

# St. Gerard Majella Church

A Redemptorist Family



5354 Plank Rd, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70805

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StGerardMajellaChurch.org

Fifth Sunday of Lent  
March 21, 2021



## 200th Feast of St. Clement Mary Hofbauer Second Founder of the Redemptorists

### St. Clement Hofbauer: Preach the Gospel Anew.

Some of you are wondering what is going on at St. Gerard's church, school and community in Baton Rouge. It seems there are life, mission, zeal, hope, joy and the poor. Your wonder is correct. We, the Redemptorist missionaries and lay missionaries of Redemptorist celebrate a Redemptorist saint Clement Mary Hofbauer, C.Ss.R. who tirelessly served the Church and the poor. His statue is located at the right corner in the sanctuary of St. Gerard's. As a young Redemptorist Missionary, I want to confess to you:

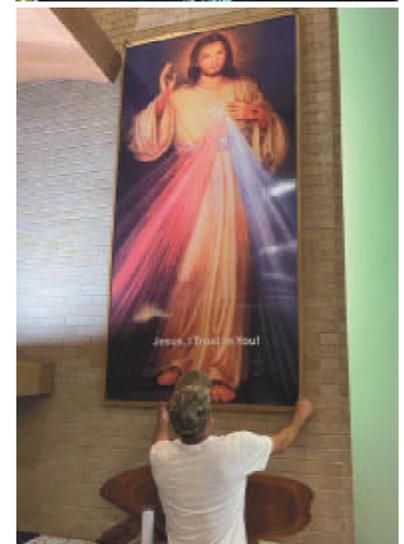
During this time, last year, I was inspired by the spirit and life of St. Clement. At the same time, God had sent me a group of lay missionaries called Friends of Redemptorists St. Gerard and Knights of Columbus to help me. I am so blessed to be here. Two things about St. Clement Hofbauer that urged and inspired me and my Redemptorist confreres to do what we are doing here in Baton Rouge.

**For the poor and most abandoned.** He was always for the poor and with the poor. One day, Fr. Clement Mary Hofbauer went out to beg for food for his orphans. The **owner spat on his face.** Fr. Clement said, **"That was for me; what do you give to my children?"** St. Clement had great examples of humility, perseverance and love for the poor. God has given me the Redemptorist St. Gerard school to love and to serve. For me, RSG is like a treasure box from God into my life. The students and staff are my dear people who energize me and invite me to draw joy and hope everyday.

**"Preach the Gospel Anew."** St. Clement was not afraid of starting and re-starting his ministries anew. He was a creative man. When he arrived at St. Benno parish in Warsaw, the church was very much empty. It was cold and dusty. He decided to focus on **relevant preaching, good music and well prepared liturgy.** He had perpetual missions everyday to help people understand the Word of God. His commitment and dedication reached out to so many people. Another treasure box I have here is St. Gerard's church and the people in Baton Rouge. I wish and hope that our Redemptorist Missionaries, Frs. Kevin Zubel, C.Ss.R. (superior), Donald Mackinnon, C.Ss.R., Tim Watson, C.Ss.R., Jaime Arrabide, C.Ss.R., and me, will serve so many people here with the love, joy and hope of the Gospel. We hope to preach the Gospel anew to y'all always.

Personally I am so grateful for all your work and dedication to build up St. Gerard's.

+ Fr Tat



Thank Mary Rosenbloom for the picture and Brent Burton for framing it up.



Join us Friday, March 26th  
Holy Mass at 5:30 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet at 6:00 pm  
Confession is available during these times.

Divine Mercy cards are available in the basket  
in front of the Alter and in the church office



Fifth Sunday of Lent

Today's readings may be found in the green GATHER hymnal book on Page 935/B

# Woman, Mother, Cross, Lent

My name is Peggy. I'm a faithful practicing Catholic who loves her religion. I'm so lucky to have had a mother who instilled the Catholic faith into my life. I'm a 73 year old mother, woman, grandmother, godmother and friend to many. **Without the background from my mother, I'm not sure what would have happened to me. So many times I have been able to turn to my Lord for help.**

During Lent this month of March is dedicated to the "woman" and what better time to look into my inner soul of the joys and pain Jesus has for me. As a mother, the Lord gave me a son whom I wanted to have the same beliefs as I had growing up. I sent him to Catholic schools but that does not guarantee a "good Catholic." **I dreamed his life would be one of fulfillment: education, wife, children, good work ethic, home and a religious family life.**

When he turned twenty-two he met a wonderful Catholic girl but also he met the one thing all mothers are afraid of, "pain pills." There were married but his addiction began to grow. Finally, after two years I was fortunate enough to send him to rehab in California. Though he never completed therapy, he came home. He was off the pain pills but was never the same. His son was the apple of his eye but still he had to have "that pill." He agreed to go back to rehab in Baton Rouge, but that only got him addicted to a drug that is supposed to help rid the addiction. As I'm sure many of you are quite aware the person has to "want" help, not mother or child. Also, I'm sure you know how many, many prayers were said. Yes, the first rehab center rid him of the demon, but the second only added fuel to the fire.

