

The Church of St. Gerard Majella

THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 17, 2019

ADDRESS

9600 Regent Avenue North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443-1499

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 9 am-5 pm

Friday: 9 am-1 pm

Saturday: CLOSED

EUCCHARIST

Saturday: 5 pm

Sunday: 8:30, 10:30 am

WEBSITE: www.st-gerard.org



Like us on FACEBOOK



St. Gerard's Youth TWITTER handle:
@StGerardYM



St. Gerard's Youth INSTAGRAM:
@StGerardYouth

Parish Office: 763-424-8770
Fax Number: 763-424-4327
Victim Assistance: 651-291-4475

PASTORAL Services

Rev. Thomas Santa, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Tuan Pham, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Matthew Bonk, C.Ss.R.

Karl Kornowski - Parish Administrator

Anne Tiller - Director of Justice and Outreach

Amy Wittak - Liturgical Ministry

Tim Smith - Dir. of Liturgical Music

Colette O'Brien - Communications

Judy Foster - Dir. of Faith Formation

SUPPORT Services

Sue Czerniak - Secretary/Receptionist

Dianne Goodwin - Secretary/Receptionist

MAINTENANCE Services

Dave Neuman - Maintenance Operator

Roger Popham - Custodian

All Are Welcome!

We are a Catholic community striving to love God and our neighbors. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

“Who Am I To Judge?” --Pope Francis



Hearing Assistance Devices are available at the Sound Desk in the Church.
Low-Gluten hosts are available.
Please call the parish office for more information.

The Church of St. Gerard

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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The weekly notes that I share with you have received many positive expressions of encouragement and appreciation. I envision this weekly bulletin column as a type of “conversation” with the members of the parish family. I try to share what is going on in the parish, what we are working on, what some of our concerns might be, and I indicate if there are some kinds of plans being discussed or some type of effort that demands our attention and focus. These notes are not intended to be the “minutes of a meeting,” or the declaration of a pastoral plan for the parish, or anything formal. They are intended as a conversation and only as a conversation.

Since it is a conversation, these few words are free flowing and off the “top of my head” so to speak and never edited for content or context. I assume, rightly or wrongly, that if a clarification is needed I will be asked in the course of normal conversation with you. Indeed, this is my experience most weeks. It is not at all unusual that a parishioner mentions something that I conversed about and we have an extended conversation about it. It is natural and I hope helpful.

Unfortunately, even though this is what I intend, “a conversation” with members of the parish family, it seems that this is not the expectation of some of our parishioners. For these parishioners, the notes that I share are something akin to official declarations of policy or suggestive of some kind of authoritative decision made without reference to anyone else, including the representative and consultative bodies that have been established such as the Parish Council and the Finance Council. Evidently, I need to outline every step taken and report every effort and steer away from the conversational format and make this weekly sharing more official or something like that.

For example, it has come to my attention that in these notes I mentioned that “something big was in the planning stages.” I made reference to this before the Corn Fest last year and then after the Corn Fest never mentioned it again. What could this be and why did I not follow-up on what I wrote in the notes? Well, what it could be was that we, by we I mean Barbara (our Administrator at the time) and others suggested that we start a process of collecting funds for necessary maintenance and the painting of the church. It was envisioned that when Corn Fest was complete this would be an opportune time to begin the effort and I agreed. Unfortunately, what intervened in the period of time when we were waiting to begin the effort, Barbara resigned from her position as Administrator and the effort and focus moved away from the maintenance plan and toward the recruitment and hiring of a new Administrator. Nothing sinister, nothing underhanded, just a necessary change in plans and focus. It never occurred to me to make reference to this change in focus but I guess I should have.

A second point that has been brought to my attention was that I mentioned that for the Parish stewardship effort I was going to “try something different.” According to the person who reported this concern to me, I played videos about stewardship for the four weeks of November at each of the masses but I never did “something different” as promised. Well, the videos played at mass was the “something different” that I promised. I thought that this was a better way of handling stewardship than me preaching about it or having a member of the finance council talk about it at the masses. I guess I messed up on that one!

Despite these concerns that I have just shared with you, I still believe that this weekly “conversation,” although obviously imperfect, is nonetheless helpful for most parishioners. For this reason, I intend to continue the conversation. As always if there are any questions or concerns about anything, do not hesitate to ask. Any member of the staff is more than willing to share with you the process that is in place and the efforts that we are trying to make on your behalf. Have a great week and let us continue to remember each other in our thoughts and prayers.

Fr. Tom Santa, C.Ss.R.

For the Redemptorist Community and Staff

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT

St. Gerard's Volunteer Appreciation Night will be Saturday, **March 2** at 6:00pm. RSVP online at www.st-gerard.org (NEWS & EVENTS) or by email to suec@st-gerard.org or in the parish office at 763-424-8770.

