

The Church of St. Gerard Majella

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 24, 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

It has been three years since the Redemptorist community at St. Alphonsus initiated a pastoral response to a current need in the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis. The need was to respond with consistent and ordinary pastoral care to parishes that were in need of a pastor. Some particular circumstances focused the need in each instance: the abrupt removal of the pastor of the parish in response to a particular situation. Because of persistent personnel challenges in the archdiocese, and for that matter throughout the Church, when a pastor is unexpectedly removed, becomes sick, or deceased, there are few good options for replacement that are immediately available. Our Redemptorist community determined, with the support of the Archbishop, to offer a partial remedy for this abrupt and immediate need: we would provide men capable of pastoral leadership for an agreed upon period of time, in order to enable a more permanent pastoral assignment that would be good for the parish. (A parish in the normal transition of pastoral leadership has a better chance of receiving assigned pastoral leadership when the ordinary procedures are followed. Exceptions are not always “exceptional” in the good sense!)

As a community, we have been very blessed to be asked to serve at St. William in Fridley, St. Bridget (St. Austin) in North Minneapolis, and of course, St. Gerard in Brooklyn Park. Of the three parishes we felt a particular affinity to the parish community of St. Gerard since the Redemptorist community was an integral part of the foundation of the parish, almost 50 years ago. In each instance, we have grown to love the people that we have been called to serve and it has been a real privilege to be part of their spiritual journey.

Even though as a community the Redemptorist have been able to respond to this particular pastoral need for the last three years it is not sustainable in the long run. As with all (arch)dioceses and religious Orders and Congregations of men, we do not have the personnel available to us as we did in the recent past. Our Congregation is an aging Congregation and although we continue to receive vocations, the new men that join the Congregation are not sufficient to even maintain the apostolates that we presently have. We are in a constant dialogue among ourselves and the people with whom we minister about this reality. We also routinely make difficult choices each year about ministries that we will continue to serve and ministries from which a withdrawal of our personnel is necessary. Regrettable but necessary.

In addition to the stark reality of not having the personnel available to us to serve in a more permanent capacity, our experience over the last three years in the different parishes in which we worked, helped us to gain some valuable insights that are important now, and in the future. Without any personal judgment but rather as a general observational judgment, we have learned that

ordinary pastoral care suffers when the pastor is preoccupied with other issues and concerns. This is not deliberate but is rather very human, a response to the anxiety and the pressure that is being experienced. As the pastor withdraws, the parish staff, to their credit, often attempts to provide the care that is no longer being experienced by the people. Although this is exemplary on the part of the staff it is insufficient for the parish for no other reason than the fact that we are a “sacramental community.” The sacraments need ordained ministers and, for Catholics, nothing else is really the same.

In addition to the diminishment of ordinary pastoral care that must be addressed, there are other issues that demand a response. We have learned, over the last three years, that the system of ministry in the Church does not lend itself well to “temporary” administration, no matter how good it is. The community expects a “permanent” pastor, and there is patience but little else, when that permanence is not present. One essential sign of permanence seems to be that there must be a pastor living in the rectory; if there is not, no matter how well meaning the pastoral ministers may be, it is “simply not the same.” (The story that Jesus tells about the shepherd as opposed to the hired hand in John 10:12 comes immediately to mind).

There are other points that could be made and there have certainly been other lessons learned but for now these few points may be enough to reflect on. It is also helpful to know that over the next few weeks we expect clarification about the process for naming a permanent pastor for St. Gerard. At this point in time the discussion is on-going and all of the information has not yet been gathered but the process has begun. I personally expect that when the current agreement with the Archbishop ends with the Redemptorist Community on June 30, 2019 that there will be a more permanent pastor in place. Until then all we can do is continue to keep the faith, build the kingdom of God, and enjoy the journey.

Fr Thomas M. Santa, C.Ss.R.

For the Redemptorist Community and Staff that serves you.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT

St. Gerard's Volunteer Appreciation Night will be Saturday, **March 2** at 6:00pm. Please 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 by Monday, February 25.

JOIN US FOR ASH WEDNESDAY - MARCH 6!

8:30am - Mass

12:00pm - Word Service with Ashes

5:00pm - Mass

6:00pm - ALL PARISH SOUP SUPPER!

7:00pm - Word Service with Ashes

No Eucharistic Adoration on Ash Wednesday, March 6.



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 20ft x 20ft 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.

COMMUNITY GARDEN NEEDS YOUR HELP!

A Garden Coordinator is needed for the 2019 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.

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.

ENCOUNTER LENT

Join our parish community - and more than 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States - in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from St. Gerard's on Ash Wednesday, and return to church on Palm Sunday. During the 40 days of Lent, as companions on the journey, we will encounter our neighbor.

