



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

October 24th, 2021
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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. (25 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (26 th)	7:00pm +Grace Skaluba
Wed. (27 th)	9:00am Stella Fulawka
Thurs. (28 th)	9:00am Memorial Mass +Garry Fletcher (1 Year)
Fri. (29 th)	NO MASS
Sat. (30 th)	NO MASS

5:00pm

Sun. (31st) **THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

9:00am
11:00am

WELCOME BACK!

Please note the following changes for our parish per the **Archdiocese of Regina guidelines** (effective July 11, 2021) and the **Government of Saskatchewan Interim Health Order** (effective September 17, 2021):

- Masks must be worn at all times until further notice
- Masks & hand sanitizer will be provided.
- Please sit in the pews that have hymnals so that people are not crowded together
- The choir and singing has resumed
- Holy water will not be available in the Baptismal font at this time
- We will not shake hands when we share the sign of peace
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection will continue

Please come! Everyone is welcome!

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



Saturdays at **8:30 am** or by appt.



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



Lord, I am grateful you came to heal the brokenhearted.
Help me to trust in you when I am in trouble.

- 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,

Life is a journey and the destination is the “Holy Land”. We are on a pilgrimage and Jesus is our guide and journeys with us. His mission is to gather us together and bring us back to God the Father. He pays attention to us all and never wants to lose even one of us.

What a beautiful message we hear in the first reading. God, through the prophet Jeremiah proclaims to His people that “*Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel”. See, I am going to bring them [back] from the land of the north, ...with weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn”*”.

These words describe the remnant, a relatively small group of people, returning as an immense congregation. This prophecy does not only refer to the return of the Israelites from the Babylon exile, but it refers to the Church assembling and heading in pilgrimage to the Holy Land in the future.

The Israelites were exiled due to their sins, just as sin has led us away from God and others. However, God brings them back. As with the Israelites, with comfort and consolation, he will lead us back and he will let us walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which we shall not stumble. It reminds us that we are on a pilgrimage.

In the Gospel, we see the prophecy of Jeremiah become true. Jesus starts to gather everyone together, heals them, and leads them. Yet there is still some blindness, some weakness and ignorance to overcome.

Bartimaeus, a poor and blind man, is stuck. He ekes out an existence begging and knows with his blindness that going anywhere on his own is difficult if not impossible. He hears the commotion and doesn’t know it is Jesus of Nazareth passing by, but when he does, he starts to beg Him for mercy. He may be physically blind, but spiritually he sees things more clearly than those who are following Jesus.

The people in the crowd try to silence him, probably thinking he’s giving the same old line he uses for begging from others. They are spiritually blind to what’s necessary: no one who wants to come should be left behind, no one wants to be forgotten.

Jesus heals Bartimaeus’ sight and invites him to join the pilgrimage. The Lord leads him to a more joyous life as he now becomes a member of the pilgrimage.

This weekend I would like to invite all of you to read this story again and reflect on these points:

- ✓ Following Jesus, obeying his commandments and teachings, means putting aside other things - good and valuable though they may be. As Bartimaeus was “*throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus*”.
- ✓ Pray and put your trust in a friendship with God alone for it is the real source of the fulfillment we most yearn for.
- ✓ Be aware of how Jesus respects the freedom of Bartimaeus. He invites Bartimaeus to make an explicit act of faith; it is not a mere formality, but an expression of love. Somehow, after hearing the question, Bartimaeus acknowledges for certain that Jesus cares, that Jesus wants to listen, to help. We are called to acknowledge that Jesus cares for us as well. He wants to listen and to help us too!

Have a wonderful weekend and Blessings always.

Fr. Louis Nguyen



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

Registrations are now being taken for the next Baptism Preparation Session.

Please contact the Parish Office to register:
306.782.2449 or office@stgerard.ca



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

Riley Studer
Diana Bernardo

May these children and their families experience joy and new life.

ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS

Friday, November 5th at 7:00 pm

The annual Memorial Mass is a special remembrance of those whose funerals were celebrated at St. Gerard during the past year, as well as for other deceased loved ones of our St. Gerard's Family who passed away in the last twelve months.

