



# St. Gerard's

Roman Catholic Parish

October 1st, 2023

Twenty-sixth  
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

*\*\*Appointments to be arranged  
through the Parish Office\*\**

Sandra Archer, Office Administrator  
Glenn Walz, Caretaker

### MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

Liturgical Colleen Haider

Altar Server Coordinator  
Kathleen Bedard

Social Justice Linda Maddaford

Family, Community & Social  
Anita Halliday

Baptism Team Trevor Baker  
[tlbaker@sasktel.net](mailto:tlbaker@sasktel.net)

Sacrament Coordinators  
(First Reconciliation, Confirmation &  
First Eucharist)  
Rene & Ophelia Adane

Catholic Women's League  
Deanna Pellatt/  
  
Christine Shuya

Knights of Columbus  
Keith Hayward

Divine Mercy Adeline Oystreck

Protocol for Responsible Ministry  
Richard Dubois

*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 AND ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Mon. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	NO MASS 5:30pm	Rosary Prayer led by the K of C
Tues. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	NO MASS 6:00pm	All-choir rehearsal for musicians and singers (please use south entrance)
Wed. 4 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm 6:30pm	<b>Funeral Mass</b> for Edwin St. Pierre Rosary for Life at the tomb for the unborn (led by the K of C)
	7:00pm	Knights of Columbus Combined Planning & General Meeting
Thurs. 5 <sup>th</sup>	NO MASS 7:00pm	Centering Prayer (please use east entrance)
Fri. 6 <sup>th</sup>	NO MASS	
Sat. 7 <sup>th</sup>	4:30pm 5:00pm	Rosary Prayer <b>Mass</b> for the People
Sun. 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 8:30am 9:00am 10:30am 11:00am	Rosary Prayer <b>Mass</b> for the People Rosary Prayer <b>Mass</b> for the People

### SACRAMENTS

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

## SUNDAY CONNECTION FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading**      *Ezekiel 18.25-28*

It is possible to turn from sin and preserve one's life.

**Responsorial Psalm** *Psalm 25.4-9*

A prayer to God for mercy.

**Second Reading**    *Philippians 2.1-11*

Be like Christ who humbled himself and was exalted by God.

**Gospel Reading**     *Matthew 21.28-32*

Jesus poses a question to the chief priests and elders on the meaning of obedience.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

The context for today's Gospel is the mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus has entered Jerusalem and overturned the money changers' tables in the Temple. Jesus has caught the attention of the religious authorities; the chief priests and elders question Jesus about the source of his authority. Jesus refuses to name for these religious leaders the source of his authority. Instead, he questions the priests and elders through the parable we hear in today's Gospel. The answer given by the religious leaders is correct, but it convicts them for their failure to heed the call of John the Baptist and for their inability to recognize the Kingdom of God.

The situation Jesus poses is rather straightforward. Given the same task by their father, one son asserts his disobedience in words, but then obeys in his actions; the second son obeys with his words, but disobeys in his actions. The question that Jesus poses is pointed and direct: Which son did what the father wanted? All would agree that "actions speak louder than words" and that even if his words were disobedient, the son who did the work as ordered did the father's will.

Jesus' conclusion is also direct. The chief priests and elders, the ones who speak most often about God, did not act accordingly. They did not respond to the message of repentance announced by John the Baptist with a change of heart. Instead, John's message was heeded by those one would not expect to repent—tax collectors, prostitutes, and other sinners. Because of their actions, these sinners will enter the Kingdom of God ahead of the religious leaders.

Jesus could ask us the same question. Do our words indicate our obedience to God? If not our words, do our actions? God desires a full conversion of heart, that our actions (and our words as well) will give evidence of our love for God.

### FAMILY CONNECTION

The example Jesus poses in today's Gospel could have been taken directly from family experience. Each of us can recall instances in which family members spoke one thing but then did another. The point of Jesus' story is to show that our actions speak louder than words, even with God.

