ST GERARD'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Newsletter

8944 ELBOW DRIVE SW CALGARY AB T2V 1L2 TEL 403 253 2251 WEBSITE: STGERARDS.CA

September 16, 2022

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Check out Fr. Ignatius' Message:

Sunflowers and Kindness - See pages 2-3

Bible in a Year (with Fr. Mike Schmitz)

Welcome Back! We are on Day 259.

We are almost there, please share your experience so far. What is your favourite bible story? Which story in the bible moved you the most? Email us your journey at pastoral.coordinator@stgerards.ca

Please download your daily readings from *Ascension Press*. All Bible in a Year Episodes - Ascension Press Media

MASS TIMES

Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am
Saturdays 5:00 pm
Sundays 9:00 and 11:00 am

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 4:00 - 4:45 pm

PARISH TEAM

Pastor: Fr. Ignatius Tran
fr.tran@stgerards.ca

Gay Abuan-Summers
Pastoral Program Coordinator
Pastoral Related Inquiries:
pastoral.coordinator@stgerards.ca

Nicolette Eden
Administrative Assistant
General Inquiries:
frontdesk.admin@stgerards.ca

Gordon Skaluba, Maintenance

WEBSITE: www.stgerards.ca

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday:
9 am to 12 pm (noon)
Closed noon - 1 pm *(lunch break)*
Afternoons **by appointment only:**
from 1 pm - 4:30 pm
Closed Holidays

Deadline for Parish Newsletter

Wednesday at 4:00 pm

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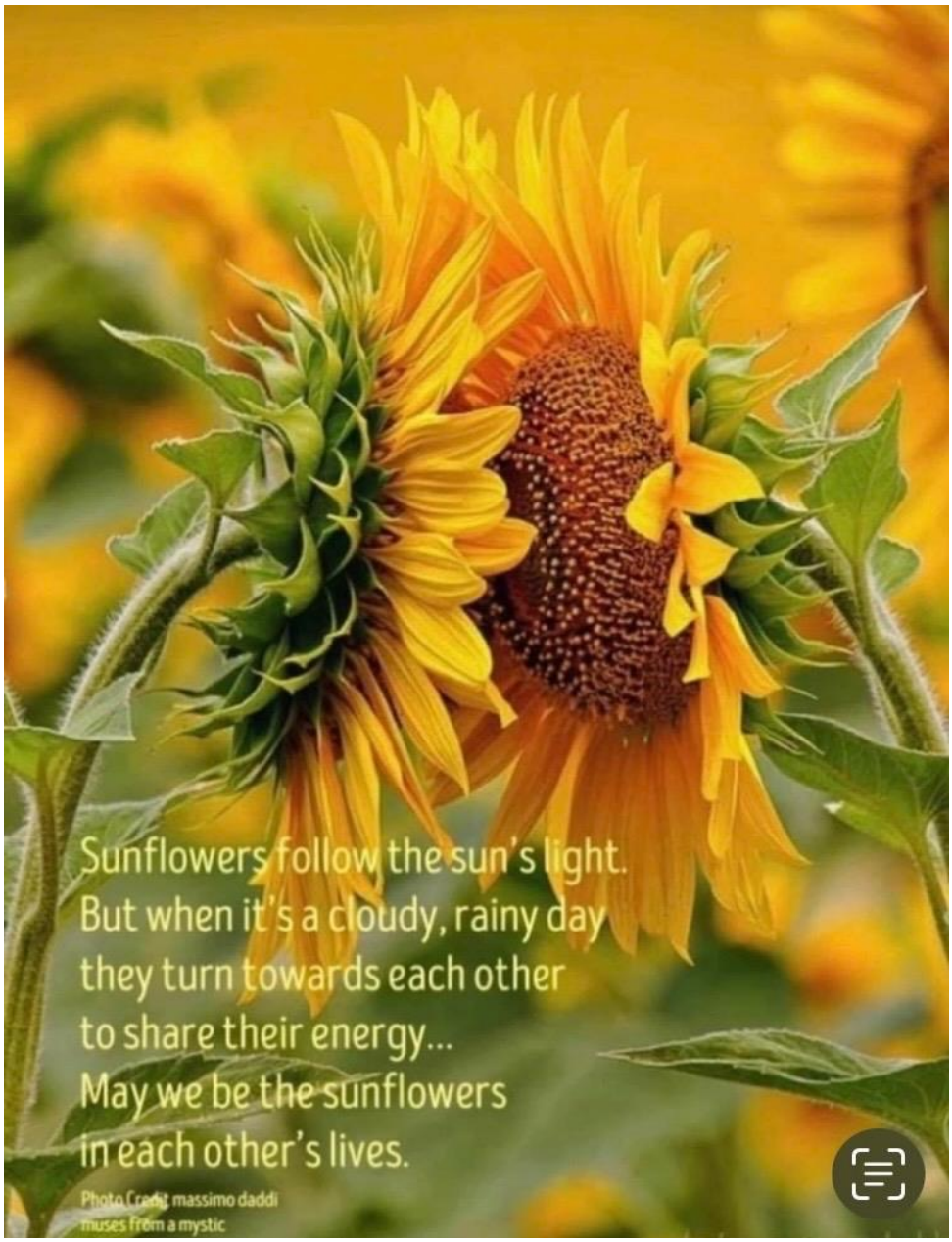


