



St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

September 26th,
2021

Twenty-sixth
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

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 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

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	306.782.2449	office@stgerard.ca
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

MASS SCHEDULE

Mon. (27 th)	NO MASS
Tues. (28 th)	7:00pm +Ambrose Wolfe
Wed. (29 th)	9:00am +Anita Young 7:00pm Denis Dierker
Thurs. (30 th)	9:00am +Rose Banga 7:00pm <i>Prayer Service for the Nat'l Day for Truth & Reconciliation</i>
Fri. (1 st)	9:00am +Don Forer
Sat. (2 nd)	9:00am +Art Scherr
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	5:00pm Mass for the People
Sun. (3 rd)	TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9:00am +David Jakubowski 11:00am +John Monka 1:00pm <i>Sacrament Preparation beginning with Mass</i>

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!



Stay
Connected
Online!

www.stgerard.ca



Lord, I am grateful for your all-embracing love. Open my eyes to see you in everyone I meet. Open my heart to welcome all your people.

- 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,

This week we will take time to reflect on the topic that makes us feel uncomfortable to talk about: sin matters. *“Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart”* (Hebrews 4.12). God loves us with a steadfast love. But this doesn't mean that He will never correct us or that he will never challenge us to check if we are on a wrong path or that we are able to be on the right path.

What we hear in the second reading is a good example. St. James explains that if someone is exploiting and using other people, lying and cheating and hoarding wealth, they may enjoy the fruits of their crimes for a little while, but they cannot escape justice forever. He says that they will *"weep and wail over their miseries"*.

St. James is clear, direct, and unwavering in his condemnation of sin. He reminds those who read this letter that if they let greed dominate their lives, if they commit injustices against others in order to enjoy comfort themselves, they will not escape their punishment, and it will be a painful punishment.

Vanity, all is vanity. We know that what we possess in this life, one day we cannot bring to the next life. We are called not to be selfish but to be open to see the needs of others, to be generous and share what we have. *“Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. For those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away”* (Mark 4. 24-25).

Jesus is just as clear, too. He explains that un-repentant sin has consequences; it leads to condemnation. He is strongly warning us to be careful for whatever can cause us to sin. He is not only warning us, but he asks us if something is causing us to sin, we need to be rid of it.

“If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire; and if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell, and if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched” (Mark 9.43-18).

My dear sisters and brothers, these comments of St. James and Jesus are not meant to scare us into feeling guilt - it's not some psychological manipulation technique. Rather, they are simply informing us about the facts: SIN, willfully turning away from God and his moral law, has consequences, and we should strive to avoid them.

Sin puts a spiritual millstone around our necks that one day will drown us and destroy our intimacy with God, therefore we should seek His help to liberate us. Charity, however, even in the smallest way, brings us up and liberates us from those sinful attachments that threaten to drown us for good.

I invite all of you to re-read one of two readings, St. James in the second reading, or the Gospel, and to continue to reflect and pray on the message. Keep in mind that God loves us as sinners, but he hates sin.

I wish for you all to enjoy the first week of autumn.

Blessings always.

Fr. Louis Nguyen

The Sacrament of Reconciliation



- 30 minutes before and after Daily Mass (Tuesday – Friday)
- Saturdays at **8:30 am** or by appt.



Congratulations to

John Javier & Micah Lim

who were married at St. Gerard on September 18th.

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



News from the Knights of Columbus



Charity Appeal tickets are to be handed in before the end of September. Please place them in the collection basket at Mass in an envelope marked "K of C Tickets" or "Charity Appeal Tickets." Contact Ted Osicki 306.620.8333 for further information.

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



As we embrace the beginning of this Fall season, let us open our hearts and welcome the start of the 22nd Archbishop's Appeal. This theme this year is about love, God's **Unbinding Love**.

More information and gift cards will be sent to your mailboxes soon.

While we journey toward the Advent Season, we encourage you to reflect on all the things you are grateful for and give thanks to God for His unbinding love, and prayerfully consider a donation that would show your love to His Church.



