The Church of St. Gerard Majella

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING — NOVEMBER 26, 2017

ADDRESS
9600 Regent Avenue North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443-1499

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Saturday and Sunday: CLOSED

EUCHARIST
Saturday 5pm, 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

PASTORAL Services
Rev. Thomas Santa, C.Ss.R. - Parochial Administrator
Rev. Tuan Pham, C.Ss.R.
Bro. Bruce Davidson, C.Ss.R.
Rev. Matthew Bonk, C.Ss.R.
Rev. Patrick Keyes, C.Ss.R.
Barbara Staats - Business Administrator
Anne Tiller - Pastoral Minister
Amy Wittak- Liturgical Ministry
Tim Smith - Dir. of Liturgical Music
Colette O'Brien - Communications
Judy Foster - Dir. of Faith Formation
Emily Wenner - Youth Faith Formation Coordinator
Heidi Schleif - Preschool & Elementary Coordinator

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

KING OF THE UNIVERSE!

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

A Note from the Pastor

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of "Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe," or as we used to call it the "Feast of Christ the King." I was quite surprised when I noticed this description of the feast day and wondered if perhaps "I missed the memo" that announced this change in emphasis or was it something that I had imagined? As it turns out the feast has always been entitled in this manner since it was first established but the normal description of the feast was understood as the Feast of Christ the King. When the sacramentary was replaced with the Roman Missal (remember when that happened?) there was a return to the more majestic and grandeur use of the English language, not only in the missal, but also in the descriptions of the feasts and the solemnities celebrated. So, as it turns out, it is not my imagination: in previous issues of the liturgical calendar the feast was identified simply as the feast of Christ the King.

I hope that everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving holiday. It is always good to gather with family and friends to celebrate the blessings we have received. I was again reminded that the thanksgiving feast is truly an American Holiday, a secular holy day if you will. All the rituals of the day are truly rituals that might be understood as sacred in the broadest sense of the word. The day helps people to connect with people, experiences, and events that are important in their lives. It really doesn't matter what the feast is composed of, what delicacies are present and which are not (although in my family my mother's fruit cocktail salad is expected), what is important is the gathering of the family.

After Thanksgiving there is of course "Black Friday." This year, or was it my imagination again, that Black Friday seemed to begin Thursday afternoon (not at the Mall of America however), at least for some retailers. I guess there are not enough shopping days before Christmas so we need an extra afternoon! I sure hope the bargains were worth it. I cannot imagine shopping on Thanksgiving Day. I would have to get off the couch and move. I might miss the pie and the rest of the desserts that normally are not served until the Detroit Lions football game is over (a Thanksgiving tradition in Michigan). I am not that good of a shopper at any rate. I like to get in and get out as quickly as I can.

Next week we start the holy season of Advent and I am truly looking forward to our parish celebration of this season of grace. We have chosen the theme of "Ordinary Holiness" as our emphasis for Advent. I think you will see this simple emphasis highlighted in our Sunday Eucharist. We will also be adding a liturgical ritual to our Sunday Liturgy beginning with the First Sunday of Advent: we will process in with the processional cross. Of course, we also have the Advent Wreath and this year we moved the Angel Tree's into the church around the baptismal font to remind everyone of an opportunity to share their blessings with someone less fortunate.

Mark your calendars for the Advent Evening of Reconciliation which is at 7:00 PM on Thursday, December 14. The service from start to finish will take approximately one-hour. It is a good spiritual practice to engage as we together prepare for the celebration of Christmas.

That is about all for this week. I write these few words from the Sonoran Desert in Tucson, Arizona and I will continue to be at the retreat center for another week. I look forward to my return the first week of Advent to celebrate our time of Advent grace together. In the meantime, let us remember each other in our thoughts and in our prayers. We continue to have members of our parish family who are in need of special prayers for healing at this time and I know they would appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

Rev. Thomas Santa, C.Ss.R.
For the Redemptorist Community and Staff

Advent Books Available

Have a better Advent! Pick up an Advent book from the Gathering Space.

Stewardship Thoughts

"…whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers, you did for me" - Matthew 25:40

Most of us are generous when it's convenient for us. We are generous when we have the time or the money. But, generosity is the opposite of that. It means giving of one's time, money, compassion, forgiveness or mercy when it's not convenient; when it's not on our schedule, but on the other person's schedule.

