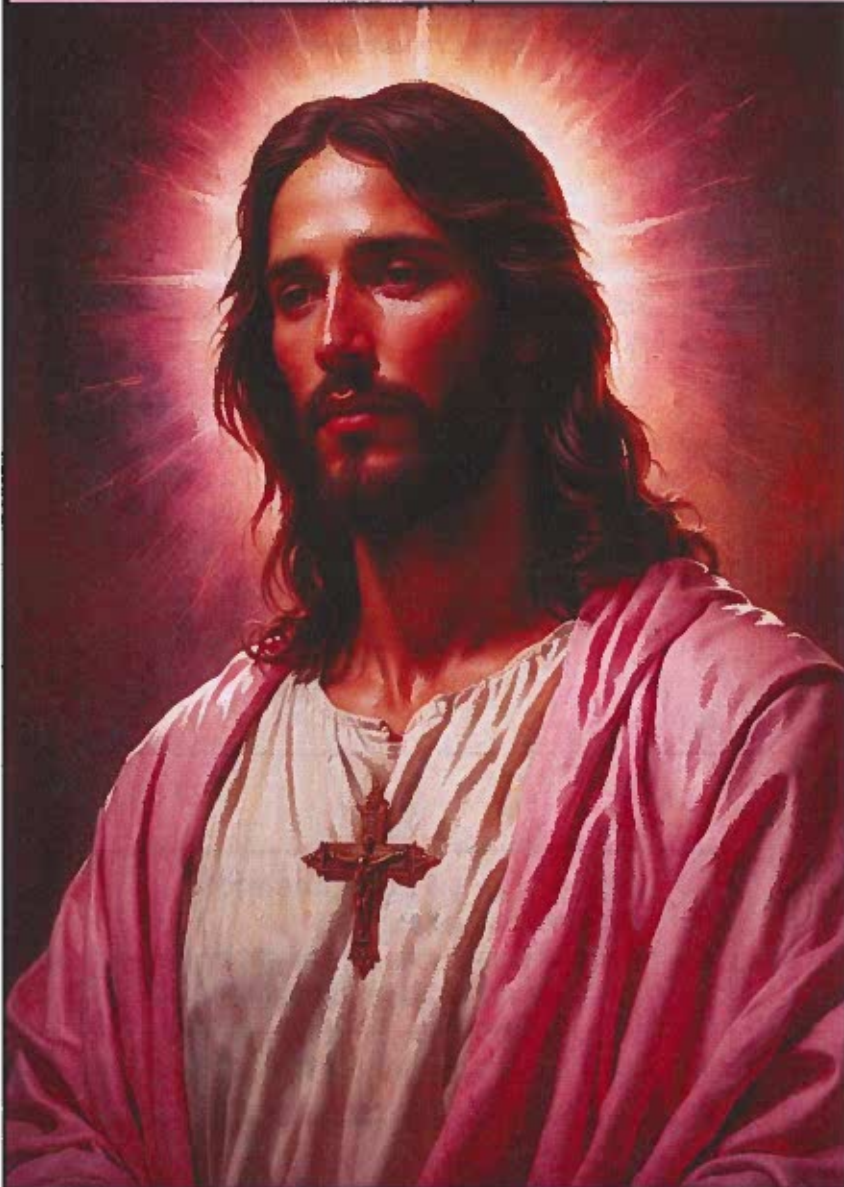


**THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF SAINT GERARD MAJELLA  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 15, 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**  
**[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**

**H O P E**  
**P E A C E**  
**J O Y**  
**L O V E**

## From the Pastor's Desk

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent or Gaudete Sunday. While the readings for the past few Sundays have had a more sober tone, today they carry a message of rejoicing. Today we do not focus on the things we haven't done to prepare for Christmas, but, as Pope Francis says, we are to reflect on the good things God has given us in our lives.

Zephaniah ends with an announcement of joy to Jerusalem. God shows Himself as the king over Israel who will restore her fortunes, make an end of her foes, and rejoice over her. Deliverance is at hand. This deliverance is definitively at hand in the Gospel.

