

The Church of St. Gerard Majella

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

DECEMBER 30, 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
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



All who heard him
were astounded...

Luke 2:47

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

The Feast of the Holy Family which we celebrate this first weekend after Christmas has roots deep within the tradition of Catholicism, primarily in the Coptic Church in Egypt. The feast assumed a singular North American focus in the 18th century as a result of the efforts of a saintly bishop who championed the idea of the Holy Family in New France (present day Quebec, Canada and other areas of North America once occupied by the French). The Cathedral in Tulsa, Oklahoma is the Cathedral of the Holy Family. Since 1969, and the revision of the liturgical calendar, the feast is celebrated within the Christmas season, as often as possible on the first Sunday after Christmas.

It might not seem like a big thing, celebrating this feast day, since it seems so natural to us, “of course Jesus had a family,” but it was not always so. There was a real reluctance in the Church to assign to Jesus, Mary, or Joseph any of what might be understood as “normal human experience and relationship” in the mistaken belief that this would somehow tarnish the reality of who they were/are.

Thankfully there has been a real correction at work in this viewpoint of what sanctity and holiness is: it is not an experience that disconnects a person from humanity but rather fully integrates a person into the experience of what it means to be human. Or, to put it in another way, even saints have bad days, sometimes are sick, and have their judgments and their opinions. It does not make them any less holy.

When we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, we are celebrating a family that is not a traditional family in any way that we understand tradition. This might seem startling at first glance but I think it is nonetheless an accurate description of the reality. There is nothing in the tradition that would suggest that Jesus, Mary, or Joseph were/are in any way representative of what we might understand as traditional.

We might try and believe, and I have no doubt that some sermons this weekend will insist, that Joseph went to work, Mary stayed home and tended to the domestic chores, and Jesus was an obedient Son, waiting for his “moment of revelation.” What this description is is a description of fictional family life in 1950 America (a Norman Rockwell illustration). Not at all descriptive of a real family in first century Palestine who struggled each day to make ends meet, all the while living under the oppression of an occupying army and a religious tradition that smothered each person with obligations and the fulfillment of the Law. If you want to share the story of the Holy Family you cannot ignore the reality of their experience. Reality teaches, fiction entertains and distracts.

The Star Tribune recently completed a three-part series that was the feature article on three Sundays about the experience of the Christian Church in the Twin Cities. The article was all about how the traditional churches were losing membership and the only churches that are growing

are the Mega-Churches and the small “boutique” communities that cater to a distinct population and their needs. The whole thrust of the series seemed to be that churches needed to change and adapt in order to survive. I do not disagree with the basic premise that change and adaptation is necessary. I know and understand that is the process of growth and development. What I think the article misrepresented and did not understand is that the growth that is needed is not in the “bells and the whistles, the smells and the bells.” There is something much more urgent that needs to be acknowledged.

The Feast of the Holy Family can help us understand one of our challenges. What people long for and what people need is to be connected and not disconnected. That need to understand that the divine is experienced within the experience of what it means to be a human person. Authentic religious experience, which is authentic human experience, is the only material that we have to bring to the table. That is how we experience what it means to be human. And that is the only way we can experience what it means to share in the divine. Again, reality teaches, fiction entertains and distracts. When we gather together as Church it is a celebration of what is real, not what is imagined. There is a big difference.

Have a great week. Enjoy the time-off if that is part of your experience. I will see you in Church.

Fr. Tom Santa, C.Ss.R.

For the Redemptorist Community and Staff

MANY, MANY, MANY THANKS!

Thank you to all who have worked so hard to make our Christmas liturgies meaningful and beautiful. Many hours of preparation go into our Worship Environment and Music Ministries and the results are so wonderful. We cannot celebrate well without our Liturgical Ministers who serve the whole community so selflessly! Thank you all for your tireless and generous gifts of time and talent!

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Join us as we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God on Tuesday, January 1, 2019 at 10:00am.

JANUARY ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated on the following days in January. If you are ill and would like to receive this sacrament, please stay in the Church following Mass.
Saturday, January 12- after 5:00pm Mass
Sunday, January 20- after 8:30am Mass
Sunday, January 27- after 10:30am Mass



WEDDING PLANS?

Interested in getting married at St. Gerard's? Contact Amy Wittak (amyw@st-gerard.org or 763-424-8770) for more information. Congratulations on your engagement!

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!

THE JUSTICE AND OUTREACH COMMISSION IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Grounded in Catholic social teachings, this commission is primarily responsible for developing, communicating, and implementing a social justice strategy for St. Gerard's members. We are responsible for supporting all the St. Gerard's outreach ministries such as: Community Garden, Loaves and Fishes, Sharing and Caring Hands, CEAP, etc... Monthly meetings are the first Monday of the month at 7:00pm. Contact Anne Tiller at annet@st-gerard.org or call 763-424-8770 ext 120 for more info.