Dear Friends,

That is exactly what you've been! Sunflowers sharing your love and resources with those less fortunate. I'm so proud of my St. Gerard's parish family! First you showed *kindness* by supporting more than three persecuted Syrian families and now you are doing the same by sponsoring a Ukrainian mother, her three children and their grandmother! They will need our support and time to heal from the effects of all they've gone through.

In Ephesians, we read that we must be *kind* to one another. Kindness is defined as "the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate." You are demonstrating the love of God to those in need without seeking anything in return. Your kindness is making a considerable difference in this Ukrainian family's life.

As I've mentioned before, I can personally relate to what the Ukrainians are going through living with war. There's nothing more terrifying than living with the sound of bombs dropping nearby, living in constant fear and worrying about loved one's welfare when they are away from you.

War is hell! Any nation that wages war within itself or another nation is condemning itself to: massive death of its citizens, a poor economy, destruction, absence of peace, fear, … you name it.

In Vietnam the civil war raged on for years leaving my country heartbroken, destroyed and in devastating poverty.

Poverty caused people to do whatever they could to survive, despite the fear of rockets and shelling that threatened to suddenly rain down on them. This poverty led to many beggars who did not have any other means to keep themselves alive. My family was somewhat blessed to have some rice to ward off starvation. When these beggars came to our house, my mother would never refuse to share some with them.

At St. Gerard's, our lives have been blessed in so many ways. We have not had wars to run away from. We have everything we need- including our loving families and community.

I also want to recognize the amazing work of our St. Vincent de Paul Society who have been faithfully and effectively putting our monetary donations to good use as they help so many needy people.

