



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

October 4, 2020
Twenty-seventh
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 9am and 4pm.

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

www.stgerard.ca | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca

Pastor.....Fr. Louis Nguyen 306.782.0323 louisYorkton@gmail.com

Parish Office Administrator.....Sandra Archer
Caretaker.....Mario Guerra

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (5 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (6 th)	7pm Mass of Thanksgiving
Wed. (7 th)	9am Russell Griffith
Thurs. (8 th)	9am +Cameron Potts
Fri. (9 th)	9am David & Mary Ryhorski
Sat. (10 th)	9am +John Spelay

	5pm Mass for the People
Sun. (11 th)	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME
	9am Mass for the People
	11am +Andre Turgeon

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, and improved cleaning.

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



**Stay
Connected
Online!**

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, I am grateful for your vineyard of love. Remove my shortcomings that I may cultivate your gifts of compassion and peace.

- 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,

Instead of giving my message for this weekend, I will tell you a story that an elderly woman shared with me when I visited both she and her husband when I was in Moose Jaw. I invite you to read this story, think about it, and reflect on it within your heart. I will try to summarize it with main points:

My husband and I did everything we could for our children. We wanted them to have the things that we didn't have in our time. We bought a house, and we worked hard to be able to keep up with mortgage payments. It was a very hard time as we had to deal with so many challenges. But our children never lacked anything.

Many nights I didn't sleep well because of our children. They had a lot of illness when they were young, but thank God, all were healed.

Sometimes we saw our neighbours going out to the bar, but we hardly ever went out. We saw friends going overseas for their vacations but we never had enough money to do that. We gladly sacrificed these things for our children.

We sent them to good schools. They never lacked money for books or school supplies. They were always well-dressed. We taught them good values. We taught them religion, faith and brought them to church. We prayed with them every night and we tried to be a good example for them.

Our oldest son quit university when he was in his third year and went into business. He works hard and is doing well. He has different businesses, but money has become his god. Sometimes he sends us a couple of bottles of wine at Christmas but we hardly ever see him.

The second one is a teacher, married to a fellow with a big job. They don't believe in having children. They rarely come to see us, though we still get cards from them on Mother's Day or Father's Day.

The third one has three children and seemed to be happily married. But suddenly he left his wife and went to live with a younger woman. He never shows up in our home since that time.

And the last one is still unmarried. He is touring all over the world. He doesn't believe in working or settling down. The last time that we heard from him, he was somewhere in China.

Then she continued: none of them ever go to church. Now what more could we have done for them? Do we deserve to be treated like this?

We were silent for a while after she finished her story. I didn't say anything. I had no words because I could see how broken-hearted she was.

I was thinking: they are heartbroken parents because they see their children abandoning the faith and adopting a lifestyle which they do not agree with. It is only natural and easy for me to see how their children take everything for granted.

What hurt them the most was the ingratitude of their children, and the way that their children had turned out. They are sad for themselves but I would say that they are even sadder for their children.

Today the first reading, and the Gospel as well, suggest that we should reflect on God's feelings, "*What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?*" (Isaiah 5.3). In spite of all the love he showed to his people of Israel, all he got in return was utter ingratitude.

The people of Israel had been treated in an advantaged way by God, but advantage brings responsibility. They failed God. God is not disappointed for his own sake, but rather he is disappointed because his people have wasted the blessings that he wanted them to enjoy.

The Christian community is the vineyard that Christ planted. He gave his life for it with such care. Now He is waiting for us, as his followers, the tenants of his vineyard, to produce the fruits of justice, love and peace.

God wants us to make use of all the gifts and opportunities He has given to us so that we can grow as His children. “*The Glory of God is a human being fully alive*” (St. Irenaeus) but we often fail to respond to His love. And yet God doesn’t write us off but He gives us chance after chance.

Thanksgiving is coming! We are invited to count our own blessings we have received and do our best to produce the fruits of what we received, because if not, as Jesus says in the Gospel, “*The Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom*” (Matthew 21.43).

My dear Sisters and Brothers, we should take time to think about it.

Love you all. Peace.

Fr. Louis Nguyen

SACRAMENT PREPARATION



FIRST RECONCILIATION

PARENTS – Do you have a child going into Grade 3 (or older) who has received First Communion but has not celebrated First Reconciliation? Please email the Parish Office to register for the First Reconciliation Preparation Sessions, starting this fall.

office@stgerard.ca

ATTENTION PARENTS!!!



Do you have a child who is in Grade 2? Or an older child who has not received the sacraments?

Now is the time to register for the Confirmation and First Eucharist Preparation classes!

IF you have not received a letter by email or regular mail by Monday, October 19, PLEASE phone or email the Parish Office.

Once registrations are received, more details will be made available regarding dates and times of the sessions.



Congratulations to

Justin Poirier & Katelyn Coleridge

who were married at St. Gerard
on October 3rd.

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



News from the CWL



St. Gerard's C.W.L. is having a raffle with three prizes: 1st prize - \$200 Cash; 2nd prize - Double Quilt & 2 Shams; and 3rd prize - Twin Quilt & Sham. Draw date is December 5, 2020 with proceeds to Palliative Care.

Ticket Books are available in the Welcome Area and all members are asked to please pick up a book (or more) of tickets and sign your name and telephone number on the sheet provided beside the ticket books. If you are unable to pick up a book, please call Paulette (306-782-7923). Thank you.



News from the Knights of Columbus



Oct. 7 Executive Meeting
Oct. 12 Evening Bingo
Oct. 14 General Meeting

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



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

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

For Archdiocese of Regina Weekly News, check out our website at www.stgerard.ca or subscribe here: <https://archregina.sk.ca/news> to receive weekly updates, Stewardship Reflections, & news!



