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

The Church of St. Gerard Majella

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
Sunday: 1st/Month, 9 am-12 pm, Sept-May

EUCHARIST
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
Faith Formation: 763-424-8600
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.
Deacon Chung Tran, 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
Emily Bauer - Youth Faith Formation
Heidi Schleif - Preschool & Elementary Coordinator

SUPPORT Services
Sue Czerniak - Secretary/Receptionist
Dianne Goodwin - Secretary/Receptionist

MAINTENANCE Services
Dave Neuman - Maintenance Operator
Roger Popham - Custodian

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.
A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

It is my hope that everyone enjoyed a wonderful day of Thanksgiving. The opportunity to be with family and friends to celebrate together is truly a blessing. I must admit that I count the day as one of my favorites, if not my favorite holiday. There are few expectations connected with the day and it seems to bring out the best in most everyone. The traditions of the day do not seem at all burdensome and the expectations seem achievable. It is also the only day of the year when certain food items appear on the table. All in all a great day.

With the coming of Advent, we are going to do something a little out of the ordinary this year. I want to concentrate on the scripture readings that are proclaimed at mass so we are using a different translation that seems to be more dynamic and inspirational. I think the translation brings the readings into a better focus and helps us understand what is actually being proclaimed as the Word of God. Hopefully, you will find the effort helpful in your own spiritual journey.

Thank you to all who have taken the time to respond to our stewardship mailing. You should have received it in the last week or so. This mailing helps us to plan our yearly fiscal budget so your participation is very important.

You should also receive soon a Christmas mailing from me. The Christmas letter helps us to focus on the reason for the season. We also provide a special envelope that you can use for your Christmas offering to the parish community. The Christmas offertory collection is usually a collection that reflects the awesome generosity of our parish community. Remembering your parish at this time of year, on top of all of your other responsibilities, is appreciated all the more.

In conversation with friends and family about religion and Church, which is not an unusual part of the conversation this time of year, don’t forget to invite them to make St. Gerard their spiritual home. We would welcome them with open arms. If you happen to know any friend or family member who used to be a member of St Gerard parish, invite them to reconsider “coming home.” Again, they would be most welcome.

That is all for this week. Let us continue to enter daily into some form of prayer and spiritual practice. If you do not have a routine spiritual practice, Advent might be a good starting point.

Fr Tom Santa, C.Ss.R.
For the Redemptorist community and staff

ADVENT BOOKS AVAILABLE

Pick up The Little Blue Book for Advent from the Gathering Space. Enjoy six minute reflections during the 23 days of the Advent season and the 20 days of the Christmas season. Books are also available in large-print and Vietnamese.

AN ADVENT HOME

Advent begins Sunday, December 2, and our theme this year is An Advent Home. Masses will continue to be Saturdays at 5:00pm and Sundays at 8:30 and 10:30am. Visit the ADVENT page of our website or app for more information and to listen to our Advent music.

NOVEMBER STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION VIDEOS

If you have missed or would like to watch again any of the stewardship videos that have been shown during mass, visit our website at www.st-gerard.org (NEWS & EVENTS) or our facebook page.

YOU’RE INVITED TO TRY A NEW MINISTRY

Have you ever considered getting involved in Liturgy as a Greeter/Usher, Hospitality Minister, Eucharistic Minister, Altar Server, Minister of the Word, or VDS (Computer) Minster? These ministries offer you and your family an opportunity to meet more faith family members and use your God given gifts to compliment our liturgies. We have many opportunities! Consider getting involved! Contact Amy Wittak at amyw@st-gerard.org to get started!

NEXT BAPTISM CLASS

The next baptism class will be held Saturday, December 15 from 9:30-11:30am. For more information about baptism, or to register for the class, please call the parish office at 763-424-8770.

DECEMBER ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated on the following days in December. If you are ill and would like to receive this sacrament, please stay in the Church following Mass.
Saturday, December 8- after 5:00pm Mass
Sunday, December 16- after 8:30am Mass
Justice and Outreach

Homeland Youth Awareness Month
I was at The Wall of Forgotten Indians, Tent City, The Encampment - all names this place of around three hundred individuals living in community has been called. I am often asked, "How did this group gather here?" This has been one of the gathering places for homeless people for a long time. We have those places near our Church, we just don't see them. The difference at this place is we started visiting with the people present. Finding out what their needs were. Building relationships with a small group of around fifteen people in about five tents. Praying with them, introducing Outreach workers to them. Pretty soon more people came, in need of tents, sleeping bags, hygiene items, clothes, and we found individuals to donate them. More individuals came, media started in, the police department decided to not clear it out, but start to help them, city, county, state officials stopped by with media and it grew. And now we are at this point of realizing that this community is just a canary to the problem we have in our cities, state and country. Now that we can see it, what are we going to do about it?

Shawn Phillips, Director/Pastoral Minister at Gichitwaa Kateri Parish, Office of Indian Ministry
Contact Cindy Shevlin-Woodcock at 612-240-2627 or jcwoodcock@embarqmail.com to find out how you can get involved and help end youth homelessness in our area.

Hygiene Kit Collection
St. Gerard's will be collecting items for hygiene kits that will be donated to Hennepin County Health and Human Services. These items will be distributed to people who are experiencing homelessness. For a list of items needed visit www.st-gerard.org (NEWS & EVENTS) or contact Anne at annet@st-gerard.org. Items can be labeled (hygiene) and placed in the CEAP bins through the month of December. Thank you for your participation!

SHARING AND CARING HANDS
St. Gerard's prepares and serves a lunch at Sharing and Caring Hands every first Saturday of the month. Our next date is Saturday, December 1st. 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 at 763-561-3841.