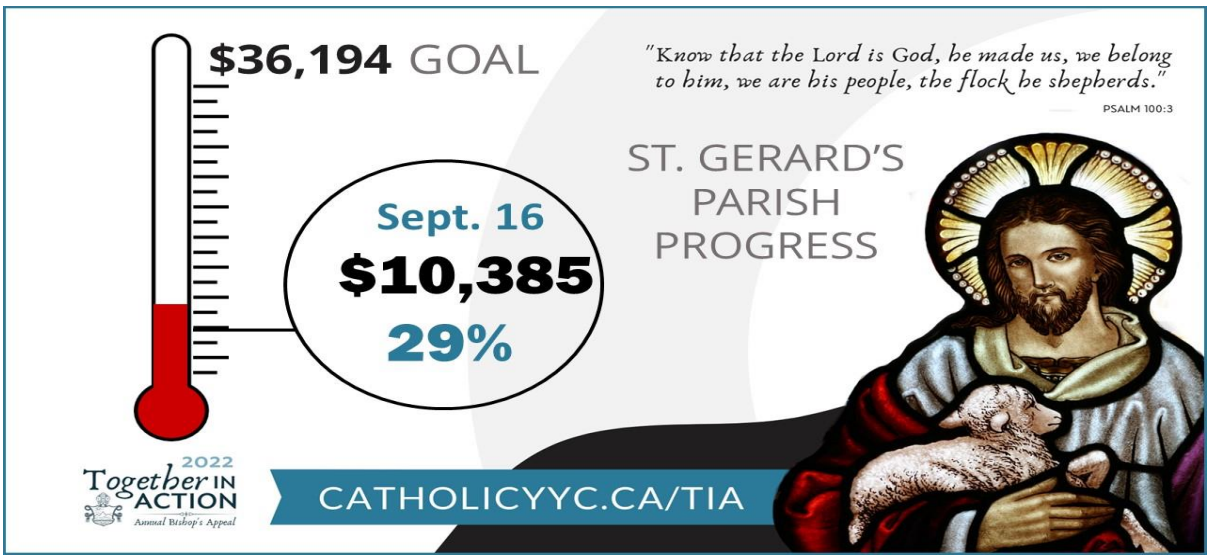
Our world is filled with people who need kindness. One of the fruits of the Spirit is kindness- something the parishioners at St. Gerard's have in abundance! The Spirit is a moving all over, all over St. Gerard's Parish!

And also, thank you for helping me celebrate my 36 years as a priest! It was a fun get-together!!!

God bless you all!

Fr. Ignatius Tran

St. Gerard's 2022 TIA Goal - $36,194



Our Weekly Financial Pulse 2022:

Collections Last Week– $7,425.75

(= the sum of TIA Donations plus General donations)

Weekly Break Even - $6,914.00

(= Budgeted Expenses -$337,185 plus TIA target of $36,194 / 54 weeks)

OVER – $511.75

Ukrainian Emergency Response – SAFE HAVEN

We are almost there! Thank you all for your support! Please continue to visit https://stgerards.ca/safe-haven on how you can help donate.

A huge thank you to our hosting family and the Safe Haven team of volunteers.

For additional information:

Alan Boras

St. Gerard's Safe Haven

ajboras@shaw.ca; stgerardssafehaven@gmail.com

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

It is finally here, our 2022 -2023 Sacramental preparation schedules for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Accepting online- registrations until October 16, 2022, at 4:30 pm. Completed registrations forms can be dropped off at the parish office or via email. Please send via email a copy of the candidate's Baptismal certificate. Registration fees for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist is accepted via e-transfer to Frontdesk.admin@stgerards.ca on the memo: Name of child and the sacrament program the fee is for.

All methods of payment accepted through the parish office.

Important date: **Parent information sessions is Saturday, October 1, 2022.**

- *1:00 pm for First Reconciliation/ First Eucharist candidates*
- *2:30 pm for Confirmation Candidates*
  *Confirmation retreat, candidate confession and celebration - TBA

Please visit our website for latest news update under Children's sacrament.

School- Aged Baptism for non -baptized children can also be downloaded from our parish website:

https://stgerards.ca/childrens-sacraments

Calling all unbaptized School-Aged children (ages 7 – 17 yrs old):

Let the children come! Has your child expressed interest in becoming Catholic? Inquire today to become part of God's family here at St. Gerard's.

Visit our website to download registration form for School- Aged Baptism under sacraments for Children 7-17 years.

Coffee Ministry

We require individuals to help with our coffee service after the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM masses on Sunday mornings.

Sign-up sheets are available at the parish hall. Thank you to all the volunteers for keeping this ministry going.

AV/Zoom Tech

Are you interested in technology and in learning a new skill? We need individuals to help live-stream masses. Training will be provided. Please contact the office if you are interested.

