

St. Gerard Majella Church



A Redemptorist Family

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StGerardMajellaChurch.org

2nd Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2020



Love is Simply Kindness♥

Love Is the Kindness of God

The second Advent candle burns with the love Christ has for everyone.

"Comfort, give comfort to my people, her guilt is expiated."

These words from the Book of Isaiah assure us that God did not judge his people in exile – nor has he forgotten you. God loves us and desires our love.

Also from the first reading, "Like a Shepherd he feeds his flock, in his arms he gathers his lambs."

From this reading I can visualize the lost bleating sheep – alone and scared. This Shepherd leaves his flock to search for him. When he's found, he is caressed and cuddled in his Shepherd's bosom. This lost sheep can feel the warmth, love and security of the One who searched for him.

I know God is our Good Shepherd, who is compassionate, healing and merciful.

Today, our world is filled with stress, worry, isolation and the feeling of being lost. However, we have witnessed kindness, compassion and empathy – all distinguishing gifts of Christians.

How can I put into practice the message of today's readings and reflect the love of God in my life? Here are some challenges for me:

- To listen with my heart – to be encouraging and accepting;**
- To extend compassion to someone who is challenging;**
- To accept disagreements and differing opinions;**
- To befriend someone struggling with depression or mental illness;**
- To beware of and stand up against bullying;**
- To uplift the poor and recognize their suffering & take action to relieve them;**
- To spend more time bonding with family and friends.**

Love can be challenging but love is simply kindness.

Reflected by Sandra



People of kindness meet on Thanksgiving Day



Hayden happily distributing hot meals



Daily Advent Reflections with Fr. Tat:

Day 9: Monday 12/7: God's Forgiveness

*When Jesus saw their faith, he said,
"As for you, your sins are forgiven."*

When a doctor told my friend that she was cancer-free, she invited all her friends to come and celebrate with her. How about a sin-free celebration? How do you feel when God or someone forgives your sins?

Forgiveness of sins is the very core being of God. This week we celebrate and meditate on God's kindness. Forgiveness is a sister of kindness. Kindness without forgiveness is not real kindness. As human persons we constantly make mistakes in our lives. If God judges us nobody could pass.

Pope Francis said, "Only we are tired of asking for mercy of God, but God is never tired of forgiving us." We are invited to forgive always like "seventy times seven". We need to forgive one another as God has forgiven us. Only forgiveness can heal us and give us true peace.

Let us celebrate God's kindness and forgiveness. Let us have enough courage to forgive ourselves in order to move forward in our lives.

Prayer: Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Reflection question: Could you forgive your enemy?

Day 11: Wednesday 12/9: God's Restfulness & Easiness

Jesus said to the crowds: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."

Who is God in your life? Oftentimes we see God as a very demanding and mean Judge. We do not see or believe that God is an easy, understandable and humorous God who could give us rest and comfort. God does not ask us to do extraordinary things but very ordinary and basic things, like clothing the naked, visiting the sick or feeding the hungry.

Sometimes we are so busy and distracted in life that we can't think about God nor depend on God anymore. We want to be independent. Instead of leaning on God for easiness and restfulness, we depend on all addictive substances like drugs, alcohol, sex, food, gossiping and more work.

Today, we are invited to trust in God and his blessings. Believe that God is with you and watch over you. God will inspire you and show you the next steps in your life. You just need to R.E.S.T. (Retreat, Eat well, Slow down, and Time).



Prayer: In God we trust.

Reflection question: What do you worry the most? Talk to God for a moment.

Day 10: Tuesday 12/8: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you:
blessed are you among women.*



How many of us pray the Rosary with joy and gratitude? This prayer leads us into the mysteries of God in the life of humanity. God shows God's kindness through Mary.

Yes. God loves us so much that God chooses Mary to be God's mother from her immaculate conception. She is blessed among all women. Mary will carry the body of God in her womb.

If we meditate long enough and carefully enough, we will see so many great things in the creation. God is still working in his creation. We need to be humble and respectful God's deeds in each person and in all creation. We must say, "Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous deeds."

The first persons we need to thank God for are our parents. Because of them, we are here today. Because of their love and kindness, we grow healthy and happy.

Prayer: Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord be with you.

Reflection question: Is God kind and merciful for you?