ARCHDIOCESE OF
Regina

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The Canadian government proclaimed September 30th as a new national statutory holiday, a National day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour survivors, their families, and communities. The Catholic Church has a significant role and responsibility for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada. With the recent confirmations of unmarked graves, this day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the history of residential schools and grow in our understanding towards a commitment to true healing and reconciliation. Please check with your local parish for events and/or learning opportunities. You can also find more information on our website at:

<https://archregina.sk.ca/indigenous-relations> and <https://archregina.sk.ca/calendar/indigenous-relations/2021-09-30/national-day-truth-and-reconciliation>

If you would like to contribute financially to the TRC Healing Fund, please visit:

<https://archregina.sk.ca/giving>

The Archdiocese of Regina Lay Formation Program

Forming Catholic leaders for service and evangelization

"Learning about apologetics has been a highlight for me because it involves the defense of the faith. When it is done in a kind and gentle way, conversations with all sorts of people open up." - Dean Vey, Resurrection Parish, Regina.

One weekend a month from October to June, Catholics just like you are gathering at Campion College in Regina to receive the tools and the guidance they need to speak confidently about the church, their faith, and Jesus Christ in their homes, parishes and the world. Why not make their story, your story?

We are currently accepting applications for our Fall intake. For more information on how to register or our COVID-19 health and safety protocols, please contact our Program Coordinator, Deacon Eric Gurash at 306.352.1651 ext 211 or email him at egurash@archregina.sk.ca

ArchRegina Congress & Archbishop's Appeal Kickoff

Thank you to everyone for joining in this year's congress. For those who weren't able to join in, you can watch this year's congress at: www.youtube.com/ArchdioceseRegina



Bringing Home the Word

Protect Life

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The tapestry by Pieter van Aelst in the Vatican Museum, *Slaughter of the Innocents*, may not seem to have much to do with today's readings, yet it does. Let me explain: This wall-size work of art depicts the murder decreed by Herod of all the children two years and under. It was his desperate effort to extinguish any possibility that the Messiah might eventually contest his throne.

The reading of James could very well be applied to the greedy and avaricious Herod. "You have lived on earth in luxury and pleasure; you have fattened your hearts for the day of [your own] slaughter" (James 5:5). All the wealth, authority, and success he had only led him to be more grasping and insecure. Anyone who sees a threat to his own well-being in the birth of a child reveals his own internal poverty of spirit.

Rather than remove the little ones from our lives, we should do all we can to edify and maintain their faith. Jesus, as well as James, has harsh words for anyone who would lead a little one to sin.

Herod was the first who needed to hear the words of the Messiah he was trying to silence. If anything causes you to sin, even something as precious as a hand or foot, it's better to cut it off and live physically impaired rather than maintain apparent wholeness while spiritually rotting from within. The life of our souls and that of the little ones is of paramount importance, and no material security should be placed ahead of it.

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Parkland Right to Life Prayerful Witness

Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021 - 2 pm to 3 pm
at Gladstone and Broadway



Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!

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

Prayer Service
Thursday,
September 30, 2021
7:00 pm

Honouring
NATIONAL DAY
for Truth and
Reconciliation

Everyone is welcome!

(You are encouraged to wear orange
as a sign of solidarity
with our Indigenous sisters & brothers)

Prayer for National Day for Healing and Reconciliation

*Adapted from the Prayer for the Success of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

O God, we praise and thank You for the blessings of life in Canada from your natural bounty and from the work of human hands.

We ask you to open our ears to the truths about our collective history from survivors of residential schools.

We ask you to open our minds to the complex and subtle ways in which past mistakes, arrogance, misuse of authority, and even sinfulness have damaged our social fabric.

We ask you to open our hearts that we may continue to listen even when the truth challenges us, that we may commit ourselves in all humility to do what we can, and that we may support the efforts of others to restore these broken relationships.

We pray with confidence that, by your grace, we may grow into your community of love and forgiveness.

We make this prayer in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Season of Creation **Mountain Sunday**. Father God, we are asked to move a mountain of indifference to the earth. We have taken more than we need, leaving little margin for the future. Biodiversity is groaning under the pressure. Soften our hardness of heart. Turn our gaze to each other, especially those most affected by the severe droughts, heat, and floods caused by climate change. Help us to truly hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. - Linda Maddaford

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues. (28th): 7:30pm- Finance Council Meeting
Wed. (29th): 7:30pm- Pastoral Council Meeting

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

SEPTEMBER 30

Some ways that non-Indigenous can take action themselves or in their parishes:

1. Learn to open your meetings with First Nations land/territory acknowledgment for Treaty 4 as developed by the Archdiocese and Indigenous people. Treaty 4 territory is where Regina is located: *“We acknowledge that we are on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Metis peoples.”*
2. Participate in the Kairos Blanket Exercise: <https://www.kairosblanketexercise.org/>
3. Books to read:
 - Clearing the Plains –James Daschuk
 - The Inconvenient Indian –Thomas King
 - The Education of Augie Merasty–David Carpenter & Joseph Auguste Merasty
 - Indian Horse –also as a film Indian Horse Feature Film at www.indianhorse.ca
4. Films and Videos to watch:
 - Reserve 107 - www.reserve107thefilm.com
 - In the Spirit of Reconciliation – www.reconciliation.film
 - First Contact www.firstcontactcanada.ca/episodes/season-1/
 - It had to be Done – https://www.nfb.ca/film/second_stories_it_had_to_be_done/
 - Truth and Reconciliation Commission Videos - www.trc.ca/media/trc-video.html

View these short videos before reading or viewing other Residential School information

- Why Don't You People Just Get Over It –Senator Murray Sinclair
<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-current-for-april-4-mmiwg-ottawa-public-forum-1.4053431/how-senator-murray-sinclair-responds-to-why-don-t-residential-school-survivors-just-get-over-it-1.4053522>
- Justice for Aboriginal Peoples –It's Time -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5DrXZUIinU>
- Took The Children Away - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpNSrqsU1eI>

Terminologies:

Aboriginal- The descendants of the original inhabitants of North America; comes from the Latin word ‘ab’ (from) and ‘origine’ (origin, beginning). The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Aboriginal people – “Indian, Metis and Inuit”. These are 3 separate people with unique heritages, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

Indigenous- All inhabitants indigenous to their lands and territories and their descendants; comes from the Latin word *indigen*, which means “spring from the land; native.”

Using Indigenous over Aboriginal encourages territory acknowledgements, a practice which links Indigenous Peoples to their land and respects their claims over it. It recognizes their internationally legal right to offer or withhold consent to development under the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In Canada the accepted term for people who are Indigenous and who do not identify as Inuit or metis is *First Nations*.

1. **First Nations People** – Replaced the word Indian. Includes both Status and Non Status.

Status: person who meets the requirements of the Indian Act, who is registered under the Act.

Non-status: of Aboriginal descent, who does not meet the criteria of the Indian Act, or lost their status or despite meeting criteria, has not been registered as a Status Indian.

Treaty Indian: descendant of family members who signed treaties with the colonial government (British Monarchy). Generally, all Treaty Indians are Status, but Status Indians are not necessarily treaty Indians. They belong to a First Nation or Indian Band that signed a treaty with the crown.

2. **Metis** – A person who self identifies as Metis, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples and is of historic Metis Nation Ancestry. They have a unique, mixed First Nation and European ancestry and culture.
3. **Inuit** – Inuit Register defines as “Inuit” all children born to an Inuk and a person of another race, regardless of the race. People living mainly in Northern Canada, Greenland, Alaska and eastern Siberia, who are original inhabitants of the Arctic.

YOUTH REFLECTION

"A Cup of Water in Jesus' Name"

This Week...

Both Joshua and John have the same concerns. Both Moses and Jesus have the same response. Don't be so worried! Don't be such an elitist! Anyone can serve. If good work is being done, please don't stop it. Let it happen; in fact, encourage it.

Ames reminds us that the good work we don't do can hurt us. If others suffer from our lack of service, we will be held accountable for it.

For Your Reflection

In both the first reading and the Gospel, the same situation occurs. Joshua and John are concerned because an outsider is doing the kinds of things they are supposed to be doing. Moses and Jesus reassure them: There is nothing to worry about. The more, the merrier. Do not be jealous or insecure.

- When have you been jealous of someone else? When has someone's actions, talents, accomplishments, or friendships worried you? When have you begun to feel concerned that someone else's success might make your success less important or impressive?
- When has someone shut you out of their circle of friends? What was it like? How did you deal with it?
- Have you ever tried to shut someone out of your circle of friends? Why? What was the problem? What happened?

Jesus says that whenever we give someone even just a cup of water in his name, we will have our reward.

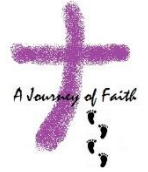
- What do you think it means to give something or to do something "in Jesus' name"?
- Have you had the opportunity to serve Jesus in that way but chose to put it off, or decided to do otherwise? What influenced your decision?
- Do you think most teenagers would see serving Jesus as a worthy goal or priority? Why or why not? If not, what do you think of that opinion? How is serving Jesus any different from making the world a better place?



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