



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

January 9th, 2022

The Baptism
of the Lord

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 (closed Friday)

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. (10 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (11 th)	7:00pm +Steve Matechuk
Wed. (12 th)	9:00am Cancelled
	10:00am ASPEN VILLA
	Leroy Persick
Thurs. (13 th)	9:30am Maurice & Rosemarie Stadnyk
	2:30pm LAKESIDE MANOR Cancelled
Fri. (14 th)	9:00am +Peter Loster
Sat. (15 th)	9:00am +August Burant
	5:00pm +Ambrose Wolfe
Sun. (16 th)	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	9:00am Mass for the People
	11:00am +Beatrice Ikwueme
	1:00pm Sacrament preparation <i>beginning with Mass</i>

WELCOME!

Please note the following per the **Archdiocese of Regina guidelines** (effective July 11, 2021) and the **Government of Saskatchewan Interim Health Order** (extended until January 31, 2021):

- **Masks must be worn at all times until further notice**
- Masks & hand sanitizer are 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 continues

Please come! Everyone is welcome!

Come and spend an hour with the Lord!
Eucharistic Holy Hour Devotion at 6pm prior to the 7pm Mass (Tuesdays).

Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, give me a shepherd's heart so that I can show your love and compassion to someone in need.

- From *Peaceful 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,

This weekend we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. In the Gospel, Luke tells us that John is baptizing anyone who comes to him, who wishes to be baptized. As we know, the Baptism by John is a way for them to repent and to prepare their hearts to welcome the Messiah.

Indeed, their hearts need preparing, because they are full of selfishness, doubt, arrogance, greed, and all the other spiritual diseases that have infected human nature ever since original sin.

When we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, we may wonder - if Jesus is truly the Lord, and if John, the greatest prophet of all time is not even worthy to "*untie the thongs of his sandals*", why would Jesus seek his baptism? Jesus' heart is pure. He doesn't need to prepare himself for the Messiah's coming as he is the Messiah. he gets in line with the rest of the sinners and receives it.

After Jesus is baptized by John and begins his ministry, we recall the words in Mark 2.14-17 when the Scribes and Pharisees see Jesus at the same table with Levi, a tax collector. They asked his disciples, "*Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?*" In return, Jesus very simply states, "*Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.*"

Why would Jesus ask John to baptize him? We can find the answer in the first reading, from the prophet Isaiah: "*He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice*" (Is 42, 2-3).

I invite you to reflect on these words: "*a bruised reed, a dimly burning wick*". Both are useless, at least, from our point of view. Even for the Messiah, they are useless. But he will not break, his light will not quench. How about us? We are humans, created in God's image. We have more value than "*a bruised reed, a dimly burning wick*".

We are fallen human beings... and that is why Jesus comes. He comes to be with us, he comes to reconcile, to lift us up and bring us back to the Father. The baptism of Jesus summarizes the mission of Jesus: to reunite each one of us with our heavenly Father, now and for all eternity.

The baptism of Jesus reminds us of our own baptism, too. The ceremony of baptism is one of the most beautiful. Here, I would like to summarize what one receives in baptism. In it the one to be baptized is formally given a name and welcomed into the family of God's people; lovely prayers are said; the body is signed with the sign of the cross; water is poured or one is immersed in the baptismal font. Water is a symbol of cleansing, and in baptism we are cleansed of sin. In baptism we are given a share in the eternal life of God.

The body is anointed with the holy oil - not once, but twice. As priests, prophets and kings, one is anointed with oil to be God's minister to the community. One is anointed with the oil of chrism in order to be able to minister to the world.

The body is covered with a white garment. This is the outward sign of our Christian dignity. A candle lit from the flame of the Easter candle is given to signify the light of faith. God calls the newly baptized out of darkness into the wonderful light of his Son as a new creation, with a new relationship with God. What kind of relationship? The Gospel today illustrates this for us: after Jesus is baptized, the heavens open and God the Father says directly to him: "*You are my Son, the Beloved, I am well pleased*".

Again, Jesus came to the world in order to call forth God's pleasure on sinful mankind, to lift us back into membership in God's family.

Let us offer our praise and thanks to God for giving us the gift of Baptism. And pray that we will live what we received on the day of our Baptism - a new life, the Divine life. Let us acknowledge that we are given a new relationship with God that we should celebrate in every moment of our lives.

May God bless you all. Have a blessed week - the first week of Ordinary Time.

Father Louis



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

In the Archdiocese of Regina, Baptism Preparation is required prior to your child's baptism.

To register for the next Baptism Preparation session, please contact the Parish Office 306.782.2449.



Are you planning a marriage in 2022? Congratulations!!

Please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible to make arrangements to meet with Father Louis.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



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



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.



News from the CWL



2022 memberships are \$30.00 and can be placed in an envelope marked 'CWL' and put in the collection basket, or mail to CWL, 125 3rd Ave N, Yorkton, S3N 1C4. For other arrangements please call Paulette 306.782.7923.



News from the Knights of Columbus



January 13 Evening Bingo
January 21 Afternoon Bingo

If you are able to work bingos, please give Gary a call 306-783-6328.

January 22/23 **White Ribbon Campaign**

The White Ribbon is the world's largest movement of men and boys to end violence against women and girls. Let us create a future free from gender-based violence.

January 25 Articles for "The Word" due.

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

News from the Archdiocese of Regina

Emmaus Family Support

One in four families experience chronic mental health challenges. Holidays can be tough when navigating these kinds of difficulties. Even good feelings like excitement and anticipation can trigger stress responses. You do not have to walk this path alone. If you care for a loved one with mental health challenges and feel you could benefit from the support and prayers of peers, contact www.emmaussupport.ca to join a meeting. Meetings are currently held on the fourth Thursday of each month, via Zoom.

