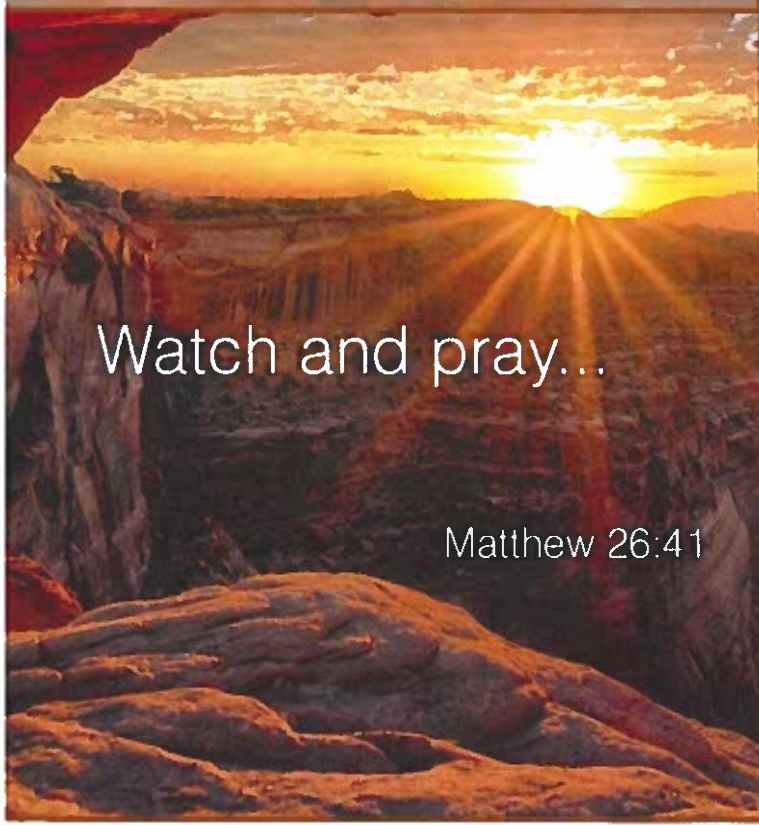
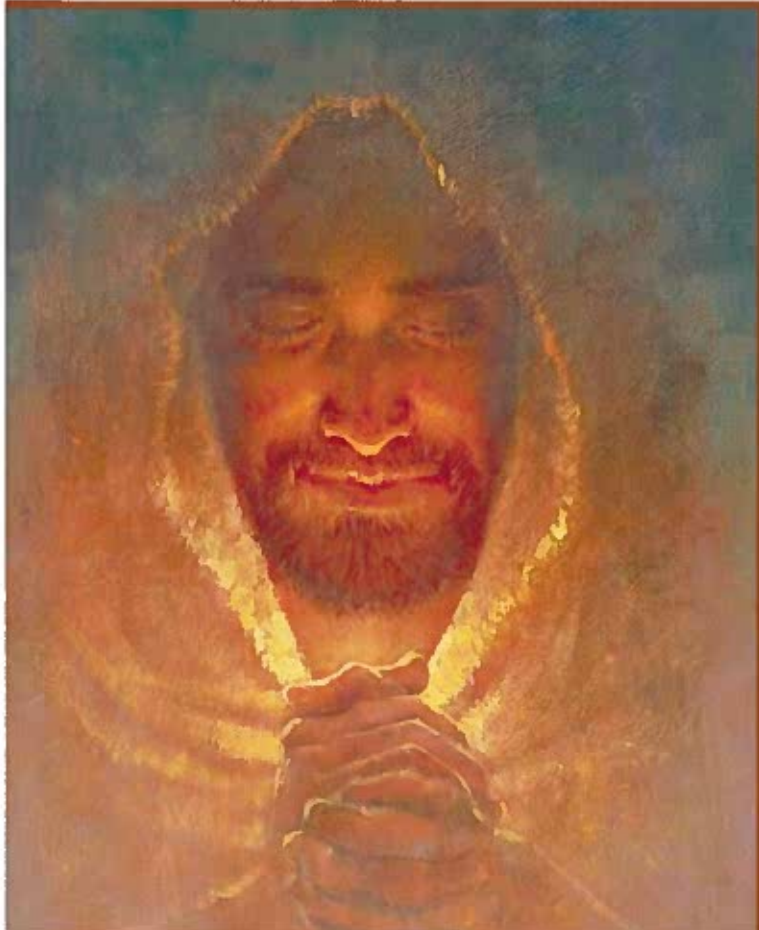


**THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF SAINT GERARD MAJELLA**  
**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**      **September 4, 2022**



Watch and pray...

