



# St. Gerard

## Roman Catholic Parish

**May 31, 2020**  
**Pentecost Sunday**

**(Last day of the  
Easter Season)**

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](http://www.stgerard.ca) | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca)

Pastor.....	Fr. Louis Kim Nguyen	306.782.0323	<a href="mailto:louisyorkton@gmail.com">louisyorkton@gmail.com</a>
		306.621.8068	
Parish Office Administrator.....	Sandra Archer		
Caretaker.....	Mario Guerra		

### MASS INTENTIONS

**PLEASE NOTE:** Father Louis will celebrate weekday Mass in the church for **10 people (including Father Louis and the ministers)**. **Sunday Mass will continue to be live on Facebook at 11am Sunday (not open for people to attend).**

Please be patient, as we are not quite ready to have public Sunday Mass. Thank you!

Mon.	(1 <sup>st</sup> )	7pm	+Emil Polegi
Tues.	(2 <sup>nd</sup> )	7pm	+Claude Slogocki
Wed.	(3 <sup>rd</sup> )	7pm	Elizabeth Beres
Thurs.	(4 <sup>th</sup> )	7pm	David Ryhorski
Fri.	(5 <sup>th</sup> )	7pm	Deceased members of the Smith family
Saturday	(6 <sup>th</sup> )	9am	+Patricia Karulis
Sunday	(7 <sup>th</sup> )		<b>The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity</b> Mass for the People

### SACRAMENTS

**Reconciliation: Father Louis will be available at 8:30am Saturday for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.** For other times please phone him 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](http://www.stgerard.ca)



Risen Lord, your Spirit fills the world with love and peace. Empower me to be an instrument of your peace, love, and forgiveness to all people.

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

## A Note from Your Pastor.....

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This weekend we celebrate the birth of the Church. On this day, the Church was born. The Holy Spirit came to fulfill the promise of the Lord, and since that time, he gives the Church life. Henri Nouwen says, “*The Holy Spirit, whom Jesus promised to his followers, is the great gift of God. Without the Spirit of Jesus we can do nothing, but in and through his Spirit we can live free, joyful, and courageous lives. We cannot pray, but the Spirit of Christ can pray in us. We cannot create peace and joy, but the Spirit of Christ can fill us with a peace and joy that is not of this world. We cannot break through the many barriers that divide races, sexes, and nations, but the Spirit of Christ unites all people in the all-embracing love of God. The Spirit of Christ burns away our many fears and anxieties and sets us free to move wherever we are sent. That is the great liberation of Pentecost.*” (from “You are the Beloved”)

These words are exactly what I would like to share with you in my message for this weekend, especially when we are faced with the Covid-19 pandemic time. We are reminded that if we have him, the Spirit of Christ, he will burn away all our fears and anxieties and help us to move wherever we are sent. It is truly the great liberation of Pentecost.

We cannot see the Holy Spirit but we can see him in his works. He is truly present in all sacraments which we celebrate - Eucharist, Reconciliation, Confirmation, Matrimony, Anointing of the Sick.... He is truly present in God's Words, in God's community. He is truly present in the many church activities. He is truly present and his work never ceases.

Here is an example of the working of the Holy Spirit. The church has been closed for over 2 months because of the corona virus. All services have been cancelled, and the church is an empty building. When I go there, I see it is so quiet, nobody at all... I just see a very quiet place and only the red lamp at the tabernacle is lit.

To be honest, I am worried. How can we operate the church building without the contributions from all parishioners that we collect each Sunday? We continue to receive donations by pre-authorized giving, but I had been worried, and I prayed and entrusted all is in God's hands. However, just a few weeks later, the office received people's contributions sent to us by mail, by e-transfer, and by CanadaHelps. I am touched by it. To me, I would say all happened like that because the Holy Spirit is working.

Indeed, as we read in the letter of Paul to the Galatians 5: 22-23, “*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*”. **The Holy Spirit works in and through you**, and because you **allow** him to do it, he touches you and inspires you to offer what you can for God's house.

In each contribution that we have received, I see in it your love, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness... The Holy Spirit works through you. I can also see the faith, love and support that you are sharing with the church and with others. On behalf of St. Gerard Parish, I would like to say “thank you” to each and every one of you.

I do believe in Him, I do love Him and I strongly believe that He is working in us and through us.

What more can I say? I encourage you to continue to be open and to allow the Holy Spirit to work through you. He is our advocate, he is our lives, and he teaches us the truth and faith. He is with us always.

We pray together at this time: *Come Holy Spirit to renew our faith and to renew the faith of the earth.*

With this message we finish the Easter season. This has been an Easter season like one that we have never had before. Next weekend we are going back to the Ordinary Time. Summer is coming. I wish all of you the best, and enjoy the beautiful weather. Love you all.

