

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF SAINT GERARD MAJELLA
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT **DECEMBER 22, 2024**



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
sgmsecretary3049@gmail.com

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DIANE RIZZO

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

Jesus
IS MY
GUIDING
STAR

FAITHINGIT.COM

From the Pastor's Desk

Mary and Elizabeth can hardly contain their excitement. The Holy Spirit has filled their lives with immense joy. Elizabeth rejoices in being pregnant at last after hope had longed since vanished. Mary rejoices because she is to give birth to the Messiah.

Their joy is uncontainable because God is finally acting to fulfill what He had spoken long ago. Think of it: as devout Jews, Mary and Elizabeth read through the scriptures, particularly the psalms and the prophets, that spoke of mercy, salvation, restoration, hope, and victory over evil when God decided to act in favor of His chosen people. And now that time had finally come.

Mary and Elizabeth do not know this at this point in the Gospel how Jesus will fulfill His role as the Messiah or how John will pave the way for Jesus. They only thing they know is that the time has come and that, in and of itself, is cause for great rejoicing.

At the center of this is a celebration of God. God has taken the initiative, as He has done in the past. He is truly the Holy One, the Faithful One, the Savior, the Merciful, and the Loving. God is the ultimate reason to celebrate.

Let us put this at the center of our lives. Pope Francis has remarked that sadness is not allowed as we draw closer to Christmas. Even though we may be burden with many problems, we cannot allow ourselves to be taken in by it. As we see in the Gospel, God's people cast off their anxieties and sadness because He is there.

Peace,

Fr. Brian

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21,

4:30 PM

LAURA McClung (Healing)
(Gloria Kelley)

SERVERS:

Nick, Leo & Troy

LECTORS TBD

EM:

Dianne Davis

USHERS:

Don Hays

Kieron Gleeson

SUNDAY, DEC. 22, 9 AM

**SERVERS, LECTORS &
EMs TBD**

SUNDAY, DEC. 22, 11 AM

SERVERS & LECTORS TBD

EM: Audrey Indigo

USHERS: Teri Hughes

Scott Fisher

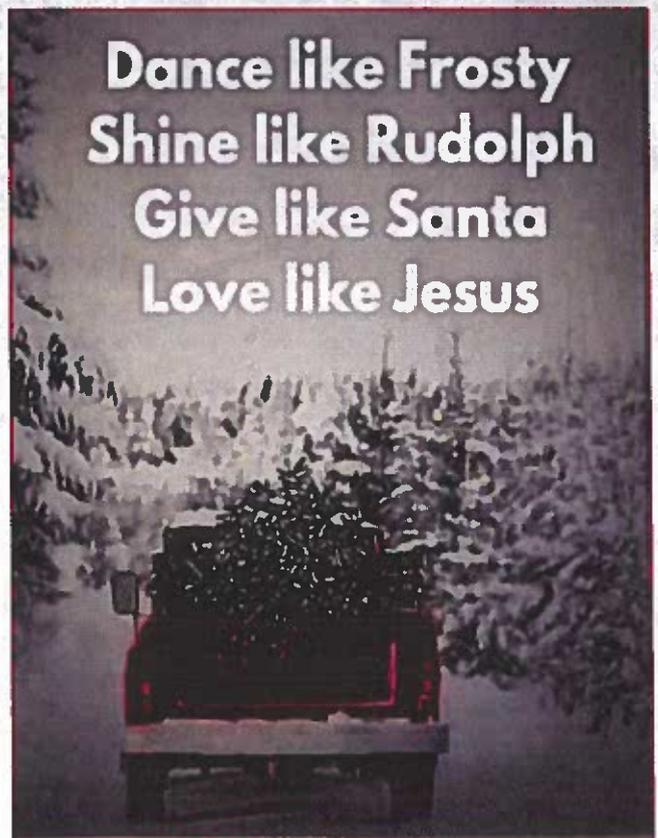
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 6 & 10 PM,

CHRISTMAS EVE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 9 AM

CHRISTMAS DAY

**Dance like Frosty
Shine like Rudolph
Give like Santa
Love like Jesus**



Please Pray for Our Sick Parishioners:

Scotty Auten, Trudy Arrington, Asher Barhite, David Bensley, Nancy Brabner, Candace Carne, Mason Cobble, Larry Cooper, Al & Carol Corkum, Jimmy Dwyer, Nancy Jane Edwards, Cynthia Fulton, Matthew Gaudet, Daniel Hamby, Megan Hoette, Anne Janecjii, Phyllis Lampert, Laura McClung, Elizabeth McWilliams, Linda Meeks, Emilie Meyer, Sandy Murphy, Dale & Jane Osterling, John Pitner, Bill, Jeff & Rose Pugliano, Nicholas Richardson, Kathy Samilo, Mary Ann Shanahan, Jim Staub, Helen Telford, Lilia Thompson, Ross Vecchio Sr. & Jr., Trey Wright Family & baby Nalayva Rose Marie.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve, Masses at 6pm and 10pm.**
- **Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day Mass at 9 am.**
- **Wednesday, January 1, Happy New Years!**

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

Women in Prayer

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

Contact Irene Staub at

istaub1014@aol.com or Linda Swope at rlswope374@comcast.net.

Weekly Offerings

12/15 Offertory Received: \$7,245

(Online Giving): \$1,510

Weekly Offertory Goal: \$6,000

St. Vincent de Paul \$1,777

St. Vincent de Paul

GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN; LET NOTHING YOU DISMAY.

This old familiar Christmas carol could well serve as an Advent prayer. God rest you; God slow you down; God give you peace and discernment as you prepare for Christ's coming.

We, your SVdP ministry, wish you all the blessings of the season. We extend to you our gratitude for a year of generosity. We hope for a fruitful continuation of our outreach ministry in the months ahead.

REMEMBER CHRIST OUR SAVIOR WAS BORN ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

Our next food pantry day will be Jan. 18th from 10am - Noon.

HELP LINE: 678-892-6163.

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

**We are Here to Listen and Take Action!
You Matter. You are Family.**

**Archdiocesan 24 hr. Abuse Reporting
Hotline**

1-888-437-0764

CHRISTMAS DAY – THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 12/25th

Today we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ, and the First Day in the Octave of Christmas. Throughout Advent the Church longed ardently for the coming of our Savior. Today she celebrates His birth with joy. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. "The Son of God became man to give us a share in that divine life which eternally His in the Blessed Trinity." Christmas begins on December 24 with the first Vespers of the feast and ends on the feast of the Baptism of Christ. White vestments reappear in our churches as a sign of joy.

The **Christmas tree**, made in 1605 at Strasbourg, was introduced into France and England in 1840. It symbolizes the great family tree of Christ which through David and Jesse has its roots in Abraham, the father of the chosen race. It is often laden with gifts to remind us that Christmas brought us the priceless gifts of grace and of eternal life. It is adorned with lights that recall to us that Christ is the Light of the world enlightening those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Though not entirely unknown before, the custom of the Christmas Crib or Creche was adopted by St. Francis of Assisi at Greccio, Italy, on Christmas 1225. It is a concrete and vivid way of representing to ourselves the incarnation and birth of Christ. It depicts in a striking manner the virtues of the newborn Savior, especially His humility, poverty, and charity. Let us celebrate Christmas with the humility of children always keeping in mind the wonderful birth of the Christ Child.

Joy to the world the Lord has come, let earth receive her King!



Peace will come when people live
In friendship, side by side,
And cherish understanding
More than hatred, greed, and pride.

Peace will come when people see
All people as the same,
And no one has to live in fear,
In ignorance or shame.

Peace will come when people
Who are needy can reach out
For shelter, food, or love,
And no one has to do without.

Peace will come when people
Learn to listen and to care
About the rights and dignity
Of people everywhere.

Peace will come
when love and trust
And kindness know rebirth,
And on that day all people
Will rejoice in peace on earth.

AMANDA BRADLEY

January 2025

January 2025							Feb 2025 ▶
◀ Dec 2024	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day 9 am Mass 7 pm Mass	2 6:30 pm RCIA	3 9 am-Noon Adoration	4
5 10 am Religious Ed	6 7 pm SVdP	7		8 7 pm KC Business Meeting	9 6:30 pm RCIA	10 9 am-Noon Adoration	11
12 9 am-Noon KC Pancake Breakfast 10 am Religious Ed	13	14 6 pm Finance Committee Meeting 6 pm Ladies Guild		15 7 pm KC 4 th Degree Meeting	16 6:30 pm RCIA	17 9 am-Noon Adoration	18
19 10 am Religious Ed	20 Martin Luther King Jr. 7 pm SVdP	21		22 7 pm KC Officers Planning Meeting	23 6:30 pm RCIA	24 9 am-Noon Adoration	25
26 10 am Religious Ed	27	28 6 pm Parish Council Meeting		29	30 6:30 pm RCIA	31 9 am-Noon Adoration	