Bringing Home the Word

The Fruit God Expects

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The Chosen People were often compared to a garden or vineyard that God had planted and cared for. First, he placed them in the Garden of Eden. Then he led them to flourish in Egypt before accommodating them in the Promised Land. After all his care and cultivation, he expected to find a fruitful return. In the Song of Songs and then with Jesus himself, not only are the people of God compared to a vineyard, but each of our souls is compared to a vineyard where God plants seeds, waters, and expects to find new growth by thirty-, sixty-, or one hundredfold.

In the image of the Chosen People, the Church, or our souls, one thing is constant: God expects a return on his love. Not because he is selfish and in need of our response but because he knows our happiness depends on receiving and showing him that love.

Jesus says the vineyard will be taken away from those who don't care for it and given to those who will produce its fruit. In the same way, grace will be directed away from some and toward those who accept it and produce faith and love.

This is not a threat or "Catholic guilt." This is a true Father letting his children know he loves them too much to not take them seriously. He gives and gives for our growth and maturing, but if that generosity isn't sincerely embraced and appreciated, we will miss out on the true love of God. Now is the time to accept his love and enjoy the fruits.

© 2020 Liguori Publications. Used with permission.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

This year, World Mission Sunday is on October 18, 2020. This is a world-wide celebration of and collection for the missionary Church. The funds raised will go to emergency aid when disasters strike, to care for refugees in war torn nations, to establish and support rural health clinics, and to provide for the daily needs of all missionaries. Please pray for the missions often and please be generous on World Mission Sunday.



The 2020 Archbishop's Appeal Campaign has officially begun! Please check your mail box for the information on this year's

Appeal as well as your donation cards, either online or in the mail. Giving is one means we have of both growing the Church and deepening our spiritual lives. Your gift to the Archbishop's Appeal assists in building the Kingdom through mission work, adult and youth education and social outreach to the poor, the isolated and the infirm in our communities. Our financial goal this year is 1.6 million dollars. You are invited to prayerfully consider how your household might help us to reach this goal and carry on our Christian mission.

SEASON OF CREATION

For the Feast of St. Francis Sunday - We pray for biodiversity of creation: for the microbes in the soil that help plants to grow, for the insects, birds and pollinators, all the animals and beasts of burden, and all the creatures in the rivers, lakes and oceans.

In remembrance of St. Francis and to Care for Our Common Home, please consider having one Meatless Day each week. Can we give up meat one day a week, and use rice and beans, grains, tofu, or eggs for a protein substitute? Can we offer a small sacrifice in communion and solidarity with our brothers and sisters? Are we mindful of the abundance of food available here while so many face food insecurities around the world?

This weekend is the last Season of Creation Sunday, but the Holy Father's Jubilee for the Earth year continues until May 2021.

Submitted by the Stewardship Committee



INTERNATIONAL LIFE CHAIN

Date: Sunday, October 4 • Time: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

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.

For more information visit fb.me/parklandrighttolife or call 306-783-6240

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.

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

Carefully attending [to the directives] is the best way to ensure that we won't contribute to the spreading of the virus, and the most helpful step we can take in convincing government and health officials that opening our churches to larger numbers is a safe and responsible thing to do.

PRAYER FOR ANXIETY

Today, I pray for all those who suffer from anxiety in the midst of this exceptional situation we are going through.

May they get comfort, Lord, both in your unlimited Love and in the community.

Holy Spirit, be our light so that we keep faith in the heart of our daily lives and in that way, we may transform fear into hope. Amen.

Lord God,

I pray for all who have become sick or died by the coronavirus that has been spreading around the world.

In your mercy and compassion, deliver us from this disease,

In your holy wisdom, guide all who are working to contain the outbreak,

In your steadfast love, bring healing to all your children who have become sick,

Welcome into your arms the ones that died, comfort the ones they left behind.

In faith, I place my trust in you.

In hope, I turn to you in my time of need.

In love, I give glory to your name.

In gratitude, I will praise you with my life.

In your Son's name I pray. Amen.

YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"Jesus, the Cornerstone"

This Week...

The vineyard story in Isaiah compliments the vineyard story in Matthew. In the first story, God cares for a vineyard, and the fruit (the people) is not sweet but bitter. In the Gospel, God cares for a vineyard, but at harvest time the farmers kill the vineyard owner's son (Jesus). Jesus reminds the listeners that this story echoes Psalm 118, which proclaims the value of the rejected cornerstone. Paul urges us to live according to what we have learned and accepted, in order to be less anxious and more at peace with God.

For Your Reflection

This parable couldn't be more obvious. The vineyard owner's son is killed by the tenants, so then the vineyard owner will lease the vineyard to different people who will care for the grapes in an honest and respectable way, in memory of his son who died. Jesus switches symbols from grapes to bricks, and then emphasizes how the cornerstone is the very stone that was initially rejected by the builders of the structure. Jesus challenges us to look deeply into this symbolism.

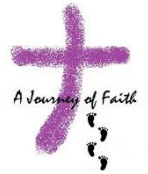
- Who are the rejected bricks and stones at your school? Are there any outcast students who are mocked by others? Why are certain people judged to be more popular or less popular than others?
- That would Jesus say about the value of less-popular individuals?
- How would your reaction to them be different if you took this Gospel message seriously? Are you going to change your reaction to them? Why or why not?
- Who are the newer people that lease the land and help to harvest the grapes? Are you in this category?
- Who are the tenant farmers? Who are the builders who dislike the cornerstone? Are you in this category?



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