

St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

May 24, 2020 The Ascension of

the Lord

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES: (Cancelled until further notice)

CONTACT US

The Parish Office is closed until further notice.

When phoning the office please leave a message which will be returned as soon as possible.

You may also email the office.

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4 www.stgerard.ca | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: office@stgerard.ca

Pastor.....Fr. Louis Kim Nguyen 306.782.0323 <u>louisyorkton@gmail.com</u> 306.621.8068

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Fr. Louis celebrates daily Mass to fulfil your requests for the dearly departed and your special intentions of the living or in Thanksgiving. These masses are not open to the public, but he will continue to pray the intentions listed below and will be remembering all of you in his daily prayers.

Monday (25th) +Claude Slogocki

Tuesday (26th) Fran Meehan

Wednesday (27th) + June Langton

Thursday (28th) Anne Novakovski

Friday (29th) +Rose Broda

Saturday (30th) Russell Griffith

Sunday (31st) **Pentecost Sunday**

Mass for the People

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation: Half-hour before Saturday morning and Saturday evening Mass, or anytime by appointment. **PLEASE PHONE FATHER LOUIS AT 306.782.0323**

Infant Baptism: Please contact Fr. Louis at least one month prior to Baptism.

RCIA: Adults wishing to be received into the Catholic Church should contact Fr. Louis.

Matrimony: Please contact Fr. Louis at least 6 months prior to the time you would like to be married.

Anointing: Please contact Fr. Louis at any time.

For Anointing of the Sick and other emergencies, you may contact Fr. Louis at 306.621.8068



Stay Connected Online! www.stgerard.ca



Risen Lord, you share with us the mission of God. Help me to use my gifts and talents to do God's work.

- From Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeny

A Note from Your Pastor.....

My dear Sisters and Brothers:

"... Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you, and remember I am with you always to the end of the earth" (Mt 28.19)

These are the last few words the Risen Lord said to his disciples before disappearing into the cloud. Immediately we understand what the Risen Lord had commanded them: do not remain in the same place, but reach out and work with their mission. In the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teach people, help them to obey what He taught them, and celebrate baptism for people.

The Risen Lord asked the disciples to reach out and make more believers in Him, help them to have faith through baptism. Why? Because He wanted salvation to reach everyone as John said in his Gospel, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (Jn 3. 16).

We should not think that Jesus gave this mission only to His disciples. It is for us as well because all of us are his followers. We have a mission to reach out and to teach others to know and obey what the Lord commanded to us.

Reaching out! We have heard this many times. We have to go to our sisters and brothers, not only waiting for them to come to us. In our parish, we need to continually pay attention to reaching out to others. We are the disciples of Jesus! For example, right now we are experiencing isolation from our friends, family, and parish family. People are hungry for connection. Give your neighbour a friendly wave! Cut your neighbours lawn for them! Thank the grocery store clerks for their service! Pick up the Parish Directory and give someone a phone call to see how they are doing.

Domestic Church! I want to say something about teaching faith in the family. I want to remind you that when we were children, our parents taught us to know who God is, where He is, and what he taught... they helped us to build up our relationship with God through prayers; they taught us the value of morals, humanity... They passed their faith onto us and our siblings. They did a great job, they finished their mission. Our parents taught us by their witness and gave us many good lessons of faith. Parents, are you able to do the same with your children?

The family is the first school of teaching faith. It is the first school to teach children how to know and obey God's law. The family is the "Domestic Church" and God is at the centre. In it all members are praying and gathering to learn and to discover God's presence.

The disciples have to return to Galilee and continue the mission that Jesus started, to proclaim the Good News to all peoples. For us, Galilee is representative for our own home family. Our mission is not finished yet.

I encourage each family, and especially young families to organize your own family to be a school of prayers. Set the priority to put God first and honour Him, and be in communion with Him.

We pray that in each family we live what we believe and transfer our faith to the next generation. Make our faith alive and help one another to live in it.