As you gather as a family, talk about times when a family member said one thing and then did another. Acknowledge that sometimes the action taken displays a true change of heart. Then read today's Gospel, Matthew 21:28-32. Observe that Jesus faulted the religious leaders for not allowing John the Baptist's message of repentance to change their hearts and actions. The word we sometimes use for this change of heart is *conversion*. Jesus wants us to do more than pay lip service to the Gospel; he wants us to be transformed by his word.

Pray together that your family will experience a conversion to God and show evidence of this in both actions and words. Pray together today's second reading, Philippians 2:1-5.



## BAPTISM

*The First Sacrament of Initiation*

All parents who would like to bring their children for baptism are asked to attend the Baptism Sessions on the following dates:

Sunday, October 22 at 3:00pm  
and

Thursday, November 16 at 6:30pm

The Celebration of Baptism will be at the 11am Mass Sunday, November 19.



*Congratulations to*

***Sheldon Newberg &  
Stephanie Flaman***

*who were married*

*Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at St. Gerard's Parish*

***May the Lord be with them  
every day of their married life.***

## Ministry of Pastoral Care

All who have previously served as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Sick and Homebound are asked to contact the Parish Office as this ministry will begin in the near future.

If you have not ministered in the past and would like to serve Holy Communion to our brothers and sisters who are in a Care Home, Yorkton Nursing Home, or Yorkton Hospital, please phone 306.782.2449.

## Mark Your Calendar! Liturgical Ministries Workshop

All parishioners who serve as Hospitality Minister, Welcomer, Lector, Cantor, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Sacristan, Musicians and Choir are asked to attend a Liturgical Ministries Workshop one of the following days:

**DATE CHANGE**

↳ Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 10:00 am  
↳ Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm

Liturgical Ministers are to be commissioned every three years, therefore all are asked to attend.



## St. Gerard's Music Ministry Notes



St. Gerard's Parish Music Ministry needs musicians! If you are interested in ministering, especially Saturday @ 5pm or Sunday @ 11am (but really any time) please contact Chris Fisher. Call or text 306-814-7280 or email [chrisandjimalways@live.ca](mailto:chrisandjimalways@live.ca)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** An ALL-CHOIR Rehearsal for musicians and singers to learn new hymns will be held Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm. Please use south (choir) entrance.



## News from the Knights of Columbus



- Oct. 1 Life Chain on Broadway-1pm  
Bingo-afternoon-12pm
- Oct. 4 Rosary for Life-Tomb for the Unborn-6:30pm  
Combined Planning & General Meeting 7pm
- Oct. 8 Bingo-afternoon-5pm

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Tom @ 306.728.8664. [www.kofc-2031.ca](http://www.kofc-2031.ca)



## INTERNATIONAL LIFE CHAIN

**Date: Sunday, October 1 • Time: 2:00 – 3:00 pm**

Location: Corner of Broadway St. W. and Gladstone Ave., Yorkton

Everyone is welcome to pray and to participate in a silent witness to raise awareness for the need to protect all human life from conception to natural death.



Canada Needs Our Lady  
Public Square Rosary

Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>  
12pm – 1pm  
City Centre Park



Bringing Home  
the Word **+**

### It's Not Fair!

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

The story in the Gospel doesn't sound fair. Some people worked from early morning until evening; others joined them at the end of the workday. But they all got the same pay. How can that be fair? Perhaps fairness isn't the point of the story. But then, what is?

The landowner, symbolizing God, hired the workers "after agreeing with them for the usual daily wage" (Matthew 20:2). If the earliest workers presumed that the agreed-upon wage would be changed, does that make God unfair? Those workers expected God to conform to what they considered just—and justice certainly is a very important value. However, God acted out of divine generosity—a quality we hope to benefit from but which might engender resentment when it is bestowed upon others.

