



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

May 8th, 2022

Fourth Sunday of
Easter
(World Day of Prayer
for Vocations)

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. (9 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (10 th)	NO MASS
Wed. (11 th)	NO MASS
Thurs. (12 th)	NO MASS
Fri. (13 th)	9:00am Pasloski Family
Sat. (14 th)	9:00am +April Natrasony 2:00pm Funeral Mass-Blanche Betts

5:00pm +Olga Kopan

Sun. (15 th)	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00am +Marge Slugoski 11:00am Mass for the People
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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

Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Risen Lord, give me the courage to be a loving shepherd and advocate for the poor and vulnerable.

- 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,

How wonderful is the message that Jesus tells us in the Gospel this weekend. He states: “*My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.*” Then he continues: “*No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.*” (John 10. 29)

We all experience joy. It is the certainty of being loved. We are loved by others such as parents and family members, but more than that, we are loved by God himself, whose love cannot change, whose love cannot let us down.

In his teaching, Jesus doesn’t promise an easy life. He doesn’t say “You will never have problems”. He doesn’t promise us success as we understand success. He promises us that no one can take us out of his hand. He is God, he is one with the Father, and in him we are safe. In Him we are loved.

To me, what we hear in the Gospel is a great message. Joy is the certainty of being infinitely loved by God. Pope Francis, in “*The Joy of the Gospel*”, writes: “*I realize of course that joy is not expressed the same way at all times in life, especially at moments of great difficulty. Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light, born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved*” (*The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis, n. 6).

We are in Easter Season and we celebrate great joy. Indeed, joy is the gift of this Easter season! For 50 days the Church reminds us to celebrate. We need these 50 days to allow the joy of Christ’s resurrection to truly enter into our hearts.

Think about what Pope Francis said. We all have moments of suffering - and sometimes they seem to last more than 50 days! Joy, however, is possible in every situation, because it comes from the certainty that, when all is said and done, we are infinitely loved.

One of God's favorite ways to describe himself is by saying he is like a Good Shepherd. Jesus describes this more than once, as he does in today's Gospel. God as a Good Shepherd can only happen in a religion that recognizes a special connection between the human person and God - for instance, that man is created in the image of God.

In today’s readings, we see that the Word of God is addressed to all, and it is a call to gather around Jesus, the Good Shepherd, so that he can lead us, feed us, care for us, and take us to Heaven where, for us, we can have great joy.

Jesus, as he explains in today's Gospel, has always seen his mission as a pastoral one: “*My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.*” He is truly the Good Shepherd. His will is that no one can snatch us out of his hand.

The Church helps us to remain in the hands of Christ by asking us to do a daily examination of conscience. Therefore, I will give you some suggestions that you can do during this week in order to remain in the joy:

- First of all, remind yourself that you are in the presence of God. You are His temple.
- Second, give thanks to God. You may pick a few things from your day that you are especially grateful for: your family, the weather, the food you have eaten...
- Third, prayerfully review your thoughts and actions from the day. Where was God trying to lead you? How did you respond?
- Fourth, ask forgiveness for any sins you have committed.
- Fifth, ask for God’s help to grow in his friendship.

Remember to build up a strong relationship by having Jesus in your life. It is the best way to stay in the palm of Jesus’ hand, and experience the great joy that he promises you.

Happy Mother’s Day to all and have a blessed weekend with the beautiful weather.

Fr. Louis Nguyen



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

In the Archdiocese of Regina, Baptism Preparation is required prior to your child's baptism.

To register for the next Baptism Preparation session, please contact the Parish Office 306.782.2449.



World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Today the Church throughout the world prays for vocations. Will you make a special effort to ask the Lord for vocations to the priesthood and religious life?

Pray for the priests who have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and dead.

Encourage your children, grandchildren, or other young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother or sister.

Pray a rosary for more young men and women in our diocese to respond to God's call.

**May is MARIAN MONTH
and
REVERENCE FOR LIFE MONTH**

ST PHILOMENA WALKING PILGRIMAGE

All are invited to take part in the 2022 Saint Philomena Walking Pilgrimage which is scheduled to take place from August 11th to August 14th. You can join us for all or part of the walk or you can offer help with providing meals or giving rides. Or, you can help us with your prayers! For more information and to see about changes for this year, visit our website at www.stphilomena.ca

BILLETS NEEDED This year we are also looking for people who are able to billet some of our pilgrims for the night of Friday August 12th. That night we will be in the vicinity of Burgis Beach. If you have a cabin or camper in that area and can help us, please phone Dave or Bev at 306 728 5525.



News from the CWL



Mark Your Calendar for the next CWL meeting on Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00pm in the CWL room.

