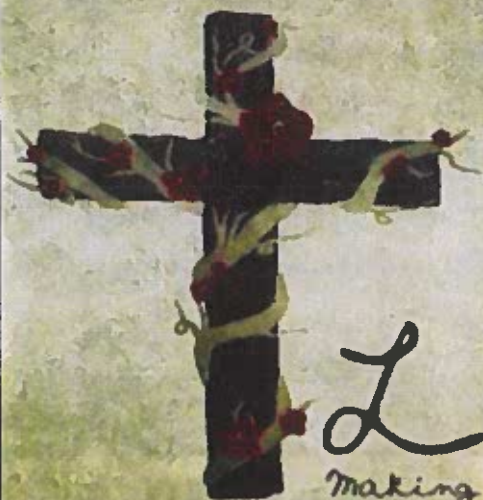


The CATHOLIC CHURCH of SAINT GERARD MAJELLA
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 17, 2024



Lent
Making Room for God

MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 AM
Saturday 4:30 PM
Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 AM

ADORATION

Friday 9:00 am - Noon

RECONCILIATION:

SATURDAY

3:45 pm - 4:15 pm

Also by Appointment

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday, 9:30am—4:30pm

PASTOR: FR. BRIAN BUFFORD
pastor@saintgerardmajella.net

DEACON: TIM SCHLUETER
502-807-3230

Secretary: DIANNE DAVIS
Email:

sgmsecretary3049@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:
DIANE RIZZO

CHURCH WEBSITE:
www.saintgerardmajella.net

CHURCH ADDRESS:
3049 LAFAYETTE ROAD
FORT OGLETHORPE, GA 30742
Phone: 706-861-9410
Sacramental Emergency:
706-401-4175

From the Pastor's Desk

In the reading from Jeremiah, God says that He will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel. As Christians, we understand this as the covenant established by Jesus.

Why did God establish a covenant with the Jews at Mount Sinai if He was going to replace it later? The reason is that it was to prepare the Jews for the new covenant. When the Jews left Egypt, they were in no condition spiritually or morally to receive what Christians received in Jesus. As the adage goes, "You must learn how to walk before you can run."

God had to hold the Jews to a different standard than the standard He would later set in Jesus. The new house of Israel is the Church. In the reception of the Holy Spirit in baptism, God can now write His law upon our hearts. Jesus has united our human nature to His divinity and we are empowered to be healed from sin.

Peace,

Fr. Brian

ST. GERARD'S LENTEN BABY BOTTLE DRIVE

Giving up something for Lent that costs money? Pick up a bottle after Mass and put your savings into it. Or, commit to saying a prayer for the unborn every day and toss in some change or a check at the end of Lent.

PREGNANCY HELP CENTER

We will put your change to good use helping to change the lives of the moms in our program!

**Bottles need to be returned by
Palm Sunday.**

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY, MARCH 16,

4:30 PM

**DAVID DENMAN SR.+
(Danuta Kowalski)**

SERVERS:

Nick, Leo & Troy Velk

LECTOR: TBD

EM: Dianne Davis

USHERS: Don Hays

Kieron Gleeson

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 9 AM

**ANDJA ANTROVIC+
(Marjana Nikic)**

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 9 AM

**VERONICA WELCH+
(MARY ANN COOPER)**

SERVERS & LECTORS TBD

EM: Aggie Edwards

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 11 AM

SERVERS & LECTORS TBD

EM: Audrey Indigo

USHER: Scott Fisher

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 9 AM

**JOHN BUTLER'S
GRANDPARENTS**

AN IRISH BLESSING

May you have . . .

enough happiness to keep you sweet,

enough trials to keep you strong,

enough sorrow to keep you human,

enough hope to keep you happy,

enough failure to keep you humble,

enough success to keep you eager,

enough wealth to meet your needs,

enough enthusiasm to look forward,

enough friends to give you comfort,

enough faith to banish depression,

enough determination to make

each day better than yesterday.

Please Pray for Our Sick Parishioners

Please keep in your personal prayers the following members of our parish who are in need of healing:

Scotty Auten, Asher Barhite, David Bensley, Nancy Brabner, Candace Carne, Mason Cobble, Tracy Congdon, Carol Corkum, Nancy Jane Edwards, Sheri Fava, Cynthia Fulton, Matthew Gaudet, Daniel Hamby, Megan Hoette, Anne Janecjii, Pamela Kanter, Phyllis Lampert, Laura McClung, Linda Meeks, Emilie Meyer, Sandy Murphy, Dale & Jane Osterling, Lillian Pierce, John Pitner, Bill, Jeff & Rose Pugliano, Nicholson Richardson, Kathy Samilo, Mary Ann Shanahan, Jim Staub, Helen Telford, Ross Vecchio Sr. & Jr., Wright Family & baby Nalayva Rose Marie.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Tuesday, March 19, Parish Council Meeting 6pm.**
- **Wednesday, March 20, Start of Spring!**
- **Friday, March 22, Knights of Columbus Fish Fry, 4:30-7 pm. Stations of the Cross at 7 pm.**
- **Wednesday, March 27, Knights of Columbus Planning Meeting.**
- **Holy Thursday, March 28, Mass at 7 pm.**

Knights of Columbus

Any male 18 or older and a practicing Catholic can become a Knight. If you are interested, please contact Kieron Gleeson at 423-240-1798 or kierongleeson@gmail.com

EASTER EGG HUNT

MARCH 31st

AFTER THE 11 am MASS

NEED DONATIONS OF INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED CANDY

CHILDREN'S BICYCLES



Weekly Offerings

3/10 Offertory Received: \$6,974

(Online Giving): \$1,375

Weekly Offertory Goal \$6,000

Building & Maintenance \$751

St. Vincent de Paul

LIGHT

Spring is the season when light and it's warmth daily increase.

