



St. Gerard Majella

LENT

2021 Special

In Church Masses:

Saturday @ 5:00 pm

Sunday @ 11:00 am

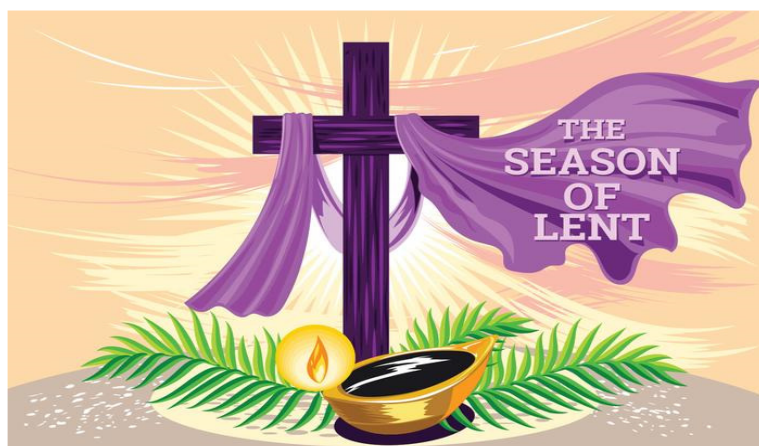
Online Mass:

Sunday @ 9:00 am

Live masses in HD @
www.stgerardssm.ca

& on Facebook **St.
Gerard Majella, SSM**

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



"In my deepest wound, I saw your glory
and it dazzled me." – St. Augustine

Parish Priest:

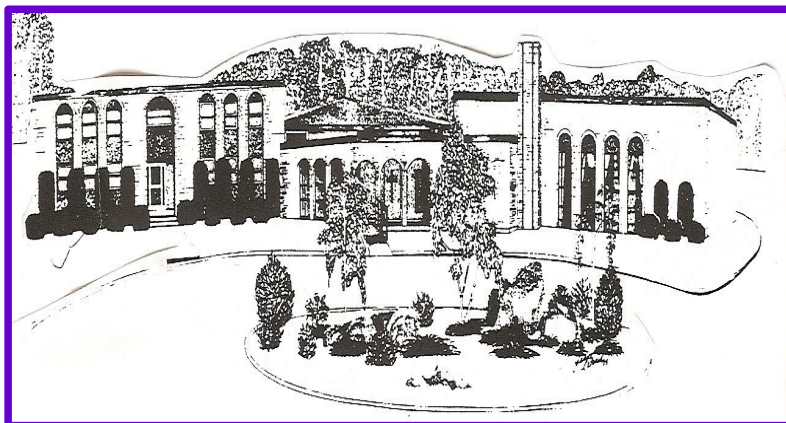
Father Alex Saurianthadathil C. Ss. R

Parish Secretary:

Stacey Lampe

OFFICE HOURS:

Tues & Fri 10am to 1pm
Please email anytime at
gmajella@shaw.ca



Email: gmajella@shaw.ca / Web: www.stgerardssm.ca/

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Transform Us

Loving God,
through all the ages you create new life
and see that it is good.
Having given us all good gifts,
you gave more: you gave yourself,
doing something completely new
from the moment of Mary's yes.

You transform even death, pain,
and suffering.
You transform endings into beginnings,
buried seeds to fruitful plants.
Transform us, help us to follow where
you lead,
that we might live with you forever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 21, 2021

The Grain of Wheat



Today's readings: Jeremiah 31:31–34; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 14–15; Hebrews 5:7–9; John 12:20–33. After triumphantly entering Jerusalem, Jesus knows that his passion is imminent. He also knows that no one around him expects what is about to occur. Jesus uses the image of a seed to help his friends to understand.

“Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” Like the seed, Jesus will die. Like the seed, Jesus will bear much fruit, eternal life given to each one of us. His death, when he is “lifted up from the earth” on the cross, “will draw everyone” to him.

When a seed is planted, the seed coat breaks apart as the plant within it begins to grow and develop. The seed itself ceases to exist in a meaningful way. From the beginning, though, the prospect of new life, the germ, was within the seed. Jesus recognized that his life had to be laid down for the potentiality of eternal life to come to fulfillment.

Through Jesus, the germ of eternal life exists in us as well. He tells us that discipleship entails imitating him. We have to let the seed of our current life break apart for the new plant to grow.

