

**The CATHOLIC CHURCH of SAINT GERARD MAJELLA**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

**FEBRUARY 25, 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](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**

*As the sun was about to set,  
a trance fell upon Abram,  
and a deep, terrifying  
darkness enveloped him.*

GENESIS 15:12

**SECOND SUNDAY OF  
LENT**



## From the Pastor's Desk

The story of Abraham's attempted sacrifice of Isaac has puzzled Jews and non-believers. Why would a good God ask a father to sacrifice his own son? Jewish scholars in both the Biblical and post-Biblical era have tried to find a reasonable explanation for this.

The answer is provided in the life of Jesus. God the Father offers His Son to the world as an expression of His love for us. Abraham offers his son whom he loves as an expression of his love for God. God the Father doesn't demand Jesus' death. He only requires perfect obedience from His Son. However, the Father knows that the world will reject His Son and put Him to death.

In Isaac's case, God stops Abraham from going through the sacrifice because he has demonstrated his faithfulness to God. In Jesus' case, the Father allows human beings to kill His Son because He respects our freedom and because He knows that Jesus' death will conquer death.

Like Abraham and Jesus, we strive to be perfectly obedient to God during Lent. Now is the time to get rid of anything that hinders us from this. God offers perfect love to us, and the only fitting response is for us to be lovingly obedient.

Fr. Brian

### A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,  
During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.  
Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.  
Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity.  
Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.  
May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.  
Amen.



 Sadlier

[www.WeBelieveAndShare.com](http://www.WeBelieveAndShare.com)

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### WEEK AT A GLANCE

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24,  
4:30 PM**

**PATRICIA HUTTERER+**  
(John Hutterer)

**MATTHEW KOWALSKI+**  
(Danuta Kowalski)

**SERVERS:**

**NICK, LEO & TROY VELK**

**LECTORS & EMs TBD**

**USHERS: Don Hays**

**Kieron Gleeson**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 9 AM**

**STEVEN PETROSKI+**

(Linda Swope)

**SERVERS & EMs TBD**

**LECTOR: Dale Osterling**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 11 AM**

**SERVER: Al Hinton**

**LECTORS TBD**

**EM: Audrey Indigo**

**USHERS: Scott Fisher**

**Teri Hughes**

### The Pope's February Prayer Intention: **For the terminally ill.**

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.



**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, Kathy Samilo, Mary Ann Shanahan, Jim Staub, Helen Telford, Ross Vecchio Sr. & Jr., Wright Family & baby Nalavya Rose Marie.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Tuesday, February 27, Parish Council Meeting at 6 pm.**
- **Wednesday, February 28, Knights of Columbus Planning Meeting at 7 pm.**

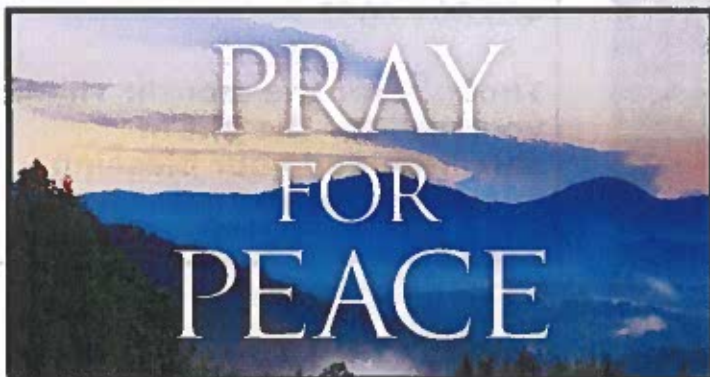
**Knights of Columbus**

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](mailto:kierongleeson@gmail.com)

**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).



**Weekly Offerings**

**2/18 Offertory Received: \$4,590**  
**(Online Giving): \$430**  
**Weekly Offertory Goal \$6,000**  
**St. Vincent de Paul \$1,469**  
**Black & Indian Missions \$371**

**St. Vincent de Paul**

We're happy to announce that our SVdP Conference will take on one additional ministry. With Fr. Brian's blessing, we are responding to a need in our community. The ministry is for the homeless and we call it Bags of Blessings. It consists of small duffel bags with basic toiletries and canned food. The bags are distributed by local police as they perceive the need. We are allocating \$145 each month of your generous donations to fund this project. Please pray for the success of this program.

We would like to express our thanks to our treasurer for the timely financial reports to all our donors. Tax time is surely upon us.

May you all experience a fruitful Lent as we answer our call to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. God bless you all and those you love

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

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

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

**Come join our St. Gerard Youth Choir!**  
(3rd grade and above)

We will meet twice a week.

Saturday, 11 - 12 pm

Monday, 4:30 - 5:30 pm

To sign up, call or text.

**Lora Levesque 423-834-6253**  
**or Kasie Cox 423-834-5942**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!



## Memorial of St. Gregory, February 27th

Pope Francis decreed that **St. Gregory of Narek (950-1005)** be added to the General Roman Calendar. St Gregory of Narek, Doctor of the Church, Armenian monk, poet, mystical philosopher, theologian, writer and saint of the Armenian Apostolic Church and Catholic Church was born into a family of writers. Based in the monastery of Narek (Narekavank), he was "Armenia's first great poet" and as "the watchful angel in human form".

St. Gregory of Narek was canonized and proclaimed a Doctor of the Universal Church on April 12, 2015 by Pope Francis. On February 2, 2021, his optional memorial was inscribed on the General Roman Calendar for February 27.

# LENT & EASTER

## ASH WEDNESDAY LENT BEGINS



Emphasizes our mortality and our need for ongoing repentance.

## PALM SUNDAY



Commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem.

## HOLY THURSDAY



Celebrates the Last Supper with the disciples and Passover.

## GOOD FRIDAY



We remember the Passion and Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross.

## EASTER SUNDAY HE HAS RISEN!



Alleluia! The principal feast of the ecclesiastical year. Jesus has risen!

Easter is an 8 day celebration leading to Easter Season, which ends on Pentecost.

## DAYS OF FASTING

ASH WEDNESDAY  
GOOD FRIDAY

### WHAT IS FASTING?

One full meal and two smaller meals.

## DAYS OF ABSTINENCE

ASH WEDNESDAY  
GOOD FRIDAY  
EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT

### WHAT IS ABSTINENCE?

No meat.

# 40

The 40 days of Lent are based on two accounts: the 40 years of wandering by the Israelites and our Lord's 40 days in the wilderness at which point He was tempted by Satan.

## PILLARS OF LENT

PRAYER  
FASTING  
ALMSGIVING

The key to understanding the meaning of Lent is simple: Baptism.



**Senior Ministry** members will be going to Park Place Restaurant on March 6 at Noon.

Please let me know if you would like to join us.

**At the meeting in February, we decided to go to Park Place and not have a meeting in March.**

Our next meeting will be in April and Mary Lynn will have the program.

Our May meeting will be Cinco De Mayo celebration and Ritch Shepherd will be our speaker and will show us some of his art work. This will be a covered dish - Mexican food -.

Gloria Kelley  
423.304.6057

**Thought for the month: Thank you Lord for the gift of salvation and your blessings everyday. Amen**

# 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 lives of the moms in our program!

Bottles will be picked up on Palm Sunday.