

# St. Gerard Majella Church

## A Redemptorist Family



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StGerardMajellaChurch.org



### 1st Sunday of Advent November 29, 2020

## Hope is Here, Hope is Now



The season of Advent is a time for waking our minds and hearts for the Lord's coming. It has taken me some time to internalize Jesus' message in our Gospel today because most of my life my hopes were rarely fulfilled. Over and over, I prayed for things I hoped for like a family, successful life and health. There were times I had given up, but when I changed how I looked at things and started trusting in God's plan, even though I couldn't see at the time, God looked at my faith and filled me with blessings. I began to see things with my heart instead of my eyes.

My health improved, my outlook on what a successful life is completely changed, and I was also granted a husband and family that fills my heart. I now realize that real hope is an expectation of what God has promised and the strength of that hope is His faithfulness to those who trust in Him. Once I surrendered to God's love, grace and faithfulness, God provided for my every need.

Whatever is going wrong in life is not the last word when you have hope and faith in God because He is the last word. Like the servants in our reading today, I will be anticipating the coming of our Lord and my new hope is to be worthy to be an instrument of the Lord by serving God in a way that glorifies Him, building a relationship with God through prayer and meditation, and remaining faithful through life's storms until He comes in glory.

Reflected by **Dee**

Daily reflections  
continued on page 2



◆ Advent is Coming ◆  
◆ Join us to celebrate ◆

Come & See The Word Made Flesh:  
Four Mini Advent Retreats

Address: 5249 Maple Dr. (Seelos Hall)

Time: 5:30 p.m

Week 1



Hope: The Faces of God (Nov. 27)

Week 2



Love: The Kindness of God (Dec. 3)

Week 3

**JOY**

-Joy: The Word Made Flesh (Dec. 10)

Week 4



-Peace: Harmony & Unity (Dec. 17)

Facilitator: Fr. Tat Hoang, C.Ss.R

Christmas Mass Schedule

All are Welcome!

December 24th Mass at 4 p.m.

December 25th Mass at 10 a.m.



# Daily Advent Reflections with Fr. Tat:

## Day 2: Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle: The Call

*He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

Have you ever thought that you are good and happy because you have hope and purpose in your life? Yes, as you are reading these words, you already set your goal of life. You have God on your side. Most importantly, you are called by God to be father, mother, teacher, and child of God.

Like the Apostles, Jesus calls us to follow him and he will make us fishers of men too. What a privilege to be called and to be cared for. What a hope to become someone that the Lord wants us to be. If you already accomplished your purpose of life, give thanks to God. If you are still working on it, be grateful as well. If you are looking for Hope in life, remember the Word of God. Read the Bible. Come to church.



**Prayer: Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.**  
**Reflection question: What is God's goal in your life?**

## Day 3: Tuesday: The Family

*"The cow and the bear shall be neighbors,  
together their young shall rest;  
the lion shall eat hay like the ox.  
The baby shall play by the cobra's den,  
and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair."*

I like the text above from Isaiah. It gives me a beautiful family, community or nation of diversity, where everyone's able to play and to pray together without fears. Oftentimes, we don't see our own family is the sign of hope from God. We see only challenges and problems in families. Each family starts with two different and strange persons. A man and a woman met and fell in love. They created a family of five. Each one is so different and unique that in the whole salvation history you don't have the second person like you or me.

We live as a family. Jesus was born in a family too. His mother is Mary and his adopted father is Joseph. He embraced everyone to be his mother, father, brother and sister. I wish that each person could widen their definition of family and embrace more members in their family. With that, we are one in ONE BODY OF CHRIST.

**Prayer: Father, I pray that they become one.**  
**Reflection question: Who is Jesus' family?**

## Day 4: Wednesday: The Healing

*The crowds were amazed when they saw the mute speaking,  
the deformed made whole,  
the lame walking  
and the blind able to see,  
and they glorified the God of Israel.*

There are many, many forms of healings. The coming of Jesus is to heal us and to reveal God's love to us.

When you pray, don't just ask for physical healings but also the spiritual and relational healings. God makes miracles through our prayers and trust. At the same time, God allows us to use science to improve our human bodies.

Oftentimes we do not easily change our attitudes and beliefs towards God. We do not trust God and have faith in Jesus enough. We walk around with spiritual deformation. We become so confused, anxious and divided among ourselves. Advent is a time to heal our bodies and souls and to create a peaceful space for Jesus to dwell in. Our nation is Christ's Body. Jesus is our hope and healer.



**Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus!**  
**Reflection question: What part of your life does need healing from God?**

## Day 5: Thursday: The Word

*"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock."*

Jesus is the Word. And the Word Made Flesh. The Word of Jesus inspires us. The Word of Jesus gives us life and life eternal. How many of us could access and apply the Word of God into our lives?

We communicate everyday with words. Without words a society will be chaotic. Sometimes, we use words to gain our own agenda and to control others. We use words to promote fake news, propaganda and division. We use words to hurt more than to heal.

I love languages and cultures. I love to speak Spanish even though I am not very good at it. I am grateful. A priest once told me, "Tat, if you can speak another language, you will become another priest." Languages will help us to unlock knowledge, beauty and mystery of God's kingdom. Jesus is the key to unlock all mysteries of life. Sit with him and learn from him. Jesus is our teacher.



**Prayer: Jesus, you are the truth, the way and the life.**  
**Reflection question: What word of Jesus do you speak the most?**

## Day 6: Friday: The Light

*"The Lord is my light and my salvation."*



We have another reason to hope that we have light. Most importantly, we can see light. Today Jesus opens the eyes of two blind men.

*Then he touched their eyes and said,*

*"Let it be done for you according to your faith."*

*And their eyes were opened.*

We take a lot of things for granted. Without light we cannot see anything. Most of us can see. And most of us have beautiful eyes to express beauty, joy, sorrow and love. We need to be grateful for the ability of sight.

The Lord is my light and my salvation. This statement and truth is more serious than just the simple light. Sometimes I felt uncertain and hopeless. It seemed I had no way out. At this moment I cried out the truth: "The Lord is my light and my salvation." This phrase frees me from bondage, hopelessness and darkness. Let's call out to God and trust in God all the days of our lives.

**Prayer: The Lord is my light and my salvation.**  
**Reflection question: What do you need from God?**

## Day 7: Saturday: The Teachers

*"Then he summoned his Twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness."*

How many of us truly appreciate and remember the hard work and dedication of our teachers from Pre-K to college or of those who taught us faith? Today Jesus called the Twelve Apostles and sent them to preach the good news and heal the sick.

We all need teachers in our lives. In Vietnamese proverb, "Without teachers you can do nothing. If a person teaches even a half of the word, that person is still your teacher." We are who we are today because of so many teachers in our lives. We need to give thanks to God for all these people.

"The harvest is abundant but there are very few laborers." We are called to share our faith and talents with other people. Teachers should learn and students should learn to teach. By teaching we learn more about ourselves and others.

**Prayer: Lord, teach us your way.**  
**Reflection question: What will you teach about Jesus?**

## An Advent Prayer

God of light and hope,  
 Look upon us in love,  
 And fill us with the Spirit of Jesus  
 That we may love you and serve you in your kingdom,  
 Protect us during this week  
 And keep us watchful in prayer  
 As we await the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ  
 Who is the light of the world,  
 And who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit  
 One God, for ever and ever.  
 Amen.

## Mass Intentions & Ministries

<b>Monday, 11/30</b>	<b>Saint Andrew, Apostle</b>
<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Parents and Ancestors of Nguyen's Family
<b>Tuesday, 12/1</b>	<b>Advent Weekday</b>
<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Novena of our Mother of Perpetual Help</b>
<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Benefactors, Parishioners and Alumni of St. Gerard's
<b>Wednesday, 12/2</b>	<b>Advent Weekday</b>
<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Peace and Unity in USA
<b>Thursday, 12/3</b>	<b>Saint Francis Xavier, Priest</b>
<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>
<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Ending Coronavirus Pandemic
<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>The Word Made Flesh (in Seelos Hall)</b>
<b>Friday, 12/4</b>	<b>Advent Weekday</b>
<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	All Souls
<b>11:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.</b>	<b>Community Feeding Program (in Parish Hall)</b>
<b>Saturday, 12/5</b>	<b>Advent Weekday</b>
<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	Mr. & Mrs. Collette
<b>Sunday, 12/6</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	Donald Poche, Rita S. Clancy
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	John Thanh Le, Adams, Barbier, & Delapasse Families, Reginald Parker

### Contact Us:

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