COMMUNITY FORUM ON RACE

Plan to attend the 6th Annual Community Forum on Race, Saturday, **March 9**, 9:00am-12:00pm at the Brooklyn Park Community Activity Center. This free event will feature Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Anne McKeig as the keynote speaker, and participants will have a chance to connect with community organizations and engage in facilitated conversations about race. A light breakfast will be served. All are welcome!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP - LIFE NIGHT

Life Night, St. Gerard's youth group for students currently in grades 9-12, will meet again *this* 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!

ADULT FAITH SCRIPTURE STUDY PACKETS

Are you looking for a simple and creative scripture study for now through Lent? The Sunday by Sunday Scripture study is published and written locally by the Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Paul and are written only 3 months in advance. There is a page for each Sunday's readings and can be done a week prior, which makes hearing the readings the following Sunday more meaningful. They are located on the welcome stand in the gathering space. Please take only 1 per family or individual. We have limited amounts, but if you wish to order a copy, please contact Judy Foster at the parish office and we will order more. They are published year round.

WOMEN AND WINE - THANK YOU!

Thank you to our guest speaker Suzanne Belongia Bernet and all of the women who were able to attend last Friday's Women and Wine event! It was an engaging evening on "A Love That Does Justice" that included discussion, fellowship, delicious snacks, and of course, wine! Stay tuned for more information on our spring Women and Wine event coming soon!



2019 WOMEN'S RETREAT

SAVE THE DATE for the 2019 Women's Retreat coming Saturday, **April 27**. Join the women of St. Gerard's for a morning to reflect on "All Things New: A Day of Reflection and Renewal." The guest speaker will be Lisa Ervin. The morning will begin at 8:30am with hospitality and continue from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Lunch will be included. More information to come. We hope you will join us!

CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmation candidates will be going on retreat on Sunday, **March 3rd** following attendance at the 8:30am mass. Please continue to pray for them. If you wish to send a note or card to share with them at the retreat, please drop them off outside the parish office or you can drop them off *before* the 8:30 mass on March 3rd in a box in the gathering space.

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!

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!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEKEND - FEB 23, 24

Have you ever considered a Catholic school for your child? If so, we have invited St. Alphonsus, Epiphany, and St. Vincent's to represent themselves in the atrium after mass *this* weekend (**February 23 -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.

KC PANCAKE BREAKFAST - MARCH 3



Please join the Knights of Columbus and your fellow parishioners for a pancake and sausage breakfast after the 8:30am and 10:30am Masses on Sunday, **March 3rd**. The proceeds from this free-will offering event will be used for parish needs and community programs. Let the Knights cook and clean up while you enjoy a great breakfast and the good company of your friends and family.

PT JOB OPENING AT ST. BRIDGET

The Parish Community of St. Bridget has an opening for a part-time custodian. The job requires 20 hours/week, flexible hours. If interested, please contact Joni Sandlin, Administrator, at 612-529-7779, for more information.

Presiders

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

March 2, 5:00pm - Rev. Thomas Santa

March 3, 8:30am - Rev. Thomas Santa

March 3, 10:30am - Rev. Thomas Santa

Ash Wednesday (For more info, see bulletin page 1.)

March 6, 8:30am - Rev. Thomas Santa

March 6, 12:00pm - Rev. Thomas Santa

March 6, 5:00pm - Rev. Tuan Pham

March 6, 7:00pm - Rev. Tuan Pham

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 25

8:25 am - Communion Service

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

8:25 am - Joanne Metke †

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

8:25 am -

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

8:25 am -

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

8:25 am - Parish Families

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

5:00 pm - Dick Keefe †

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

8:30 am - Guy Amou †

10:30 am - Alex Mwangi

PARISH EVENTS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

6:30 pm - Community Garden Meeting

7:00 pm - Scouts #575 Meeting

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

9:00 am - Perpetual Help Devotion

9:15 am - Womens Prayer/Support Group

7:00 pm - RCIA

7:30 pm - Regent AA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

9:00 am - Eucharistic Adoration

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

7:15 pm - Music Rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

10:00 am - Cornerstone Scripture Study

6:00 pm - Centering Prayer

6:30 pm - FF Commission Meeting

7:00 pm - Sister Parish Meeting

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

9:00 am - Sharing & Caring Hands

4:00 pm - Individual Confessions

5:00 pm - Eucharist

6:00 pm - Volunteer Appreciation Night

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

KC Pancake BF after 8:30 and 10:30 masses

8:30 am - Confirmation Retreat

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 - Baptisms

2:30 pm - SLP Family Fun Band Concert

3:30 pm - Concert Reception



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

Phillip (Lee) Holmer

Also remember those loved ones who have died.

MAR 3, 2019

8th Sunday OT

SIR 27:4-7

1 COR 15:54-58

LK 6:39-45

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.



Get the App



Donate Online

Text Giving:

763-225-1078