If your loved one's funeral was not celebrated at St. Gerard this year, and you would like them to be included in the Annual Memorial Mass, please speak with Father Louis after Mass before the end of October. *You may drop off funeral cards on the table at the back of the church and someone will mount for you.*

The Mass will include a reading of the names of all those we are remembering. Family of the deceased will be invited to light a candle in memory of their loved one.



The Knights of Columbus will lead the Rosary Prayer Mondays at 5:30pm during the month of October. Everyone is welcome!



News from the CWL



Come join us for a CWL meeting on Wednesday, November 3 at 7:30pm following the 7pm Mass.

Membership fees for 2022 will be collected in November. The fee is remaining the same as last year - \$30.00



News from the Knights of Columbus



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

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

Jesus encourages us, through the gospel, to trust God with all our hearts, to persevere and believe that good will come in the end. Giving with our hearts is trusting in God's providence, knowing that He will take care of us. Thank you very much to those who have already given. We are very grateful. For those still undecided, please prayerfully consider making a donation this year.



October is the Extraordinary Missionary Month

Today is World Mission Sunday. Today, every Catholic community and parish throughout the world is involved in this special event. It is a day that we show that all Catholics are missionaries who have a role to play in spreading the message of the Gospel. We are being sent to be witnesses to what we have seen and heard, through prayer and personal sacrifices, for our brothers and sisters around the world.

\$40 helps support a catechist for a month in remote areas of the missions

\$80 provides for the work of Religious Sisters caring for orphaned children in Africa, Asia, Latin America

\$100 assists poor children in boarding schools in the Amazon, Africa and Asia

The financial assistance that you offer today, on World Mission Sunday, will support mission priests, religious sisters and brothers, and catechists who are Christ's witnesses to a world so in need of His love, healing and peace.

As always, our prayers are your most treasured gift to the missions. Thank you for participating with your prayers and donations on this World Mission Sunday.



Bringing Home the Word **+**

Boldly Believe!

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

It rarely does any good to follow the crowd. Most people follow the path of least resistance, just floating along. Jesus said the path to heaven is narrow and few follow it. Dare to believe in eternal truths, in Jesus, and swim against the current.

Just look at what happened to blind Bartimaeus. He wanted the impossible, to be healed by Jesus, but he was at a big disadvantage. He couldn't see Jesus in order to find him. So, what did he do? He started by using his only strength—his loud voice. He couldn't run after Jesus but could only sit and call out. Lesson one: Use whatever talent you have to reach Jesus. Don't focus on what you lack but on what you have.

The crowd told him to be quiet and polite, not upsetting the moment. Bartimaeus "kept calling out all the more" (Mark 10:48). Lesson two: Ignore the crowd if they keep you from Jesus and your dreams.

Jesus hears his cry and calls for Bartimaeus, who springs up with a newfound joy because Jesus reached out to him. He stumbles toward him, directed by the crowd. Lesson three: Go to Jesus with your weakness! It doesn't bother him. It attracts him.

Jesus asks what he wants, and blind Bartimaeus boldly asks for the impossible: to see. Impossible, unless he believed Jesus was in fact the Son of David, the Messiah, the miracle worker. Jesus gives him exactly what his faith merited. Lesson four: Boldly believe and pursue the impossible. Jesus wants to give it to you!

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STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

When we come upon an injured stranger on the road, we can assume one of two attitudes: we can pass by or we can stop to help. God is universal love, and as long as we are part of that love and share in it, we are called to universal fraternity, which is openness to all. There are no "others," no "them," there is only "us". Adapted from Fratelli Tutti

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

ST. GERARD PARISH 2021-2022 PASTORAL AND FINANCE COUNCILS

Chairperson	-	Ernie Bobowski
Vice-chairperson-		Wayne Exner
Secretary	-	Joanne Geysen
Liturgy	-	Colleen Haider
Religious Education-		Rene & Ophelia Adane
Social Justice	-	Mark Bell
Community Life-		Rose Marchinko
Public Relations-		VACANT
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
Hall	-	Nick Andrusyk & Joan Bonyai-Andrusyk

Thank you for your kindness and ongoing support of donations to the Food bank. Your donations make a huge impact in the lives of others, now more than ever. God Bless...