Thank You For Your Prayers

Thank you St. Gerard's for all your prayers during my near fatal illness. Please know that I am so thankful and that I also pray for you! May you have a blessed Advent Season. Kathy Irvin

Social Media Sunday - December 9/10

Bring your phone or tablet to church the weekend of December 9/10. Download the new St. Gerard App after mass. There will be step-by-step instructions and our youth will be available to lend a hand if you have any questions!

St. Gerard App Available for Download!

Can't wait for Social Media Sunday? Download the St. Gerard App today!

You can scan the QR code, or click "get the app" on the home page of our website: www.st-gerard.org or search for it in the app store.

Justice and Outreach

Angel Tree Project

The Angels are here! The Angel Tree Project has a long history at St. Gerard's. Your generosity has brightened the Christmas Season for innumerable families throughout the years. Please consider selecting one, two or more angels from the trees in the church. Please return your gifts by Saturday, December 9. Thank you in advance!

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Please be generous in giving to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the United States, one in six people lives in poverty. Your contribution helps support programs that address the causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those who are struggling across the country. In addition, 25 percent of funds collected remains in our diocese to fund local anti-poverty projects. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and work on the margins. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development can be found at www.usccb.org/cchd/collection. To donate online, visit the GIVING page of our website, www.st-gerard.org.

Youth Homelessness - Will You Help?

There are multiple opportunities to volunteer your services to homeless youth through area shelters and school programs. Consider opening your home to a youth in need through the Suburban Host Home Program. Ask your employer if the company allows workplace collections or if the company will match donations. For more information, read about the Youth Homelessness Project on the GET INVOLVED (Outreach) page of our website or contact Cindy Shevlin-Woodcock at 612-240-2627 or jcwoodcock@embarqmail.com.

Fair Trade Marketplace at St. Gerard's

St. Gerard's will host a Fair Trade Marketplace the weekend of December 2 & 3, where high quality, fairly traded gifts and food items will be on sale. Plan to shop and to learn more about how fairly traded items change people's lives by insuring that low-income artisans and farmers receive a fair wage for the products they produce. Many new items will be available including jewelry, baskets, coffee and chocolate!

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 2**. No need to sign up, just come on Saturday morning at 9:00 am to St. Gerard's kitchen and help prepare the food. Then at 10:50 am help pack up the food, take it to Sharing and Caring Hands on 7th Street (Minneapolis), and help serve at 11:30 am. Questions, call John at 763-561-3841.

Faith Formation

Can you be a Prayer Partner?

Our First Eucharist/Reconciliation and Confirmation students need your prayers! Sign up to be a prayer partner and support a student through prayer during their Sacramental year. You are also welcome to send them notes of encouragement during the year and be present when they receive their Sacrament. Contact Emily Wenner to get involved as a prayer partner.

Join Us For Youth Group!

Middle school youth group meets on Wednesday November 29th from 7:15-8:15pm in the youth room. Come meet new friends, share your faith, and have fun!

Safe Environment Presentation

Please plan to attend the mandatory Safe Environment Presentation for faith formation. A parent/guardian must attend with each youth.

- Preschool, Kindergarten, and Elementary Safe Environment Presentation: Monday, November 27, 6:00-7:15pm.

Students who are unable to make their presentation will be asked to do a make-up lesson during class time.

First Reconciliation Meeting

The second parent/child meeting for First Reconciliation will be on Monday, December 4 from 6:00-7:15 pm in St. Francis Hall. At least one parent is expected to attend with each child. Don't forget to complete and bring your Lesson 1 and 2 pamphlets!

Middle School Lock-In

Attention all 6th-8th graders: Join hundreds of other youth for a lock-in at the Maple Grove Community Center on Friday, December 15th! There will be inflatables, skating, swimming, dodge ball, pizza, awesome prizes, and much more! Permission forms are available by the faith formation bulletin board and on the youth ministry website, or contact Emily Wenner to get signed up.

Preparation of Gifts

Everyone, especially our children and youth, are invited to bring food donations to the CEAP bin in front of the altar during the Preparation of Gifts. Monetary donations for CEAP are also appreciated and can be placed in the collection basket. Checks can be made out to CEAP and cash should be placed in a labeled envelope.