As difficult as this story might seem to us, it raises some important questions about ourselves. Perhaps the story is not so much about God as it is about our own attitudes. If we are faithful to what we believe is God's will for us, do we then presume that God owes us some kind of compensation? Do we expect that God will act according to our standards of retributive justice (this-for-that) rather than restorative justice (bring-it-back-to-life)? Do we resent God's graciousness toward others?

It is better that we all look to God for generosity than for justice. If we do, we will find, as the psalm response tells us: "The Lord is gracious and merciful" (Psalm 145:8).

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*The way humanity treats the environment influences the way it treats itself, and vice versa.* This invites contemporary society to a serious review of its lifestyle, which, in many parts of the world, is prone to hedonism and consumerism, regardless of their harmful consequences.

- Ch 5:1 Caritas in Veritate, 2009, Benedict XVI



### Synod on Synodality

In October 2021, Pope Francis officially initiated a three-year process of consultation within the Catholic Church that will conclude in 2024. This process is called "a Synod on Synodality." The Holy Father has explained that the term *synodality* means being *syn-hodos*, that is, "on the road together." His vision is for the Church to walk together on the journey as one. Pope Francis wants this process to be "an exercise in mutual listening" throughout all levels of the Church and involving the faithful.

**The Synod of Bishops: for a Synodal Church** begins this week on October 4. This October gathering of bishops and others from throughout the universal Church is the first of two and is part of a three-year process that began in October 2021. The synod's three themes are: *communion* (How can we make our relationships with other Catholics stronger?); *participation* (How involved are we in our parish and beyond?); and *mission* (How can we tell others about God's saving grace?).

On October 4th, 2023, coinciding with the conclusion of Season of Creation, Pope Francis will be releasing an apostolic exhortation to expand on the messages of *Laudato Si'*.

In honour of this momentous occasion that continues the global dialogue on environmental stewardship and our responsibility to protect the planet for future generations – we invite you to attend *Laudato Si'* Movement's October 4, 2023, webinar: "Laudato Si' part 2: A Celebration of Pope Francis' New Apostolic Exhortation".

To receive a helpful reminder notification for the webinar: [click here and select "Notify me"](#).

#### Key Webinar Details

Date: October 4, 2023

Time: 20:00 - 21:00 CEST

Duration: 60 minutes

Reminder Notification: [Click here and select "Notify me"](#)

#### Webinar Objectives

Unveil and delve into the content of Pope Francis' new apostolic exhortation, extending the message of *Laudato Si'*.

Offer insights from distinguished experts in eco-spirituality, advocacy, and lifestyle, highlighting the document's significance and practical dimensions. Encourage one another to actively embrace the principles of the new exhortation in our lives

Tickets for the Basket Raffle being held in conjunction with "Christmas in November" are ready to pickup. If you're able to sell a book or two, look for someone handing them out before each Mass next weekend.



## MISSIONARY MONTH - OCTOBER 2023

*World Mission Sunday: October 22*

*Theme: "HEARTS ON FIRE, FEET ON THE MOVE" (CF.LK.24:13-35)*

This year, in a series of catechesis, Pope Francis calls us to develop **the passion for evangelization**, which is a **vital dimension for the Church!** The theme that has been chosen for the **97th World Mission Day (WMD)**, which will be celebrated on October 22, within the context of the Missionary Month is **"Hearts on fire, feet on the move"** (cf. Lk 24:13-35), inspired by the story of the disciples on the way to Emmaus.

World Mission Sunday joins all Catholics of the world in one family of faith. That Sunday, we commit ourselves to our common vocation, through Baptism to be missionaries, through prayer, participation in the Eucharist, and by giving generously to the collection for the society for the propagation of the Faith.

