



# St. Gerard's

Roman Catholic Parish

November 12<sup>th</sup>,  
2023

Thirty-second  
Sunday in Ordinary  
Time

Established December 11, 1904

## 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)

### PASTORAL TEAM

Father Sathi Antony, Pastor  
Office 306.782.2449  
Rectory 306.782.0323  
[ansathisjb@gmail.com](mailto:ansathisjb@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/sathy.antony>  
*\*\*Appointments to be arranged via the Parish Office\*\**  
Sandra Archer, Office Administrator  
Glenn Walz, Caretaker

### MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

- Altar Server Coordinator  
*Kathleen Bedard*
- Baptism Team  
*Trevor Baker* [tlbaker@sasktel.net](mailto:tlbaker@sasktel.net)
- Catholic Women's League  
*Deanna Pellatt* [pell@sasktel.net](mailto:pell@sasktel.net)  
*Christine Shuya* [m.shuya@sasktel.net](mailto:m.shuya@sasktel.net)
- Centering Prayer  
*Ernie Bobowski* 306.783.6014  
*Lori Zuzak* 306.783.8063
- Divine Mercy  
*Adeline Oystreck*
- Family, Community & Social  
*Anita Halliday*
- Knights of Columbus  
*Keith Hayward*
- Liturgical  
*Colleen Haider*
- Protocol for Responsible Ministry  
*Richard Dubois*
- Sacrament Coordinators  
(First Reconciliation, Confirmation & First Eucharist)  
*Rene & Ophelia Adane*
- Social Justice  
*Linda Maddaford*

*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.*

### ST. GERARD'S PARISH HOLY MASS & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Mon. 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	CWL Pudding Preparation
Tues. 14 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Perogy Bee (Preparation)
	6:00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	7:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> +Walter Wintonyk
Wed. 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> +Merv Todos <i>Followed by Divine Mercy Devotion</i>
	9:00 am	Perogy Bee (Pinching)
	10:00 am	<b>Mass at Nursing Home (South)</b> Rosalie Woloschuk
Thurs. 16 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	Joint Council Meeting
	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> Joe Swejda
	2:30 pm	<b>Mass at Yorkton Crossing</b> +John Dernisky
Fri. 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	Social Action Giving Tree Set-up
	6:30 pm	Baptism Session (2 of 2) (Church)
	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> +Edmund & +May Wrubleski
Sat. 18 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> for the People
Sun. 19 <sup>th</sup>		<b>Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> for the People <i>Followed by K of C Parish Brunch</i>
	11:00 am	<b>Mass</b> for the People <i>Followed by K of C Parish Brunch</i>

### SACRAMENTS

- Reconciliation:** Half-hour before daily Mass Tuesday to Friday, and by appointment
- Anointing:** Please contact the Parish Office  
*After-hours Emergency 306.782.0323*
- Infant Baptism:** Please contact the Parish Office
- RCIA:** Please contact the Parish Office
- Matrimony:** Please contact the Parish Office 12 months prior to the marriage date

**Gospel Reading**     *Matthew 25-1-13*     Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, teaching his disciples the importance of being prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven.

### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

In this week's Gospel, Jesus talks about what it means to be prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. This week's reading follows a series of warnings and predictions by Jesus about the coming of the Son of Man. Jesus wants his disciples to understand that the exact day and time cannot be predicted. He teaches the disciples that they must remain vigilant so that they will not be caught unprepared. When thinking about the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, it is important to consider the first-century wedding traditions of Palestine. Scholars tell us that it was the custom of the day for young maidens—friends and family members of the bride—to meet the bridegroom when he came to bring his bride to her new home. As with many of Jesus' parables, several levels of interpretation are possible. In last week's Gospel, we heard Jesus warn against following the example of the Pharisees and scribes. If read in the context of early Christianity's struggle to define itself against Pharisaic Judaism, this parable is a continuing critique of Judaism. It suggests that the Jewish leaders were like the foolish virgins, unprepared to meet Jesus, the bridegroom of Israel. In the chapter preceding this parable, however, Jesus warns about the destruction of Jerusalem, the tribulation of the end times, and the coming of the Son of Man. When read in this context, today's parable is a warning to the Christian community to remain vigilant and prepared to receive Jesus, the Son of Man who will return at the end of time. This interpretation is supported by the reference to the delay of the bridegroom. The Christian community for whom Matthew wrote this Gospel was coming to terms with the realization that the promise of Jesus' return would not be fulfilled within their lifetimes. The question remains for us to ask ourselves - Are we ready to receive Jesus? Will we be prepared to receive him?

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

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## HEARING GOD'S VOICE

**Have you ever wondered how to hear God's voice?**

**In this reflection, Fr. Mark Toups shares different ways we can hear God's voice and how to discern God's voice from your own thoughts.**

**“How does God speak to us? How do we actually hear God?”** I used to think that God's voice sounded like the voice of James Earl Jones. (I love his voice!) I was expecting a big, booming voice within me that would be unmistakably God's voice.

