

THE CHURCH OF ST. GERARD MAJELLA

All are Welcome to Encounter Christ

AUGUST 21, 2022 | TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WELCOME!

9600 Regent Avenue North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
763-424-8770
st-gerard.org

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Thu | 9:00am-4:00pm
Friday | 9:00am-1:00pm
Sat-Sun | Closed

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays

Mon-Fri | 8:30 am | English
Sat | 8:00am | Vietnamese

Weekends

Sat | 5:00 pm | English
Sun | 8:00 am | Vietnamese
Sun | 9:30 am | English
Sun | 11:00am | English

Reconciliation

Sat | 4:00pm, or by appointment

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Fr. Charles V. Lachowitz
frcharlie@st-gerard.org

Parochial Vicar (Vietnamese)

Rev. Paul Phong Le
frpaulphong@st-gerard.org
(Viet only): 612-453-8798

Parish Administrator

Karl Kornowski
karlk@st-gerard.org
(Em. Cell): 612-703-7570

Director of Faith Formation

Maredith Toweh
formation@st-gerard.org

Director of Parish Life

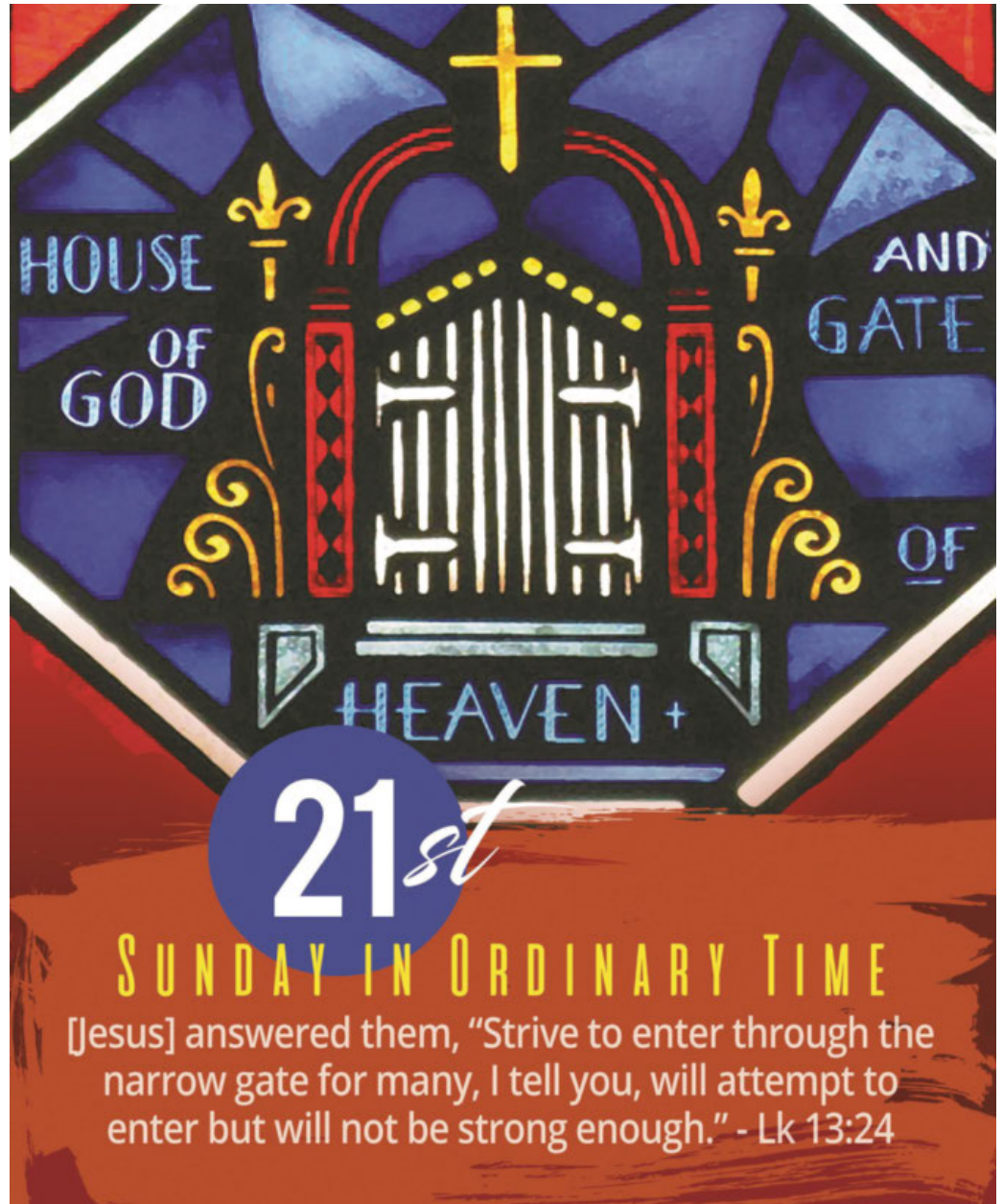
Joni Sandlin
jonis@st-gerard.org

Facilities Care Coordinator

Bob Imholte
bobi@st-gerard.org

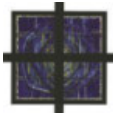
Custodian

Geoff Moore
geoffm@st-gerard.org



We send periodic updates to parishioners who have signed up with Flocknote. Stay up to date with us!

To sign up for Flocknote, visit st-gerard.org and click "STAY CONNECTED!" on our homepage. If you see the Flocknote logo, you're in the right place!