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Louis Nguyen

## Sunday Mass on Facebook (Live)

*Celebrated by Father Louis Kim Nguyen*

- Search [Filipino Catholic Community in Yorkton](#) 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](http://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](http://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.



### PRIVATE PRAYER IN THE CHURCH

Beginning Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> please phone the Parish Office at 306.782.2449 to make arrangements if you would like to spend time in private prayer in the church.

*Subject to change without notice.*



## Bringing Home the Word

### Unity of Spirit

*By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC*

The whole group of believers was gathered with Mary, Jesus' Mother, in the upper room. They were waiting for power to be given to them from on high, as Jesus had promised. They were like children with their mother, keeping the family together. Being the one on earth closest to Jesus, Mary was the disciples' physical and spiritual connection to him, and they listened to her.


Consider what a colorful group the first Christians were. Each believer was different, each unique, each had his or her own background. Yet when the Spirit called them together with Mary, there was a beautiful harmony and complementarity. Opposite of the spirit of the evil one, which causes division and exaggerates individuality, the Spirit of God celebrates legitimate diversity while creating from these different parts one body and one spirit in Christ.

If you have ever been in Rome for an audience with the pope on Wednesday morning or at a large papal Mass like World Youth Day, you have experienced how the Spirit brings unity amid diversity. These gatherings comprise thousands of people of many different nationalities and languages, but all are united in prayer and a common spirit. This is the miracle brought about by the Spirit.

It's not easy to maintain this unity. It requires we each listen to and strive for the unity Jesus asks of us. Selfish individualism is a constant tendency, but it's much easier to resist it when we are united by Mary and the Church to Christ's Spirit.

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R	E	H	T	A	F	D	E	I	S	EVENING	FIRST	DAY
D	D	G	N	I	N	E	V	E	R	DOORS	CLOSED	DISCIPLES
Y	I	E	F	I	T	R	Y	J	O	PEACE	SIDE	FATHER
O	S	E	H	I	N	I	S	A	O	BREATHED	FORGIVE	RETAIN
J	C	V	R	T	I	E	T	A	D			
D	I	I	P	E	A	C	E	Y	E			
I	P	G	E	Y	T	E	O	D	S			
S	L	R	J	O	E	R	R	O	O			
C	E	O	T	S	R	I	F	B	L			
E	S	F	O	J	Y	O	D	A	C			



## Catechism Themes: Pentecost (CCC 731-732)

With the power of the Spirit revealed at Pentecost, the activity of the Trinity was made known. God the Father sent his Son to share his very life, his very Spirit, with his followers. Now, disciples would carry on the work of the Son. They would celebrate the Spirit in their daily lives as they followed in the footsteps of their Lord.

*God calls everyone to repentance, even second chances. How do you respond to his call? How do you help others with their call to conversion?*

Pentecost revealed the power of God's forgiveness, his Spirit. Unlike the Force of Star Wars, the Spirit of God is personal. The Spirit establishes a link between the believer and the person of the Father through the person of the Son. And the Spirit makes that link personal. It is a link of love, hope, and joy based upon personal forgiveness.

Let us rejoice in the Spirit, the third person of the Trinity.

*How can you celebrate a life in the Spirit this week?*

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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

### Family Balloon Race

Jesus breathed on his followers to give them the Spirit. Connect the notion of breath, wind, and the Spirit with a balloon race. Mark out a short race course with tape. Then, pass out balloons to all of your family members. On the count of three,



your family members must blow up their balloons, tie the balloon ends, get on their hands and knees, place the balloon on the start line, and blow their balloons toward the finish line. No one can use any part of their body to move the balloon; they can only use their breath. (Hint. If you have small children, pair up an adult and a small child into a team. The adult can blow up the balloons, while the small child can race the balloon.)

After the race, read John 20:19-23. Stress John 20:23 when Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit upon his followers. Connect breath with life. (One needs breath to live.) Tell your family members that the Spirit was the life of Jesus. And his life lives in us now. End the game with a prayer to the Holy Spirit.

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Come, Holy Spirit, and fill your Church with gifts of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, courage, reverence, and awe!

Make saints of us whether we sit in the sanctuary or the pews and teach us all the meaning of holy living.

For this world is in certain need of our courageous witness. Amen.





**Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Mother of the Church  
June 1, 2020**

On May 1, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops joined with the Bishops of the United States to renew the consecration of both nations to the care of Mary, our Blessed Mother. One month later, on June 1, we celebrate the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church.

In March 2018 The Holy See announced the decision by Pope Francis to insert the celebration of the **Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church**, into the General Roman Calendar. The decision by the Holy Father was to make this an annual obligatory memorial.

