

The Church of St. Gerard Majella

THE HOLY FAMILY

DECEMBER 31, 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

EUCCHARIST

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

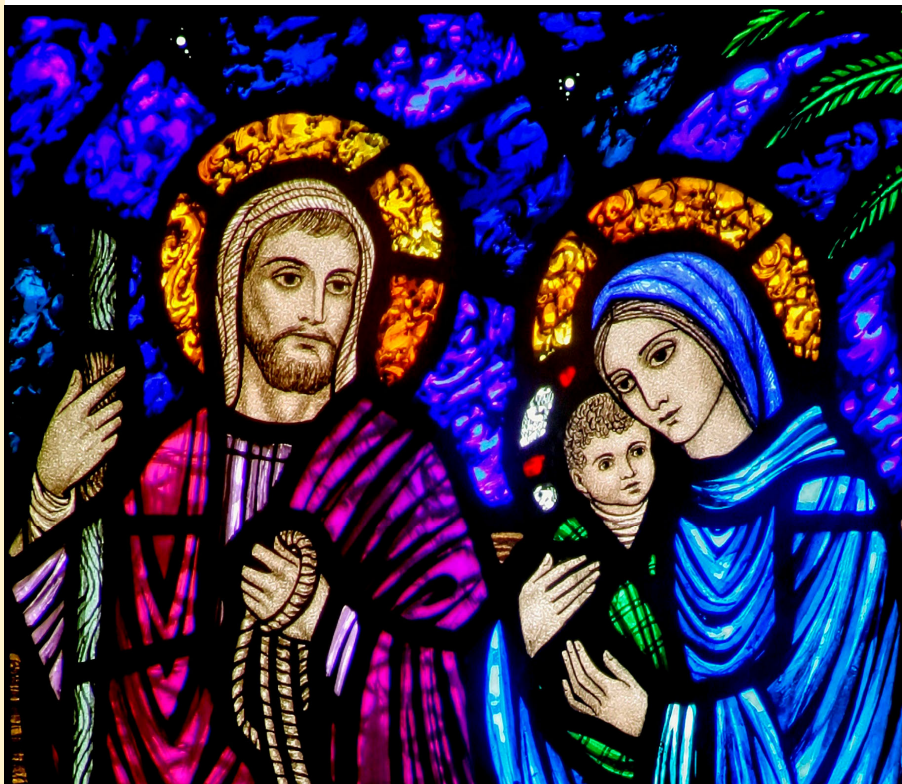
Roger Popham - Custodian

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



The Holy Family

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 celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family and then, first thing Monday morning, bright and early in fact, the beginning of a New Year. Monday, liturgically we celebrate the feast day of Mary, the Mother of God and, in some parts of the world, today is also considered a World Day of Peace. It is probably a manifestation of God's grace that I find myself reflecting on all of this.

Now more than ever in my personal reflections and meditations I find myself thinking about the violence that human beings inflict on each other. My reflections have become all the more vivid and personal when I realize that I too have been guilty of violence in my thoughts, my choices, and infrequently directly in my actions, but nonetheless a seemingly willing participant in the violence that is inflicted "officially" in my name. I do not think that I need to explicitly name these official violent acts, they come all too easily to mind.

Until very recently when I reflected on conflict, when I reflected on the world in which I live and I think of places in the world that I perceive are potential powder kegs, I do so from the perspective of my own limited vision. I say this, not in order to make a political statement, but rather to reflect on the limits of who I am as a human being. I can only see so much, my attention is captured primarily by that which affects me the most, and there are all sorts of actions, decisions, and other things taking place that I simply never focus on and therefore do not really understand or appreciate.

As a result of my limitations, my inability to continually focus on the entire situation, I am sometimes reduced to making opinions and judgments, and then holding on to them for dear life. I find myself identifying with labels, with generalizations, and even with particular commentators and columnists, with whom I find myself in agreement and which make me feel comfortable. I do this because it is one way that I can at least have the sense that I am responsible and that I am a concerned citizen of the world in which I live.

All of this is kind of an introduction to the main point that I wish to reflect on this day, and perhaps it is a roundabout way of getting to the point.

I have recently become more and more aware of the role that theology and theological perception seems to be taking in the current world picture. In one sense this is not unusual because theology, or another way of understanding it, the way a particular people and culture understand God and what they believe the will of God is for them, has always had a role to play in the human decisions. But what seems to be different at this point in time, from my limited perception, is that theology seems to be assuming a major role in what is going on. Frankly, this alarms me and provides me with at least a sense of caution.

