

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF **SAINT GERARD MAJELLA**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018



BULLETIN DEADLINE
Thursday by noon

Christmas Vigil Masses:
Monday, December 24th 6:00 pm
& Midnight Mass begins at
10:30pm

Christmas Day Mass
Tuesday, December 25th
at 10:00am
There will be caroling starting at
9:30am

The Solemnity of Mary,
Holy Mother of God Vigil
is Monday, December 31
at 5:30pm

New Years Day is The Solemnity
of Mary, Holy Mother of God
(Holy Day of Obligation) Tuesday
at 10:00am

BAPTISMS: Parents should be registered parishioners or active for 6 months prior to baptism. Please call the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK
following Masses every 3rd Sunday
Anytime by Appointment

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Monday—Thursday, 9:30am—4:30pm

Pastoral Administrator:
FATHER RICHARD WISE
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Secretary: DIANNE DAVIS
Email: sgmsecretary3049@gmail.com

WEBSITE:
www.saintgerardmajella.net

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FORT OGLETHORPE, GA 30742
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*Joy to the
World*

melaniehull.com

O Emmanuel

"O Emmanuel (God with us), our King and Lawgiver, Thou expected one of the nations and their Redeemer, come and save us, O Lord our God."

Now we are about to receive the Savior, Emmanuel, God with us. God's only-begotten Son, born of the Father before all time, God of God, light of light, true God of true God, one being with the Father, is about to be born in time. For the salvation of men, He has come down upon earth and is conceived by the Holy Ghost in a virgin. He shall be called God with us, and yet He will be one in nature with us. He is to be like to us in all things except sin. He wills to share our poverty and to pray and suffer with us; He assumes our guilt. He is God with us in every phase of our life; He even takes our place on the cross, He remains with us in Holy Communion, in our daily Mass, and in our tabernacles. At some time in the future He will still be God with us in His beautiful heaven. All this He has done for us even though we have repeatedly turned our back on Him.

Come and save us." The great God is with us. He has come, not to destroy the sinful world, as He once destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, but to redeem it from its sins. This redemption is to be accomplished at the cost of great personal sacrifice to Him. As if this did not satisfy the burning ardor of His love, He wills to remain with us in our tabernacles. He incorporates us into Himself and shares His very life with us. We are engrafted in Him as a branch might be grafted to a new tree. "I am the vine, you are the branches" (John 15:5). God with us! We are united to Christ as a limb is united to a body, as a branch is united to a vine. We now belong to Christ and no longer to ourselves. We are one with Him. What a grace, what greatness, what nobility have been conferred upon us! God looking upon us no longer sees miserable specimens of mankind, but members of Christ. When He looks upon Christ, He sees Christ and us as united in one body, as a tree united to its branches. Even the smallest leaf fluttering on the farthest branch belongs to that tree and lives by the sap of that tree. Could He have redeemed us in a more perfect manner than by thus implanting in us and infusing in us His divine life? Let us reflect upon this seriously.

MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday 9:00 AM

Wednesday 6:00 PM

Thursday 9:00 AM

Friday Adoration

Saturday 5:30 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM

11:00 AM

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday PM 4:30-5:15 pm

Tuesday & Thursday 8:30-8:50 am

Wednesday 5:30-5:50 pm

Also by Appointment



More St. Joseph's Sunday Missals are on the way! As soon as they arrive they will be set out for those that want to purchase one for \$3.

God with us! It was that He might be with us that He came that first Christmas at Bethlehem. He came that He might lift me up from the dust, and that I might share in His life. He will return this Christmas that He may continue and complete that work. It is for the same purpose that He comes in every Holy Mass and Communion, and in each inspiration and grace He gives us. His final coming will be for the same purpose, and will have the further aim of sharing with us His glorified life in heaven. We shall then enjoy the perfect vision of God, perfect love, and the fulfillment of all our desires for all eternity. For all eternity!

Ministry Meetings & Events

Sundays: *Prison Ministry* 6:30-8:30PM
Women in Prayer Breakfast - Saturday
January 5, 2019 in the PLC 9:00 am
Finance Council Tuesday Jan. 8th 7:00
Ladies Guild Tuesday Jan. 15th 7:00 pm
Parish Council Wed. Jan. 16th 7:00 pm

Knights of Columbus

During the month of December after each mass, a Donation Jar “**Pennies for Heaven**” will be in the vestibule of the church.