As indicated in the Decree of the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (Prot. N. 10/18), the obligatory memorial is to be observed annually on the Monday after Pentecost Sunday.

The decree says:

Indeed, the Mother standing beneath the cross (see John 19:25), accepted her Son's testament of love and welcomed all people in the person of the beloved disciple as sons and daughters to be reborn unto life eternal. She thus became the tender Mother of the Church which Christ begot on the cross handing on the Spirit. Christ, in turn, in the beloved disciple, chose all disciples as ministers of his love toward his Mother, entrusting her to them so that they might welcome her with filial affection.

As a caring guide to the emerging Church Mary had already begun her mission in the Upper Room, praying with the Apostles while awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 1:14). In this sense, in the course of the centuries, Christian piety has honored Mary with various titles, in many ways equivalent, such as Mother of Disciples, of the Faithful, of Believers, of all those who are reborn in Christ; and also as "Mother of the Church" as is used in the texts of spiritual authors as well as in the magisterium of popes Benedict XIV and Leo XIII. We encourage you to entrust yourself and your family to the care of our Blessed Mother—on this feast day and every day.

O God, Father of mercies,  
whose Only Begotten Son, as he hung upon the Cross,  
chose the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother,  
to be our Mother also,  
grant, we pray,  
that with her loving help your Church may be more  
fruitful day by day  
and, exulting in the holiness of her children,  
may draw to her embrace all the families of the peoples.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



**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 **677** 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.

The COVID-19 virus has impacted individuals world-wide. St. Gerard's Parish is no exception.

One of the consequences of not being able to gather together for Mass is that our revenue has decreased. Despite availing ourselves to government relief programs, our expenses continue.

Thank you to those who are able to contribute by one of the following methods:

### **Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)**

After downloading the [Pre-Authorized Giving Form](#), please complete it, attach a void cheque, & mail it to:

St. Gerard Parish  
125 Third Ave N  
Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

### **Interac e-Transfer**

1. Log into your online banking account.
2. Find e-Transfer and add [giving@stgerard.ca](mailto:giving@stgerard.ca) to your recipient list.
3. Enter the desired amount.
4. A question, answer, or password is not required by St. Gerard Church, however it may be required by your financial institution. If so, please email the question and answer to [giving@stgerard.ca](mailto:giving@stgerard.ca) with your name, mailing address and telephone number so that we can ensure your contribution is recorded properly.

Please note that this is a secure transfer deposited directly to the church's account.

If you have an envelope number, your donation will be reflected in your annual charitable donation receipt. All others will receive a receipt by mail, so PLEASE include your mailing address in the follow-up email. Thanks!

### **Online through CanadaHelps**

Credit card donations may be made through CanadaHelps by clicking [here](#).

### **Mail envelopes to the church**

You may mail cheques (not cash), enclosed in your offertory envelope to:

St. Gerard Parish  
125 Third Ave N  
Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Dear members of Movements and Associations,

Time has ground to a halt – but the Spirit is moving! Borders are closed, isolation is making itself felt, physical distancing is taking its toll even though we are finding ways to stay connected by various technologies and other media. Through this pandemic, humanity, surrounded by a shared suffering, has embarked on common quest for solutions that will spare people, especially those who are vulnerable on account of their health or employment. Every one of us is affected by the question, “Who are we?”.

Human beings, by virtue of their sense of responsibility, cannot but seek to control situations, and to use their knowledge to forecast what will happen.

The experience of Pentecost allowed the disciples to enter into an attitude of tremendous openness that allowed them to continue Jesus’ mission throughout the whole world, with the Holy Spirit. The Upper Room was no longer a hiding place, and boldness took the place of fear. They say things will never be the same after Covid-19: the ways we have of being Church, our ways of thinking about the world, of living together... Ever since Pentecost, everything has shifted towards a future forever opened by Love and borne along by the Kingdom’s abundance. Each one of us must labour to ensure that this future remains open. Enlightened by faith, the human experience of precariousness and fragility is an opportunity for each person to live the grace of listening and of self-abandonment, of healing and of discernment with the Spirit of God.

As was the case for the two disciples, the compass of a heart that is burning for God guides our hopeful gaze. Many initiatives and examples of willingness to help have revealed the greatness of caregivers and health-care workers. That too is Pentecost, releasing peace from its lockdown and breaking down the distances created by sin.

To all groups and associations borne along by enthusiasm for the mission, may we wish you joy and audacity in that post-Covid time where the Spirit will be at work creating and recreating!

**Standing Committee for Relations with Movements and Associations Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Pentecost 2020**

### 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 [yomo@archregina.sk.ca](mailto:yomo@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.