FAMILY FUN BAND CONCERT AT ST. GERARD'S

All are invited to attend a FREE concert by the St. Louis Park Community Band! Steve Lyons, a parishioner at St. Gerard's, is the Director of the St. Louis Park Band. This family-friendly concert will be in the St. Gerard's Worship Space on Sunday, **March 3**, at 2:30pm. Reception to follow. All are welcome! Hope you can make it!

CORN FEST MEETING

Join us at the Corn Fest planning meeting on Thursday, **February 21** at 7:00pm. New members are especially welcome this year as many long time members have stepped down. Help us prepare for our 49th gathering of Faith, Family and Community (August 9-10, 2019). Call Craig at 763-200-3949 or email cornfest@outlook.com with questions.



CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

In response to the Gospel call to serve the poor and spread the Good News, the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation of the Saint Paul and Minneapolis Area (CSAF) works as Christ's hands and feet throughout the 12-county area. Visit www.csafspm.org to learn more, and please prayerfully consider how you might give back via the CSAF.

ST. GERARD'S COMMUNITY GARDEN

Come grow with us! St. Gerard's Community Garden registration is **NOW OPEN**, for the 2019 growing season. There are 14 individual 20 ft x 20 ft garden plots available for 2019. Both parishioners and the public are able to rent an individual plot for growing fresh and healthy food. Goals include serving low income and diverse groups within the Brooklyn Park community and promoting and providing access to healthy food. One of the garden plots will be reserved for parishioners to grow fresh vegetables to be donated to the Community Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP). If you would like more information or to volunteer, contact Anne Tiller at annet@st-gerard.org or 763-424-8770 ext 120. For registration materials, visit www.st-gerard.org (NEWS & EVENTS) or stop by the parish office.

ST. GERARD'S COMMUNITY GARDEN NEEDS YOUR HELP!

A Garden Coordinator is needed for the coming growing season. Many benefits, including free garden plot for the growing season. For additional information and a job description, contact Anne at annet@st-gerard.org or call 763-424-8770 ext 120.

LOAVES & FISHES

St. Gerard's hosts Loaves & Fishes on the 4th Friday of every month. Our next date is Friday, **February 22**. We serve from 5-7pm at St. Stephen's in Minneapolis. Sign up to serve on the easel in the Gathering Space. Contact Karen Brenteson at 763-561-7411 with questions.

**SHARING AND CARING HANDS**

St. Gerard's prepares and serves a lunch at Sharing and Caring Hands every 1st Saturday of the month. Our next date is Saturday, **March 2**. No need to sign up, just come on Saturday morning at 9:00am to St. Gerard's kitchen and help prepare the food. Then at 10:50am help pack up the food, take it to Sharing and Caring Hands on 7th Street (Minneapolis), and help serve at 11:30am. Questions? Call John, 763-561-3841.

AVENUES FOR HOMELESS YOUTH - CONCERT

You are invited to a benefit concert for Avenues for Homeless Youth on Sunday, **March 3** from 3:00-4:30pm at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (7217 West Broadway Ave, Brooklyn Park, 55428.) The Caritas Vocal Ensemble will be performing. Since 2002, Caritas has raised over \$180,000 for diverse, local, charitable organizations! For more information, visit: www.caritasvocalensemble.org

FAITH FORMATION FAMILY NIGHT

On Wednesday, February 6, we welcomed Rachael Kroog to family night to talk about "Safe Touch." Her energetic and engaging presentation helped children and parents to recognize adults whom they can trust and gave other important safety information (and included both a chinchilla and a lizard!) The families also enjoyed sloppy joes and tots for dinner! The kids had a wonderful time!

**FIRST EUCHARIST PREP TO BEGIN**

On Wednesday, **February 20**, children and parents will gather to begin to prepare for First Eucharist and journey toward receiving Christ in the Eucharist. We encourage prayer partners to continue their support. They will receive the Sacrament on Saturday, May 18 at the 5:00pm Mass and Sunday, May 19 at the 10:30am Mass.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP - LIFE NIGHT

Life Night, St. Gerard's youth group for students currently in grades 9-12, will meet again Sunday, **February 24** from 7:30-9:00pm in the youth room for snacks, games, conversation and fun! No registration necessary, just come and have fun! Hope to see you there!

EDGE

On **February 24**, our EDGE (grade 6-8) youth will be joining the challenge of St. Joseph's in New Hope to participate in a service project at Feed My Starving Children. This event replaces the evening session. We remind parents to get their permission forms in so we can meet the challenge and have a great turnout! Please pray for them as they help feed families around the world!

