

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME/FEBRUARY 23RD, 2020



THE CHURCH OF
ST. GERARD MAJELLA

All Are Welcome To Encounter Christ

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday: 9 am-5 pm

Friday: 9 am-1 pm

Saturday, Sunday: CLOSED

MASSES:

Weekdays: 8:25 am

Saturday: 5 pm

Sunday: 8:30, 10:30 am

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 4:00 pm

Or

By appointment (763) 424-8770

PASTORAL STAFF:

Fr. John Klockeman

Fr. Joseph-Quốc Thiện Vương

Karl Kornowski - Parish Administrator

E. Jona Winkelman - Dir. Faith Formation

MAIN OFFICE:

Sue Czerniak - Administrative
Assistant

FACILITIES SERVICES:

Bob Imholte - Facilities
Care Coordinator

Geoff Moore - Custodian

Do you not know
that you are the
temple of God,
and that the
Spirit of God
dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 3:16

SEVENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY
23
2020

st-gerard.org

9600 Regent Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

Phone: 763-424-8770

A Note From Father Joseph...



My brothers and sisters in the Christ Jesus,

Lenten Season is beginning on February 26, 2020 this year. The most important thing anyone can do for Lent is to return to the Lord with our whole heart. That is the root meaning of repent: to turn around –

making a U-Turn. Catholics have traditionally expressed sorrow for sin and the desire to live as genuine missionary disciples of Christ through the three traditional Lenten disciplines of fasting, almsgiving and prayer which help us to turn toward Christ as the true source of happiness.

As missionary disciples of Christ, Lenten disciplines prepare us to receive the grace of Easter. By virtue of Christ's victory over death, our relationship to pleasure, property and power is no longer a matter of following our own selfish inclinations, but of gratefully receiving all that the Lord has to give us.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. The norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are from age 14 onwards. I would encourage those are over or under the above descriptions also observe these good Lenten practices for the sanctity of Saint Gerard Majella.

The three disciplines – fasting, almsgiving and prayer are practically leading us to God. During these forty days let us practice what the holy mother church teaches us.

Fasting and abstinence practiced as the Church instructs is a good beginning. A bodily way to remind ourselves that we need God above all things, fasting is also a sacrifice, a gift back to God of our heart's intent to depend more completely on God. The interior free desire to deepen our relationship to God is the essence of a Lenten fast.

Almsgiving readjusts our priorities while it expresses both our love of neighbor and our trust in God. A free gift to those in need confirms our basic trust in Providence while concretely helping those in need. Just as we fast without starving ourselves, so we give alms without jeopardizing our security or that of our family. The point is to give from the heart.

Prayer is a recognition that we need help to turn back to God. From daily Mass to Rosary to Centering Prayer to the Stations of the Cross to Eucharistic Adoration, the Church encourages a wealth of prayerful practices. A very simple way to pray is to sit quietly for a moment before taking up one of the Gospels and slowly reading a passage that you like. Simply sit with the passage for a bit, savoring the Word and allowing it to touch you, read it again slowly, and then respond to God.

As missionary disciples, let us be reminded by the prophet Joel, "Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God."

Rev. Joseph-Quoc Vuong



Justice and Outreach

Faith Formation



On the fourth Friday of each month St. Gerard's prepares, transports, and serves a meal at the L&F St. Stephen's site to people in need. (2123 Clinton Ave So, MPLS 55404). The serving team serves from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. If you can help please sign up on the easel in the gathering space. 16-20 volunteers are needed to best assist this ministry. St. Gerard's next serves on February 28th. If you have questions call Karen Brenteson 612-232-2586.



Each year, the **Catholic Services Appeal** funds 20 Designated Ministries including:

Over 30 local food pantries that distribute nearly 4 million pounds of food.

Over 7,500 nights of housing and emergency shelter.

Hospital chaplains serving over

100,000 Catholics.

Sacramental ministry to those in prison.

Pro-life outreach and support for the disabled.

Every Catholic elementary school in our Archdiocese and 13 Catholic High Schools, with over \$2.5 million in student scholarships and funding.

Tuition, room and board assistance for over 50 individuals studying for the priesthood for our Archdiocese.

Evangelistic outreach programs serving young people through senior citizens.

Contributions go directly to the Designated Ministries.



I had a conversation with Jean Schultz in the office today. We were reflecting upon some of the adjustments the staff and volunteers are experimenting with in faith formation. I concluded it was a happy mess.

Messiness is part of the nature of life, even more in a time of transition. Think of the messiness that accompanies the transition of becoming a parent for the first time. With my mother hundreds of miles away, I couldn't figure out how to get me and the baby to the grocery store without it feeling like it was dramatic crisis. My third child was born when my eldest child was three. I remember how proud I was to get to the grocery store with all three of them provided there was a double seated grocery cart and the new baby was strapped to my torso. After my first child, the flush of fear, anxiety, rapid emotional shifts subsided a bit. The next phase of motherhood was definitely a happy, gloriously, joyful mess.

In the midst of uncertainty and messiness, all we can do is to take one step at a time. Striving to be diligent, optimistic and with a heart poised for the next steps on our faith journey, we rise to this new challenge. You may hear me utter quietly piano, piano, which is an Italian expression that means "little by little" or in other words, step by step. We cannot build with a magic wand. That would be a fantasy. We can only build like Jesus' did by one act of love at a time. It calls upon everyone's generosity and patience as we take each step together to creatively build paths of order, trust and hope.