Matthew 26:41

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday & Thursday**      **9:00 AM**  
**Saturday**                      **5:30 PM**  
**Sunday**                        **9:00 & 11:00 AM**

**Adoration**  
**Friday 9:00 am - Noon**

**RECONCILIATION:**  
**Saturday 4:30 pm-5:15 pm**  
**Also by Appointment**

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

**PASTOR:**  
**FR. BRIAN BUFFORD**  
**[pastor@saintgerardmajella.net](mailto:pastor@saintgerardmajella.net)**

**Secretary: DIANNE DAVIS**  
**Email: [sgmsecretary3049@gmail.com](mailto:sgmsecretary3049@gmail.com)**

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**DIANE RIZZO**

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**FORT OGLETHORPE, GA 30742**

**Phone: 706-861-9410**  
**FAX: 706-866-0574**

**Sacramental Emergency:**  
**706-401-4175**

## From the Pastor's Desk

Today, we hear Jesus use some of the harshest language in all of the Gospels. He says that no one who comes to Him without hating those who are closest to them can be His disciple. Naturally, this would throw us for a loop. After all, Jesus tells us that we must love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. So, why does He tell us to hate the people we care about most?

Here's the key: the Greek word used for hate is "miseo." "Miseo" has multiple meanings, one of which is hate or detest. In this context, however, it means, "to love someone or something less than someone (something) else." It is comparative. In other words, what Jesus is saying is "If anyone comes to Me, and does not love his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters less than Me, he cannot be My disciple."

The point Jesus is making is that He must be priority one in our lives if we are to call ourselves His disciples. Jesus will not settle for second place. Jesus affirms that we must love everyone in our lives, especially those who are closest to us, but they cannot occupy the same space we give to Jesus.

This is why one of the dangers facing the Church's mission in today's world is half-hearted discipleship. When someone looks at our lives, is it apparent to them that we are Christian? Take social media for example. People post all kinds of things on Facebook or Twitter. But do we ever post anything regarding our faith? Does your Twitter account conceal your faith or reveal it? Do you ever post anything from Scripture or ask your Facebook "friends" to pray for a particular need you may have?

Luke's Gospel calls us to be honest with ourselves about where we are in our commitment to being Jesus' disciple. As salt of the earth, we are called to witness to the way of life Jesus offers us – the only way of life that can bring us the fullness of happiness.

Peace,

Fr. Brian

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** We need people who are willing to serve as Eucharistic Guardians for an hour on a weekly basis and who would be willing to serve as a substitute when needed. Adoration is every Friday from 9am to Noon. We would love to extend those hours with your help. If interested please contact **Dale Osterling** at **423-664-3038**.

It is our tradition to offer Mass Intentions for the sick, or our deceased members. Please stop by or call the parish office to sign up for a Mass Intention.

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

#### SATURDAY, SEPT. 3

5:30pm  
B.J. HOETTE+  
(Judy Hoette)  
SERVERS & LECTORS  
TBD  
USHERS:  
Don Hays  
Kieron Gleeson

#### SUNDAY, SEPT. 4, 9am

SERVERS & LECTORS  
TBD

#### SUNDAY, SEPT. 4, 11am

FRAN SPATARO+  
(Gloria Kelley)  
SERVERS TBD  
LECTOR: Leslie Erdman  
USHER: Scott Fisher