A decision will be made at this meeting in regards to having a September Garage Sale. Come and support your council in making the right decision. See you there!



News from the Knights of Columbus



Bingos have been cancelled until further notice.

May 11 General Meeting at 7pm

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

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

CROSS-CANADA MARIAN TOUR



Canada was consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Ottawa in 1947. This year, we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of this event. The Marian Statue that was used at the time was from Canada's National Marian Shrine located at Cap de la Madeleine near Trois Rivières, Quebec.

The original statue is known as Our Lady of the Cape. As a result, the Marian Devotional Movement is spearheading pilgrim statue tours of Our Lady of the Cape to provide opportunities for Canadians to venerate Canada's National Madonna, to promote consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to promote enrollment in the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary.

The statue will be in the Archdiocese of Regina at the Holy Rosary Cathedral Friday, May 13th.

Afternoon (Cathedral open all afternoon for prayer)

1:00	Movie viewing
2:00	Procession
2:30	Liturgy
3:00	Rosary and Chaplet
4:30	Rosary

Evening

6:30	Mass
7:30	Living Rosary inside of Cathedral
8:00	Blessing of Roses, Consecration, Info about Confraternity of Rosary
8:30	Adoration
10:00	Movie in parking lot (or in Hall if too cold outside)
11:00	Benediction

Information about the Cross Canada Tour:

<https://visitationproject.org/collections/75th-anniversary-1947-marian-congress>



Bringing Home the Word

The Dangers of Jealousy

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Paul and Barnabas were preaching to the Jewish people in synagogues, but today's reading reveals why they changed audiences and began preaching to the Gentiles. After initial interest was shown by the Jews, their leaders became jealous and stirred up a persecution against the apostles.

Jealousy is a powerful thing. It deafens us from perceiving the good things God wants to give us through others and turns our neighbor into an enemy. It makes us critical, unsatisfied, bitter, and discouraged. Rather than find support in our brother or sister, we lose that gift and alienate ourselves. God and peace are never found in jealousy.

As a result, God sent Paul and Barnabas to preach to the Gentiles and to bring his good news to souls who were open to hearing his voice. Humility is the virtue that helps us see the good of others and appreciate it as if it were our own.

The good shepherd was speaking to his flock and wanted to lead them to greener pastures, but only the humble were able to hear him and be led to those springs of life-giving water.

Beware of the dangers of jealousy and pride that make us rebellious sheep who are unable to be led and taught by those who love us most. We think we know better than God, his word, and his Church, separating from the flock and the shepherd. May God grant us a listening and humble heart, open to discovering his truth through the Good Shepherd who constantly wants to speak it to us.

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JESUS
VOICE
ETERNAL
STEAL
NEVER
SHEEP
KNOW
LIFE
FATHER
GREATER
LISTEN
FOLLOW
LOST
ANYONE
BELONG
GIVE



FAMILY ACTIVITY

Teach Your Children to Use GPS

After Mass today, have a conversation with your children, asking, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" After a few moments of discussion, ask, "Who do you think God wants you to be when you grow up?"

Emphasize to your children that God has a specific plan in mind for them, and that following God's plan is the surest way to happiness.

Every life decision—which college to attend, whom to date, which job to pursue, whether to enter seminary, whom to marry—should be undertaken only after praying for God's guidance.

In other words, encourage kids to navigate life using GPS—God's Positioning System.

www.worlddayofprayerforvocations.com

ST. GERARD PARISH 2022-2023 PASTORAL AND FINANCE COUNCILS

Chairperson	Mark Bell
Vice-chairperson	Wayne Exner
Secretary	Joanne Geysen

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Liturgy	Colleen Haider
Religious Education	Rene & Ophelia Adane
Social Justice	VACANT
Community Life	Rose Marchinko
Public Relations	Jonathan Rosas
Family & Social	VACANT
Youth	Melinda Sevilla
Ecumenical	Carm Molnar
Stewardship	Linda Maddaford
CWL Rep.	Paulette Cooper
K of C Rep.	Rejean Houle
Finance	Nathan Bewcyk
Properties	Gary Colbow (A)
Hall	Nick Andrusyk (A)

(A) – Appointed by Pastor

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon. (9th): 7:00pm- Bible Study (lower level)
Wed. (11th): 7:00pm- CWL General Meeting
7:00pm- K of C General Meeting

Trusting in the Good Shepherd

Greetings!

All of us are familiar with the text “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want,” from Psalm 23. These words convey the kindness, goodness, and care of our loving Father in heaven. They remind us to trust that God will fill our every need.