Colleen Haider, Marie Kruger of the Liturgical Committee, and I, we would like to thank all who offered their time, talent and good works for the Christmas and New Year Masses: decorators, Welcomers and



Lectors, Hospitality Ministers, Ministers of Holy Communion, Music Ministry, drummer, church cleaners before and after Masses, gate keepers, Santa, and anyone else who helped in any capacity.

You did a fantastic job and your service helped people to lift up their souls to praise and glorify God when they attended our beautiful celebrations.

Your time, your works are all appreciated.

Father Louis Nguyen



Bringing Home the Word

Renewal by the Holy Spirit

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

We have all received baptism, but why don't the amazing fruits and graces received then always show themselves powerfully in our lives?

Titus tells us what has already happened for us in baptism. We were saved "through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the holy Spirit" (3:5). Yet this renewal accomplished by the Spirit needs to be fully embraced by us for it to reach its potential. We know we have been renewed, but how do we keep renewing? This happens by prayerful contact with the Holy Spirit. In Titus, Spirit is capitalized because it's the Spirit of God. Renewal by the Holy Spirit is a renewal in which God, not man, is the principal protagonist. "Behold, I" (not you) "make all things new" (Revelation 21:5).

We often think that to be renewed and grow, we have to do something. God tells us it is something he does. "I, the LORD, make you holy" (Leviticus 20:8). We have to give him back the power he already has. Or better yet, we need to recognize God's power and let him use it in us.


A revolution needs to happen in our minds and hearts where we recognize that without the Holy Spirit we can do nothing. So, ask the Holy Spirit to come upon you in a real baptism of fire. Then all those baptismal gifts will spark into a flame and help you set the world ablaze with his love!

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2022 Giving Program

The 2022 Sunday collection (offertory) envelopes are in the Welcome Area for those who had contributed by this method in 2021. If you do not have envelopes and would like to receive a set for 2022, please complete a Parish Registration Form, located in the Welcome Area.

T	N	A	E	D	V	O	I	E	C	JESUS	JORDAN	JOHN
S	I	D	R	O	J	F	A	R	A	BAPTISM	FITTING	DEMANDS
U	D	R	O	J	I	R	N	T	S	WATER	HEAVENS	SPIRIT
E	M	S	I	T	P	A	B	A	S	DOVE	VOICE	SON
S	C	S	T	P	D	T	A	W	D			
E	E	I	U	R	S	D	A	W	N			
J	N	N	O	S	O	T	N	H	A			
G	O	J	I	V	E	M	O	O	M			
T	O	H	E	R	E	J	E	J	E			
E	S	N	E	V	A	E	H	E	D			



FAMILY ACTIVITY

Water and Wind

In the baptism of Jesus, Mark and Matthew presented a dramatic scene. When John baptized Jesus, the sky was torn open, so that heaven and earth were no long divided. From heaven, the Spirit came to rest on Jesus. Symbolically, the Father sent his very life upon his Son to mark the beginning of his Son's public ministry. That was a big change for Jesus.

Two images jump out of this scene: waters of Baptism and the descent of the Spirit. In Greek and Hebrew, the word for "spirit" is the same as "breathe" and "wind." So try putting these two ideas together. Place a bowl of water on a table. Have a contest who can blow on the water and move the most water without spilling water out. After the contest, read Genesis 1:1-2 and Exodus 14:21-22. Then read Mark 1:7-11. Compare the three readings. What is Spirit (breathe or wind) doing? What are the results? Thank God for the power of his Spirit in baptism.

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Jesus Christ, beloved son of the Father, transform, restore and heal our relationships within our families, friends, and communities.



Renew our trust in you and your plan for our lives. May we continue to recognize moments in our lives where the Holy Spirit acts and encourages us to love God and our neighbour more humbly and deeply. Amen.

THE WEEKS AHEAD

Mon. (10th): 10:30am "Undecorating" the church
POSTPONED

7:00pm Bible Study (lower level)

Thurs.(13th): 7:00pm RCIA (lower level)

Sun. (16th): 1:00pm Sacrament Preparation
(beginning with Mass)

Mon. (17th): 7:00pm Bible Study (lower level)

Tues. (18th): 7:30pm Liturgical Committee Meeting

YOUTH REFLECTION

"Baptized in the Spirit of God"

This Week...

John the Baptizer is preaching a baptism for repentance. But John announces that Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. In John's time people came forward, were brought into the river to be immersed with the water, and then they were helped out. It was more than a shower - it was an underwater journey. Each person entered the death of not being able to breathe. Each person emerged into the new breath and cleanliness of refreshing, full life.

For Your Reflection

Try to imagine what it would be like on a hot and dry day to go to the river and be baptized by John the Baptizer. Try to imagine being drenched with water as you make a new commitment to life without sin. Then imagine seeing Jesus, the one John has been preaching about. He gets baptized himself, and the skies open up and a dove alights on him, and you hear the voice of God announce pleasure with what Jesus has done.

- What would you do next? How is your life different when you take that experience seriously? How is your life different now because of your baptism?
- Being drenched with water would be most appealing when we are hot, dry, or dirty. Recall a particular time that you looked forward to the cooling, cleansing experience of being drenched with water.

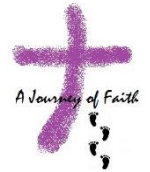
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter*, St. Mary's Press, 2004



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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