- Submitted by the Social Justice Committee

"Canada Needs Our Lady" Rosary Rally



THANK YOU for joining others in prayer so that Our Lady's promise of a time of peace will come, hopefully in our lifetime.

S	L	E	G	A	R	U	O	C	D	JERICO	BLIND	BEGGAR	ROAD
I	U	Q	U	I	T	R	U	Q	I	BARTIMAEUS	QUIET	PITY	COURAGE
G	J	E	R	I	C	H	O	U	V	JUMPED	RABBUNI	MASTER	FAITH
H	U	D	A	E	Y	L	D	A	A				
T	M	E	S	M	T	N	O	N	D				
T	P	P	H	T	I	A	F	A	I				
E	E	M	S	L	P	T	N	I	K				
I	N	U	B	B	A	R	R	A	B				
U	N	J	O	R	E	T	S	A	M				
Q	C	O	U	R	A	G	G	E	B				



THE WEEK AHEAD

- Sun. (24th): 1:00pm- Sacrament Preparation *(beginning with Mass)*
- Wed. (27th): 7:30pm- Pastoral Council Meeting
- Sun. (31st): 1:00pm- Sacrament Preparation Session **(Parish Hall)**

St. Gerard Parish
Comparative Income Statement to September 30, 2021

	2021	2020	Change		2021	2020	Change
REVENUE							
Collections	181,855	183,646	-1,791	Hall:			
Other (Donations, rel. articles)	8,245	13,948	-5,703	Wages, Salaries, etc.	7,690	8,015	-325
Perogies & cabbage rolls (net)	5,938	5,738	200	Catering	1,632	2,769	-1,137
Annual Fall Supper (net)	0	0	0	Administrative Expenses	0	76	-76
Catering	3,888	4,791	-903	Total Hall	9,322	10,860	-1,537
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	199,926	208,123	-8,197	Rectory	8,180	7,672	509
Building Fund Donations	4,090	7,481	-3,391	COMMITTEE EXPENSES			
Trust Fund Donations	0	0	0	Family & Social	0	0	0
Federal Wage Subsidy Program	12,257	0	12,257	Ecumenical	0	0	0
TOTAL REVENUE	216,273	215,604	670	Liturgy	2,846	7,688	-4,842
OPERATING EXPENSES				Stewardship	0	0	0
Pastoral	1,105	1,184	-79	Religious Education	117	1,032	-915
Parish Office	7,491	7,825	-334	Social Justice	461	182	278
Other Administrative Expenses	38,263	5,953	32,310	Youth	0	0	0
COVID-19 Expenses	599	2,063	-1,465	Community Life	0	0	0
Diocesan Assessments	37,500	38,100	-601	Public Relations	0	0	0
Wages, Salaries, etc.	53,781	84,904	-31,123	Pastoral & Finance Council	13	75	-62
Building:				Cemetery Expense	150	0	150
Sask Energy	4,289	4555	-265	Total Committee Expenses	3,587	8,977	-5,390
Sask Power	10,216	11,101	-885	TOTAL EXPENSES			
Water	848	1,143	-295		202,948	212,683	-9,735
Property Taxes	0	0	0	NET INCOME (LOSS)			
Insurance	17,764	14,455	3,309		\$13,326	\$2,921	\$10,405
Parking Lot	1,331	4,693	-3,362				
Garbage/recycling	745	826	-80				
Repairs & maintenance	7,927	8,373	-446				
Total Building	43,121	45,145	-2,024				

Notes:

1. Effective January 1, 2021 compensation to the Parish Priest is paid by the Archdiocese, with the parish paying a monthly contract amount to the Archdiocese.
2. Effective January 1, 2021 the following expenses have been re-categorized as "Other Administrative Expenses":

Bank Charges Collection Envelopes Review Engagement Priest Contract

Approved by Parish Council

THE DAY AFTER HALLOWEEN

Halloween is a national day to spoof our common fears of horror and death. Like Christmas, Halloween has grown from a single day into a season that lasts most of October. Specialty stores open during this season to cater to Halloween dress, parties, and decorations. Many people light their homes during October with Halloween lighting and imagery.

