

The Church of St. Gerard Majella

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 2, 2018

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

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
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

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



An Advent Home

First Sunday of Advent

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

This weekend we begin the season of Advent, our liturgical time of preparation and growing in awareness and focus for the coming feast of Christmas. Our liturgical theme this year, to help us in our preparation and focus, is “An Advent Home.” Once again, we will join our voices in song to help us celebrate this theme and to take to heart the lessons that it teaches. I think it is a great reminder for each of us and an invitation to further spiritual growth.

“An Advent Home” also suggests that this might be a good time to reach out to friends and families and even former parishioners with whom you are acquainted and invite them to come home to St. Gerard. This is a visible and concrete expression of what it means when we proclaim, “all are welcome.” This expression is not just a banner that we display at the front entrance of the church. It is rather descriptive of something that is in our hearts and enables the spirit of who we are and what we believe. It is also a message that more and more people need to hear and experience. To be welcomed and to be celebrated for who you are, at this moment in time, not as you might one day be, is the core of the message of Jesus. It is what gospel means in the entirety of the Word, not when you pick and choose.

While I was home for Thanksgiving, I discovered, much to my amazement, that my mother has become a huge college basketball fan. She has always been a person who follows baseball, in her case the Cincinnati Reds, and because I love hockey, in particular the Detroit Red Wings (an original six team), she keeps up with them so that she can mention them in conversation with me. However, to the best of my knowledge, she had never demonstrated any interest in college basketball but now she is a huge Michigan State basketball fan. The game was on when I was home and she was completely focused on what was going on and well informed. I think this new-found interest is because she is more interested in her great-grandchildren than in basketball, when all is said and done. One of her great-grandchildren, and my grandnephew, plays for MSU. He is #23 and I must say Xavier is actually quite good. Next time you find yourself watching television, and college basketball is featured, look for him. He is hard to miss.

Not only did we watch the game, we also talked a little bit about what is required of a player who plays for a major university. It is quite the commitment and nothing is left to chance. The coaches have a very clear idea of what they expect from you and what role you are required to play. Every single decision is made in support of that focus. This discipline and focus is not just during the season that the sport is in session but is a year-long focus. There is really no such thing as time off or a vacation. All of this and also the academic requirements must be fulfilled because they are “student athletes.” It is not for the faint of heart and although the rewards are potentially quite significant,

there is quite a bit of discipline and sacrifice that is required. Knowing all of this has helped me to appreciate what is required in order to make the commitment that is necessary.

Well, that is all for this week. When I started this reflection I had no idea I was going to end up talking about college basketball; I thought it was going to be an introduction to the season of Advent. I will end this reflection where I started it, not on the basketball court but rather with our Advent theme, “An Advent Home.” Please take it to heart. Let the spirit of the season invite you into a deeper awareness of God’s grace at work in your life. That is my Advent prayer for each of you.

Fr Tom Santa, C.Ss.R.

For the Redemptorist Community and Staff

AN ADVENT HOME

This weekend begins Advent 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 watch our Advent Home music video on facebook.

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. Also available in large-print and Vietnamese.

ADVENT COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Please join us for a communal reconciliation service on Thursday, **December 20** at 7:00pm in the Church!

A HEARTFELT WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome to St. Gerard’s! We are so happy you are with us!

- Joyce Alt
- Linda Ottoson



NOVEMBER BAPTISMS

Marlowe Marette Juettner was made a member of the Church through the saving waters of baptism. May God continue to bless her family and our parish as we continue the vital work of teaching what it means to follow Christ.

NEXT BAPTISM CLASS

The next baptism class will be held Saturday, December 15 from 9:30-11:30am. For more information on baptism, or to register for the class, 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



ANGEL TREE PROJECT

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. We hope that spirit of generosity will continue this year. Please consider selecting one, two or more angels from the trees or the basket located in the Gathering Space. Or, if you haven't been able to in the past and can take just one angel this year, that will mean another person's Christmas will be brightened by your ability to share your time and treasure. Please return your gifts by **Saturday, December 15th**. Thank you in advance!



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!

BURRITO BREAKFAST

Our friends from San Rafael will soon be celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Come join the Sister Parish Ministry in celebration at a Burrito Breakfast on **December 9** after the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses. Meet us in the hard floor area. All are welcome!



LOOKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Loaves & Fishes: Help prepare and serve food to people in need on the 4th Friday of the month.

Sharing & Caring Hands: Help prepare/serve lunch at Sharing & Caring Hands on the 1st Saturday of the month.