My dear sisters and brothers, I have heard someone say to me that "We may never get back to the way things were before COVID-19" and I wonder why not? Because indeed, we are looking for opportunities to love, to serve, to share the gift of a smile or a kind word. We look for opportunities to shine the light in the darkness, to love others well. Do you think so?

May the Risen Lord bless you all.

Fr. Louis

Sunday Mass on Facebook (Live)

Celebrated by Father Louis Kim Nguyen

- •Search <u>Filipino Catholic Community in Yorkton</u> on Facebook
- •Encourage everyone you know to participate

Every Sunday at 11am!

Thank you to the Filipino Catholic Community in Yorkton for providing their Facebook page and technical skills to provide our parish with livestreamed Sunday Mass.

Livestream of Daily and Sunday Masses - Resurrection Parish (Regina) -

are available at **9am** at the following link:

www.livestream.com/accounts/17094656

Mass may be viewed live, or at any time after the time listed.

Pentecost Sunday Mass will be livestreamed from Holy Rosary Cathedral on Sunday, May 31 at 9am. www.archregina.sk.ca/live

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul.

Since I can not now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though You were already there, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You; permit not that I should ever be separated from You. Amen.



ST. GERARD CHURCH IS OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER:

Tuesday - 5 pm to 7 pm

Wednesday - 9 am to 11 am

Thursday - 9 am to 11 am

Friday - 9 am to 11 am Saturday - 9 am to 11 am

- 4 pm to 7 pm

Sunday - 8 am to noon

Subject to change without notice.



Truth Revealed

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

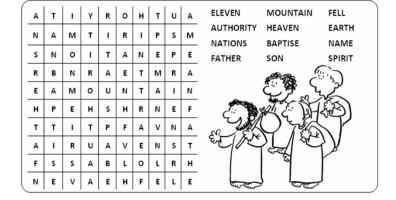
Pinturicchio's wall painting, Ascension, is found in the apartments of Pope Alexander VI Borgia and was painted around the same time as one of Columbus' voyages to America: 1492. When the Alexander died in 1503, these rooms were shut and not opened again until 1889. How could such artistic treasures have been locked up and forgotten for 400 years?

The same thing can happen with the feast of the Ascension. We don't always give it much thought. Its powerful beauty is locked away, collecting dust.

The great truth revealed today is that Jesus is in heaven, in bodily form, seated at the right hand of the Father and watching over us all. From there he intercedes for us; from there he sends us on mission.

What are we to do with this truth? Treat it like a myth or an ancient story? Just stare at the sky and wonder like the apostles? No, we are to get busy building God's kingdom. His kingdom will not happen automatically. He calls us to be his witnesses until the end of the earth. We cannot sit by and let our politics, our schools, our churches, and our arts evolve unguided by the gospel. We are called to roll up our sleeves and get involved. "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19). Remember the good administrator who was left some talents. His master went away only to eventually return asking for a rendering. Jesus has left only to return again. Until then, it's time to build his kingdom.

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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.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Countdown to Pentecost

Jesus told his followers they were witnesses to great events. They saw him die. And they saw him risen to new life.

They would also see the Good News spread throughout the world. Words of change and forgiveness to all people.

There was a difference between the two set of events. The death and resurrection were out of the followers' hands. That was God's work. But spreading the Good News was in their hands. They could participate in God's will. With the power of the Spirit, they could tell others about God's love.

Jesus calls us to be witnesses of the Good News, just like the followers. We are to spread God's love. Sometimes in word. Sometimes in action. To help your family reflect on their commission as Christians, create a week calendar that counts down the time from Ascension and Pentecost. Each day, have your family members record things they have said or done to spread God's love. This is a great way to prepare for the celebration of the Spirit, God's presence that gives us the power to share his love.