#### TUESDAY, SEPT. 6, 9am

REBECCA JENKINS+  
(Gloria Kelley)  
SERVER & LECTOR TBD

#### THURSDAY, SEPT. 8, 9am

SERVER & LECTOR TBD

**Please Pray for Our Sick Parishioners**  
**Please keep in your personal prayers the following members of our parish who are in need of healing:** Asher Barhite, Janet Bean, Jude Bendzel, Faye Blevins, Carol Bonito, Candace Carne, Mason Cobble, Tracy Congdon, Cindy Divine, Cynthia Fulton, Matthew Gaudet, Joyce Gianato, Daniel Hamby, Jean Hawkins, Anne Janecjii, Pamela Kanter, Laura McClung, Linda Meeks, Jeanne Meyers, Sandy Murphy, Ruth Newsome, Jane Osterling, Lillian Pierce, John Pitner, Bill & Rose Pugli-ano, Kathy Samilo, Mary Ann Shanahan, Carol Sotelo+, Helen Telford, Ross Vecchio Sr. & Jr.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday, September 5, Labor Day
- Tuesday, September 6, SVdP Meeting at 7 pm in the PLC.
- Tuesday, September 6, Finance Council at 6 pm
- Wednesday, September 7, Seniors Meeting at Noon in the PLC.
- Thursday, September 8, RCIA Classes start at 6:30 in the PLC.

### SENIOR MINISTRY

Hope everyone had a great summer and is ready to come back to our ministry meetings. We will begin our monthly meeting on **Wednesday, September 7th, at Noon**, in the PLC. Please bring a sack lunch.

We will be discussing our trip to **HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA on Wednesday, September 28**, regarding departure time and drivers, and who is planning to go. It is a 2 1/2 hour trip. We will also discuss our basket raffle. After the meeting we will play bingo, so please plan to stay and play.

Pat Evans  
Gloria Kelley

### The Pope's Monthly Intention for September

Abolition of the Death Penalty  
We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

### Weekly Offerings

**8/28 Offertory Received \$4472**  
**(Online Giving \$865)**

**Weekly Offertory Goal \$4000**

### Saint Vincent de Paul

It's hard to believe that 2022 is two thirds done and summer is coming to an end. Sometimes we ask " where has the time gone?". Even so, it's never too late to turn our thoughts from ourselves and our needs and wants and to focus on our brothers who are living on the edge of financial and emotional disaster. You have a convenient channel to help these people; it is us, your parish SVdP society. We will see that ALL your donations are accounted for, used with care and compassion and appreciated. We not only open the envelopes; we put the contents to good use. Please help. God bless you and those you love

**If you are interested in joining St. Vincent de Paul, please call Donna Shipley at 423-718-6951.**

**If you or anyone you know needs assistance, please call the HELP LINE at 678-892-6163.**

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



## 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."  
Luke 14:33

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.

### READINGS

**Wis: 9:13-18b**

**Ps 90: 3-6,12-14,17**

**Phmn: 9-10, 12-17**

**Lk: 14:25-33**

### STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

As we begin to shift our thoughts from summer schedules to the anticipated demands of autumn, teach us to recognize you, and help us follow you amidst our busy lives.

Open the Scriptures to us...that we may know you, see you, hear you - in the voices of friends and family, in the ministries of our parish, in the proclamation of the Word, and in the Breaking of the Bread.

Teach us to be good stewards, that we may use your gifts wisely and care for all those you place in our path.

Encourage us when we are overwhelmed. Strengthen us when we are frightened. Challenge us when we are complacent.

Help us make our September transition a time of spiritual renewal, hope and action: to proclaim the Gospel in our words and in our deeds.

Interested in joining the Catholic Church? Returning to Church and need a refresher? Want to grow deeper with Mother Church? Tired of having people telling you what you believe as a Catholic?

**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) classes are beginning on September 8th and continuing until Pentecost 2023. Come join us in the PLC on Thursdays at 6:30pm.**

Lord Jesus, thank You for the earth we live on. We don't always take care of it as we should. Our oceans have become filled with pollutants. Our forests are diminishing. Trash and litter have become commonplace – part of the scenery. Help us to reverse this cycle so we can truly enjoy the sanctuary You have given us. Amen.