Youth Connect with us!

Follow us for activities and exciting ways to get involved!
twitter: @StGerardYM
instagram: @stgerardyouth
website: www.st-gerard.org and click on YOUTH!

This Week at St. Gerard's

INTENTIONS

MON-FRI 8:25 AM - Eucharist & Liturgy of the Hours
TUE 9:00 AM - Perpetual Help Devotion

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27
8:25 am - Communion Service
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28
8:25 am - Parish Families of St. Gerard & San Raphael
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29
8:25 am -
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30
8:25 am -
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1
8:25 am - Grace Clausen
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2
5:00 pm - Parish Families of St. Gerard & San Raphael
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
8:30 am - Russell Spading †
10:30 am - Gerald & Robert Steffens †

PARISH EVENTS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27
6:00 pm - Safe Environment (Elementary)
6:00 pm - Elementary Faith Formation
7:30 pm - Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28
9:00 am - Perpetual Help Devotion
9:30 am - Womens Prayer/Support Group
7:30 pm - Regent AA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29
9:00 am - Eucharistic Adoration
6:00 pm - EDGE Middle School Classes
7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal
7:15 pm - Middle School Youth Group

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30
10:00 am - Cornerstone Scripture Study
6:00 pm - Centering Prayer
7:00 pm - RCIA
7:00 pm - Sister Parish Meeting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2
7:30 am - Sharing & Caring Hands
4:00 pm - Private Confessions
5:00 pm - Eucharist

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
8:30 am - Eucharist
8:30 am - Liturgy of the Word, Children
10:30 am - Eucharist
10:30 am - Liturgy of the Word, Children
10:30 am - Pre-K Faith Formation Classes
12:00 pm - Baptisms
6:00 pm - Confirmation
7:30 pm - High School Youth Group

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

Also remember those loved ones who have died.

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 3, 2017
1st Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 63:16B-17, 19B, 64:2-7
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Baptisms are celebrated 2 weekends per month. Please call the Parish Office to schedule a date and register for the preparation class.

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

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE
Parishioners planning to celebrate their marriage should contact the parish office at least six months prior to the desired date.

QR CODE

Community 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 packet, and sign our guest registry. You may also visit our website, www.st-gerard.org, to find more information and register online! Thank you for worshipping with us today! We are so happy to have you here! Please come again!

Knights of Columbus CEAP Food Drive

The St. Gerard's Knights of Columbus will be collecting non-perishable food for the holidays from December 4th through December 23rd. The Knights will hand out grocery bags with a list of suggested food items to parishioners after the Masses on December 9, 10 and December 16,17 for donations to the CEAP food shelf to help alleviate hunger in our community. Please return your donations by Saturday, December 23. Thank you for your support.

Communion Ministers for North Memorial Hospital

Eucharistic ministers are needed to bring communion to Catholic patients at North Memorial Hospital. VIRTUS training and background check required. The commitment is 1-3 hours, two Saturdays a month. For more information, contact Anne Tiller at annet@st-gerard.org or 763-424-8770 x 120

Fare for All

Fare For All provides fresh, quality food at a lower cost than a typical grocery store. It helps families stretch their food budget and access nutritious foods that tend to be more expensive. Fare For All offers food packages with contents that change throughout the month. During November and December they are offering holiday packages at $30. Fare For All accepts cash, credit, debit, and EBT cards (no checks). To learn more call 763-450-3880.

2017 Advent/Christmas Schedule

1st Sunday of Advent
Dec 2, 5:00pm and Dec 3, 8:30am & 10:30am

2nd Sunday of Advent
Dec 9, 5:00pm and Dec 10, 8:30am & 10:30am

Advent Reconciliation Service
Thursday, Dec 14, 7:00pm

3rd Sunday of Advent
Dec 16, 5:00pm and Dec 17, 8:30am & 10:30am

4th Sunday of Advent
Dec 23, 5:00pm and Dec 24, 8:30am & 10:30am

Christmas Eve
Dec 24, 4:00pm (Children's Mass)
Dec 24, 6:00pm & 10:00pm with 9:30pm Christmas Carols

Christmas Day
Dec 25, 10:00am with 9:30am Christmas Carols