Journal about the experience of letting go of your old life in order to nurture the new.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 22

Neither Do I Condemn You

The woman caught in adultery expected to die. Instead, she hears, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, [and] from now on do not sin any more.” What must she have felt in that moment, to be forgiven? This same forgiveness is available to us every time we ask for it. God’s mercy is always there, sometimes we just need to celebrate it. Examine your conscience. No one is perfect. Receive the sacrament of reconciliation and you will feel the full force of God’s merciful love. *Today’s readings: Daniel 13:1–9, 15–17, 19–30, 33–62 or 13:41c–62; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; John 8:1–11.*

Tuesday, March 23

God’s Voice

As Holy Week nears, spend five to ten minutes in silence reflecting on God’s presence and action in your life. When did you hear God’s voice today? When did you feel calm and peaceful? When did you feel that you did not live up to what God was calling you to do? How can you adjust your life to be more open to God’s will? *Today’s readings: Numbers 21:4–9; Psalm 102:2–3, 16–18, 19–21; John 8:21–30.*

Wednesday, March 24

Uncomfortable Truth

God spoke to Abraham and Abraham believed. The trust Abraham had in God, the keeper of promises, sets him apart. Jesus contrasts Abraham’s trust, his belief in the truth, with the reaction Jesus faces as he teaches and preaches. Truth can be uncomfortable. Maybe you have been with a small child who, unburdened with lessons about politeness, describes a situation with embarrassing accuracy. Those situations pass in a moment. The truth to which Jesus testified had the power to discomfort more deeply, but he tells us “the truth will set you free.” What can that mean in your life? *Today’s readings: Daniel 3:14–20, 91–92, 95; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31–42.*

Thursday, March 25

Annunciation of the Lord

A young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel, meaning “God is with us.” The words of Isaiah carry us to the house of Mary in Nazareth, where a young girl is addressed as “favored one.” She is troubled, and the angel tells her not to be afraid. The young girl is not afraid. Her words will change history: “May it be done to me according to your word.” From the moment of Mary’s yes, God began to do something completely new in the world. Mary’s vocation is unique, yet her response, her yes, is something we are able to imitate. Pray the Rosary today, and ask for Mary’s intercession that you might be more like her to answer with a brave yes to God’s call. *Today’s Readings: Isaiah 7:10–14, 8:10; Psalm 40:7–8a, 8b–9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4–10; Luke 1:26–38.*

Friday, March 26

A New Way

Jesus finds himself in trouble with the authorities again and again because the kingdom of God, which he came to inaugurate, did not adhere to the expectations of the people. Jesus stood with those who lacked power, authority, and status, and in the Beatitudes, he tells us that standing alongside them is standing with him. How can you embrace those on the margins? *Today’s readings: Jeremiah 20:10–13; Psalm 18:2–3a, 3bc–4, 5–6, 7; John 10:31–42.*

Saturday, March 27

God Transforms

Approaching Holy Week, the readings show the plot against Jesus growing stronger. The plot against Jesus was about self-preservation, yet Caiaphas’ words unwittingly testify to what God was doing: “He prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and not only the nation, but also to gather into one the dispersed children of God.” *Today’s Readings: Ezra 37:21–28; Jeremiah 31:10, 11–12abcd, 13; John 11:45–56.*



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KEEPING THE SEASONS
LENT AND EASTER 2021



Celebration

Celebrating Easter Triduum

Palm Sunday
March 28, 21

Holy Thursday,
April 1, 21

Good Friday,
April 2, 21

Holy Saturday,
April 3, 21

Easter Sunday,
April 4, 21

Palm Sunday



The Mass of the Lord's Supper

The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

Easter vigil celebration



Easter Mass celebrations

In Church
First come
first served

Saturday 5pm
Sunday 11am

7pm

3pm

8pm

9am & 11am

Online

Sunday 9am

5pm

5pm

8am

Palm pick up at the office door on Palm Sunday between 1pm and 2pm



Blessing of the water will be done at the Holy Saturday Vigil. **Holy Water pick up** at the office door on Easter Sunday between 1pm and 2pm

WEEK 5: MARCH 15 TO 21, 2021



Share Love, Share Lent: Raise a toast to yourself!

Did you know that over 10,000 Canadian Catholics like you are members of Development and Peace?