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St. Gerard Parish Outreach (COVID-19) Ministry



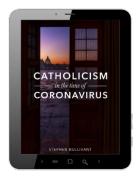
THANK YOU to St. Gerard's group of dedicated parishioners who are contacting parishioners by telephone to ensure that everyone is managing well during the pandemic restrictions. All have completed an Oath of Confidentiality per the guidelines of the Archdiocese of Regina.

IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED AN EMAIL, A PHONE CALL, OR A LETTER FROM THE PARISH OR FROM ONE OF THE OUTREACH (COVID-19) MINISTRY TEAM, please phone the Parish Office at 306.782.2449 to update your information.

Our goal is to contact everyone who is registered with our parish!! (1325 households to date)

- → Each weekend **676** households receive Father Louis' message by email.
- → To date, the Outreach (COVID-19) Ministry team has attempted to contact **509** households who do not have an email address on file.

Many parishioners have discontinued their land line and have switched to cellular phones. If this is the case, please phone (or email) the Parish Office with your new contact information. Thanks!



Click <u>here</u> for a free eBook from Word on Fire!

Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Time: 12pm (SK time) Registration is required.

Click the link below to register.



https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN BuM EerHUSRS6VFg-ReSORA

READ WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK!





Looking for singers/musicians of all ages!!

In the next three weeks, the Youth and Young Adult Office of the Archdiocese is working

on a large diocesan project, part of which will include putting together a diocesan-wide virtual choir.

This project has a short turnaround time, so interested parties should contact the Youth Office (ymo@archregina.sk.ca) BY MAY 23 for specific instructions on how to be a part of this exciting project.

PLEASE consider lending your talents to this initiative meant to bring hope, joy and unity.

COMING SOON.... "The Diocese Tonight"!

On June 14 at 7pm, the Archdiocese of Regina will go LIVE on the internet, bringing the Church in Southern Sask. together in a way that has not been done before.

If you have a computer and can click on a link, you will be able to join us! No special skills or programs are required. Watch for more info coming soon on this virtual family gathering!!

How is God at work in your community?

The Archdiocese is looking for good news items to feature!

Please send us a brief write-up about good news and good works coming out of your community, so that we may thank God for them and hopefully inspire others as well. Is your parish doing some kind of outreach? Gathering virtually to pray? Have you taken to the streets with signs of faith? Can you share with us pictures of your family praying or participating in mass from your home?

Please email us at ymo@archregina.sk.ca by June 1 with a paragraph, pictures and or video clip.

Please be generous in taking the time to share these good news stories. They are much needed.



The Office of Youth Ministry at the Archdiocese of Regina is officially adding Young Adult Ministry to its portfolio. In light of this change, we'd love to hear from you! While we certainly have some ideas and are excited about moving forward, we would really appreciate some input from young adults and those who are passionate about young adult ministry.

Please join us Wednesday, May 27 from 8:00 – 9:00 PM as we meet virtually on Zoom using the link below.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81858889623

A Celebration of the Word of God Resource

St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission in Bruno, Saskatchewan, Canada, is happy to make available an easy-to-follow guide, designed for use in the home--the domestic church--by the lay faithful, to help families and other small groups enter into daily reflection on the Word of God and Spiritual Communion.

This guide is particularly suited for these times when we are not able to attend Mass together but still yearn to unite ourselves with Christ, the Word of God, through prayer and reflection together.

Here is the link to the downloadable and printable A Celebration of the Word of God resource:

<u>www.sttherese.ca/blog/item/407-a-celebration-of-the-word-of-god</u>

To read the Archdiocese of Regina Parish Re-opening Plan dated May 20, 2020 click here





Spilling the Tea: on Catholic Social Teachings

30 years and most people still don't know about them! Learn what they are and ask our weekly guest how they live them out Tuesdays at 7:00 pm on Facebook

www.facebook.com/ArchdioceseofRegina

Starts Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

The Archdiocese of Regina, in communication with Catholic health leaders, has compiled a series of one-page directives and guidelines on a variety of issues affecting churches and sacramental practice during this COVID-19 pandemic. Information is provided on current government directives, private prayer in church, sacraments, weddings, funerals, and more.

www.archregina.sk.ca/content/church-andsacramental-guidelines-covid-19-pandemic



Online Catechetical Resources

FAITH FORMATION

Our Catechist Robert Barr has put together a wide variety of online resources for children, teens, adult and families:

<u>www.archregina.sk.ca/catechetical-support-parishes</u>

COVID-19 UPDATES

The Pastoral office is now closed to the public until further notice, if you need to reach a staff member, the best way to contact them is by email.