Altar Servers

Children ages 7 & up who have completed First Holy Communion are invited to join this growing ministry. Training commencing October 2022.

MASS INTENTIONS –SEPTEMBER 2022

Tuesday, September 20	Jennifer Galdon	SI
Wednesday, September 21	Ricky Koke	RIP
Thursday, September 22	Ried MacMaster	RIP
Thursday, September 22 Mayfair @ 10:15AM	Jay-Ar Abuan	SI
Friday, September 23	W. Bruce Macdonald	RIP
Saturday, September 24	St. Gerard's Volunteers	SI
Sunday, September 25 9:00 am	St. Gerard's Volunteers	SI
Sunday, September 25 11:00am	St. Gerard's Volunteers	SI

***Mass intention for September 24 and 25 is being offered for all volunteers of St. Gerard's. Thank you to all Volunteers!**

World Day of Migrants & Refugees/ Stewardship Celebration | Sep 25

September 24/25 is Stewardship weekend. Together as a community: Celebrate a Welcome Back, volunteer appreciation and show support for parish initiatives – Safe Haven, TIA and Society of St. Vincent de Paul programs.

All masses next weekend is being offered for all St. Gerard's volunteers' special intention. **Thank you for donating your time, talent and treasure to sustain our faith community!** Your dedication and commitment are very important to our St. Gerard community.

All Volunteers are invited to pick up a volunteer poster and prayer card with Blessed rose petal (while quantity last) from Our Lady of the Cape visit (available next week) at the gathering area.

Sunday September 25 both 9:00 am and 11:00 am masses:

Everyone is invited to attend and support the **Knights of Columbus - pancake breakfast fundraising - A free will offering to cover costs, we suggest/ $20 per family $5/individual.** *All methods of payment accepted.* We will also have a fundraising table set-up to receive your donations for our general fund, TIA, St Vincent de Paul and Safe Haven.

On **September 25, the Church will mark the 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees. It is** an occasion to express our concern for the many vulnerable people on the move, to pray for them as they face many challenges, and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers.

Since 1979, private sponsors have resettled over 350k refugees to Canada. This is a remarkable accomplishment for Canadians. Eighteen Catholic organizations (Dioceses, Religious congregations, and other groups) across Canada currently work as Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs).

It is estimated that there are currently over 89 million people who have been forced from their homes, of which over 36 million have fled their homelands. This terrible situation is made even worse in recent months with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, forcing millions of Ukrainians to flee their home country.

As Pope Francis has said, "In turbulent times we are to re-commit to the journey of building the kingdom".

Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth

Monday, September 19th:

Parish Offices and the Catholic Pastoral Center will be open. Everyone is invited to observe a moment of silence at **10:00 am** in recognition of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