The *Share Love, Share Lent* campaign invites you to pray for them and to honour their solidarity towards our sisters and brothers in the Global South.

Show your support by donating generously this coming Solidarity Sunday. You can also become a monthly donor and have your year-long contribution matched, thanks to the support of religious communities across Canada. Not only will you double your impact, but you will also automatically become a member of Development and Peace!

Learn more at devp.org/lent.

Please don't forget to donate with your Share Lent donation envelop provided in your collection box.

Family Prayer Hub

One of the areas any family could invest in to nurture the gift of faith is by praying the Rosary. In order to help those who are not familiar with this meditative and bible-based prayer, we have uploaded 4 different mysteries on our website. We would like to thank those who helped Father to make this possible. Thank you to Sheila & Tom Shannon, Carla & Mateo Muto, Sheila Beishlag, Gloria Struk and Helen Nunez. Your service is greatly appreciated!

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•Go to FORMED.ORG, Click 'SIGN UP', Select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization", Type In 'St. Gerard Majella' by name or Postal Code, Type In your name & email address, Click 'SIGN UP'

Mass Intentions March 20 & 21, 2021

Saturday March 20 5:00 pm In Church:

Larry McNally + by Tom & Sheila Shannon
Perry Cushner + by Susan Cushner

Sunday March 21 9:00 am Online:

Intentions of All People in the Parish

Sunday, March 21 11:00 am in Church:

Donald Cameron + by Rose Cameron & Family
Ken Davies Sr. + by Rose Cameron & Family

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Way of the Cross is a devotion in which we accompany, in spirit, our blessed Lord in His wonderful journey to Calvary, and devoutly meditate on His suffering and death.

**Please join us during
lent until Easter:
On Fridays online at
3:00 pm**



**Baptisms are being scheduled for
after Easter.**

**Please register your child online on
our website at www.stgerardssm.ca
under the sacrament tab and
baptism. Baptisms are being
performed individually and not
during the regular weekend masses.
If you have any questions, please
email us at gmajella@shaw.ca.**

Monthly Updates

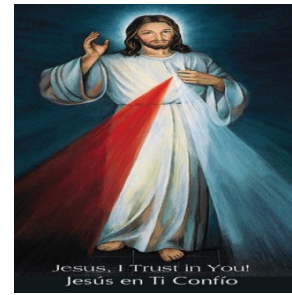
In order to keep you up to date with what is happening in the parish, Father Alex is broadcasting live monthly updates. It is available on our website:

www.stgerardssm.ca and on our Facebook page. Please watch and share with your family and friends!

Parish Network

Between monthly updates if Father has info to be shared, he will be using an online platform called: Parish Network. It will also be available on the website and facebook.

Divine Mercy Sunday



On **Sunday, April 11th at 3:00 p.m.**, a Divine Mercy Sunday Service will be celebrated at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish. Masks must be worn. Doors will open at 2:30 p.m. To register please call **Arlette at (705) 949-9425**.

Visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VX-iNamyVNU>



Mass intentions: Remembering your loved ones

Mass intentions can be scheduled through the office. Please do email us at gmajella@shaw.ca or call at the office 705-949-0435. Intentions can be paid for through our donate button on the website: www.stgerardssm.ca or through our mail slot in the office door. Please comment that it is for a mass intentions.

Donations:

We want to thank all parishioners that donated at our door and online. We know and are aware of the current financial crisis that is upon us, therefore, if any gifting imposes a level of hardship of any kind, please do not donate.

Thank You!

There are three ways to donate:

- 1) **Leave donation envelopes** in our office mailbox slot on the door or in the church donation box at mass.
- 2) We have numerous parishioners doing the **preauthorized donations** that are ongoing and we want to thank them for this! This is a great opportunity to set up your preauthorized payment. If you wish to start this program, please email the office for the form, fill it in with your information and we need a void check or preauthorized debit form from your bank. These can be emailed back to the office or put in the mail box at the door.
- 3) We have set up a **charitable donation on our website**: www.stgerardssm.ca through **Canada Helps (our online donation site)**. Canada Helps is a trusted charity that provides a secure online fundraising platform for charities since 2000. Every donation through CanadaHelps.org will generate an income tax receipt immediately for the parishioner.

Thank you so much for your generous donations and kind words at this time!

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