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, **January 5th**. 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. Call John at 763-561-3841 with questions.

BREAKFAST WITH LEGISLATORS

Housing for All invites you to Breakfast with Legislators on Wednesday, **January 23**, from 7:00-9:00am, at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Maple Grove. Meet with your state and local policy makers to build relationships and proclaim as people of faith that Every One Needs a Home! A continental breakfast will be provided. Contact Roxanne Smith at 763-400-7208 or rsmith@sjtw.net with questions. For more information and to register, visit www.st-gerard.org (NEWS & EVENTS).



CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITOL 2019 - ST. PAUL, MN

Now is the time to begin to transform politics in Minnesota. Join your local bishop and 2,000+ Catholics in St. Paul on Tuesday, **February 19** to learn how you can build relationships with your newly elected officials and advocate for life and human dignity. Get your tickets, register for transportation, and find more details about this inspiring day of prayer, education, and advocacy by visiting www.CatholicsAtTheCapitol.org

BAPTISM BIRTHDAY PARTY

On Sunday, January 13th, we will honor all who have been baptized in the last year at the 10:30am mass.

NEWLY MARRIED

On Sunday, January 20th, at the 10:30am Mass, we will recognize all who have received the sacrament of Marriage here at St. Gerard's within the past two years.

UPCOMING FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

Women and Wine: Join us for an evening of wine, hors d'oeuvres, and faith filled conversation. Our next Women and Wine will be February 15, 7-9pm. Guest speaker is Suzanne Belongia Bernet who will be speaking on "A Love That Does Justice."

Buds and Suds: Yes, by request, a men's opportunity, the counterpart of Women and Wine, with some awesome guest speakers! 2019 date to be announced. Watch for more information to come.

Women's Lenten Retreat: March 2019. More information to come.

Lenten Scripture Study: Lent 2019. Offered morning and evening dates.

Watch for more information in the bulletin, on our facebook page, and on our app and website. All are welcome to attend!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP - LIFE NIGHT

Life Night, St. Gerard's youth group for students currently in grades 9-12, will meet again on Sunday, **January 6** 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!

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!**

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 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)! And check out our facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/churchofsaintgerard/>)! Thank you for worshipping with us today!

ST. GERARD APP

Did you know St. Gerard's has a mobile app? The app features prayer resources, parish calendar, news & events, online registration and giving, photo gallery, prayer journal, bulletins and homilies, and access to our facebook page, youth website, and parish website. You can also receive important announcements called "push" notifications from St. Gerard's with the parish app. Download the free app by scanning the QR code located on the inside page of the bulletin, or search for "St Gerard Majella" in the app store. Stay connected with St. Gerard's in 2019!

EASY GIVING FOR ST. GERARD'S!

- **Website:** www.st-gerard.org GIVE page
- **App:** GIVE page
- **QR Code:** find on the inside flap of the bulletin, at the back of church, or outside the parish office
- **Text Giving:** 763-225-1078

For more information on all our giving options visit the St. Gerard's **GIVE page** on the website or app.



KC PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Please join the Knights of Columbus and your fellow parishioners for a pancake and sausage breakfast after the 8:30 and 10:30am Masses on Sunday, **January**

6. 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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ONLINE MEMBERSHIP

For over 100 years, Knights of Columbus have been standing up for the Church, serving the least among us, and strengthening our parishes and families. Eligible Catholic men can now join the Knights of Columbus online in a simple, streamlined process. As a member, you join a worldwide community of nearly two million men, including 42,000 here in Minnesota, who stand together. Visit kofc.org/joinus to learn more.

BIZAA - SPONSOR A CHILD

It's not too late! Your sponsorship will help a child in Africa go to school and end their entrapment in child labor and child trafficking. A gift in any amount is available. Give the gift of sponsorship by contacting Christina Spaeth-Harrer at 651-247-2126 or Christinaspaeth@yahoo.com.

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 31

8:25 am - Communion Service

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

10:00 am - Parish Families

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

8:25 am -

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

8:25 am - Barb Kittelson †

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

8:25 am - Richard Potvin †

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

5:00 pm - Marvin Jacobs †

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

8:30 am - Eric Matthew Richardson †

10:30 am - Parker Johnson †

PARISH EVENTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 am - Solemnity of Mary

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

9:00 am - NO Eucharistic Adoration

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

6:00 pm - Centering Prayer

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

9:00 am - Sharing & Caring Hands

4:00 pm - Individual Confessions

5:00 pm - Eucharist

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

8:30 am - Eucharist

8:30 am - Liturgy of the Word for Children

9:30 am - KC's Pancake Breakfast

10:30 am - Eucharist

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

10:30 am - Liturgy of the Word for Children

11:30 am - Baptisms

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.

Also remember those loved ones who have died.

JAN 6, 2019

Epiphany of the Lord

IS 60:1-6

EPH 3:2-3A,5-6

MT 2:1-12

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