Faith Formation

Prayer Partners
Become a St. Gerard Prayer Partner by simply praying for a child/youth/adult receiving a sacrament this year. Grab a card with a name from the display in the Gathering Space. Thanks!

RCIA
The RCIA sessions began this past week. Be sure to keep them in your prayers and also pick up a prayer partner card in the gathering space!

Women and Wine a Great Success!
About 38 women gathered at St. Gerard's on Friday, November 9 for our 3rd year of presentations for Women and Wine. Great treats were provided by "Tasty Treats and Fancy Sweets", and a fabulous presentation was given by Lisa Ervin. We thank all for their support and our volunteers for their help. Look for our next presentation in February 2019 as we explore women of Justice and Peace.

Looking for Ideas...
We would like to offer a men's version of Women and Wine and would like MEN to give some suggestions as to what we should call the gathering. The first idea shared was "Bros and Brew." Please call the parish office with ideas or send an email to Judy Foster at judyf@st-gerard.org

High School Youth Group - Life Night
Life Night, St. Gerard's youth group for students currently in grades 9-12, will meet next on Sunday, December 2 from 7:30-9:00pm in the youth room. No registration necessary, just come and have fun! Hope to see you there!

ST. GERARD’S YOUNG ADULTS
Starting in December of this year, we're going to begin offering Young Adult Ministry here at St. Gerard's!! St. Gerard's Young Adults is an informal, low commitment group open to all Young Adults between the ages of 18 and 35 who attend St. Gerard's or who live in the area and are interested in building community with other Young Adult Catholics. This year we're planning on meeting twice a month between December and March. The communication for this group will be through a closed Facebook group. Search "St. Gerard's Young Adults" and request to join the group to hear more about our events. Contact Heidi Schleif at heidis@st-gerard.org with any questions.

Tablets for Sale
Faith Formation is selling Digiland 7" tablets with 8 GB internal storage plus microSD card slot, Model: DL7006-KB (color black). They have a keyboard and include a case and charger. They retail for $60.00 but we are asking $30.00! We have 4 left for sale! Please contact Judy Foster or Heidi Schleif at the parish office. Great for young kids!
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 (search for “St Gerard Majella” in the app store)! Or check out our facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/churchofsaintgerard)! Thank you for worshipping with us today!

ATTENTION CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS!
Do you shop on Amazon? When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the same low prices, same products and same shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to St. Gerard's. Support St. Gerard's when you shop Amazon by using the link https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-0973587 - it is already setup to directly support St. Gerard's. Thank you!

DECEMBER CEAP COLLECTION
The St. Gerard's Knights of Columbus will help collect non-perishable food for CEAP from December 1st through December 30th. The Knights will hand out grocery bags with a list of suggested food items to parishioners after the Masses on the weekends of December 1, 2 and December 8, 9 for donations to the CEAP food shelf to help alleviate hunger in our community. The Knights will collect the food throughout December. Please return your donations by Saturday, December 30. Thank you for supporting CEAP and the people they serve.

EASY GIVING FOR ST. GERARD'S!
Did you know St. Gerard's offers online, mobile, and text giving?
• You can easily set-up online electronic giving through our secure GIVE page accessed from our website (www.st-gerard.org) or app (search for “St Gerard Majella” in the app store).
• The QR Code is another quick, simple way to access St. Gerard's secure online GIVE page! Simply download a QR reader app for your phone and scan the QR Code. (The code is located in each bulletin, outside the parish office, and at the back of church.) This will bring you directly to St. Gerard's online GIVE page.
• You are also able to make a contribution to St. Gerard's with a quick text message! Simply send a text (to 763-225-1078) with the amount you would like to contribute.
For more information on all our giving options visit the St. Gerard's GIVE page on the website or app.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES
As we prepare for the holiday season, please be aware of our early bulletin submission deadlines if you plan to request a bulletin announcement. Thank you!

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Bulletin</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 30</td>
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<td>January 6</td>
<td>Monday, December 24</td>
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This Week at St. Gerard’s

**INTENTIONS**

**M-F 8:25 AM** - Eucharist, Liturgy of Hours
**TUE 9:00 AM** - Perpetual Help Devotion

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26**
8:25 am - Communion Service

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27**
8:25 am - Parish Families

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28**
8:25 am -

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29**
8:25 am -

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30**
8:25 am -

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1**
5:00 pm - Burt Stock

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2**
8:30 am - Deceased Members of the Klietz & Bruns Families †
10:30 am - Fr. Jerome Tanguy †

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

Ruth Livieri
Rick Kveton

Also remember those loved ones who have died.

**Dec 2, 2018**
First Sunday of Advent
**JER** 33:14-16
**1 Thes** 3:12-4:2
**Lk** 21:25-28, 34-36

**PARISH EVENTS**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26**
7:30 pm - Boy Scouts #575 Meeting

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27**
9:00 am - Perpetual Help Devotion
9:15 am - Womens Prayer/Support Group
7:00 pm - RCIA
7:30 pm - Regent AA

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28**
9:00 am - Eucharistic Adoration
6:00 pm - First Reconciliation Parent/Child Meeting
6:00 pm - Faith Formation 1st-5th
7:15 pm - Music Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29**
10:00 am - Cornerstone Scripture Study
6:00 pm - Centering Prayer
6:30 pm - Faith Formation Commission Meeting

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1**
9:00 am - Sharing & Caring Hands
4:00 pm - Individual Confessions
5:00 pm - Eucharist

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2**
8:30 am - Eucharist
10:30 am - Eucharist
10:30 am - Faith Formation St. G’s Kids
11:30 am - Baptisms
6:00 pm - Faith Formation - Confirmation
6:00 pm - Faith Formation - EDGE

Text Giving:
**763-225-1078**

Donate Online