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### 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!!**

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### 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:

[www.sttherese.ca/blog/item/407-a-celebration-of-the-word-of-god](http://www.sttherese.ca/blog/item/407-a-celebration-of-the-word-of-god)

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To read the Archdiocese of Regina **Parish Re-opening Plan** dated May 20, 2020 click [here](#)

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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-and-sacramental-guidelines-covid-19-pandemic](http://www.archregina.sk.ca/content/church-and-sacramental-guidelines-covid-19-pandemic)

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### Online Catechetical Resources



FAITH FORMATION

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

[www.archregina.sk.ca/catechetical-support-parishes](http://www.archregina.sk.ca/catechetical-support-parishes)

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### 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](http://www.archregina.sk.ca/content/covid-19-updates)

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### 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/](https://www.facebook.com/ArchdioceseofRegina/)

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

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### 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.

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## 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-devotions-resources>

Also see our page with French resources:

<https://archregina.sk.ca/fr/prieres-devotions-et-ressources>

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](mailto:outreach@archregina.sk.ca) at anytime.

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

### 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>

### Livestream Rosary from Christ the King Parish, Regina

Monday to Friday 1:00–2:00 pm  
Saturday 4–6 pm and Sunday 9 am until noon

Go to [www.christtheking.ca](http://www.christtheking.ca) and click on the link pertaining to the Rosary and Adoration.

The link is under Live Stream Events near the top of the page and on the left side (if using a computer).

May 29, 2020

## Faith Leaders' consultation on re-opening places of worship

Soon after the release of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan, faith leaders from across Saskatchewan gathered online to discuss the re-opening of places of worship. We drafted a letter asking the Saskatchewan government to work together with faith communities to develop responsible guidelines bringing places of worship within the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan. [The full text of our letter sent on Thursday, May 14, 2020, along with a list of the participating faith leaders can be found here.](#)

The government has responded to our request with the designation of two members of the COVID-19 Response Team to liaise with faith leaders. We are extremely thankful for the professionalism and commitment of these public servants. A robust and fruitful dialogue has produced guidelines that have been submitted for approval of the relevant health authorities. We confidently expect their imminent release.

It must be remembered that the guidelines represent the minimum precautions that each faith community is expected to take. No community should resume public worship until they are ready. We have been assured that the provisions included in Phase 3 of the Re-Open plan will be adjusted as further experience commends. Guidelines addressing other aspects of worship and community life within our faith communities will be added in the coming weeks.

### Members of the Faith Leaders' working group

- Most Rev. Donald Bolen, Archbishop, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina
- Rev. Amanda Currie, Synod of Saskatchewan, Presbyterian Church in Canada
- Rev. Tricia Gerhard, Chair, Living Skies Regional Council Executive, United Church of Canada
- Rt. Revd Michael Hawkins, Bishop, Anglican Diocese of Saskatchewan
- Rev. Paul Israelson, District Superintendent, Saskatchewan District, Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada
- Rabbi Jeremy Parnes, Beth Jacob Synagogue, Regina
- Imam Ilyas Sidyot, Islamic Association of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon)
- Rev. Dr. Bernie Van De Walle, District Superintendent, Canadian Midwest District of the Christian Missionary Alliance Church



## YOUTH NEWS AND INFORMATION

### **"Winds of the Spirit"**

#### **This Week...**

Pentecost Sunday is called the birthday of the church. This day celebrates the Holy Spirit coming to the followers of Jesus in a rush of wind and tongues of fire. The Spirit gave them the gifts they needed to go forth and be church. These gifts vary - they are as different as we are. But we are all needed, and we are all members of one united body.

#### **For Your Reflection**

Pentecost is called the birthday of the church because before Pentecost, there really was no church. Jesus had ascended back into the heavens, the Apostles were hanging around, scared and confused, and nobody knew what to do. Going out to baptize people and preach about Jesus was the last thing they had in mind because their lives would be in danger.

But Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit - the force that turned a bunch of frightened, mixed-up folks into the church. There was a rush of wind, tongues of fire, and then suddenly there was courage, knowledge, direction and commitment! Everyone started speaking and was understood, no matter what the language of the listener was! These were saints suddenly on fire with the Holy Spirit. And it all began with the wind and fire of the Spirit.

- What changes in you do you wish the Spirit could blow your way? How can you cooperate with the Spirit? In what ways do you need more courage, knowledge, direction, or commitment? What else might you need?
- In what ways are you and your parish like the disciples before Pentecost? In what ways are you and your parish like the disciples after Pentecost?
- When people speak about your school, would they say that it has school spirit? What do they mean by that? How is school spirit like the Holy Spirit?

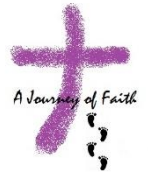
Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle A for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter* St. Mary's Press, 2004



**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.*

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## 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.

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## 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.

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**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.

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## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:diplomainministry@stfx.ca)