My prayers were for the depression he suffered and his battle to stay clean. The prayers were day and night, awake or trying to sleep. Prayers were sent up for help. I pleaded, I made promises, I bargained with the Lord until this week a priest made me realize he has to do it for himself. I can't do it for him. He has got to want to change before the Lord can answer my prayer. I have always been the peacemaker in my family, no confrontations, no raising voices, take the blame so the father and the son would stop arguing. I wanted this change so bad that I really believed he would do it for his two beautiful children but unfortunately that didn't happen. How many of us believe we can change loved ones? All of us, but that is not our job, it's the Lord's.

During Lent I reflect on this pain and suffering our Lord went through as his Mother Mary watched. **Is not her pain some of the pain we as mothers are going through?** Lent is a time to say to my Lord how sorry I am for my sins which have caused so much pain. This week my eyes were opened to not my pain and suffering but the pain my son must be going through. He finally is clear on the drugs but has panic attacks which call for legal medication. He takes more than is recommended therefore is out 8 to 10 pills by month's end. I never realized how much depression, how lonely he must be and his disappointments of his life. A priest brought all of this to my attention and wow it was a wake up call. I felt so much guilt for being impatient, angry, hateful and so disappointed in him. He is suffering more than I am. Yes, he is lonely, has no friends, no job, no dignity, yet I'm the one that was hurting. No, his hurt is so much worse than I could ever imagine. He doesn't know how to ask for help nor get out of the place he is in. At least he has a place in my house. He could be out of the streets or living with someone who has more problems. Whatever the Lord has eased my mind by having him here.

I'm sure many of you reading this can relate, or maybe your addict is worse, or maybe you are blessed with a wonderful family, but just remember, the Lord will not forget us. He will walk with us, He will pray with us, and He will comfort us. You have heard many times He will not give us too much yet how many of us don't believe this: Deep down we know the Lord is with us.

I will continue to pray for my son and others like him, but most im-

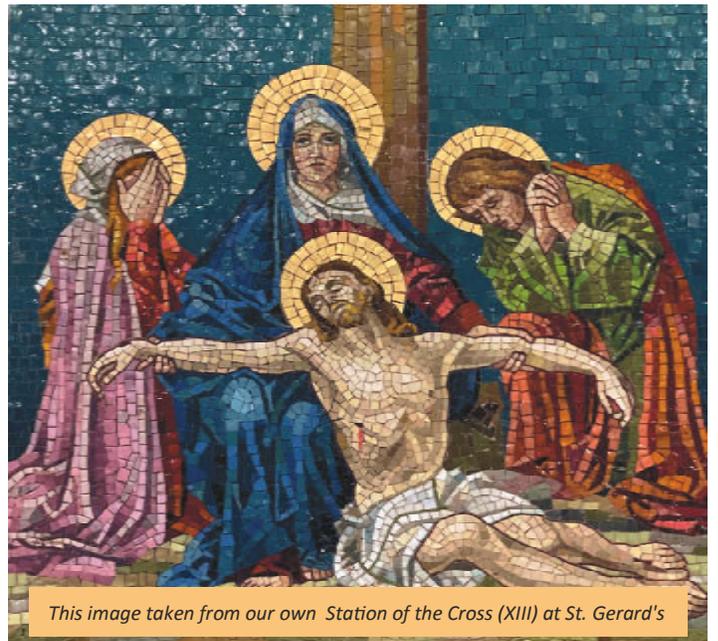
portantly I am going to start praying for strength not to be upset, mad or frustrated about his addiction, but pray peace will find a place in his heart to make his life a little better. I will pray to overlook things that trigger my anger. God will be there with me, I'm sure of that.

We all bear our crosses in this life so that our next life will be glorious. **I do believe "woman" (mothers) bear more pain than others because we are care-givers. Yet we never take time for ourselves.** In my eyes it was selfish to do for one's own sake and to always be strong for everyone else. Look at Mary, she felt all the pain her son suffered yet she took time for herself. She was the perfect woman, raising Jesus with the help of Joseph. She gave them a warm loving environment to raise their son. If only women (us) could pray for ourselves as much as we pray for others, the Lord would open doors for us. I know how hard it is to have so much pain but when you look around the perfect family is not there. There are a few but many like us.

I was told once I wear my mask well. He went on to explain some of us carry so much hurt and pain on the inside but outward we are always there to help. He had no idea the ugliness I had been through, yet saw me wearing my mask to cover the pain. I don't resent others who seem to have no problems. I'm happy they do not suffer like "woman" of an addicted child. **My cross was given to me before my birth and the Lord has tested me many times, but you know what? I would not have been able to help others if it weren't for His love.**

No matter what condition my soul is in I will always ask for His help. I believe and will always believe **the Lord is with me everywhere.** I'm a sinner, a big sinner, and it hurts to admit how much I have hurt the Lord yet He always refreshes my soul. I feel a peace when I leave confession knowing He has forgiven me and is willing to give me another chance. Yes, I have guilt but that is part of being a sinner, and yes I know He knows all my sins but the satisfaction of admitting them is so overwhelming because He has forgiven.