But this is not how God speaks to me.

Let's start with his Word. God has already spoken in his Word, in the Bible. Every one of the words in the Bible can be trusted as absolutely inspired by God. God speaks to us when we read the Bible.

God also may speak to us through a thought that “sounds” like the other thoughts in our heads but has a different source. If I pay attention to my interior life, I discover that some thoughts occur because I am “driving” them.

For example, when I woke up this morning, my first thoughts were that I needed to make coffee and prepare for the day. Those thoughts happened because I drove them. I was the source of those thoughts.

Other thoughts simply come to me without my initiative. Sometimes when I pray, a thought simply comes to me. Such thoughts sound like the other thoughts in my head, but what's different is that I'm not driving them. These thoughts just gently come to me.

**God can also speak to us through a physiological sensation in our body, such as warmth in our chest or a sense of peace.**

God can speak to us through a memory that pops up or a song that instantly comes to mind.

And sometimes God speaks to us through others, assuming that others are docile enough to let God use them.

God not only wants to speak to us, but he is actively speaking to us now. **Perhaps the grace is not in hoping that God will speak but in learning more about how he actually is speaking.** Again, I want you to ask God to help you hear. Ask him to help, and trust that he will act.”

## SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

**Food hamper items requested to fill the need at Soup Haven:** We are collecting canned tuna, canned meat, soups, pasta and sauce, canned milk, juices, and pantry items. Please drop off in the blue tub marked Soup Haven in the church Welcome Area. *Soup Haven provides emergency food hampers to individuals and families in need and all food donations will be put to use.*

**School lunch items to fill the need at Soup Haven:** Items needed include juice boxes, fruit cups, and individually wrapped single serve granola bars, cookies, crackers. All snacks must be Nut Free. Please drop off in the blue tub marked "Soup Haven" in the church Welcome Area.

*Soup Haven Lunch Program Inc. serves healthy lunches **free of charge** to children in need at our local schools. They are able to provide this service without cost thanks to the generous donations of private residents, businesses, and organizations in Yorkton and surrounding communities, as well as grants from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education.*

### Giving Tree

#### - a St. Gerard's Social Action Project -

The Giving Tree will be set up in our Welcome Area next weekend. Please take a gift tag or tags from the tree and shop for the items requested. Bring the unwrapped gifts back, with the tag included. You are invited to use one of our gift bags. Your gift will brighten Christmas Day for many individuals our community. Thank you.

Social Action committee supper and Giving Tree set up, Nov 16th, 6 pm. We will meet at 6 pm for a simple supper then prepare the Giving Tree and gift tags. If you plan to attend please call:

Bernadette 306.782.0109 or  
Linda 306.730.5600

**Salvation Army Kettle Campaign**, Nov 30th. If you can cover a 2- hour spot for the Kettle Campaign on Thurs, Nov 30th please call:

Bernadette 306.782.0109 or  
Linda 306.730.5600

Thank you, your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Joe Swejda  
Wayne Exner  
Jerrold & Ann Malinowski



### News from the CWL



Dec. 6 CWL Christmas Social (details to follow)  
*Watch for upcoming Christmas Pudding (with Rum Sauce) sales after Mass! \$10.00 per pint; \$20.00 per quart.*



### News from the Knights of Columbus



Nov. 18 Bingo - afternoon - 12.00 pm  
Nov. 19 Parish Brunch after each Mass  
Nov. 25 Articles for "The Word" due  
Put up "Keep Christ in Christmas" signs - 9.00 am  
Family Prayer -7:00 pm

*If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.728.8664. [www.kofc-2031.ca](http://www.kofc-2031.ca) The website has been updated! Check it out!*



The Knights of Columbus will sell 2024 Parish Liturgical Calendars after each Mass beginning November 18. Only \$5.00 each!



The "Christmas in November" Bake Sale and Raffle happens Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 2 PM.

*Bakers:* your contribution of baking can be dropped off in the hall on Thursday November 23 from 2:00 – 6:30 PM or at the church office earlier in the day.

*Crafters:* your donations of exciting craft items is most welcome.

*Christmas Basket Raffles:* Tickets are available after weekend masses until November 19<sup>th</sup>. You can place the sold tickets and funds in an envelope and place it in the collection basket during weekend masses until November 19<sup>th</sup>. All books of tickets must be returned sold or unsold by Thursday November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Raffle draws will be made on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

All proceeds from this great event will help our church's good works. Thank you.