I feel cautious and find myself becoming alarmed, because I hesitate in asserting with any kind of certainty, that some

particular action or point of view is unreservedly the will of God. I have spoken about this before, on other occasions when the readings or the liturgy of the day seems to suggest that such a reflection might be appropriate. I find myself thinking about this point again this weekend, as we begin a new calendar year.

How can good and sincere Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists and anyone else, at this point in time and throughout history, seemingly be so much at odds with each other, and do so confident in their own way, that their particular viewpoint or judgment is God's will? I don't have an answer to this question, but I do find myself wondering about it.

The other reason that I am thinking about this is much more personal and manageable: I am trying to ask myself a question today about what it means for me to be a truly peaceful person. I think that I should be asking myself what I need to do in order to become a truly peaceful person. What are the opinions and the judgments that I hold that are in fact obstacles to the kingdom of God, which I assume is the primary definition of what it means to live in peace for all people who call themselves Christians.

If I admit that I have a limited perception of the world in which I live. If I admit and accept that I have strong opinions and judgments. If I admit within myself, in that place where I recognize that I am closest to God and God is closest to me, that I am in fact capable of making choices and decisions that are contrary to the kingdom of God. If I do all of these things, or at least try and do some of these things, will I then be more at peace, and as a result, will the world be a little more peaceful this day? Is it also possible that this process of honest reflection might also provide a partial answer to my first question about God's will or at least might it be part of the answer?

I have learned, but need to learn the lesson again and again each day that I live, that it is important to spend time with the Lord. I have learned that in the process of spending time with the Lord, contemplating the presence of the Lord in my life and listening to the gentle promptings of the Spirit, that many of the hard edges of my life are softened. In the process of becoming softer, I also find that at least some of my opinions and my judgments, are much more peaceful than I ever imagined or thought possible.

This weekend I can pray for world peace. I can pray to the Mother of the Lord to help me be as open to the Spirit of God as she was. I can also commit myself to trying to continue to be a peaceful person and living in the expectation and the hope of the Kingdom of God. Doing each of these things will not solve any problems, will not necessarily even bring the questions and the decisions of my life into crystal clear focus, but it will be at least a decision that seems to be, if I dare assert it, the will of God for me and perhaps the will of God for all of God's people.

Rev. Thomas Santa, C.Ss.R.

For the Redemptorist Community and Staff

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 6**. 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 take the food to Sharing and Caring Hands on 7th Street (Minneapolis), and help serve. Questions, call John at 763-561-3841.

USCCB DENOUNCES DECISION TO END DACA

The USCCB has issued a statement denouncing the Trump Administration's termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. In a letter issued by the bishops, they state that this action is "unacceptable and does not reflect who we are as Americans". The bishops go on to say that this action "represents a heartbreaking moment in our history that shows the absence of mercy and good will, and a short-sighted vision for the future." To read the full statement and to contact your legislators, visit: www.st-gerard.org (News & Events).

JUSTICE AND EQUITY IN TAX REFORM PROPOSALS

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has raised concerns about the tax reform proposals currently being considered in Congress. In written letters to the House of Representatives and the US Senate, the bishops state that the proposals appear to "raise income taxes on the working poor while simultaneously providing a large tax cut to the wealthy". For links to read the full text and to contact your legislators, visit: www.st-gerard.org (News & Events).

ST. GERARD'S COMMUNITY GARDEN

Registration packets for the community garden will be available **January 20, 2018** and can be picked up at the church office or downloaded from the parish website. For more information visit www.st-gerard.org (News & Events).

COMMUNITY GARDEN AWARDED GRANT!

St. Gerard's Community Garden was awarded a 2017 CRS Rice Bowl Grant for \$400 to address local hunger and poverty. Funding for this program is from the annual CRS Lenten program called CRS Rice Bowl. The CRS Rice Bowl helps Catholics in the US learn about hunger and poverty around the world and to contribute to the CRS efforts to alleviate those situations internationally and locally. Priority for the awards goes to those parishes that participate in the CRS Lenten Program.

COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATOR NEEDED!

St. Gerard's is looking for a garden coordinator who will help manage the community garden for the 2018 growing season. A detailed garden coordinator job description is available upon request. Plus, the garden coordinator is compensated with a free individual garden plot of their own! If you would like more information, contact Anne Tiller at annet@st-gerard.org or 763-424-8770 ext 120.

FAITH INTEREST CONNECTORS

Calling all high school youth! You are invited to be part of discipleship groups where faith meets your passions! Join us for Faith Interest Connectors on January 7th, 14th, and 21st from 6:00 - 7:30pm. There are a variety of topics to choose from including football, music, crafting, building, and clogging. Contact Emily Wenner at emilyw@st-gerard.org to choose your groups.

