift up those around you.

As you graduate today, may your achievements grow and cause growth in your communities.

And may we all know of the overwhelming blessings of the One who created all things.

*Congratulations to the Sacred Heart High School
Graduation Class of 2022!*

Blessing of the Graves



Yorkton City Cemetery
Sunday, May 29, 2022

If your loved one is buried at the cemetery, please meet at the main gate at 1:00 pm. There will be a Prayer Service for all in attendance, and then Father Louis will bless the grave of your loved one.



News from the CWL



Garage Sale Meeting A decision was passed at the last CWL meeting to have a garage sale on Thursday, September 8 & Friday, September 9. An organizational meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 1st at 7 pm in the CWL room. Many volunteers are required to set up and work the sale. If the response to help is lacking, we will have no choice but to cancel the sale. This meeting is open all volunteers. Please mark your calendar and attend this meeting on June 1st.

CWL BBQ & Social All CWL members and ladies of the parish are invited to a Social & BBQ Supper on Wednesday, June 15. Social hour 4:30 - 5:30 pm with supper at 5:30 pm, followed by presentation of years of service pins. If you are attending, please sign your name and telephone number on the sign-up sheet in the welcome area. Also there is a sign-up sheet if you can bring a salad or a dessert. The cost is a free will offering to help the people in Ukraine.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Bingos have been cancelled until further notice.

June 8 General Meeting @ 7pm

June 12 Year-end Barbeque @ 4pm

*If you are going to attend please contact Wayne:
wex13@sasktel.net or text/phone 306.783.7380*

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

The Knights of Columbus will be conducting a fundraising blitz for **Mary's Meals** on the weekend of June 18 - 19th. This will be the second year that our parish has been involved in helping this organization. **Mary's Meals** is a charity that was born in 2002, it has a very low operating budget, most of its work is done by volunteers! Yet, it is presently providing meals for over **two million school children** in 19 of the world's poorest countries. Feel free to stop by our information table. Pick up a pamphlet with instructions on how to donate. Or you can drop off a cheque made out to Mary's Meals Canada at the information table as well. Thank you!

Community is Heart Calling to Heart

Friendship, marriage, family, religious life, and every other form of community is solitude greeting solitude, spirit speaking to spirit, and heart calling to heart. It is the grateful recognition of God's call to share life together and the joyful offering of a hospitable space where the re-creating power of God's Spirit can become manifest. Thus all forms of life together can become ways to reveal to each other the real presence of God in our midst.

(continued on page 4)



Bringing Home the Word **+**

Jesus Awaits Us

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

In the Apostles' Creed we pray, "He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father." Jesus lived forty days in his glorified body after the resurrection, but at the end he rose into heaven where he awaits each of us. It was planned all along that he who came down from heaven would return there. "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man" (John 3:13).

The amazing truth is that he has opened heaven for us, cheering on each of us to join him forever! "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be" (John 14:3). So we're not only striving to get to heaven, but Jesus is there interceding with his power for an ongoing outpouring of his Holy Spirit upon each of us (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 667).

Imagine Jesus as your intercessor in heaven, pleading your case as a brother before our loving Father! If God is for us, who can be against us?

He is also there inaugurating his messianic kingdom. He told Pilate that his kingdom wasn't of this world. He has now taken the throne of his kingdom and will draw all peoples to himself. You and I will become witnesses to this kingdom with no end.

So, let's live with newfound confidence. Jesus is in heaven today interceding for us, inaugurating his kingdom, and preparing our eternal home.

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(continued from page 3)

Community has little to do with mutual compatibility. Similarities in educational background, psychological makeup, or social status can bring us together, but they can never be the basis for community. Community is grounded in God, who calls us together, and not in the attractiveness of people to each other... The mystery of community is precisely that it embraces all people, whatever their individual differences may be, and allows them to live together as brothers and sisters of Christ and sons and daughters of his heavenly Father.

- Nouwen, Henri J.M. (2017).

You are the Beloved. Convergent Books.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Countdown to Pentecost

Jesus told his followers they were witnesses to great events. They saw him die. And they saw him risen to new life. They would also see the Good News spread throughout the world. Words of change and forgiveness to all people.

There was a difference between the two set of events. The death and resurrection were out of the followers' hands. That was God's work. But spreading the Good News was in their hands. They could participate in God's will. With the power of the Spirit, they could tell others about God's love.

Jesus calls us to be witnesses of the Good News, just like the followers. We are to spread God's love. Sometimes in word. Sometimes in action. To help your family reflect on their commission as Christians, create a week calendar that counts down the time from Ascension and Pentecost. Each day, have your family members record things they have said or done to spread God's love. This is a great way to prepare for the celebration of the Spirit, God's presence that gives us the power to share his love.

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A	T	I	Y	R	O	H	T	U	A	ELEVEN	MOUNTAIN	FELL
N	A	M	T	I	R	I	P	S	M	AUTHORITY	HEAVEN	EARTH
S	N	O	I	T	A	N	E	P	E	NATIONS	BAPTISE	NAME
R	B	N	R	A	E	T	M	R	A	FATHER	SON	SPIRIT
E	A	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N			
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THE WEEK AHEAD

- Mon. (30th): 7:00pm- Bible Study (*lower level*)
- Wed. (1st): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (dough)
7:00pm- CWL Garage Sale Meeting
- Thurs. (2nd): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (pinching)
- Fri. (3rd): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (packaging)

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Alpha and Omega"

This Week...

Before his death, Jesus prayed for unity among his followers - unity that reflected the oneness of himself with the One who sent him. He knew the road ahead would not be easy for himself or for his followers. Stephen was the first of many of Jesus' followers to be killed for believing in him. Jesus, along with the One who sent him, is truly Alpha and Omega, the first and last. The struggle of the story makes sense when you know how it begins and ends.

For Your Reflection

What struggles in your life today were not present when you were a small child? Are you happier now than you were then, or do you think you were happier when you were a child? Do you think you will be happier as an adult than you are now? Why or why not?

God was with you when your life began. God will be there when your life ends. Does knowing that God is there in the beginning and the end change your life at all? Does it affect the way you look at your struggles? How and why? Or why not?

The Book of Revelation tells us that Jesus is returning soon. How soon is soon? What do you think? Is it important to know? Why or why not? Would life be different if you thought it would be over in a day or a week or a month or a year? How would you do things differently? Give some examples.

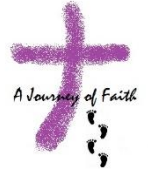
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter*, 2004



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.