



**ST. GERARD PARISH
PASTORAL COUNCIL
AND
FINANCE COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Nominations are now open for the following positions (and terms):

Pastoral & Finance Council

Vice-chairperson	3 years	Secretary	3 years
Religious Education	3 years	Family & Social	3 years
Youth	3 years	Public Relations	3 years
Community Life	3 years	Ecumenical	3 years
Properties	3 years	Hall	3 years

Nominations forms are available on the large table in the Welcome Area and at the Parish Office.

If you have any questions about these positions, please contact Father Francis or stop by the Parish Office for a copy of the St. Gerard Constitution & Bylaws.

**The Annual General Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 7th @ 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall.
All parishioners are encouraged to attend.**

Saint Teresa of Calcutta (1910–1997) wrote: "In each of our lives Jesus comes as the bread of life—to be eaten, to be consumed by us. This is how he loves us. Then Jesus comes in our human life as the hungry one, the other, hoping to be fed with the bread of our life, our hearts loving, and our hands serving. In loving and serving, we show that we have been created in the likeness of God, for God is love. This is what Jesus meant when he said, 'Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect.'"

- Jesus, The Word to be Spoken," compiled by Father Angelo D. Scolozzi



**Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools News
February 20 - February 24, 2017**



Mid-winter Break

"Praise you, Lord, for the blessing of learning."

~Catholic Prayers for Every Day and All Day~

The Annual Meeting of Electors for Christ the Teacher RCSSD No. 212 will be held Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at St. Henry's Senior School (1255 Prince Edward Street, Melville), commencing at 7:00 p.m.

The business of the meeting will be conducted in accordance with Section 97 of The Education Act, 1995.



SACRAMENTS of INITIATION PREPARATION



BAPTISM

The First Sacrament of Initiation

The next Baptism Preparation class is **TONIGHT, Sunday, February 19th!**

CONFIRMATION

The Second Sacrament of Initiation

FIRST EUCHARIST

The Third Sacrament of Initiation

~ COME JOIN US AT THE TABLE ~

Session #4

Sunday, March 12th @ 6:30pm



News from the CWL



The CWL is looking for gently used purses, scarves and jewellery! If you're cleaning your closets and find some of these items to pass on, please leave them by the CWL room. Items will be collected 'til the end of February. These will be part of a fundraiser for the refugee family. Thank you!

St. Gerard's CWL invites you to their **Spring Tea**, Saturday, March 4 from 2pm to 4pm at St. Gerard's Parish Hall, 125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton.

Admission is \$5, twelve and under free.

Bring a friend and enjoy tea sandwiches, dainties, tea and coffee! Browse through our "New to You" Boutique of gently used purses, scarves and jewellery, all at sparkling prices! Proceeds to help refugee family from Eritrea. Everyone is welcome!

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.

Our next retreat in Saskatchewan will be held on April 7-9, 2017. To register, please contact Elaine at 1.306.480.8911 or email r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net



News from the Knights of Columbus



- Feb. 20 Family Fun Day (see page 1/posters)
Evening bingo
- Feb. 25/26 Membership Drive – an open opportunity to join the brotherhood of the Knights in the next admission degree. Knights – wear your name tags!
- Feb. 28 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper beginning @ 4pm

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Brian @ 306.730.7083 or 306.730.7017 after 5pm (or leave a message).



World Day of Prayer Service

"Am I Being Unfair to You?"

Friday, March 3rd @ 7pm
Grace Presbyterian Church
(Church by the water tower)
66 Park St, Yorkton

Service prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of the Philippines

Bible Study Thursday, February 23rd @ 7pm (lower hall), followed by a rehearsal for the service.

Joint choir rehearsal Thursday, March 2nd @ 7pm.

All women, men and children are invited to attend.

Christians in more than 170 countries and in 2,000 communities across Canada will gather to learn about, pray, and celebrate in solidarity with the women of The Philippines.

The Archdiocese of Regina Lay Formation Program

Sharing the Joy of the Gospel!

Our mission is to provide you with a renewed missionary zeal fueled by the joy of the Gospel! One weekend per month from October until June, Catholics who want to know, love and serve Christ more deeply come together at Campion College in Regina. During this three-year program you will:

- Become more deeply aware of God's personal love and activity in your life.
- Encounter Jesus Christ, discover his plan of sheer goodness for you and deepen your relationship with Christ and his Church.
- Discover how to more intentionally integrate your faith in daily life in service to Christ.
- Be given the Spiritual and Formation tools you need to follow Christ's commission to "Go, make disciples of all nation.

We are currently accepting applications for the Fall of 2017. For more information or to register, please contact our Program Coordinator, Eric Gurash at 306.325.1651 ext 211 or email him at egurash@archregina.sk.ca



Bringing Home the Word

Compassion and Companions

By Fr. John Bartunek, LC, SThD

Eating together brings people into a basic common space and activity that serves as a catalyst for mutual knowledge and growth in intimacy. When we share a meal, we share our presence and our vulnerability. There is no perfect person. We are all incomplete. And that's OK. It's how we are designed.