2 | POPE FRANCIS- ANGELUS

The Church of St. Gerard Majella | st-gerard.org



Pope Francis makes a public address each day before praying the Angelus in Saint Peter's Square. Below is the address he delivered on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Monday, August 15, 2022.

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!* Happy Feast Day!

Today, Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Gospel offers us the dialogue between her and her cousin Elizabeth. When Mary enters the house and greets Elizabeth, the latter says: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Lk 1:42). These words, full of faith and joy and wonder, have become part of the "Hail Mary". Every time we recite this prayer, so beautiful and familiar, we do as Elizabeth did: we greet Mary and we bless her, because she brings Jesus to us.

Mary accepts Elizabeth's blessing and replies with the canticle, a gift for us, for all history: the *Magnificat*. It is a song of praise. We can define it as the "canticle of hope". It is a hymn of praise and exultation for the great things that the Lord has accomplished in her, but Mary goes further: she contemplates the work of God in the entire history of her people. She says, for example, that the Lord "has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty" (vv. 52-53). As we listen to these words, we might ask ourselves: is the Virgin not exaggerating a little, perhaps, describing a world that does not exist? Indeed, what she says does not seem to correspond to reality; while she speaks, the powerful of the time have not been brought down: the fearsome Herod, for example, is still firmly on his throne. And the poor and hungry remain so, while the rich continue to prosper.

What does that canticle of Mary mean? What is the meaning? She does not intend to chronicle the time – she is not a journalist – but to tell us something much more important: that God, through her, has inaugurated a historical turning point, he has definitively established a new order of things. She, small and humble, has been raised up and – we celebrate this today – brought to the glory of Heaven, while the powerful of the world are destined to remain empty-handed. Think of the parable of that rich man who had a beggar, Lazarus, in front of his door. How did he end up? Empty-handed. Our Lady,

in other words, announces a radical change, an overturning of values. While she speaks with Elizabeth, carrying Jesus in her womb, she anticipates what her Son will say, when he will proclaim blessed the poor and humble, and warn the rich and those who base themselves on their own self-sufficiency. The Virgin, then, *prophesies* with this canticle, with this prayer: she prophesies that it will not be power, success and money that will prevail, but rather service, humility and love will prevail. And as we look at her, in glory, we understand that the true power is service – let us not forget this: the true power is service – and to reign means to love. And that this is the road to Heaven. It is this.

So, let us look at ourselves, and let us ask ourselves: will this prophetic reversal announced by Mary affect my life? Do I believe that to love is to reign, and to serve is power? Do I believe that the purpose of my life is Heaven, it is paradise? To spend it well here. Or am I concerned only with worldly, material things? Again, as I observe world events, do I let myself be entrapped by pessimism or, like the Virgin, am I able to discern the work of God who, through gentleness and smallness, achieves great things? Brothers and sisters, Mary today sings of hope and rekindles hope in us. Mary today sings of hope and rekindles hope in us: in her, we see the destination of our journey. She is the first creature who, with her whole self, body and soul, victoriously crosses the finish line of Heaven. She shows us that Heaven is within reach. How come? Yes, Heaven is within reach, if we too do not give in to sin, if we praise God in humility and serve others generously. Do not give in to sin. But some might say, "But, Father, I am weak" – "But the Lord is always near you, because he is merciful". Do not forget God's style: proximity, compassion and tenderness. Always close to us, with his style. Our Mother takes us by the hand, she accompanies us to glory, she invites us to rejoice as we think of heaven. Let us bless Mary with our prayer, and let us ask her to be capable of glimpsing Heaven on earth.

A blessed Feast Day to you all!



PARISH CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 23

7:30 pm | Regents AA, Garden Room

Wednesday, August 24

3:00 pm | Adoration, Chapel

6:00 pm | Music rehearsal, Church

Saturday, August 27

4:00 pm | Confessions, Church

CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!

Saint Gerard is starting a Prayer Shawl Ministry and we need you.

Compassion and the love of knitting/crocheting have been combined into a prayerful ministry and spiritual practice which reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy. Many blessings are prayed into every shawl. Contact Joni at 763-424-8770 or jonis@st-gerard.org

Meet at the Church once a month or knit/crochet from home. Day and time to be determined.

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION TO CARE CENTERS

Extend our Eucharistic celebration to those who reside at care centers within our parish boundary. Lead Word/Communion Service. We are presently serving Urbana and Tradition. Training, resources, and mentoring are provided. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry contact Joni at 763-424-8770 or jonis@st-gerard.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, August 21

8:00am | People of the Parish

9:30am | Suzanne Hedstrom +

11:00am | People of the Parish

Monday, August 22

8:30am | People of the Parish

Tuesday, August 23

8:30am | Jack Klaesges +

Wednesday, August 24

8:30am | Dee Sokolowski +

Thursday, August 25

8:30 am | People of the Parish

Friday, August 26

8:30am | People of the Parish

Saturday, August 27

5:00pm | People of the Parish

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION TO PARISHIONERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND

For those in our parish community who can no longer participate in parish life on a regular basis. Homebound Ministers are available to bring the care and compassion of the parish to members of our community who can no longer come to us. Homebound Ministers visit and share the news of the parish to help the homebound person stay connected. Homebound Ministers have the privilege of offering prayers and Holy Communion to the homebound.

To arrange for you or a loved one to receive Holy Communion at home, contact Director of Parish Life, Joni Sandlin at 763-424-8770 or jonis@st-gerard.org

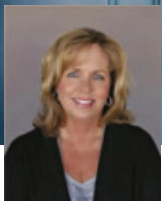
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