



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

October 31st, 2021
Thirty-first 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. (1 st)	SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS 7:00pm +Carlos &+Elina Espino, +Romeo Odsigue
Tues. (2 nd)	COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED 9:00am +Sliwa family 7:00pm +Russell Griffith
Wed. (3 rd)	9:00am +Marilou Galve (2 years) 7:00pm KofC & their families
Thurs. (4 th)	9:00am +August Burant 2:30pm GLADSTONE SENIORS' RES +Anna Marie Zepp
Fri. (5 th)	9:00am +Janet Gress (5 years) 7:00pm Annual Memorial Mass
Sat. (6 th)	9:00am +Darlene Bernath
	5:00pm +Mike & +Mary Diakuw
Sun. (7 th)	THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME 9:00am +Corinne Dobmeier 11:00am Mass for the People

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 and maintain two metres between households**
- 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.



Stay
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Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, I am grateful for your love and guidance. Show me how to love you, myself, and my neighbours genuinely and generously.

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

A Reflection from Deacon Dave Hudy

Greetings everyone!

In today's gospel we hear about a scribe who poses a question to Jesus and then, after his question is answered, adds his insight to what Jesus has said. In other parts of the New Testament we have heard Jesus tell us that showing mercy is more important than offering sacrifice so that teaching is nothing new. But, in today's gospel it is not Jesus who is telling us how to place our priorities. Yes, Jesus does tell us that love of God and love of our neighbour are our two most important commandments. But it is the scribe who makes the call that these important commandments take precedence over all the burnt offerings and sacrifices in the world. It's the scribe who clarifies things for everybody! Like any good teacher Jesus allows his student to take part in the teaching of the lesson! At other times we have seen how Jesus seems to lose patience with the stubbornness of the scribes and Pharisees, but today we see that he is pleased to offer praise to a scribe who seems to be on the right track.

Jesus is not telling us anything new, he's not contradicting anything in the Old Testament. In Deuteronomy (10.12) we hear it said that God's people should "love and serve the Lord, your God, with all your heart and all your soul." If we love the Lord with our whole heart and soul, then it follows that everything else must take second place. Jesus reaffirms the need for us to trust God completely in our whole lives.

If we love God with all our hearts it follows that we will love our neighbours. It is in how we treat our neighbours that we show our love for God. God is not physically present to us but the people around us are! All of us are made in the likeness of God, so we prove our love for God by how we treat others. Once again, Jesus is not telling us anything new, this same commandment is found in Leviticus, Leviticus 19.18 tells us "Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against your fellow countrymen. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

Our Christian faith is built around these two commandments, everything else is built around them. If we love God, we will be drawn to religious practices that honour God. We will long to be at the Holy Mass and feel comfort in worshiping God together with others. Prayer will have a special place in our hearts. Affection for these practices will indicate that we have an affection not only for them but also for God. Such loves are built up over time, and need to be cultivated. We need to make a conscious effort to give priority to these things of God as opposed to the cares of this world. God will, after all, reward those who love God.

When our lives are over these are the things that will really count. Not only love of God, but also love of others. How did we treat those around us? Did we really love them as ourselves? Or did we use them for our personal gain or pleasure? This, I think, includes everyone in the world. If we aren't able to directly help those suffering in other parts of the world, do we at least pray for them with sincere hearts? We can ask ourselves this question often. When we see someone suffering what is our reaction? Do we assume that they likely caused their problems themselves or do we look on them with compassion without judging? And do we place them in God's hands through our prayer?

Have a wonderful week.



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



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



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

**Thursday, November 4, 2021
7:00 pm**

Phone the Parish Office to register – 306.782.2449



Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!

Eucharistic Holy Hour Devotion
at 6pm (prior to 7pm Tuesday Mass)

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.

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.



October is the Extraordinary Missionary Month

Thank you for answering your baptismal call to witness for mission on World Mission Sunday!



All Saints Day is a reminder that all of us, living and dead, are united in a living community with Christ and one another.

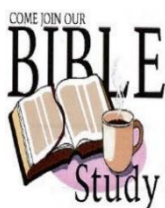
Catholic Update -

Merciful Father, hear our prayer and console us.

As we renew our faith in Your Son, whom You raised from the dead, strengthen our hope that all our departed brothers and sisters will share in His resurrection.

Amen.

*Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.*



SAVE THE DATE!!!

Bible Study

begins

Monday, November 29th at 7pm
(lower level hall)

Contact the Parish Office to register!
306.782.2449 or office@stgerard.ca



Bringing Home the Word **+**

God's Greatest Commandments

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Today's first reading recalls the most sacred text in Judaism, the Shema Israel: "Hear [O] Israel." These words are so sacred for Jews, they are prayed in the most important moments of peril or supreme holiness. Jews don't take these words lightly because they express the essence of their religion and relationship to God.