While our family gatherings during the holiday season are filled with shared meals, we also know that family get-togethers are not always characterized by unadulterated joy. The dysfunctions at work in our relationships can't hide so well during those times of companionship. The wounds and the unresolved misunderstandings are often exposed when we come together to share a common table.

As children we often experience only the good side of those family gatherings. That's how I remember it. Every year, a member of my family would host everyone. How I used to look forward to each gathering! Seeing my cousins, playing games, sitting around with the adults while they talked and laughed, exploring my uncle's house or Grandmother's apartment building with my sisters. The food was a big attraction, too.

I vividly remember sitting at the grownups' table and gazing with fond affection at everyone. I really didn't understand everything they were talking about, but there was my grandmother's wise face, my aunt's sparkling eyes, my uncle's mischievous smile, and my dad's tough but somehow comforting solemnity. It didn't occur to me to criticize them. I accepted them and they accepted me. We were unique, companions on a special day. And that was delightful. This is the attitude we should take with us into the world. An acceptance, not necessarily of other's actions, but of their being members of our family.

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St. Gerard's Development & Peace Share Lent workshop: The 2017 Share Lent theme is "Women at the Heart of Change". What does this mean in development work? Please join us in exploring this theme and preparing for the Share Lent campaign. Everyone is welcome! Sunday, February 26th at 1:30 pm.

PARISH PASTORAL AND FINANCE COUNCIL ELECTION

Over the next few weeks, a brief description of the Council positions that are up for nomination will be printed in the bulletin:

Family and Social - Promotes Christian Growth amongst our parish families and develops a sense of belonging to this larger family called St. Gerard. Organizes and carries out parish social activities, for example, the social functions associated with the Sacraments and Sacramental preparation. Coordinates coffee/lunch after Sunday Masses and for other occasions.

Youth – Fosters and coordinates the activities of the youth of the parish for Grades 7 to 12. Promotes and encourages youth participation in the full life of the parish.

Ecumenical - The Ecumenical Committee, in consultation with the pastor, is encouraged to assist the parish in fostering healthy ecumenical relations with other Christian communities in the parish boundaries. Assists in co-ordinating a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity celebration and invites parishioners to partake in the Prayer Service. Makes know and encourages World Day of Prayer in the local area. Attends the annual Archdiocesan Ecumenical Workshop.

For more information on these or any of the other positions on Council, please contact Father Francis or stop by the Parish Office for a copy of the Constitution & Bylaws.

One Body with Many Parts

The Church is one body. Paul writes, "We were baptised into one body in a single Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:13). But this one body has many parts. As Paul says, "If they were all the same part, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one" (1 Corinthians 12:19). Not everyone can be everything. Often we expect one member of the body to fulfill a task that belongs to others. But the hand cannot be asked to see nor the eye to hear.

Together we are Christ's body, each of us with a part to play in the whole (see 1 Corinthians 12:27). Let's be grateful for our limited but real part in the body.

Bread for the Journey, by Henri J.M. Nouwen,
©1997 HarperSanFrancisco

PARISH CENTRE HAPPENINGS
306-783-4255 - PEROGY HOTLINE – 306-783-4255

******Perogy Bee******

Tues.	Feb. 21	9:30 am –Preparing: dough, potatoes, onions
Wed.	Feb. 22	9:00 am - Pinching
Thurs.	Feb. 23	9:00 am - Bagging

YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"Love Your Enemies"

This Week...

Holiness and love are proclaimed with today's readings. But Jesus takes us a step further. We are to strive to be perfect. The old law to take "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" is no longer our law. We are to love even our enemies. We are to give to those who take from us and to let people hit us a second time after they have hit us a first time.

For Your Reflection

The old law about taking "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" was never meant to be a justification for excessive violence. It started out as a law *limiting* violence - take *no more than* a tooth for a tooth - because people were ready and willing to kill someone over a broken tooth. Jesus put a stop to that. To return violence for violence only continues its cycle, and it justifies violence instead of non-violence when settling conflicts.

- Why is the command "Love your enemies" hard to follow?
- Why is our culture so familiar with methods of violence, yet so ignorant of methods of non-violent conflict resolution?
- What do you think might end the cycle of violence?
- If someone is angry and wishes to do physical harm to you, what are your nonviolent options?
- When it comes to choosing between violent and nonviolent methods, does gender make any difference? If so, why? If not, why not?

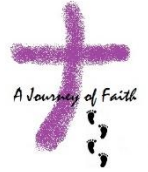
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle A for Ordinary Time*, St. Mary's Press, 2004



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. Francis Hengen, or if you would like more information contact the RCIA Co-ordinator, Mary Bybliw, through the parish office at 306-782-2449 or email office@stgerard.ca

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 our city 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 or check the website:

www.mystfx.ca/academic/continuinged/Ministry.html