



# St. Gerard

## Roman Catholic Parish

**November 15, 2020**  
**Thirty-third Sunday**  
**in Ordinary Time**

Established December 11, 1904

**LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:**  
Saturday: 5pm; Sunday: 9am & 11am

### 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](http://www.stgerard.ca) | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca)

Pastor.....Fr. Louis Nguyen    306.782.0323    [louis.yorkton@gmail.com](mailto:louis.yorkton@gmail.com)  
Parish Office Administrator.....Sandra Archer  
Caretaker.....Mario Guerra

### MASS SCHEDULE

Tues. (17<sup>th</sup>) 7pm +Joanne Fedirko  
Wed. (18<sup>th</sup>) **9:30am** Russell Griffith  
Thurs. (19<sup>th</sup>) **9:30am** +Alice Baumgartner  
Fri. (20<sup>th</sup>) **9:30am** +Percy Schmeiser  
Sat. (21<sup>st</sup>) **9:30am** +Garry Fletcher

5pm Mass for the People

Sun. (22<sup>nd</sup>) **OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,  
KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

9am +Merv Krasowski  
11am Mass for the People

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

30 minutes prior to weekday Mass,  
Saturdays at 8:30 am and 4:30 pm,  
or by appointment. Phone: 306.782.2449

**There will be a limited supply of  
2020-2021 Sunday Missals available next weekend.  
The suggested free-will donation is \$5.00**

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

- **Pre-registration** is not required at this time.
- **Please wear a mask** from the time that you leave your vehicle, and from the time you leave the church until you arrive at your vehicle. Thank you.
- **Members of the same household** may sit together at the marked seating.
- **At least two-metres separation** is required between households.
- **Please arrive early** so that you can provide your name and telephone number for contact-tracing purposes.
- **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
  - ❖ The sick, including those with a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath
  - ❖ Those who have travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days
- Remember, there is still a risk for anyone who attends Mass, even with best health practices, strict personal distancing, & improved cleaning



Stay  
Connected  
Online!

[www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca)



Lord, I am grateful for all your blessings. Help me to use your gifts of love and compassion to rebuild people's lives.

- From *Grateful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*,  
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

## A Note from Your Pastor.....

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today's Gospel is a parable. It is a special way Jesus liked using to illustrate for us a mystery hidden in it. We should not read it as a story, without taking time to reflect and wonder what the message in it is.

The Master in this parable stands for Christ; the servants stand for each one of us. Here is the first lesson we should think about: God is our Master and we are all his servants. *Do we think of ourselves as servants, as dependent on God?* We are living in a modern world, full of technological power and easy pleasures; likely, we seem to think of ourselves as the center.

It is very clear that this parable reminds us that we are not gods; we are not the center of the world; we are dependent upon God, and our mission in this life is to know Him, love Him, worship Him, and serve Him. When I reflect on the relationship between humans and God, I would say that only by doing God's will, we will find the happiness which we desire, because that is what we were created for. We are created to know Him, to be intimate with Him, to love Him, and to serve Him.

And finally this parable tells us how we are supposed to do this because God has given each of us a certain number of "talents". All the abilities and blessings we have received are from God. God has given them to us, and we are free to either waste our gifts, "burying them all" in fear, laziness, and greed, or to use them as Christ would have us use them in a way as he described in today's Gospel.

Once Mother Teresa was staying in Australia. While she was there, she visited an elderly man who lived in an old apartment in total isolation. He was ignored by people around him and his home was messy and dirty. She told him, *"Please let me clean your house, wash your clothes and make your bed"*. In reply he said, *"I'm OK like this"*. She said, *"But you will be better if you allow me to do it"*. And then he finally agreed.

She was able to clean his house and wash his clothes. While she was cleaning, she saw a beautiful lamp, covered with dust; it looked like it hadn't been used in years. She asked him, *"Don't you light that lamp? Don't you ever use it?"*. He answered, *"No. No one comes to see me. I have no need to light it. Who would I do it for?"*

And then she asked, *"If our sisters come to visit you, would you light it every night?"* He replied, *"Of course"*. And from that day on he lit the lamp and the sisters came to visit him every evening.

Mother Teresa left Australia and she had completely forgotten about that encounter. One day she received a message from him: *"Tell my friend that the light she lit in my life continues to shine still"*.

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

We are called to do the same. We are called to use our gifts, our talents, our time, our energy to bear more fruits from what God has given to us. I have two suggestions for you, and me, to do during this week:

- Use our talents in such a way that we can *light as many lamps* as possible, in as many different ways as possible, and
- Share the Good News of God's mercies, forgiveness, trust-worthiness, and love to all the people who are sick and dying with loneliness, selfishness, and regret.