Sat., December 29th the Rosary at 5 pm.

Sunday, December 30th the Rosary at 9:00 & 11:00 am Masses .

Sunday, January 6th St. Katharine Drexel Round Table after 11:00am Mass.

Wed., January 9th Meeting at 7:00 pm.

All who are interested in joining the **Knights of Columbus** please contact **Grand Knight, Bob Watson at 423-290-5112.**



Weekly Offerings

December 16 Offertory Received \$3026

Weekly Offertory **Goal \$4000**

Building & Maintenance \$1353

Mass Intentions:

Sat., 12/22 5:30pm

Mon., 12/24 10:30pm

Wed., 12/26 6:00 pm

Please Pray For:

Richard Klein+

David Metoyer+

Barbara Tripp+

It is our tradition to offer Intentions for the sick, or our deceased members. Please stop by the Parish Office to schedule a Mass Intention.

Seniors

Our next scheduled meeting will be in February. In January we will try to plan a social. If any questions or suggestions, please contact **Gloria Kelley at 423-304-6057.**

Saint Vincent dePaul

We wish you all a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

“Jesus said to them I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst” John 6:35

Any questions about becoming a member please call **Donna Shipley** at 423-718-6951 and leave a message.

Our Helpline # is: 678-892-6163

We always need Rosary Pray Leaders. Please make sure you keep signing up!

Pray for Our Sick Parishioners

Please keep in your personal prayers the following members of our parish who are in need of healing: Jude Bendzel, Linda & Virginia Black, Faye Blevins, Carol Bonito, Martha Bourne, Betty Cabeen, Candace Carne, Anita Davis, Lisa & Rusty DePrima, Cynthia Devine, Glenda Duncan, Barbara & John Facey, Janice Fortune, Henry Gaudet, Matthew Gaudet, Jean Hawkins, Gerald Hoffman, Anne Janecji, Pamela Kantor, Richard Klingler, Myrtle Martin, Sara Mason, Georgina Matich, Linda Meeks, Bill Medford, Jane Mercier, Jane Osterling, Lillian Pierce, John Pitner, Angelena Quaranto, Kathy Samilo, Frances Spataro, Louise Stinnett, Dolores Sutton, Jeremiah Word.

God...born in a manger.

Unexpected...surprising.

He will come to you

And for you—

In the same way...

He always does.

“make room” this busy Season...

For the only One who can fill you—

With true peace, joy, comfort and love.

LifeTouch Photography

If you want to use your own picture for the new directory, send to the office email at: secretary@saintgerardmajella.net or bring one by. Also, the **office needs to know of any changes such as, new street & email addresses and phone numbers. There are still free 8x10 photos that need to be picked up in the vestibule.** The New Directory will be ready sometime in January.

Women In Prayer

If you have any prayer requests, please contact **Irene Staub** at 706-375-4934 (Home), 423-902-6630(Cell), or istaub1014@aol.com or **Linda Swope** at 706-861-9762 (Home) or rlswope374@comcast.net.

We have **prayer shawls** available for anyone who needs one. **Please contact Irene or Linda.**

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

Have you ever been to Bethlehem? There is an ancient basilica there built by Constantine that has been destroyed many times and rebuilt. As you walk into the church, you bend down low. It was built that way to keep the camels and horses out. As you walk further into the church, you have to do down a couple of levels to reach the birthplace of Christ. The only thing you see is a star on the floor that marks the birthplace of Christ. Inside the star is a rock. It is on that stone that God became flesh. Our humble Christ was born in a lowly place. To venerate that place we have to get down on our hands to bend low and kiss the rock on which Christ was born. During this Holy Season of Christmas, remember to join with Christ in humility to serve the stranger, the lonely, and the immigrant. Remember who we are. We are a sign of hope. We are that star that leads to Christ.

Fr. Richard Wise

There is a lady living in LaFayette that needs a ride to church. She can come to the **Saturday 5:30pm or 11:00am Mass on Sunday.** If you are willing to help her get back and forth to church, please call: Dianne Davis 706-861-9410.