St. Gerard Majella Church

A Redemptorist Family

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StGerardMajellaChurch.org

Third Sunday of Easter
April 18, 2021

Redemptorist St. Gerard Family: A Community of Peace, Unity and Evangelization

Our Redemptorist Family at St. Gerard has been so blessed. We are *'strong in faith, joyful in hope and burning with charity'*. We are very grateful for the generosity of Krispy Kreme Donuts (our neighbor) and of Mike Bourgeois' Community Coffee to help us building up a real community of peace, unity and evangelization. May God bless us all with God's joy of the Easter. After 8am and 10am Masses we invite you to stay for a cup of Community coffee and Krispy Kreme donuts to nurture and live the fire of the Holy Spirit within us. Please come and celebrate Masses with us.

Blessings,
Fr. Tat

Today's readings may be found in the green **GATHER** hymnal book on **Page 974**

The Pope: Saint Alphonsus, a teacher of mercy for the evangelization of the least

Pope Francis sends a message on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Alphonsus Maria de Liguori as a Doctor of the Church.

In a message to the Rev. Fr. Michael Brehl, C.Ss.R., Superior General of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists) and Moderator General of the Alphonsian Academy, Pope Francis writes that 150 years on from this "joyous anniversary," the example of Saint Alfonsus "vigorously indicates the main road to bring consciences closer to the welcoming face of the Father, because the salvation that God offers us is the work of his mercy."

Advocate of the most vulnerable

The Pope notes that this Doctor of the Church was a "listener," a teacher of mercy and a person who welcomed "the fragility of the most spiritually abandoned men and women."

Allowing himself to be challenged by life itself, says the Pope, Saint Alphonsus was also an "advocate of the least, the fragile and those discarded by the society of his time."

The path this Saint chose to tread, writes Pope Francis, led him to placing himself at the service of consciences that seek the way of goodness because of a faithful response to the call to God's holiness.

Moral theologians

Following the example of Alphonsus, the Pope invites moral theologians, missionaries and confessors to enter into a living relationship with God's people and to look at life from their perspective "in order to understand the real difficulties they encounter and to help heal their wounds."

Looking again at the example of Saint Alphonsus, the renewer of moral theology, the Pope emphasizes that it is necessary to "accompany and support those most deprived of spiritual help on the path to redemption."

"Evangelical radicalism should not be set against human weakness," he stresses, adding that "it is always necessary to find a way that does not alienate, but brings hearts closer to God, just as Alphonsus did with his spiritual and moral teaching."

Promoting a moral maturity

Like this great Saint, writes the Pope, "we are called to go out to meet people as an apostolic community that follows the Redeemer among the abandoned."

He goes on to say that this "going out to meet those who lack spiritual assistance, helps to overcome individualistic ethics and to promote a moral maturity capable of choosing true good."

Continued on Page 3

How to get involved at St. Gerard's church and school?

St. Alphonsus, Founder of the Redemptorist Missionary Congregation in 1732, believed, wrote and proclaimed four important pillars of our Christian faith: **Crib** (The Incarnation), **Cross** (The Passion), **Eucharist** (the Communion) and **Mary** (Mother of the Church). Each pillar specifies a dimension of spirituality. Therefore, St. Gerard's Redemptorist Family would strongly invite and encourage everyone (parishioners and friends) to participate to build a community of mercy enriching in peace and unity. Please be generous and courageous with your time and talents.

Please contact **Ms. Cindy Thibodeaux** (225-355-2553) or **Fr. Tat (312-723-9558)** for more information.

There are four big areas that you can consider:

School: Youth and young people (The Crib)
Become tutors
Join the Friends of Redemptorist St. Gerard

Evangelization (The Cross)
Come to The Word Made Flesh
Feed the hungry and homeless and food pantry
Join St. Vincent de Paul Team
Join Knights of Columbus
Walk (in pair) from door to door in our neighborhood

Sacraments (The Eucharist)
Visit homebound and elderly
Become Lectors
Become Ushers
Join Hospitality Team
Become Religious Teachers
Become altar servers
Become liturgy coordinator

Prayer groups (Mary)
Join Legio Mariae
Come to daily Masses

St. Alphonsus de Liguori

Announcements

Please pray for Mary Rosenbloom's father, Tanner Anthony Messina (1929-2021), who passed away on Thursday April 8 in Alexandria, LA at the age of 91. Please keep Mary and her family in our prayer. May he rest in peace.

Help support St. Vincent de Paul's mission to fill prescriptions for the needy. Donation bottles are located in the back of the church.

Next weekend, April 24-25, there will be a second collection for Catholic Home Mission.

The Ray M. Lorio Council of the Knights of Columbus #17544 is selling raffle tickets for a crawfish boil for 20 with funds being raised for improvements to the gym restrooms at Redemptorist St. Gerard. Contact any member of our KC or the Church office for your chance to win (225)355-2553 or ask Father Tat after Mass!

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:	April 10-11, 2021
Regular Collection:	$ 1431.00
Maintenance Collection	$ 150.00
Sacramental Offerings	$ 27.00
Special Collection	$ 0.00
Total Collected:	$ 1608.00

The Pope. Cont. from Page 2

By forming responsible and merciful consciences, he says, "we will have an adult Church capable of responding constructively to social fragilities, in view of the kingdom of heaven."

Challenges in society today

In the message, Pope Francis highlights the innumerable challenges society faces including: the pandemic and work in the post-Covid world, the care to be provided to all, the defense of life, the inputs that come to us from artificial intelligence, the safeguarding of creation, the anti-democratic threat and the urgency of brotherhood.

"Woe to us if, in this evangelizing effort, we separate the "cry of the poor" from the "cry of the earth," he writes.

Moral theological reflection and pastoral action

Concluding his message, Pope Francis issues an invitation "to go out to meet the fragile brothers and sisters of our society."

"This involves the development of moral theological reflection and pastoral action", he says, "capable of committing oneself to the common good, which has its root in the proclamation of the kerygma, which has a firm word in defense of life, towards creation and towards brotherhood." -

- By Vatican News staff reporter

Mass & Ministries

Monday, 4/19	**Easter Weekday**
9:00 a.m.	Jack Seeser
Tuesday, 4/20	**Easter Weekday**
9:00 a.m.	**Novena of our Mother of Perpetual Help**
9:00 a.m.	Dominic Hoang
Wednesday, 4/21	**Easter Weekday; St. Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of Church**
9:00 a.m.	Charles & Eunice Chustz; Laura S. LeBlanc; Gayle McGrew
7:00 p.m.	The Gospel of Hope on ZOOM
Thursday, 4/22	**Easter Weekday**
8:00 a.m.	**Eucharistic Adoration**
9:00 a.m.	Special Intentions
5:30 p.m.	**The Word Made Flesh**
Friday, 4/23	**Easter Weekday**
9:00 a.m.	Sr. Marian Strohmeyer, RSM
11-1 p.m.	**FEEDING THE POOR (Seelos Hall)**
Saturday, 4/24	**Easter Weekday**
4:00 p.m.	Toni Young; Dominic Hoang, Ellis & Geneva Debetaz; Souls of Purgatory
Sunday, 4/25	**Fourth Sunday of Easter** **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**
8:00 a.m.	People of St. Gerard
10:00 a.m.	Dominic Hoang & Maria Nguyen

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