Easter is the season that proves "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" - John 1:5

"Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father" - Matt 5:16

"If you lavish your food on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted: Then your light shall rise in darkness, and your gloom shall become like midday." - Isaiah 58:10

We ask that you continue your good deeds and generous giving. Our neighbors depend on you for food, financial help, and kindness. Be their light. Thank you.

Karen Baldwin 815-712-6658.

HELP LINE 678-892-6163.

SVdP meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00.

TECH NOTES

- When you speak at the ambo mic, remember to reposition the mic so it is as close to your mouth as possible, pointed at your mouth. Speak with a good strong voice! That is fine. It has a foot pedal to turn it on and because it is so sensitive it will pick up everything!
- When you speak or sing into one of the black mics like the ones over in the musicians' area or the one in the PLC, remember to speak directly into the TOP of the mic, so it looks like the mic is going straight out of your mouth. Keep it close to your lips, about 1", and use a good strong voice. They are "noise cancelling" which means if you speak or sing into the SIDE of the mic, your voice will be partially cancelled out.
- Questions or suggestions? Call Jim Tahler at 423-505-1648 or jim@tahler.net

ST PATRICK, BISHOP, APOSTLE OF IRELAND - FEAST DAY MARCH 17

A boy at prayer - Patrick was born in Roman Britain between 385 and 392, to a Christian family. When he was a teenager he was kidnapped by Irish pirates who took him with them to Northern Ireland and sold him as a slave. In his Confession, he writes, "Love for God and His fear grew in me, and so faith. In a single day I recited one hundred prayers, and at night almost as many. I prayed in the woods and mountains, even before the dawn. Neither the snow, nor the ice, nor the rain seemed to touch me."

After six years of imprisonment, Patrick had in a dream, a premonition of freedom, and, obeying the vision he had as he slept, escaped surveillance and went the roughly 200 kilometers that separated him from the coast, on foot. There he was able to induce some sailors to have pity on him, who took him aboard their ship and carried him back to Britain where he could embrace his family once again.

A vision - A few years later, Patrick had another vision, which he also described in his Confession: "I saw a man coming to me as coming from Ireland; His name was Victorinus, he had some letters with him, and he handed me one. I read the first line: 'The Voice of the Irish.' While I was reading, I seemed to hear the voice of the people living in the Forest of Voclutus [the place of his captivity] near the western sea, and their voices as one seemed to beg me, calling me 'young servant of God,' and bidding us all walk together." This vision galvanized Patrick, who continued his studies and training, and was ordained to the presbyterate by the Bishop.

His dream of evangelizing Ireland, however, was far from fruition. His candidacy for the episcopacy, in view of his mission to Ireland, was met with opposition owing to a supposed lack of preparation due to the irregularity of his studies. This remained for a long time a burden for Patrick, who in the Confession admits: "I had not studied as others who have fed in equal measure of Law and Sacred Scripture, and from their infancy perfected their language. Instead, I had to learn a foreign language. Some accuse me of ignorance and have a stuttering speech, but it is actually written that stuttering tongues learn quickly to talk of peace."

Bishop in Ireland - Finally, on an unknown date between 431 and 432, Patrick was consecrated Bishop of Ireland by Pope Celestine I and arrived in Slane on March 25, 432. The Bishop who had preceded him, Palladius, had returned to his country discouraged after less than two years of mission.

Patrick then found himself faced with countless difficulties: the chief of one of the Drude tribes tried to kill him, and for sixty days he was imprisoned, but despite the tribulations, Patrick persisted nearly forty years in his missionary work, converting thousands of Irish, introducing monastic life, and establishing the episcopal see in Armagh.

The clover - According to tradition, St. Patrick would explain the mystery of the Trinity by showing the clover, in which three leaflets are joined at a single stem. The images of St. Patrick often portray him with a cross in one hand and a clover in the other. That is why the clover is now a symbol of St. Patrick's Day, which falls on March 17, the day of his death in 461 at Saul. His remains were transported and buried in the cathedral of Down, which since then has been called Downpatrick.

The Roueché Chorale & Orchestra will present dramatic Holy Week Program, "Colors of Grace"

The Roueché Chorale and Orchestra, an interdenominational Christian Chorale based here in Chattanooga, will present a sober and somber Holy Week work entitled, "Colors of Grace." The program will include chorus, orchestra, cast, and narrator. The work will portray the lessons to be learned from the example of Christ and are visually represented by a colored cloths and appropriate symbols. "Take My Yoke Upon You," taken from the Gospel of Matthew, is stated after each anthem in the work. The program will be held on **Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Brainerd United Methodist Church, 4315 Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, TN, 37411.**

THE PROGRAM IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC

For more information or directions to the church please call and leave a voice message at 423-774-0317 or www.therouechechorale.org.