Community Garden: Get involved in the development and management of the community garden and other "earth friendly" initiatives.

Justice Commission: Help develop and implement a social justice strategy for St. Gerard's. Past events have included the "Fair Trade Sale" and a study group on Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si". The Justice Commission meets on the first Monday of the month.

San Rafael Sister Parish: Participate in building a relationship between our parishes and learn about the people of San Rafael through trips and communications. The committee meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

For more information about these Justice/Outreach opportunities, contact Anne at annet@st-gerard.org or visit www.st-gerard.org (GET INVOLVED).

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. Thank you for your participation and prayers!



FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST EUCHARIST

First Reconciliation children will receive the sacrament on Wednesday, December 12. Be sure to keep them and their families in your prayers and also pick up a prayer partner card in the gathering space! Please continue to pray for them as they move on in February to prepare for First Eucharist.

SPIRITUAL GRANDPARENTING WORKSHOP

Thank you to all who were able to attend the Spiritual Grandparenting Workshop in November! An encouraging presentation was given by Carolyn Kolovitz with ideas and inspiration for how to pass on our spiritual legacy to our grandchildren. We look forward to offering another Grandparenting Workshop at St. Gerard's in the future!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP - LIFE NIGHT

Life Night, St. Gerard's youth group for students currently in grades 9-12, will meet *this* 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 this December, 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 3 left for sale! Please contact Judy Foster or Heidi Schleif at the parish office. Great for young kids!



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

<https://www.facebook.com/churchofsaintgerard>

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!

CHRISTMAS AT ST. GERARD'S

Christmas services will be Monday, December 24 at 4:00, 6:00, and 10:00pm and Tuesday, December 25 at 10:00am. All masses will have a special gift for the young children. The 10:00pm mass on Christmas Eve will include the singing of Christmas Carols starting at 9:30pm. Please plan on attending. Bring your family and friends!



DECEMBER CEAP COLLECTION

The St. Gerard's Knights of Columbus will help collect non-perishable food for CEAP from December 1-30. 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. Please return donations by Saturday, December 30. Thank you for your support!

ADVENT EVENING OF MUSIC & REFLECTION

You are invited to an Advent Evening of Music & Reflection led by composer and author, David Haas. The theme of the evening will be "I Will Bring You Home: Music as a Pathway for Our Life of Faith." The event will be Monday, **December 3**, 7:00pm-8:30pm at the St. John Neumann Church in Eagan. Join us!

EXPLORING THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

You are invited to attend a Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary Theology Day on Exploring the Gospel of Luke. Presenter will be Fr. Michael Patella, OSB. The event will be Thursday, **December 6** from 6:00-9:00pm, at Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, Maple Grove. Free event. Registration is required: www.collegevilleMN.com/theologyday or 320-363-3560.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

Remember loved ones by donating toward the purchase of flowering plants to decorate the church. Please complete the form and return it with your check to the parish office or in the Sunday collection.

Form and donation also available online!

YOUR NAME: _____

NAME(S) OF LOVED ONES:

This Week at St. Gerard's

INTENTIONS

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

8:25 am - Communion Service

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:25 am - Richard Potvin †

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

8:25 am - Cliff McAlpine †

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:25 am - Parish Families

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:25 am - Arthur Dols †

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

5:00 pm - Grace Onouha †

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

8:30 am - Wally Rymanowski †

10:30 am - Gerald & Robert Steffens †

PARISH EVENTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

7:00 pm - Justice & Outreach Meeting

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts #575 Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

9:00 am - Perpetual Help Devotion

9:15 am - Womens Prayer/Support Group

9:30 am - Women for Spiritual Growth

7:00 pm - RCIA

7:30 pm - Regent AA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:00 am - Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm - Faith Formation Family Night

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

7:15 pm - Music Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

10:00 am - Cornerstone Scripture Study

6:00 pm - Centering Prayer

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

4:00 pm - Individual Confessions

5:00 pm - Eucharist

6:00 pm - Anointing of the Sick

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

8:30 am - Eucharist

9:30 am - Sister Parish Burrito Breakfast

10:30 am - Eucharist

11:30 am - Sister Parish Burrito Breakfast

10:30 am - Faith Formation St. G's Kids

6:00 pm - Faith Formation - Confirmation

6:00 pm - Faith Formation - EDGE



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

Rick Kveton

Brian Dupay

Ardell Johnson

Also remember those loved ones who have died, especially:

Ronald Coleman

DEC 9, 2018

Second Sunday of Advent

BAR 5:1-9

PHIL 1:4-6,8-11

LK 3:1-6

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