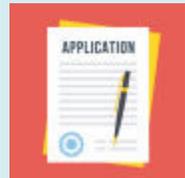
**March is the month of women, Lent is a time to see Jesus' suffering through Mary's eyes. We are all Marys just in different situations but the Lord will always be with us.** Always. Please during the Lenten season pray for each other, ask for strength to help our children and especially for our community. The Lord loves all of us for being "woman". We are called to be just that. Don't be afraid to reach out, you never know who needs a loving smile or tender touch. May the Lord continue to bless each of us. + Peggy



This image taken from our own Station of the Cross (XIII) at St. Gerard's

# Announcements

The Church is graciously accepting your donations for our Easter alter flowers. We appreciate your part of making this celebration beautiful. Envelopes are available around the church. You may also make your donation at the church office or online.



REDEMPTORIST ST. GERARD is still accepting applications for the 21-22 school year. Financial assistance is available. Call the school or the church office for an application for you or someone you know.

Thank You to all who advertise in our church bulletin. Remember to support these businesses who support us! If you would like to advertise here, please contact Debra at (225) 400-4106.



Calling RHS Classes of '61, '71, '81, '91 and 2001! We'd love to help you host your class reunion! Contact the church office for more information.

## Contact Us:

Office: 225-355-2553 or Rectory: 225-355-2600  
 Fr. Tat Hoang, C.Ss.R., Pastor, thoang@diobr.org  
 Fr. Kevin Zubel, C.Ss.R., Chaplain of Hisp. Min., kzubel@diobr.org  
 Fr. Tim Watson, C.Ss.R., Hispanic Ministry  
 Fr. Jaime Arrambide, C.Ss.R., Hispanic Ministry  
 Fr. Donald MacKinnon, C.Ss.R., In Residence  
 Cindy Thibodeaux, Secretary, stgerard@diobr.org  
 Chris Dickerson, Bookkeeper  
 Dr. Joshua Medrano, DMA, Organist  
 Mary Rosenbloom, Music Director  
 Greg Accardo, Knights of Columbus, greg.accardo@gmail.com  
 Jim Richard, Friends of RSG School, jim.richard@albermarle.com  
 Cheryl Domino, Principal of RSG - 225-355-1437  
 Claire Willis, Principal Cristo Rey - 225-615-7479

## Weekly Collection Totals:

Date of Collection:	March 13-14, 2021
Regular Collection:	\$ 2,199.00
Maintenance Collection	\$ 190.00
Sacramental Offerings	\$ 185.00
Special Collection	\$ 442.00
<b>Total Collected:</b>	<b>\$2,574.00</b>

## A Holy Plan for Lenten and Easter Season 2021

- ✦ Daily Masses at 9am in church
- ✦ The Word Made Flesh at 5:30pm every Thursday in Seelos Hall
- ✦ The Gospel of Hope on ZOOM every Wednesday at 7pm (Zoom link is available on Church's website on Tuesday)
- ✦ The Way of the Cross at Noon every Friday
- ✦ Divine Mercy Devotion (March 12, 19, 26 at 5:30pm and April 11 at 9:30am)
- ✦ Confession is available during Divine Mercy Devotion
- ✦ Holy Thursday @ 6pm; Good Friday @ 3pm; Easter Vigil @ 7pm

Text Fr. Tat: 312-723-9558 for ZOOM or email the church office at StGerard@diobr.org

# Mass & Ministries

Monday, 3/22	Lent
9:00 a.m.	Todd Pham; Special Intentions
Tuesday, 3/23	St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
9:00 a.m.	<b>Novena of our Mother of Perpetual Help</b>
9:00 a.m.	Todd Pham; Dominic Hoang & Maria Hoang
Wednesday, 3/24	Lent
9:00 a.m.	Todd Pham
7:00 p.m.	The Gospel of Hope on ZOOM
Thursday, 3/25	The Annunciation of the Lord
8:00 a.m.	<b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>
9:00 a.m.	Todd Pham; Joseph Duc, Maria Ana & All Souls
5:30 p.m.	<b>THE WORD MADE FLESH (Seelos Hall)</b>
Friday, 3/26	Lent
9:00 a.m.	Todd Pham
12:00 p.m.	<b>THE WAY OF THE CROSS</b>
11-1 p.m.	<b>FEEDING THE POOR (Seelos Hall)</b>
5:30 p.m.	<b>MASS AND DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET</b>
Saturday, 3/27	Lent
4:00 p.m.	Todd Pham; Toni Young
Sunday, 3/28	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
8:00 a.m.	People of St. Gerard
10:00 a.m.	Adams, Barbier & Delapasse Families; Todd Pham; Dominic & Maria Hoang; Andrew & Murley Patin; Henry Joseph Mitchell

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