Justice is practiced, as John describes, by recognizing the inherent dignity every person possesses. Therefore, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Repentance from committing injustice, whether small or large, is proof of one's seriousness in living as God has called us to live.

John says the Messiah will bring salvation and judgment – salvation for those who are faithful and judgment for those who have chosen against it. And with the Messiah's justice arrives the joy in God that Paul tells the Philippians to have. After all, people in Paul's time would celebrate various occasions just as we do today. Shouldn't Jesus the Messiah be celebrated with even more joy for the salvation He has brought to all those who follow Him?

Peace,

Fr. Brian

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 4:30 PM**

**JIM STAUB (Healing)**  
**(Dianne Davis)**

**SERVERS:**

**Nick, Leo & Troy**

**LECTORS TBD**

**EM:**

**Dianne Davis**

**USHERS:**

**Don Hays**

**Kieron Gleeson**

**SUNDAY, DEC. 15, 9 AM**

**TIM CHAMPLIN+**

**(Gloria Kelley)**

**SERVERS, LECTORS &  
EMs TBD**

**SUNDAY, DEC. 15, 11 AM**

**SERVERS & LECTORS TBD**

**EM: Audrey Indigo**

**USHER: Teri Hughes,**

**Scott Fisher**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 9 AM**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 9 AM**

**JAMES DAVIS+**

**(Dianne Davis)**

### **December Pope's Prayer Intention: For pilgrims of hope:**

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.





**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**

- **Wednesday, December 18, Knights of Columbus 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Meeting at 7 pm.**
- **Saturday, December 21, Start of Winter Gabriel's Hope Pantry, 10am – Noon.**
- **Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve, Masses at 6pm and 10pm.**
- **Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day Mass at 9 am.**

**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 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**

**12/8 Offertory Received: \$5,810**  
**(Online Giving): \$755**  
**Weekly Offertory Goal: \$6,000**  
**Immaculate Conception \$534**

**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 Dec. 21 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**

## **What is Gaudete Sunday?**

Welcome to the vibrant celebration of Gaudete Sunday, a beloved day in the Advent season that fills our hearts with joy and anticipation. As we journey towards Christmas, this unique Sunday stands out as a beacon of joy and hope.

Today is Gaudete Sunday and the third Sunday of Advent in the liturgical calendar of Western Christianity, including the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Church, Lutheran Churches, and other mainline Protestant Churches. The day takes its common name from the Latin word Gaudete which means "Rejoice."

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Let your forbearance be known to all, for the Lord is near at hand; have no anxiety about anything, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your cue to the faithful that a shift toward celebration and gladness is underway." This Sunday is also marked by the lighting of the third candle on the Advent wreath, often known as the "Candle of Joy." This candle represents the joy that Christians experience as they draw closer to the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

The liturgical color for Gaudete Sunday is rose, symbolizing joy and a departure from the traditional purple associated with penance and preparation.

*I asked the Lord to bless you  
As I prayed for you today  
To guide you and protect you  
As you go along your way...  
His love is always with you  
His promises are true,  
& when we give him all our cares  
You know he'll see us through  
So when the road you're traveling  
Seems difficult at best  
Just remember I'm here praying,  
God will do the rest*



## **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual CHATTANOOGA CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

The Chattanooga Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols will be held at BRAINERD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 4315 Brainerd Rd., Chattanooga, on Thursday & Friday Evening, December 12 & 13, 2024, 7:00 p.m. Music for the program will be presented by The Roueché Chorale & Symphony Orchestra. Jeff Roueché is a member of St. Stephen Catholic Church and is the Founder and Artistic Director of The Roueché Chorale & Orchestra. The Candlelight Service promises to be a beautiful service of Advent and Christmas music that will stir your heart and help prepare you for the Christmas season! The congregation will play an active part in the singing of traditional carols and the lighting of candles. THE PROGRAM IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC. For more information you may call (423)-774-0317, Online: [www.therouechechorale.org](http://www.therouechechorale.org) or visit our Facebook page.