A full list of their contact information is available on the COVID-19 Updates page.

www.archregina.sk.ca/content/covid-19-updates

Archdiocese of Regina on Social Media

We invite you to like us on Facebook, we will have regular Facebook Live prayers and we would love to have you join us!

www.facebook.com/ArchdioceseofRegina/

You can also find us on Twitter @archioceseofreg and on Instagram archdioceseofregina.

Prayers, Devotions and Resources



Visit the Prayers and Devotions page to find information on daily mass, daily readings and reflections, prayers, stations of the cross and other resources that may be valuable during this time of social distancing.

https://archregina.sk.ca/prayers-devotionsresources

Also see our page with French resources:

https://archregina.sk.ca/fr/prieres-devotions-etressources

Compassionate Listening

If you find that during this difficult time you need a compassionate listening ear, visit:

https://archregina.sk.ca/archregina-outreach

for a list of spiritual directors and candidates in training who have volunteered their time to be there for anyone who is struggling.

Archdiocese of Regina Weekly Report

Sign up for our Archdiocese of Regina Weekly Report and stay up to date on COVID-19 Updates and other news, delivered to your inbox every Friday morning. Free! Sign up now: https://bit.ly/2QIMB0o

The Archdiocese of Regina has volunteers from all around the diocese who are willing to reach out if you are in need.



If you need groceries or essential items but are ill, immobile or quarantined and so not able to leave the house AT ALL (noting that NONE of us should be leaving more than absolutely necessary!) please contact us and we will set you up with a volunteer who can help. Please also contact us if you live alone and are feeling lonely and isolated. We can arrange for someone to check in on you by phone.

We are committed to operating in such a way that the Health Canada Guidelines, and provincial Public Health Orders from our Chief Medical Officer and provincial government are strictly adhered to.

If you need some assistance, please email outreach@archregina.sk.ca at anytime.

OR call 306-541-3086 between 9-5 Tuesday-Saturday

MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY

Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Faithful for the Month of May 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020 Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist

FIRST PRAYER

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith.

"Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.



We fly to your protection,
O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions
in our necessities,
but deliver us always
from every danger,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

Amen.

SECOND PRAYER

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God".

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

"The Spirit Will be Sent"

This Week...

Jesus came to teach us the way of God. Jesus promised us the Spirit - the Spirit of Yahweh, the Spirit of Jesus, the Spirit that is alive in all of us. When we honour Jesus in our hearts and our actions, we are following the way he taught us to live, and the Spirit is alive and acting through us.

For Your Reflection

Jesus often spoke about himself and his significant relationship with his disciples, saying things like, "I am the vine, you are the branches," "I am the Resurrection and the life," "You are the light of the world," "You are the salt of the earth," "I am the Good Shepherd."

When a significant relationship is healthy, it has positive impact on the life of the people involved. That is a sign that the Holy Spirit is at work.

- Do you ever talk to your close friends about your relationship with them? Why or why not?

The Spirit has several names: Paraclete, Advocate, Counsellor, Helper. But the most simple one to remember and understand is Love. God is love. The Spirit of God is love.

- It has been said that it is easier to "love the world" than to actually love your next-door neighbour or some of the people in your family. What is meant by that? Do you agree with that? Why or why not?
- If love is so simple to understand, why is it so complicated and difficult to share?

Excerpt from In Touch With the Word, Cycle A for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter 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. 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, <u>diplomainministry@stfx.ca</u>