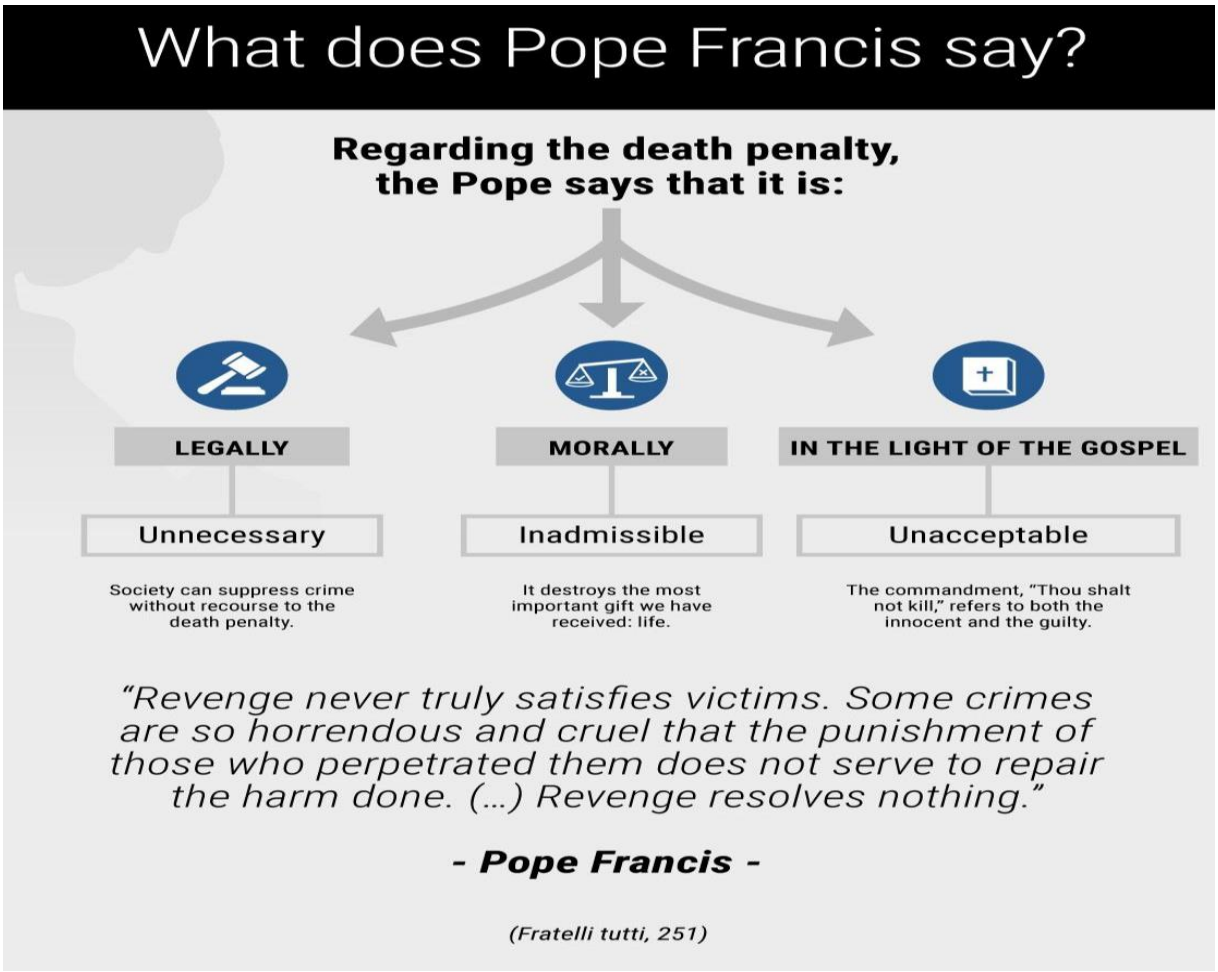
Devastating floods in Pakistan - a chance to help twice over

One-third of Pakistan was reportedly under water at the end of August. Over 33 million people have been affected by the flooding, 1,400 people have died, with 12,700 injured, and nearly 800,000 people have been displaced. Development and Peace — Caritas Canada has **allocated $40,000** to help Caritas Pakistan cope with the worst flooding in the country's history.

- The Government of Canada is **matching donations dollar for dollar** (up to $3 million) **until September 28, 2022**. Caritas Pakistan is counting on our support. Please give online to Caritas Pakistan through Development and Peace at www.devp.org
- To read more about the flood, https://www.devp.org/en/blog/devastating-floods-in-pakistan-a-chance-to-help-twice-over/

ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

This month, Pope Francis invites us to pray for the abolition of the death penalty, reiterating what he said in *Fratelli tutti* and specified in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: the Church 'works with determination for its abolition worldwide.' Why? Because until the last moment, a person can convert, recognize his crimes, and change. Capital punishment, however, is like putting oneself in God's place.

A death sentence determines that a person will no longer be able to change, something we don't know. This month of September, the Pope invites us to pray and mobilize to concretely support associations and organizations that fight for the abolition of the death penalty. (Fr. Frédéric Fornos, S.J.)

- **Pray the Pope's Intention this month:** *Let us pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.*