In the Gospel according to John, Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd. On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, known as Good Shepherd Sunday, we hear Jesus say that the sheep know his voice and they follow him. He, in turn, knows his own and gives them eternal life.

The image of the Good Shepherd speaks in a special way to young children.

It was this image of the Good Shepherd that the Church drew on when she first began artistically depicting Jesus as the Good Shepherd during her early years. While members were being persecuted and needed to hide in catacombs, art of the Good Shepherd provided comfort and recalled God as a refuge. In frescoes and in statues, the young shepherd Jesus was shown lovingly carrying a lamb over his shoulders, protecting it from harm. After the persecution of the Church stopped, the images of the Good Shepherd became more explicit in depicting the shepherd as God by including a halo around his head.

The image of the Good Shepherd speaks in a special way to young children, who are not far from the experience of being lifted by, and sheltered, in the arms of a loving adult.

Take time as a family to talk about this loving image for God. Find images of the Good Shepherd in books and on the Internet and talk about them. What do they convey? Is Jesus serene? Happy? Serious? How old is he? What does the expression on the face of the Good Shepherd communicate about God? Talk about the love, care, safety, and protection that God provides to each of us. In what ways does God, through the gifts of creation and other people, care for our every need?

Place on your dinner table the figures of the baby Jesus and the shepherds from your crèche. Share with your children that, while Jesus lived, shepherds were social outcasts. At night



The Gospel on the Fourth Sunday of Easter provides an opportunity to show children how God lovingly cares for his children.

they lay down with their flocks, using their bodies as the gate for the pen. They were dirty and smelly. Why would the news of Jesus’ birth come to shepherds, people who were considered undesirable? Why would Jesus use this image for himself? Talk about God as being unafraid of our “smelliness”! Even if we sin or fall short, he is waiting to seek us out and gather us up in his arms. He will find us when we are lost, and embrace us with forgiveness whenever we turn to him in need.



ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF REGINA OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

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Dear sisters and brothers: peace to you, in the name of Jesus who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and whose Resurrection from the dead we celebrate during the Easter season.

It is the resurrection and the promise of life which is at the heart of our recognition that life itself is a gift that God desires to give us, and which impels us to cultivate a culture of life. May is Reverence for Life month in the Archdiocese of Regina. The Second Vatican Council document, *Gaudium et Spes*, reminds us that Sacred Scripture teaches that all persons were created in the image of God. All are capable of knowing and loving the Creator. The human condition itself, for all its challenges, is crowned with glory and honour (GS 12). This month, let us glorify God by fostering the conditions needed for human life to flourish and for all persons to know and love God.

I encourage every parish to truly make May a time to focus on the needs of the unborn, of parents, the elderly, the sick, the lonely, the hungry, and the abandoned, with special prayer and works of mercy. To do this work we need to be strong and courageous (Deut. 31:6). I invite you to participate in the following:

- To spend time reading through, praying with, and sharing the resources found on our website: <https://archregina.sk.ca/reverence-life>.
- Praying the Reverence for Life prayer during each Mass in the month of May.
- Holding a special prayer services at the memorials for the unborn. Again resources available on our website.
- Encouraging people to pray the Reverence for Life prayer daily.
- Hosting an evening of prayer for life with recitation of the Rosary and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Join us on May 13th as we live stream adoration and Mass for giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life. A Poster and invitation will be sent out in the Tuesday File, May 3rd.
- Finding new ways to help and love to the shut-ins, the sick, and patients in hospital, mothers, and the elderly.
- Organizing food/clothing drives.
- Collecting clothing and furniture for an immigrant family, etc.
- Finally, this year we are welcoming four new members to the Reverence for Life Commission. Each week in May, there will be a short bio introducing them through our social media pages, and weekly newsletters. Please subscribe.

May God, the Creator and Author of life, bless abundantly all those whose lives are endangered and forgotten. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Tashia Toupin, Social Justice Coordinator, at ttoupin@archregina.sk.ca

Yours in Christ,

✠ Donald J. Bolen
Archbishop of Regina

DJB:at



YOUTH REFLECTION

"God Will Wipe Away Every Tear"

This Week...

Paul and his company were not discouraged when the religious authorities stirred up persecution against them. They were joyful for the followers they gained. Jesus promises eternal life to those who follow him. John's vision is one of comfort - the followers have no more hunger, no more thirst, no more scorching heat, and no more tears.

For Your Reflection

What are some of the sufferings you have seen or experienced in your life that have brought you to tears? How are things you cry about today different from the things you cried about as a child?

God promises to end all our suffering and wipe away all our tears. How does that promise help a person who is homeless, with no job, no family, no food, and no hope? How does our Christian community respond to such a person? Are we doing enough? Why or why not?

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.

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.