Dear God, thank you for the blessings you have given me. May I use these gifts to build your kingdom, may my actions be a reflection of your love. May what I do today bring others close to you. May my words be kind and gentle and may they bring joy to others. This week help me to give back a portion of what you have given me. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen. (Adapted from the "Stewardship Prayer")

I wish you all a blessed weekend and stay healthy.

Fr. Louis Nguyen

### INITIAL PARENT MEETING CONFIRMATION & FIRST EUCHARIST



There will be an initial meeting for parents who have registered their child to prepare to receive the sacraments of Confirmation & First Communion.

**DATE:** Sunday, Nov. 29  
**TIME:** 3:00 pm  
**LOCATION:** Church



We welcome into our  
Catholic Christian Community  
those who were baptized  
recently at St. Gerard:

Easton Bodnaryk Kyle Costo Breanna Peralta

May these children and their families  
experience joy and new life



Meeting  
Reminder!

The Liturgical Committee will meet  
Tuesday, November 17 at 7:30 pm

### ADVENT IS COMING! (November 29<sup>th</sup>)

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Advent faith materials have not been ordered. You may order Little Books directly from the website at [littlebooks.org](http://littlebooks.org). They are available in paper and e-book formats. You can also get all the seasonal books on the Little Books app available for iOS and Android devices. To learn more about the app, go to [littlebooks.org/app](http://littlebooks.org/app)

Per Diocesan guidelines, there will not be an Advent Penitential Service this year. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available 30 minutes prior to weekday Mass, Saturdays at 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, or by appointment. Phone: 306.782.2449



### News from the CWL



**Memberships for 2021** It's that time of year to be thinking about renewing our 2021 CWL Membership. Membership fees are still \$30.00 and can be paid by cash or cheque and put in the collection basket, or mailed to St. Gerard's C.W.L., 125 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N., Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4. If you feel comfortable paying by e-transfer, contact Paulette Cooper 306-782-7923. If you have any questions or concerns regarding memberships, contact Paulette. Even though our Council has not been active due to COVID, we are required to collect and submit membership fees to the National CWL Office. Any member can access the National website ([www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)) at anytime to learn more about the CWL of Canada. If you are not a member and would like to join our League, contact Paulette or any member of St. Gerard's Catholic Women's League.

**Raffle Tickets** We ask that you return all ticket books, sold or unsold, by November 15<sup>th</sup>. The draw will be made on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Prize winners will be notified and a list of winners will be placed in the church bulletin.



### News from the Knights of Columbus



Nov. 17 Evening Bingo  
Nov. 21 Put up "Keep Christ in Christmas" signs at 9am  
Nov. 25 Articles for "The Word" due

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Keith Hayward @ 306.783.0963. [www.kofc-2031.ca](http://www.kofc-2031.ca)

### News from the Archdiocese of Regina

As our Archbishop's Appeal draws to a close, we would like to take this time to thank all those who have contributed to the ongoing mission of the Church in the Archdiocese of Regina. If you have not already done so, there is still time to make a contribution; donations will be accepted until near the end of December. Any donation, large or small, will assist our Archdiocese in continuing Christ's mission of imbuing hope to everyone born out of God's Mercy through the sharing of God's Word.

**St. Gerard Parish Goal: \$43,905.83**  
**Donations received to date: \$14,585.00 (33%)**



# Bringing Home the Word

## What's Our ROI?

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The Gospel today encourages good investments. Jesus heaps praise on the good servants who were faithful in small matters and rewarded with the joy of the master. The servant who gets called wicked and lazy is punished, not because he miscalculated a risk but because he feared his master and took no risk at all. He was frozen by the thought that he could lose everything, so he buries the talent and anxiously awaits the master's return. He is wicked, not for investing poorly, but for not investing at all. God has given us all so many talents, and he does so for us to enjoy a grand return on investment (ROI). He wants us to use our talents, work them, develop them, and—at the end of our lives—enjoy showing him the way they have multiplied. Like a loving parent, he knows that much of our happiness is in developing and growing those talents with his grace. Those talents are a sign of his call and an invitation to step out in faith.

Parents, your job is to help your children develop their talents and dreams. A confident, enthusiastic, and risk-taking child is a sign of parents who know the balance of loving discipline, positive motivation, and a healthy distance. Children who feel secure in the love of their parents are willing to venture out and invest their talents, for they know someone will always be there to accompany them and catch them if they fall.

Our loving God is the first to know this and so invites us with this parable to trust, invest, and enjoy the returns.

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### \*\*\*PEROGY BEE\*\*\*

- Mon. (16<sup>th</sup>): 9:00 am- Peeling
- Tues. (17<sup>th</sup>): 9:00 am- Pinching
- Wed. (18<sup>th</sup>): 9:00 am- Packaging

**\*\*MASKS REQUIRED\*\*GLOVES PREFERRED\*\***

**Maximum 30 participants each day.**

### SPECIAL COLLECTION

The next “special collection” is for the Salvation Army Christmas Hamper Fund the weekend of December 5/6. Please give generously.