How can we use Halloween to teach our children about their faith?

Before your children eat too much candy, ask them about their costumes. What did they like about the character they dressed up as? Write down the attributes of that character in a column. Now ask them the characteristics that are the opposite of that character. Write down their answers in a column next to the "attributes" column. Try to line up the opposites, then describe the characters of each column. The evil person has a good twin. The princess has a twin commoner. The devil is the opposite of an angel. Which of the characters would your child like to be? Why? Point out the good characters could be saints.

Try to find a saint that matched the characteristics of the good persons described. Even look up the saint you were named after and your child's name sake for inspiration. End your discussion with a Litany of the Saints. Ask your saints to pray for you and your family.

FAMILY HISTORY IN PHOTOGRAPHS

In the afterglow of Halloween, many families place the saints and the departed in the background. Yet, the celebration that spoofs evil was meant to preface a time of reflection for the dead.

All Souls Day is the one day of the year that the Church stops to reflect on the departed. As members in the Church, we, too, are called to remember those close to us who have died. And to pray for them.

This day might be the perfect time to break out and dust off the old family photograph books. Sit down with your family and review their family history. Who were grandparents and great-grandparents? Do you have any stories that have been passed from generation to generation about your family? Do you have a relative who has researched your family history? What do they say about your family? Do you have a "family tree" chart? Where are you and your family members in the family tree? End your investigation with a prayer for your extended family. Include the living and the dead on your prayer list.

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DO YOU KNOW

Catholics believe that death can separate people who they love from them for only a while. We are still united with them in the Communion of Saints.

On this feast of All Souls, and throughout the entire month of November, we recall our deceased relatives, friends, and all the faithful departed who may yet be waiting for the full joy of heaven in purgatory. We pray for them, remembering that likewise these people being purified have the power to intercede us too.

Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let the perpetual light shine upon them.

May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Bless the many parted souls
who lived their lives with grace.
Bless the saints in heaven,
gathered in that special place.

May we tell their stories
and remember all the ways
they lived their faith
and spent their days.

There is glory and reward,
even if at first there's strife.
Oh, blessed saints, you help us see
a path that's to eternal life.

May we always hold them dear
and know their life and place.
May we know their inspiration
and aspire to their grace. Amen.

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Jesus Heals Bartimaeus"

This Week...

In the first reading, Jeremiah speaks of One who delivers the blind; in Mark's Gospel Jesus cures Bartimaeus's blindness. In Hebrews Jesus is compared to David; in Mark's Gospel Bartimaeus calls Jesus "Son of David." In Hebrews Jesus is described as not glorifying himself; in the Gospel he raises the social status of a beggar just by giving him attention and care. Jeremiah urges all to proclaim the praise of God; Bartimaeus responds by following Jesus.

For Your Reflection

Bartimaeus's popularity increases immediately with the attention he receives from Jesus. One minute the crowd is scolding him to keep quiet, the next minute they are reassuring him and urging him to go to Jesus.

- Jesus' gift to Bartimaeus is not only his sight but also his status in the community. By reading out to the outcasts of society, Jesus brings general acceptance to them. How might you be able to bring general acceptance to the "outcasts" at your school? What would happen if those students seen as unpopular were suddenly being given sincere attention and friendship by popular students?

Bartimaeus's response to Jesus' healing is to become his follower. Jesus tells him, "Be on your way." Bartimaeus chooses then to follow the way of Jesus.

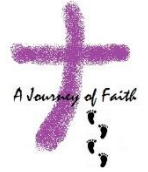
- If Bartimaeus had been given sight, and yet failed to recognize God's blessings in his life, would that have been much of a success story?
- You have been given many blessings by God. Do you always recognize your good fortune? Are you grateful to God for all you have? How are you a success story? What response would Jesus want you to give, as a demonstration of your thankfulness for all you have been blessed with?



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.

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

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

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