As Catholics, we fully agree with our Jewish brothers and sisters on this matter. Jesus himself answered the question of what was the first, greatest commandment—it was the Shema Israel. Why is it so important? Because it declares the unity of God: "The Lord is our God, the Lord alone!" (Deuteronomy 6:4). He is one supreme God, not a multitude of divinities as in the Greek and Roman polytheistic religions, or even today in Hinduism and Buddhism.

This belief in one God makes the monotheistic religions of Judaism and Christianity unique. Second, this supreme God deserves our love and obedience. "You shall love the Lord your God...." Our role as creatures called and saved by him is to offer loving obedience.

The Second Commandment flows from the first: If we love God above all, then we need to love our brothers, sisters, and ourselves.

What better example is there of this love for God and neighbor than the love of a mother for her child? Our love for God should be reverent, tender, compassionate, and unique. Only you can give him your kind of love. There should be a constant flow of affection and union between us—no separation between him and us

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STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Stewardship calls us to experience social friendship, seek what is morally good, and practice a social ethic because we know we are part of a universal fraternity. We are called to solidarity, encounter, and gratuitousness. May our hearts be open to the call of synodality and solidarity in our day to day interactions.

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

Catechism Theme: Overview to the Ten Commandments (CCC 2052-2055)

Christianity has always used the "Great Commandment" as a lens to view the Ten Commandments. The first three commandments fulfill love of God. The last seven fulfill love of neighbor. Living out the Great Commandment fulfills the Law (see Romans 13:9-10).

But, the command to love demands more. To love God requires God's help. It requires an openness to the Spirit. We cannot possibly live out God's Law by ourselves. With his help, we can hope and we can experience results.

What is this the most important value in your faith? What religious insight or practice has had the greatest impact on your life? Who exemplifies that insight or practice or value in your life?

What's most important? What's first? With apologies to the late Bud Abbot and Lou Costello, the question can be put another way for the Christian. Who's on first? Just as that line set up the classic comedy routine, that line sets up our perspective on life. Who's on first in our life? Is it us or Jesus? If the answer is us, we're on our own. For, we have put ourselves in God's place. So there is no room for God or others. If, however, the answer is Jesus, we can rest assured God is helping us to love him with our very being and everyone else as ourselves.

Who's on first? For most of us, the answer to the question vacillates between us and God. What can you do this week to place more of the focus on God? How can he help you to love him more and see everyone around as your equal?

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THE WEEK AHEAD

- Sun. (31st): 1:00pm- Sacrament Preparation Session (**Parish Hall**)
- Mon. (1st): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (Dough-making)
- Tues. (2nd): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (Pinching)
- Wed. (3rd): 9:00am- Perogy Bee (Packaging)
- 7:30pm- CWL General Meeting (CWL Room)
- 7:30pm- K of C General Meeting (K of C Chambers)
- Thurs. (4th): 7:00pm- RCIA
- Sun. (7th): 1:00pm- Sacrament Preparation (beginning with Mass)

YOUTH REFLECTION

"The Commandments"

This Week...

This first reading is the Shema, the most treasured prayer of the Jewish tradition. You will find it on the doorpost of many Jewish homes. It means "Hear, O Israel!" In the reading it announces the great commandment of love. Jesus, our one high priest, shows us that love is more important than anything. Loving yourself, loving your neighbour, and loving God are connected. Loving your neighbour comes more easily when you can love yourself, and loving God is most easily expressed by loving your neighbour. Jesus and this scribe both appreciate each other's insights on love; it is obvious in the warmth of their conversation.

For Your Reflection

Jesus tells us that loving God completely, loving our neighbours, and loving ourselves are our highest commandments.

- How are all the other commandments based on these?
- Is it ever all right (not sinful) to do something wrong, if no one will ever know about it and no one will ever be hurt by it? How does committing a sin - even a secret sin that is never caught - hurt you?

Every time you make a selfish decision, you teach yourself to be selfish. Every time you lie, you teach yourself to be dishonest. Every time you make a considerate decision, you teach yourself to be caring. Every time you make a moral choice, you teach yourself to have integrity. Every time you do the right thing, you feel more confident, you like yourself more, and you respect yourself more.

- If everyone understood these concepts, how would it change the world?
- Is it possible to know and understand these concepts, but to ignore them? What kind of decision would it be to ignore them? Why would someone do that?
- Whom do you respect? Why do you respect him or her?
- Do you respect yourself? Why or why not?

Jesus and this scribe seem to like each other. They affirm each other's words. It's hard to tell who's the teacher and who's the learner.

- Do you know a teacher who has a similar relationship with you? What is that relationship like?



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