

# The CATHOLIC CHURCH of SAINT GERARD MAJELLA

## SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

APRIL 7, 2024



JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU

"He who knows  
how to forgive  
prepares for  
himself many  
graces from God.  
As often as I look  
upon the cross, so  
often will I forgive  
with all my heart."

-St. Faustina



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### **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](mailto:pastor@saintgerardmajella.net)**

**DEACON: TIM SCHLUETER**

**502-807-3230**

**Secretary: DIANNE DAVIS**

**Email:**

**[sgmsecretary3049@gmail.com](mailto:sgmsecretary3049@gmail.com)**

**Administrative Assistant:**

**DIANE RIZZO**

**CHURCH WEBSITE:**

**[www.saintgerardmajella.net](http://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

Jesus appears to His disciples and says, "Peace be with you." Notice how Jesus doesn't express any disappointment or anger towards them even though they had abandoned Him on Good Friday. One of the wonderful things about God is that He is not vindictive. No matter how far we stray from Him, God is not thinking of ways to get back at us.

Rather, God wants us to be able to approach Him knowing that He only wants to love us and heal us. Jesus even speaks the same words to Thomas despite having doubted the testimony of the other disciples. Doubt is a natural part of our journey to God. It is not an obstacle to faith. God can use doubt to make our faith stronger if we're willing to work through our doubt, just like Thomas.

My thanks to Msgr. Al Jowdy for celebrating Mass in my absence. May we continue to radiate the joy of Easter throughout this season.

Peace,

Fr. Brian

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 7,  
4:30 PM**

**JANE DWYER+ (Jim Dwyer)**

**SERVERS, LECTORS, EM's TBD**  
**USHERS:**

**Don Hays**

**Kleron Gleeson**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 9 AM**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 9 AM**

**DAVID BENSLEY (Healing)**

**(Elizabeth McWilliams)**

**SERVERS, LECTORS, EM's TBD**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 11 AM**

**SERVERS, LECTORS, EM's TBD**

**USHER: Scott Fisher**

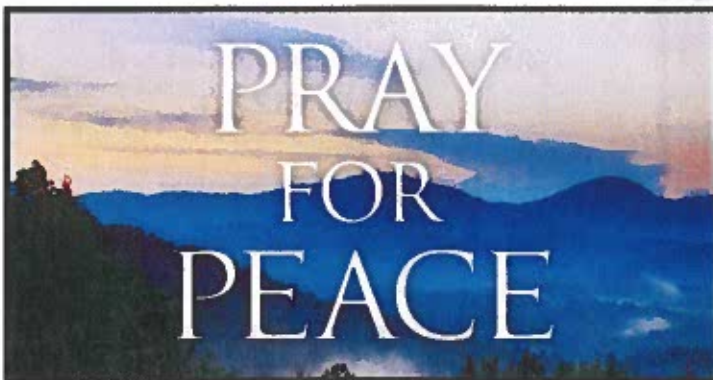
**THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 9 AM**

### **St. Isidore of Seville, Feast Day April 4**

Isidore, archbishop of Seville and brother of the saintly Bishop Leander, ranks as the most outstanding person in the Church of Spain during the seventh century. Because of the singular holiness of his life, he was idolized by the people. Wherever he appeared, throngs gathered about him. Some came to see the miracles that he performed in the name of the Lord. The sick came to be freed from their sufferings, for the power of God emanated from him and he would heal them all.

He is regarded as the great restorer of the Spanish Church after the Visigoths returned to the Catholic faith. He also contributed greatly to the development of Spain's liturgy. He presided over the fourth provincial council of Toledo (633), the most important in Spanish history. He died in 646 after ruling his see 40 years. St. Gregory the Great was one of his personal friends.

**He was chosen to be the patron of technicians, computers & users, the Internet, school children and students.** He wrote the well known 'Etymologies' (a type of dictionary), and gave his work structure akin to that of the database. He began a system of thought known today as "flashes". It is very modern, notwithstanding the fact it was discovered in the sixth century. St. Isidore accomplished his work with great coherence: it is complete and its features are complementary in themselves.