Day 12: Thursday 12/10: God's Mercy

*The Lord is gracious and merciful:
slow to anger, and of great kindness.*

Jesus said to the crowds:

*"Amen, I say to you,
among those born of women
there has been none greater than*

John the Baptist:

*yet the least in the Kingdom of
heaven is greater than he."*



If you reflect from the angle of Mercy, then you can see God is so easy, merciful and gracious through the text above. God will make us great. God will embrace us and bless us abundantly. "The least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John." Wow!

In order to understand the mercy of God we need to practice mercy and compassion towards others everyday. We cannot understand the father or mother's love until we become a mother or father. The greatest love is when one lays down his/her life for his/her friend. God is willing to die for us. In God's heart there is nothing else but us. God becomes human like us. It's out of human imagination. God does not talk about love. God does it. God wants us to be great in heaven. God wants us to enjoy God's kingdom now by caring for others now. Do not wait for tomorrow. Celebrate our diversity and it's beauty. In God there is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Prayer: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Reflection question: Do you need God's mercy? Why?

Day 13: Friday 12/11: God's Peace

*The Lord will come; go out to meet him!
He is the prince of peace.*

How many of us are truly excited to see Jesus today? If we are then we might be curious about him and then go back to our normal business of the day. Many people do not read the Bible or go to church on Sunday, especially during the Coronavirus pandemic.



No matter what we think or feel about Jesus, he is still coming to be with us. He comes to give us peace. He comes to be with us. Jesus comes to become like us: talking, eating, drinking, loving and singing with us.

Jesus is physical and spiritual. He is physically present in each one of us and in all Sacraments we celebrate. He is also the spirit of the Holy Spirit of peace, joy and hope. It's up to us to be open and invite Jesus in our lives.

Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus!

Reflection question: Will you come to Mass when you are in trouble?

Day 14: Saturday 12/12: God's Honor & Trust

Blessed are you, holy Virgin Mary, deserving of all praise; from you rose the sun of justice, Christ our God.

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of America, invites us to reflect about God's honor and trust in Mary. If we worship and praise Jesus as God and the Son of God, we must acknowledge and honor Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

Through Mary to Jesus. Through Mary, we have Jesus to talk to and to have everything. And through Jesus, we know God the Father. Mary is very important in the life of Jesus. Mary is part of God's salvation of humanity.

I love Catholicism. The Catholic helps me to connect all dots of life. Everything and everyone is connected. God loves everyone equally and specially. We all are important and precious in the eyes of God. God wants us to respect and to love one another. Live our vocation faithfully and joyfully. God will take care of the rest for us.

Prayer: Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

Reflection question: Do you think God knows you and trusts you?

Weekly Collection Totals: 11/8 - 11/22

Collection Type:	11/8/2020	11/15/2020	11/22/2020
Regular Collection:	\$ 1519.00	\$ 1239.00	\$ 2383.00
Maintenance Collection:	\$ 180.00	\$ 408.00	\$ 200.00
Sacramental Offerings:	\$ 304.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 97.00
Special Collection:	\$ 1820.00	\$125.00	\$ 266.00
Total Collected:	\$ 3823.00	\$1790.00	\$ 2946.00

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Mass Intentions & Ministries

Monday, 12/7	St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
9:00 a.m.	Conor Foret
Tuesday, 12/8	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9:00 a.m.	Novena of our Mother of Perpetual Help
9:00 a.m.	Kyra L. Fontenot
Wednesday, 12/9	Advent Weekday
9:00 a.m.	Peace & Unity in USA
Thursday, 12/10	Advent Weekday
8:00 a.m.	Eucharistic Adoration
9:00 a.m.	Ending Coronavirus Pandemic
5:30 p.m.	Third Advent Mini Retreat: (in Seelos Hall)
Friday, 12/11	Advent Weekday
9:00 a.m.	All Souls
11:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Community Feeding Program (in Parish Hall)
Saturday, 12/12	Our Lady of Guadalupe
4:00 p.m.	Mr. & Mrs. Collette
Sunday, 12/13	Third Sunday of Advent: JOY
8:00 a.m.	All People of St. Gerard's
10:00 a.m.	Mildred and Ross Poret, Adams, Barbier & Delapasse Families, Reginald Parker

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