FIRST RECONCILIATION MEETING

The third and final parent/child meeting for First Reconciliation will be on Monday, January 8th from 6:00 - 7:15pm in St. Francis Hall. At least one parent is expected to attend with each child. Don't forget to complete and bring your Lesson 3 and 4 pamphlets!

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION - JANUARY 9

Did you ever wonder why we do what we do during mass? Why does the priest dress the way he does, why do we use incense, ashes, why do we have statues and stained glass windows? Come after daily mass on Tuesday, January 9 at 9:15 am and take a tour with Judy Foster, Director of Faith Formation, as she explains the "sacramentals" and environment of the church that is used in the celebration of the Eucharist and other Catholic traditions.

PREPARATION OF GIFTS

Children and youth are invited and encouraged to continue to bring food donations to the CEAP bin in front of the altar during the Preparation of Gifts. It has been a joy to watch our youth take part in this special offertory! Monetary donations for CEAP are also appreciated and should be labeled (CEAP) and placed in the collection basket.

SIGN UP TODAY!

All families are invited to sign up to bring up the gifts at mass. A sign-up sheet can be found in the Gathering Space on the table next to the Welcome desk. All are welcome!

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." - Col 3:13
Forgiveness – one of the hardest things for people to do. It's amazing how long we can hold a grudge or be angry with someone. As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, take this opportunity to give the gift of forgiveness to someone. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

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!



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

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

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, JANUARY 1

10:00 am - Communion Service

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

8:25 am - Jim Leonard †

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

8:25 am - Eric Matthew Richardson †

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

8:25 am - Parish Families of St. Gerard & San Raphael

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

8:25 am - Mary McDonald †

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

5:00 pm - Harvey McDonald †

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

8:30 am - Shirley Rains †

10:30 am - Gary Livieri †

PARISH EVENTS

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

Office Closed

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

9:00 am - Perpetual Help Devotion

9:30 am - Womens Prayer/Support Group

6:30 pm - FF Commission Meeting

7:30 pm - Regent AA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

9:00 am - Eucharistic Adoration

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

7:00 pm - RCIA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

9:00 am - Sharing & Caring Hands

4:00 pm - Private Confessions

5:00 pm - Eucharist

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

8:30 am - Eucharist

8:30 am - Liturgy of the Word, Children

9:30 am - KC Pancake Breakfast

10:30 am - Eucharist

10:30 am - Liturgy of the Word, Children

10:30 am - Pre-K Faith Formation Classes

11:30 am - KC Pancake Breakfast

12:00 pm - Baptisms

6:00 pm - Confirmation



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

Ardell Johnson
Tom Rains

Also remember those loved ones who have died, especially:

Eddie Teich

READINGS FOR JANUARY 7, 2017

Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-3A, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

SACRAMENT **OF BAPTISM**

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**

Please contact the parish office at least six months prior to the desired date.



Get the App



Donate Online

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. Also, visit the "I'm New" tab of our new app or website! Thank you for worshipping with us today! We are so happy to have you here! Please come again!

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 gift of time and talent!

2018 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE:

A special *thank you* to all who have returned your commitment cards for the 2018 Stewardship Drive. To date, we have **353** pledges returned out of 1575 households. Thank you for your continued support.

DID YOU KNOW?

St. Gerard's has a ministry that only spends one hour/month cleaning the altar area. Consider the tranquility and flexibility of being part of the Church Mice Ministry. Contact Amy at amyw@st-gerard.org for more information.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Please join your fellow parishioners at a pancake and sausage breakfast after the 8:30 and 10:30am Masses on January 7. Hosted by the St. Gerard Knights of Columbus, the proceeds from your free-will offerings will be donated to the Christian Refugee Relief Fund to assist the resettlement of Middle East Christian refugees. Let the Knights do the cooking and the cleanup, while you visit with your friends and family while supporting this critical global need. We hope to see you there!



KC FREE THROW CONTEST

The Knights of Columbus free throw contest for boys and girls ages 9-14 (as of January 1, 2018) will be held on Monday, January 8 at Woodland Elementary School in Gym A from 6:30 - 7:30pm. The contest is free and open to anyone who has not already participated in another local contest. Please bring a copy of a birth certificate to show proof of age. Girls and boys compete separately in 6 age groups. The winners will move on to compete at the district level. Please contact Ed Ampe (763-424-8514) for additional information.

HOLIDAY DONATION TO CEAP

As you give thanks this holiday season, please consider making a donation to CEAP. Your support goes directly to services and resources that empower and strengthen neighbors in your community. To donate, visit www.ceap.org or call 763-566-9600.