**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., Trey Wright Family & baby Nayayva Rose Marie.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Tuesday, April 9, Finance Committee Meeting & Ladies Guild at 6 PM.**
- **Wednesday, April 10, Knights of Columbus Business Meeting at 7 PM.**
- **Sunday, April 14, Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast, 9:00 am - Noon.**
- **Saturday, April 20, Gabriel's Hope Pantry, 10:00 am - Noon.**

**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](mailto:kierongleeson@gmail.com)

**American Heritage Girls Catholic Troop** is open to girls ages 5-18 who are looking for a Catholic-centered scouting experience! Meetings are held every Thursday evening from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at St. Stephen's Catholic Church on Lee Highway.

Come check us out! Parents and grandparents welcome! For more information, please email [ahgchattanooga@gmail.com](mailto:ahgchattanooga@gmail.com).

Pope Francis releases his prayer intention for the month of April 2024, and **invites everyone to pray for the role of women.**

**Weekly Offerings**

**3/31 Offertory Received: \$7,382**

**(Online Giving): \$610**

**Weekly Offertory Goal \$6,000**

**(Good Friday \$724)**

**St. Vincent de Paul**

**HE is Risen, Alleluia!! Your SVDP ministry has much to celebrate this Easter!**

After much work and communication, we are happy to announce that we are now a local agent for the Chattanooga Food Bank. This means we can purchase food for pennies on the pound for our pantry and also take advantage of special one-time deals the food bank offers. Your donations will go much farther in supplying food for our neighbors who come to our pantry for help. In addition, our food boxes will be larger and more substantial.

In March, we had 12 families who came by for food. The next pantry day will be April 20 at 10:00 AM.

We have two new members who have joined our ranks. We welcome Stephen Baldwin and Jennifer Breedlove. Thank you for your willingness to serve. More members are always needed and welcome.

Gina Wilson, the Vincentian Services Manager from Atlanta has visited and given us new ideas about growing our ministry.

We continue to help our neighbors in need financially with their bills; so your generous financial support is critical. There will be a quarterly financial statement coming next month. As always, we thank you and wish you and yours a blessed and joyful Easter Season.

**Karen Baldwin 815-712-6658.**

**HELP LINE 678-892-6163.**

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

**Women in Prayer**

We have prayer shawls available for anyone who needs one. Please contact Irene or Linda, and also if you have any prayer requests.

Contact Irene Staub at [istaub1014@aol.com](mailto:istaub1014@aol.com) or Linda Swope at [rlswope374@comcast.net](mailto:rlswope374@comcast.net).

## **Jesus to Sr. Faustina**

On one occasion, I heard these words: "My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.

"[Let] the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy. They have the right before others to trust in the abyss of My mercy. My daughter, write about My mercy towards tormented souls. Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask. I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion, but on the contrary, I justify him in My unfathomable and inscrutable mercy. Write: before I come as a just Judge, I first open wide the door of My mercy. He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My justice.

"From all My wounds, like from streams, mercy flows for souls, but the wound in My Heart is the fountain of unfathomable mercy. From this fountain spring all graces for souls. The flames of compassion burn Me. I desire greatly to pour them out upon souls. Speak to the whole world about My mercy."

## **SAINT FAUSTINA**

St. Faustina was an amazing Polish nun whose spiritual experiences have had a lasting impact on the Catholic Church. Her diary continues to be one of the most popular spiritual books.

"Although her life was apparently insignificant and monotonous, she hid within herself and had an extraordinary union with God."

St. Faustina Kowalska was born into a large Polish Catholic family on Aug. 25, 1905. She was baptized with the name Helena. As a teenager, she worked as a housekeeper to help support her family. Her religious vocation was largely inspired by a vision of the Suffering Christ. At age 20, she joined the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. She took the name Sr. Maria Faustina of the Most Blessed Sacrament. As a religious sister, she worked as a cook, gardener and porter.

She had many visions and spiritual experiences. She recorded these events in her diary entitled, "Divine Mercy in My Soul", which documents her spiritual experiences and visits with Jesus. During her years in the convent, she had the gifts of hidden stigmata and mystical engagement with her guardian angel.

She is best known for her role in spreading devotion to Jesus through His Divine Mercy message. Through her, the Lord gifted the Divine Mercy devotion to the world! She received visions of Purgatory, Heaven and Hell. In her visions of Purgatory, she saw the Virgin Mary comforting souls. In her diary she explains, "I saw Our Lady visiting the souls in Purgatory. The souls call her 'The Star of the Sea.'"

She was anointed by Pope St. John Paul II on April 30, 2000. He referred to this day as one of the best days of my life.