The Social Justice Committee of St. Gerard’s Parish is seeking 3-4 volunteers who can spare personal time to meet our committee goals over the course of the Parish’s annual year.



Our focus has been to build community between St. Gerard’s Parish and political, economic and social realities of our day. Our plans are not massive but they achieve great things. Our yearly activities have ranged between coordinating and supporting the Giving Tree campaign, Soup Haven barbecue, coordinate food hamper donations, Salvation Army Kettle campaign and our annual Lenten project.

If you can spare a few hours a month or would like to volunteer for specific projects, we would dearly like to hear from you. Please contact Mark Bell, Social Justice Committee Chairperson at (306) 782-3589.

### 2021 GIVING PROGRAM

In the next few weeks, the 2021 Sunday collection (offertory) envelopes will be in the Welcome Area for those who have contributed by this method in 2020. If you do not have envelopes and would like to receive a set for 2021, please phone or email the Parish Office by November 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Have you considered switching from collection envelopes to Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)? NOW IS THE TIME!!** Pre-authorized Giving is convenient, assured, results in lower administrative costs, and assists our parish when budgeting for programs and services. **Please complete the Pre-Authorized Giving form (purple)** and submit it to the Parish Office. Forms are available in the Welcome Area.

### STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

*“My God will supply whatever you need...”  
- Philippians 4:19*

God really does provide for those who are grateful and generous. This is very difficult for people that don’t live a stewardship lifestyle to believe. People are skeptical and say it’s just coincidence. If you are skeptical, try living a stewardship lifestyle for just one month – be generous with your gifts of time in prayer, talent in charitable works and treasure and see how God provides for your needs.

*- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee*

## Your St. Gerard Parish COVID-19 Questions Answered

***On March 18, 2020, Archbishop Donald Bolen, in keeping with the Code of Canon Law no. 87, granted to all the Catholic faithful dispensation from their Sunday obligation. This is still in effect.***

**What does this mean?** As Roman Catholics, we have an obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Until further notice, Archbishop Don has granted an exemption from this obligation. For those who are unable or choose not to attend Sunday Mass at this time, you do not have to. Other ways to participate in Sunday Mass is to watch it on television or watch the YouTube Mass online, courtesy of Resurrection Parish & Christ the King Parish (Regina) and the Archdiocese of Regina.

**Why do I need to wear a mask?** All those who attend both daily and Saturday/Sunday Masses are asked to wear a mask. The parish has a small supply of masks for those who do not have one. Please remember to put your mask on before exiting your vehicle prior to entering the church. A mask protects you and others!

**Why do I need to register each time that I arrive to attend Mass?** In the event that someone who has attend Mass develops COVID-19, it is necessary for the parish to have the names and phone numbers of all in attendance for contact-tracing purposes.

Have questions? Please email the Parish Office: [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca)



## YOUTH REFLECTION

### "Using Our Talents"

#### This Week...

Although the Book of Proverbs was written in a patriarchal society that viewed a wife as a possession, the first reading for today still praises skill and labour above charm and beauty. This praise was countercultural at the time. In the second reading, the author warns the people not to be lazy, but to be alert and ready for the "day of the Lord" (end of the world), for they were certain that Jesus was returning to earth in their own lifetime. In the Gospel, Jesus praises the servants who take risks and work hard, not the servant who buries what he is given out of fear.

#### For Your Reflection

In the parable that Jesus tells in today's Gospel, the master praises the efforts of the first two servants, who used the talents they were given and improved upon them. The master criticizes the action of the third servant, who hid the talent, did nothing, and was paralyzed with fear.

- When have you been like the first and second servants, using your talents in a way that benefits yourself and others?

The last few lines of this Gospel passage might seem to contradict Jesus' usual message about the last being first. This passage appears to be saying that the first will be even further ahead, and the last will be left behind.

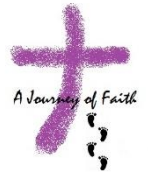
- Is this contradiction troubling to you? Why or why not? How do you see it?
- When Jesus speaks of the first becoming last and the last becoming first, he is usually speaking of humility and boastfulness. Those who pump themselves up are usually just full of hot air. Why would Jesus say that the humble ones are really the great ones?
- When Jesus speaks of the rich ones getting more, and the poor ones losing what they have, he is speaking in terms of laziness and activity. Those who act lazy usually become lazier, and they lose any initiative they once had. What kind of activity is Jesus encouraging us to do?



**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.*

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## 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.

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## 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.

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**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.

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## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:diplomainministry@stfx.ca)