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

All Confirmation candidates are expected to register and attend the upcoming retreat on Sunday, **March 3**. Registration is now available on our website, www.st-gerard.org (go to FAITH FORMATION/YOUTH FF). The candidates will start at St. Gerard attending the 8:30am mass and then are transported to Camp Eden Wood in Eden Prairie. They will then return home at about 7:30pm that evening. Please pray for our candidates as they continue to the reception of the sacrament on March 16.

Announcements

WELCOME TO ST. GERARD'S!

If you are visiting St. Gerard's today and would like more information about the parish or how to become a member, please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Space, pick up a new member info packet, and sign our guest registry. You can also visit the "I Am New" tab of our website (www.st-gerard.org) or app ("St Gerard Majella" in the app store)! And check out our facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/churchofsaintgerard/>)! Thank you for worshipping with us today!

DID YOU RECENTLY JOIN ST. GERARD'S?

We would like to invite you to a New Member Brunch on Sunday, February 24 after the 10:30 Mass. We will meet at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Space. The brunch will also include a tour; time to meet some staff members and other new parishioners; and tons of helpful information. Please RSVP online at www.st-gerard.org (I AM NEW page) or by emailing succ@st-gerard.org or by calling the parish office (763-424-8770).



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEKEND

Have you ever considered a Catholic school for your child? If so, we have invited St. Alphonsus and St. Vincent's to represent themselves in the atrium after mass on Saturday, **February 23** and Sunday, **February 24**. Each school has education opportunities from Preschool through 8th grade. Come visit after mass with these Catholic schools in our area and members of our St. Gerard's parish whose children attend them to learn more. Contact Katie Bartsch at dk_bartsch@msn.com with questions.

SCOUT TROOP 575 SPAGHETTI DINNER

St. Gerard's Scout Troop 575 invites you and your families to join us on Saturday, **February 23** from 5-8 pm in the hard floor area for our 27TH ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER, DESSERT BAR AND SILENT AUCTION!!! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Price: \$8, age 4 and under free. Monetary donations also accepted. Hope to see you there!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MOBILE PACK

St. Gerard's has reserved spots for our community to pack food at the FMSC Mobile Pack. The Knights of Columbus will have a table in the Gathering Space with information on how you can volunteer or donate to FMSC or you can sign up to volunteer at www.st-gerard.org (NEWS & EVENTS). Join us! It would be great to volunteer together. Wear your St. Gerard's t-shirt to the event (available in the parish office.) Thanks for living your faith out in the community!



Presiders

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 23, 5:00pm - Rev. Thomas Santa
February 24, 8:30am - Rev. Thomas Santa
February 24, 10:30am - Rev. Thomas Santa

This Week at St. Gerard's

INTENTIONS

M-F 8:25 AM - Eucharist, Liturgy of Hours

TUE 9:00 AM - Perpetual Help Devotion

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

8:25 am - Communion Service

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

8:25 am -

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

8:25 am -

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

8:25 am - Parish Families

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

8:25 am -

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

5:00 pm - Marvin Jacobs †

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

8:30 am - Grace Onuoha †

10:30 am - Gerald & Robert Steffens †

PARISH EVENTS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

9:00 am - Perpetual Help Devotion

9:15 am - Womens Prayer/Support Group

6:30 pm - KC's Council Meeting

7:00 pm - RCIA

7:30 pm - Regent AA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

9:00 am - Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm - 1st Eucharist Prep (Parent/Child)

6:00 pm - Faith Formation 1st-5th

7:15 pm - Music Rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

9:00 am - Loaves & Fishes Bread Buttering

10:00 am - Cornerstone Scripture Study

6:00 pm - Centering Prayer

7:00 pm - Corn Fest Planning Meeting

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

8:30 am - Loaves & Fishes Prep

5:00 pm - Loaves & Fishes at St. Stephen's

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

4:00 pm - Individual Confessions

5:00 pm - Eucharist

5:00 pm - Scout Spaghetti Dinner

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

8:30 am - Eucharist

8:30 am - Liturgy of the Word for Children

10:30 am - Eucharist

10:30 am - Liturgy of the Word for Children

10:30 am - FF St. G's Kids

11:30 am - New Member Brunch

11:30 am - Anointing of the Sick

3:00 pm - FF Edge (FMSC)

6:00 pm - FF Confirmation

7:30 pm - Youth Group



PLEASE PRAY for the sick and ailing members of our parish community, and all those in our Parish Prayer Book, especially:

Ron Denny
Deb McDonald

Also remember those loved ones who have died, especially:

Bert Stock

FEB 24, 2019

7th Sunday OT

1 SM 26:2-23

1 COR 15:45-49

LK 6:27-38

SACRAMENTS:

BAPTISM

Call the Parish Office to schedule a date and register for the preparation class.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday at 4:00 pm or any time by appointment.

MARRIAGE

Please contact the parish office at least six months prior to the desired date.



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