

The Church of St. Gerard Majella

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 9, 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


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

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*

Second 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

We continue to participate as a parish community in the liturgical season of Advent. Our Advent theme, “An Advent Home” is intended to sharpen our focus and invites us to contemplate the ordinary ways of holiness that are available to us. A little patience and even a few minutes of daily reflection each day will contribute to our personal spiritual growth and development. It is a wonderful spiritual practice and a good use of the time that we have been gifted with during this season of grace.

One of our parishioners pointed out to me that there is a wonderful opportunity for the members of our parish family who need to take the mandatory annual withdrawal from their retirement accounts. Any donation given at this time of year from that disbursement decreases the gross taxable amount, not the net amount. This makes the opportunity for giving this time of year a “win-win” for you and also for St. Gerard Parish. Of course, it is necessary to speak to your financial advisor to check and see if this is an opportunity that would be beneficial to you but the parishioner thought, and I obviously agreed with him, that I should bring it to your attention.

I cannot but help be struck by the growing diversity that is manifested in our St. Gerard Parish community. We are truly blessed to enjoy such diversity and the many talents and gifts that are available to us as a result of this diversity. There is a challenge in the diversity that needs our full attention. Some of the routines that we have grown accustomed to over the years are changing. We need to learn how to encourage and to embrace the new opportunities that are presented to us.

Learning to embrace something new means moving out of our comfort zones and trying to engage in life in a different way. Letting go of something is not a judgement that it is “not good” and it is not a judgement on the people who made it happen. Nothing could be farther from the truth. It is rather representative of the lived reality of the particular time and place in which it thrived. Moving on is an acknowledgement that there are new realities and new opportunities. It is also a sign of life and a very tangible sign of God’s grace at work. Holding on for dear life, on the other hand, is not only not necessarily helpful, it is often times even harmful. It blocks the movement of the Spirit of God and insists that the only reality that matters is my reality. That is not gospel living. It is the opposite of gospel life.

There is the rub. Spirit movement brings us face-to-face with the need for discernment. Discernment is recognizing the power of God and the power of grace and trying to enable the manifestation of how we are blessed and what we are called to live. Real discernment has nothing to do with power but has everything to do with compassion, gentleness, and understanding. It is a movement that brings us forward into the light but respects, not only the place

where we are moving, but just as important it treasures and respects the place from where we have journeyed.

This reflection is a generalized reflection on growth and movement. It is not particular to any one activity or event in our parish life. I have nothing in particular in mind and I am not signaling that something/some event/some project will/should be isolated and discussed. It truly is just an attempt to try and clearly discern what it is that we are called to do as the People of God, the people of St. Gerard Parish. That being both said and acknowledged, it does nonetheless illustrate that we do have work to do and we do have decisions that need to be made. Thankfully, we have a vibrant and loving community that truly enables a discerning spirit and the action(s) that are/may be necessary.

Have a great week and continue to enjoy the journey of Advent. Together let us continue to be open to the Spirit of God at work in our lives and in our Advent Home(s).

Fr. Tom Santa, C.Ss.R.

For the Redemptorist Community and staff

AN ADVENT HOME

Our theme this Advent 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 on Advent and Christmas at St. Gerard’s.

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!

HELP DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS!

Looking for a way to be more involved in the St. Gerard community? Come decorate a tree and/or the church for Christmas! Join us Sunday, **December 16** from 12 noon - 3pm. Come anytime that you are able. All are welcome!

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!

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.

Justice and Outreach

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 gift card angels (Cub Foods or Target) from the basket located in the Gathering Space. All gifts must be returned to St. Gerard's by **Saturday, December 15 (next Saturday)** to allow for distribution. Thank you St. Gerard's for your generosity!

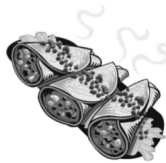


HYGIENE KIT COLLECTION

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 this Sunday, December 9 after the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses. Meet us in the hard floor area. All are welcome!



WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Looking for a fun way to volunteer this holiday season? Avenues for Homeless Youth is looking for volunteers of all ages to wrap holiday gifts for the youth in their programs. Wrapping supplies, hot cocoa and holiday music will be provided. This is a great opportunity for families to volunteer with Avenues! The wrapping party is on Saturday, **December 15**, from 8:00-3:00pm at Brookdale Covenant Church in Brooklyn Center. We're looking for volunteers to sort gifts and set up from 8:00-10:00am, then wrap gifts starting at 10:00am. Please contact Cindy Shevlin-Woodcock at 612-240-2627 for more information.



COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

If you are a parishioner, or know of a parishioner, who is homebound and would like to receive Communion regularly, please contact the parish office at 763-424-8770.



Faith Formation

FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST EUCHARIST

First Reconciliation children will receive the sacrament on Wednesday, **December 12** (not December 19 as previously communicated). Please remember to keep them and their families in your prayers and continue to pray for them as they move on in February to prepare for First Eucharist.

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

LWC takes place in the Chapel during the 8:30 and 10:30am masses. It's an opportunity for kids to read and reflect on the readings at their own level. It is meant primarily for Elementary aged children. There's no registration and you don't need to be a parishioner of St. Gerard's to attend; **ALL KIDS ARE WELCOME!**

ST. GERARD'S YOUNG ADULTS

Starting **December 10th**, 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.

SUMMER 2019 MISSION TRIP

We are excited to announce that our summer 2019 mission trip will be to Catholic Heart Work Camp in Nashville, TN! The mission trip will go from July 13th-20th, 2019. Mission trips are open to all current 8th graders and up. Contact Emily Bauer at emilyw@st-gerard.org for more information and registration materials. There are limited spots available and registration is on a first come, first serve basis. We hope you will consider joining us for this wonderful opportunity to serve! Visit our youth ministry webpage at www.st-gerard.org (YOUTH) to check out our videos from previous mission trips!



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!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEMBERSHIP

The St. Gerard's Knights of Columbus are looking for men in our parish to join us in our mission to support our parish, our faith, and our Catholic way of life. As you may know, the Knights are one of many valued parish groups whose work brings a variety of benefits to our parish and community. We support our parish youth groups and people with special needs in our community and beyond. We also support our seminarians, and our priests in special projects. Finally, we host events and invite our parish to get together as a family so that the fabric of our parish community is strengthened. If you would like to receive membership information, please visit our website at kc13001.mnknights.org or email knights13001news@gmail.com

ST. THOMAS ALUMNI CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The time has come for the annual St. Thomas Alumni Choir's Christmas Concert and you don't want to miss it! Come relax and listen to some beautiful music on a Sunday afternoon. The event is free! So invite your friends! The concert will be held at the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas on Sunday, **December 16**, at 2:00pm.

ATTENTION ONLINE HOLIDAY 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!

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 10

8:25 am - Communion Service

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

8:25 am - Parish Families

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

8:25 am - Carroll Vetsch †

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

8:25 am -

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

8:25 am - Kelly Herron †

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

5:00 pm - Marvin Jacobs †

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:30 am - Don Driessen †

10:30 am - Gary Livieri †

PARISH EVENTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

6:30 pm - Young Adults Group

7:00 pm - Youth Homelessness Meeting

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts #575 & Parent Mtg

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

9:00 am - Perpetual Help Devotion

9:15 am - Womens Prayer/Support Group

7:00 pm - RCIA

7:30 pm - Regent AA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

9:00 am - Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm - 1st Reconciliation Sacrament

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

7:15 pm - Music Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

6:00 pm - Centering Prayer

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

9:30 am - Baptism Prep Class

4:00 pm - Individual Confessions

5:00 pm - Eucharist

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:30 am - Eucharist

8:30 am - Liturgy of the Word for Children

9:30 am - Anointing of the Sick

10:30 am - Eucharist

10:30 am - Liturgy of the Word for Children

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:

Brian Dupay
Ardell Johnson
Larry Stull

Also remember those loved ones who have died.

DEC 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent

ZEP 3:14-18A

PHIL 4:4-7

LK 3:10-18

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