



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 the 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.

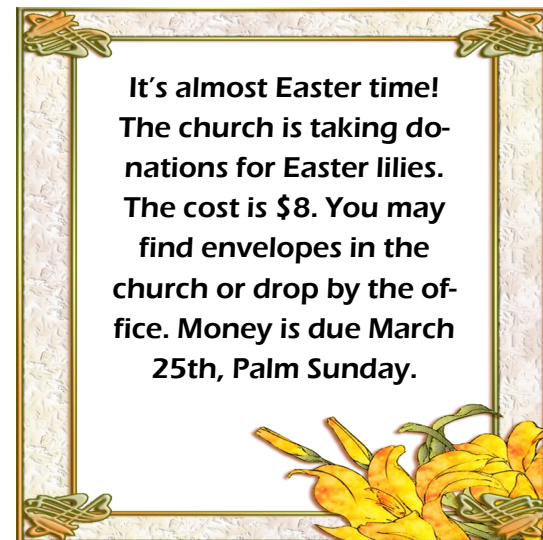
**Welcome new parishioners...**  
to St. Gerard Majella Catholic Church. Pick up a registration form in the back of the Church. Ushers are available if you need assistance.. Call the office (225) 355-2553 if you or anyone in your family is homebound through illness or infirmity or in the hospital or extended care facility and would welcome a Eucharistic or Pastoral Visit by one of St. Gerard Majella's ministers to the sick.



**Sacramental Offerings**  
Each week you may honor a loved one with a donation in the form of altar flowers, Our Lady of Perpetual Help candles, sanctuary candles, mass intentions, & other memorial gifts. Contact the office for more information.



This weekend, there will be a second collection for the maintenance fund.



**Don't forget next weekend Daylight Saving Time begins! Move your clocks an hour ahead.**



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



**PARISH MISSION : MARCH 5, 6, 7 2018**

Join us for these dates. Father John Schmidt, C.Ss.R. will be leading a parish mission at 6:30 pm each night at the church. On Wednesday night, there will be a collection.

"Christ renewing us in his love. Baptism is our link to Christ and Lent is the opportunity to be renewed by Christ. Lent offers us practices of Prayer, Fasting, Charity to refocus us. Penitential practices are not for their own sake, but always to deeper our Christian life. As part of Christ's body we realize the sin breaks our relationship with God and with others. Lent is a time to face the sin, remind ourselves of God's mercy and rely on God's grace to bring us to new life.

**Scripture that will guide us:**

- † Love of God and neighbor: (Matthew 5: 43-48)
- † Many parts of Christ's body (I Cor 12: 12-26)
- † God's love for us and Jesus' purpose (John 3: 16-18)
- † The final night is a mediation on Mary, our Perpetual Help, who is the first disciple of Jesus and a model for all believers. (Scripture: John 19: 25-27)"

**Q: Who invented the Stations of the Cross?**

**A:** The first Stations of the Cross were walked by Jesus himself on the way to Calvary. Known as the *Via Dolorosa* ("The Way of the Suffering") or the *Via Crucis* ("The Way of the Cross"), it was marked out from the earliest times and was a traditional walk for pilgrims who came to Jerusalem. The early Christians in Jerusalem would walk the same pathway that Jesus walked, pausing for reflection and prayer. Later, when Christians could not travel to the Holy Land, artistic depictions of "The Way of the Cross" were set up in churches or outside, and Christians would walk from station to station, reading the Gospel account of the Passion, or simply praying and reflecting on each event. While the content or place of each station had changed, the intention was to make a mini-pilgrimage and follow – literally – in the footsteps of Jesus. This devotion became better known in the Middle Ages, and the Franciscans are credited with its spread. Lent is a time when many people make the Stations and some churches present Passion plays or Living Stations. But anyone can pray the Stations at any time. It is a simple and personal reflection on the passion of Jesus and what it means to us.



**Reminder that during Lent, Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday at 11:20 am. Mass will follow at 12 pm.**

**The Lord is present in our lives, showing us all His love and encouraging us to respond with generosity. —Pope Francis**