- Jona

LIFELINE MASS

Lifeline is a dynamic, energetic Mass specifically for teens grades 8 -12 that creates an opportunity to be engaged by contemporary music, vibrant speakers and a chance to worship with other teens from around the region. The March event will take place the first Saturday, March 7. A chartered bus will depart from St. Gerard at 4:30 p.m. and will return by 10:15 p.m. You may contact the Church office or Jona Winkelman for more information and a link to register online; or you can sign up by visiting the link on the faith formation page on our website.

Special Events:

Archdiocesan Synod – Upcoming Prayer and Listening Events

What's working and what's not in the Archdiocese? Archbishop Hebda wants to hear from you! Please prayerfully consider attending an upcoming Prayer and Listening Event, as part of the Pre-Synod Process and make your voice heard. Your input will help guide the Archdiocese over the next 5-10 years. There are 20 Prayer and Listening Events. The next three are:

- Thursday, Feb. 27, 6-9 p.m., Our Lady of Grace, Edina
- Saturday, Feb. 29, 9 a.m.-noon, St. Pius V, Cannon Falls
- Saturday, Mar. 7, 9 a.m.-noon, Transfiguration, Oakdale

Learn more about the Synod and see a full listing of Prayer and Listening Events at archspm.org/synod.

SOUP SUPPER—ASH WEDNESDAY

Come together in fellowship as we enter our Lenten journey. Our second annual Soup Supper will be held from 4:30-6:30PM and 7:30-8:30PM on Ash Wednesday. If you are interested in cooking or serving, please contact the office.

St. Gerard's will be participating in a parish-wide survey! Please Read

We will be participating in a parish survey about discipleship conducted by the Catholic Leadership Institute as part of the Archdiocesan Synod Process! We need your help

Please help us by participating in a 10-15 minute survey online. The survey can be accessed via smartphone, tablet or computer at www.disciplemakerindex.com from February 1 – March 1 and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on our parish's efforts to help you grow. All responses will be confidential and the parish will only receive information about the community as whole.

We are trying to get the highest response rate possible. This information will be valuable to Archbishop Hebda, Fr. Klockeman and our parish as we plan for the future and strive to be the best disciples we can be. We will receive the results this spring, at which time we will share what we have learned.

If you don't use a smartphone, tablet or computer - there will be opportunities to complete the survey after daily and Sunday Mass. You can also obtain a paper copy by contacting the Parish.

Thank you for helping with this important project!

This Week at St. Gerard's

MASS INTENTIONS:

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

8:25 am - Marsha Garber

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7:00 am - People of the Parish

6:30 pm - Grace Anucha

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

8:25 am - People of the Parish

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

8:25 am - People of the Parish

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

5:00 pm - Willard and Mary Schroetke †

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

8:30 am - People of the Parish

10:30 am - Antonietta Kniebel †

UPCOMING WEEKEND MASSES:

First Sunday in
Lent

GN 2:7-9; 3:1-7
ROM 5:12-19 OR
5:12, 17-19
MT 4:1-11

PRAYER LIST: Diane Carlson, Deborah Davis, Laurie Carroll, Donna Curtiss, Joyce Laher, Michael Morrison, Kathleen Walsh

Mon Feb 24, 2020

8:25am - 8:30am Liturgy of the
Hours (Cha)

8:30am - 9am Communion Service (Cha)

7:30pm - 9pm Scouts (H)

THE WEEK AHEAD:

Tue Feb 25, 2020

8:25am - 8:30am Liturgy of the Hours (Cha)

8:30am - 9am Mass (Cha)

9am - 10am 9am Lent Decor

9am - 9:05am Perpetual Help Devotion (Cha)

9:15am - 11:15am Women's Prayer & Support Group (F)

7:30pm - 9pm Regent AA (4)

Wed Feb 26, 2020

7am - 8am Ash Wednesday Mass (Chu)

4:30pm - 6:30pm Soup Supper (StF, H, K)

6pm - 7:30pm FF - NO CLASS Ash Wednesday

6:30pm - 7:30pm Ash Wednesday Mass (Chu)

7:30pm - 8:45pm Soup Supper (Stf, H, K)

Thu Feb 27, 2020

12am - 8:30am Adoration (Cha)

8:25am - 8:30am Liturgy of the Hours (Cha)

8:30am - 9am Mass (Cha)

9am - 10:30am L & F Bread Buttering(K)

10am - 12pm Cornerstone Scripture Study (Rms 1 thru 7, FS)

6pm - 7pm Centering Prayer (Cha)

Fri Feb 28, 2020

8:25am - 8:30am Liturgy of the Hours (Cha)

8:30am - 9:30am Loaves & Fishes Prep (H,K)

8:30am - 9am Mass (Cha)

5pm - 6pm Loaves & Fishes at St. Stephen's Minneapolis

Sat Feb 29, 2020

4pm - 4:30pm Individual Confessions (Chu)

4:30pm - 5pm KC Rosary (Chu)

5pm - 6pm Mass (Chu)

Sun Mar 1, 2020

8:30am - 9:30am Children's Liturgy of the Word (Cha)

8:30am - 9:30am Mass (Chu)

10:30am - 11:30am Children's Liturgy of the Word (Cha)

10:30am - 11:30am FF - Rite of Sending/Election RCIA

10:30am - 11:30am FF- St. G's Kids (1-4)

10:30am - 11:30am Mass (Chu)

6pm - 7:30pm FF - CLASS Edge & Confirmation