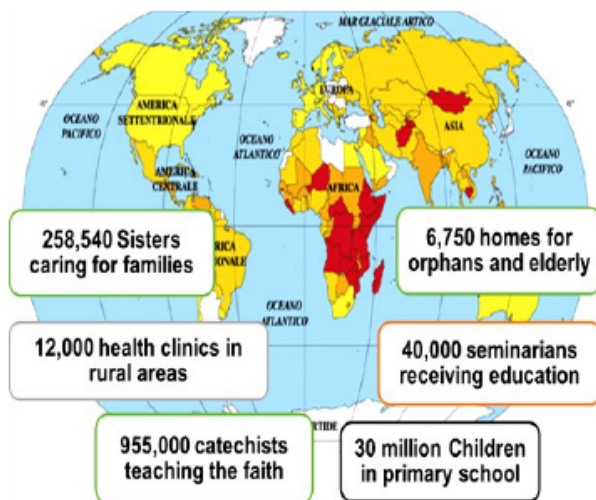
Pope Francis in his Mission Sunday message, titled "Hearts on fire, feet on the move (*Lk 24:13-35*)", tells missionaries who are experiencing tough times at present that, "the Risen Lord is always with you" (January 25, 2023), that the Lord is greater than all our problems, above all if we encounter them in our mission of proclaiming the Gospel to the world. The Lord sees your generosity and the sacrifices you are making for the mission of evangelization.

In offering our prayers, we join with missionaries everywhere in communion and compassion to support them in spreading the Good News, and by giving a donation, we respond to Christ's call to feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

This World Mission Sunday, I ask you to ponder how God is calling you to share the Good News to fulfill the Great Commission. It could be as simple as an act of kindness to a newly arrived refugee. Perhaps God is calling you to pray for the unreached people and groups to hear and believe in the Gospel.

Fr. Alex Osei, C.S.Sp., National director of the PMS, English Canada

### Where does your World Mission Sunday gift help?



**Missionary Month Reflection for  
Sunday, October 1, 2023 (Mt 21:28–32)**  
**“Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.”** (Mt 21:28)

Today, we begin the month of October, which is Missionary Month. For this year’s theme **“Hearts on fire, feet on the move”** (cf. Lk 24:13–35), Pope Francis makes reference to the disciples on the road to Emmaus after the Lord’s resurrection. Hearts on fire **“while he opened the scriptures to us.”** The Word of God enlightens and transforms the heart within the mission. In his message for World Mission Day (WMD), the Holy Father says: “Today, as then, the Risen Lord remains close to his missionary disciples and walks beside them, particularly when they feel disoriented, discouraged, fearful of the mystery of iniquity that surrounds them and seeks to overwhelm them. The Lord is greater than all our problems, above all if we encounter them in our mission of proclaiming the Gospel to the world. For in the end, this mission is his and we are nothing more than his humble co-workers, ‘useless servants’ (cf. Lk 17:10).” (1. “Hearts on fire,” message of His Holiness Pope Francis for World Mission Day 2023).

In today’s Gospel, the Lord Jesus draws the attention on doing God’s will and the struggle with oneself. The son who says no to his father, but carries out the task, is better than the one who says yes, but disobeys. For a human being worthy of the name is judged by his actions, not by his changing intentions. Indeed, faith is more an “acting right” than a “thinking right.” With these words, **“Son, go out and work in the vineyard today,”** Jesus invites us, through mission, to be a Church that welcomes sinners who have been touched by conversion. Also, a Church that invites everyone to work in the Lord’s vineyard!

This year, Pope Francis gave a series of catechesis on an urgent and decisive theme for Christian life: the *passion for evangelization*, in other words, the *apostolic zeal*. It is a vital dimension for the Church: the community of Jesus’s disciples was in fact born apostolic, born missionary. Without apostolic zeal, faith withers. Mission, on the other hand, is the oxygen of Christian life: it invigorates and purifies it. During Missionary Month, let us embark, then, on a process of rediscovering the evangelizing passion, starting with the Scriptures and the Church’s teaching, to draw apostolic zeal from its sources. Then, let us get closer to some witnesses who have rekindled the passion for the Gospel within the Church, like Therese of the Child Jesus, Francis of Assisi, John XXIII, John-Paul II, so that they may help us rekindle the fire that the Holy Spirit wants to keep burning within us.