## Everybody Wants to Go to Heaven, but Nobody Wants to Die

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

This is the title of a bluegrass song as well as a book on bioethics. It's a clever title, and there is some profound truth in it. Death, which is so natural for living things, seems so unnatural to human beings, who cling tenaciously to life. One would think that believers who hold that Christ conquered death would be comforted by that faith. However, that isn't always the case. It's not that they don't believe; it's that they don't understand what they believe. But that is the difference between understanding and believing.

This is the problem described in Paul's letter today. The Thessalonians believed that, through his resurrection, Christ conquered death. Then why did some among them begin to die? Did those dying lack faith? No, Paul insists. Jesus, who died and rose, embraces those who have died and who will rise with him. Did the people fully understand this? Do we? Isn't this a question of faith—and trust?

Paul thought that he and other believers could still be alive when the rising would happen, and they were not. Or were they? Doesn't our faith give us hope that we—both the living and the dead—will be embraced by God's mercy? Doesn't something wondrous occur when those who have "fallen asleep" wake up in the glory of God? Still, we might not understand all of this, but we are called to believe, and in believing we are told to "console one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:18).

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"Fundraising is a very concrete way to help the Kingdom of God come about. What is the Kingdom? Jesus is clear

that if we make the Kingdom our first priority, "all these things will be given you as well" (Matt 6:33, NJB) The Kingdom is where God provides for all that we need. It is the realm of sufficiency where we are no longer pulled here and there by anxiety about having enough."

– Henri Nouwen, *A Spirituality of Fundraising*

Our parish goal for the Archbishop's Appeal is  
\$42,373.00

## FAMILY CONNECTION

In the daily activities of family life, we can easily find excuses for not attending to our spiritual lives. If not given top priority, prayer and reading Scripture risk becoming occasional activities rather than daily practices. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that if we fail to give our spiritual life priority, we will find ourselves unprepared to receive Jesus. Daily prayer and spiritual practice keeps us ready to receive Jesus.

Gather together as a family and talk about some of the things our faith calls us to do every day and every week to keep God first in our lives. Talk about what might happen if we don't do these things regularly. Explain to your family that Jesus taught us that it is important to keep ourselves ready to receive him when he comes again. Tell them to listen as you read the parable that Jesus tells in today's Gospel. Read aloud Matthew 25:1-13. Talk with your family about why Jesus says that it is so important to remain ready to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. Pray together that your family will always keep God first in your lives so that you will all be prepared to receive Jesus when he comes.

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On behalf of St. Gerard's Youth Ministry, thank you to all who helped in one way or another in making the Youth Fellowship held last Sunday, November 5 at the church hall a great success and well attended with 34 youths and 3 parent representatives.

To our youth participants, parents, schools' admin., youth ministry core group team led by Keisha Quinto, Gabriel Rosas, Michael Rosas, Atasha Esteban, Ashley Esteban, Haley Bontao and Bianca Evangelista, Parish Council for the pizza sponsorship and Fr. Antony for the blessing, God bless us all. Let us continue to pray for our youth in the parish in their catholic faith journey.

- Submitted by Melinda Sevilla

# St. Gertrude's vision of purgatory highlights the power of prayer.



*St. Gertrude saw Jesus lift souls from purgatory to Heaven according to the number of prayers offered for them.* St. Gertrude the Great was a holy mystic of the 14th century, who received many heavenly visions as a Benedictine nun. Among her numerous private revelations were short glimpses into purgatory.

One such vision is described in the book *The Life and Revelations of Saint Gertrude* and highlights the power of prayer for the souls in purgatory.

The Catholic Church teaches that the souls in purgatory are still in some mysterious way connected to the Church on earth and our prayers have an effect on their time spent in this final stage of purification.

St. Gertrude is one of the most well-known saints who advocated for these holy souls in purgatory, and the Church often refers to her and her visions to help explain the concept of purgatory.

**Eternal Father,**

**I offer you the most precious blood of your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.**

*Prayer of St. Gertrude the Great*

## **November Month of the Souls in Purgatory**

The month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Church commemorates all her faithful children who have departed from this life, but have not yet attained the joys of heaven. St. Paul warns us that we must not be ignorant concerning the dead, nor sorrowful, "even as others who have no hope ... For the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven ... and the dead who are in Christ shall rise.

The Church has always taught us to pray for those who have gone into eternity. Even in the Old Testament prayers and works of charity were offered for the souls of the dead by those who thought "well and religiously concerning the resurrection." It was believed that "they who had fallen asleep with godliness had great grace laid up for them" and that "it is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins." We know that a defiled soul cannot enter into heaven.

With the exception of the last Sunday, November is the month of the Holy Souls. The Church prays in a special way for those who are in need of purification.

**St. Padre Pio. says,** "The holy souls are eager for the prayers of the faithful which can gain indulgences for them. Their intercession is powerful. Pray unceasingly. We must empty Purgatory!"

At every Mass pray for the deceased. Offer Holy Mass for the Loved ones.