

Mission Statement



St. Gerard Majella Mission Statement

The people of St. Gerard Majella are called through Baptism to celebrate the presence of Christ in Word and Sacrament. We are called and sent by Christ to live gratefully the life God has given us and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. In the spirit of faith, service, and community, we strive to bring people closer together and closer to God.

This we accomplish by:

- ◆ Building our lives in the image of Christ through worship and prayer.
- ◆ Contributing to the growth of our parish by spreading the Gospel by word, witness, action and evangelization.
- ◆ Inviting everyone to serve, in this way meeting the needs of our parishioners and the broader community.
- ◆ Being faithful stewards of St. Gerard, accountable to God by responsibly sharing our time, talents and treasures.
- ◆ Lending support to the parish leadership and working together to fulfill the mission.



Christmas Masses

December 24—Christmas Eve, 4 PM
December 25—Christmas, 8 AM & 10 AM

There will be no morning masses on Christmas Eve, December 24th. The office will be closed for Christmas.

December 31st is the celebration of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Masses will be at regular times.

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 18

For those away from family during the holiday season

Tuesday, December 19

Marjorie Acosta

Wednesday, December 20

For those sick or in need of healing

Thursday, December 21

For children with terminal illness

Friday, December 22

Ross & Mildred Bret

Saturday, December 23

Parishioners of St. Gerard Majella

Sunday, December 24

Rosalee Blair
Wallace Lambert, Sr & Lillian Lambert
John Ponthieu

REGISTRATION FOR NEW PARISHIONERS:

Membership in the Church involves more than just attendance at Mass. We would hope that people who enjoy coming to St. Gerard Majella Church would officially register as members. Not only does it let us know who you are, but registration is required for baptisms, weddings, and most other sacraments. Please pick up a registration form in the back of church or call the parish office.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS

- To your enemy, forgiveness.
- To an opponent, tolerance.
- To a friend, your heart.
- To a customer, service.
- To all, charity.
- To every child, a good example.
- To yourself, respect.



DAILY ADVENT OFFERING CARDS:

Advent is such an entry way; occurring right after the season of harvest and Thanksgiving. It marks the beginning of a new "Christian Year." The past year may have brought us both joy and sorrow, success and failure. We end it giving thanks for the strength that carried us through. We are grateful for what we have learned and for what we still have as the year comes to a close. We invite everyone, adults and children, to participate in "My Advent Offering" folder. Take it home with you and return on Christmas Day to offer it to the Lord, along with the gift of your heart.



The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe commemorates the 4 apparitions of Mary in 1531 to the peasant Juan Diego on Tepeyac hill near Mexico City. Appearing like a Mexican princess, Mary told him that a church should be built there. When Juan told the bishop, he demanded proof. Mary sent Juan to gather some roses (unusual in December) to present to the bishop. When Juan opened his cloak to give the roses to the bishop, they also discovered a painted image the Blessed Virgin imprinted on the cloak, which is now preserved in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Under this title, Mary was declared patron of New Spain (1710), of Latin America (1910), Queen of Mexico and Empress of the Americas (1945) and patroness of the Americas (1999).

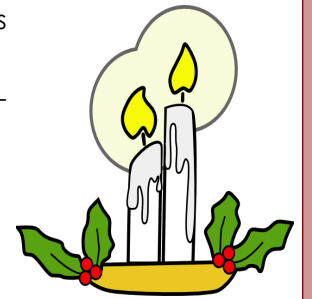
Pope Francis reminds us that "like Jesus, Mary is close to all her sons and daughters; as a concerned mother, she accompanies them on their way through life. She shares all the joys and hopes, and sorrows of God's people, which is made up of men and women of every race and nation." "O Gracious and Loving Mary, Lady of Guadalupe, through your presence make us aware of our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. May Christ send us blessings of peace and harmony, and may we receive love and the healing we need to get closer to him." —Pope St. John XXIII (October 12, 1961)

THE LONG NIGHT

A candlelight service for healing from loss

Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 6 PM
St. Aloysius Church
2025 Stuart Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA

The longest night of the year is the winter solstice on December 21st when the darkness threatens to overtake the light. Those who have experience loss often feel as though they are enduring that long night. Yet, Jesus promises to comfort those who have heavy hearts when He says, "Come to me all you who labor and are heavily laden and I will give you rest." Many in our community have heavy hearts due to the loss of a loved one in death, the loss of homes and property, the loss of employment or the loss of a significant relationship. *The Long Night* is a non-denominational prayer service intended for everyone who has experience a loss during the past year. The service will provide an opportunity to be comforted by the shared expression of grief and the promise of the Lord's healing presence.



For additional information, contact the Office of Marriage & Family Life at (225) 242-0323.



Our Sanctuary Candle Burns
In Memory of:
Michael D. "Mickey" Wallis