*(cf. Pope Francis, catechesis 2023, N<sup>o</sup> 1. The call to the apostolate).*



With autumn's arrival, we are reminded of the abundance around us and called into a time to reflect on God's faithfulness. This season of harvest and abundance is a beautiful parallel to our upcoming Archbishop's Appeal, which will officially kick off in parishes next week. The Archbishop's Appeal is a chance to align ourselves with the changing seasons and God's generous heart. As we journey into the coming weeks, we encourage you to consider donating to the Appeal to support your community and live grounded in generosity.

**REFLECTION** Jesus had a consistent way of life where he helped others, particularly those who society would deem unlovable.

The Gospel today tells us how important it is to not only listen to the Good News that Christ brings us but also to have our hearts and minds transformed. As the first reading tells us, Jesus entered into our humanity, not to become a great military or religious leader but rather to show us the face of God the Father. When we learn to hear God’s call, living a life consistent with that calling becomes easier. In your support of the Archbishop’s Appeal, we can help bring the Gospel to everyone, especially those on the margins of society who struggle to feel loved or accepted by the Church.

*That we would live out the deep conviction that we are known and loved by God and open our hearts to the beauty of Christian generosity through this year's Archbishop's Appeal. Let us pray to the Lord.*

**The Appeal goal for St. Gerard’s Parish is \$42,373.00**

**St. Gerard's Parish Comparative Income Statement to August 31, 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Collections	182,073	168,736	13,338
Other Revenue (donations, interest, etc.)	16,318	12,810	3,508
Perogies & cabbage rolls (net)	9,004	8,213	791
Annual Fundraiser	0	0	0
Catering	9,300	23,204	-13,904
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>216,695</b>	<b>212,963</b>	<b>3,732</b>
Building Fund Donations	10,928	4,525	6,403
Trust Fund Donations	0	25	-25
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>227,622</b>	<b>217,513</b>	<b>10,110</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Pastoral	2,431	1,133	1,298
Parish Office	8,288	8,245	43
Other Administrative Expenses	37,778	36,351	1,427
COVID-19 Expenses	109	590	-481
Diocesan Assessments	37,914	33,010	4,904
Wages, Salaries, etc.	53,879	56,335	-2,456
Catering	3,335	7,798	-4,464
Building:			
Sask Energy	6,736	5,140	1,596
Sask Power	16,559	14,140	2,419
Water	1,294	901	394
Insurance	23,633	25,149	-1,516
Parking Lot	5,445	11,286	-5,841
Garbage/recycling	1,032	1,044	-12
Repairs & maintenance	17,839	8,669	9,170
Cemetery expense	151	0	151
Total Building	72,689	66,328	6,361
Rectory	10,271	8,241	2,031
<b>COMMITTEE EXPENSES</b>			
Family, Community & Social	905	162	743
Ecumenical	189	188	1
Liturgy	5,208	2,587	2,622
Religious Education	2,139	376	1,763
Social Justice	807	0	807
Pastoral & Finance Council	180	16	164
Cemetery Expense	0	150	-150
Total Committee Expenses	9,428	3,479	5,948
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>236,122</b>	<b>221,510</b>	<b>14,612</b>
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>(8,500)</b>	<b>(3,998)</b>	<b>(4,502)</b>

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Grateful  
Thankful  
Blessed



**THANK YOU!**  
**to Rick Dubois**

for your many years  
serving as Altar Server  
Coordinator,  
as the church calls you  
to greater  
responsibilities.

**A BIG THANK YOU!**  
**to all parents and children**

who attended the Altar  
Serving Training Workshop.

We are SO blessed to have  
**27 new Altar Servers!**

**WELCOME!**  
**to Kathleen Bedard**

who has accepted the  
ministry of  
Altar Server Coordinator.

We look forward to  
ministering with you.

**AND THANK YOU!**  
**to the Knights of Columbus**

for sponsoring the supper  
(and the ice cream!)  
for the Altar Servers  
and their parents .