

**THANKSGIVING WEEKEND
OCTOBER 9TH/10TH, 2010**

	Sunday Offerings	Outreach
Last Week	\$8,539.90	
Weekly average, year to date	\$7,684.76	
Weekly target to meet budget	\$9,000.00	

Annual Bishop's Charity Appeal to date: \$15,062.65
St. Gerard's Parish collection for Mission Mexico to date: \$11,167.42

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH	
MONDAY	No Mass Thanksgiving Day: parish office is closed
TUESDAY	MASS - 9:00 AM Morning Prayer [Sheila] CARD PLAYING: 9:45 AM [euchre & bridge] Holy Hour: 7:30 PM CWL meeting: 7:00 PM
WEDNESDAY	MASS - 9:00 AM Jean Vanier Videos: 9:30 AM Teachers' Wine and Cheese: 3:30 PM Little Rock: 7:30 PM (Acts of the Apostles) RENOVO meeting: 7:30 PM [south end meeting room] STEWARDSHIP meeting: 7:30 PM [main hall]
THURSDAY	MASS - 9:00 AM Morning Prayer [Doreen] Scripture Study - John's Gospel: 9:45 AM Choir Practice: 7:30 PM
FRIDAY	Mass: 9:00 AM Coffee & donuts for feast day Grief Group: 9:45 AM Liturgy Committee Meeting: 10:00 AM PARENT MEETING for Sacrament registration: 6:30 PM
SATURDAY	Feast Day of St. Gerard Majella Reconciliation: 4:00 PM Mass: 5:00 PM FAMILY DINNER [ITALIAN! for St. Gerard]
SUNDAY	Masses 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Coffee after both Masses FAITHFUL FRIENDS 2:30 PM

THANKSGIVING FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Please remember our St. Vincent de Paul Society this Thanksgiving. We welcome all donations of non-perishable foods and/or cash for use in helping those in need. Your generosity blesses so many lives. If you would like to volunteer to help this ministry with delivery of or packing food hampers, please talk to Geri Schmit or Anna Schultz. This is a great ministry for family participation.

LITURGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, October 15th at 10:00 AM in the parish hall. If you have any items pertaining to liturgy that should be included on the agenda, please email them into the parish office [jan@stgerards.ca], attention of Sheila Padley.

SAVE THE DATE!

**ST. GERARD'S PARISH FAMILY FEAST
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16TH**

6:00 – 9:00 pm; in the parish hall



Tickets will be sold after the masses this weekend,



or they may be purchased in the Parish office. \$10.00 per person or \$40.00 per family. Come join us for food, fun and fellowship. Raffles, Prizes and a Jelly Bean Guess!! Don't delay, as there is limited seating. If you are interested in helping with this fabulous event, please contact Deb Kirkland at (403) 275-9475.

St. Gerard Majella – Patron Saint of our Parish

Feastday: October 16

Patron of expectant mothers

What is a patron saint?

Patron saints are chosen as special protectors or guardians over areas of life. These areas can include occupations, illnesses, churches, countries, causes -- anything that is important to us. A patron saint can help us when we follow the example of that saint's life and when we ask for that saint's intercessory prayers to God.

St. Gerard Majella, religious, is the patron of expectant mothers. He was born at Muro, Italy, in 1726 and joined the Redemptorists at the age of 23, becoming a professed lay brother in 1752. He served as sacristan, gardener, porter, infirmarian, and tailor. However, because of his great piety, extraordinary wisdom, and his gift of reading consciences, he was permitted to counsel communities of religious women.

His charity, obedience, and selfless service, made him the perfect model of lay brothers. He was afflicted with tuberculosis and died in 1755 at the age of twenty-nine.

Friday morning, October 15th, we will have coffee & donuts in the hall to celebrate the feast day of our patron.

PARENT MEETING RE: SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION for CHILDREN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15TH; 6:30 PM in the parish hall

- For all families wanting to have their school-aged child celebrate a sacrament in 2011 [baptism, confirmation, eucharist, reconciliation]
- Please bring your child's baptismal certificate, if the child was not baptized at St. Gerard's Parish
- This meeting will include: meeting the sacramental coordinators; registering your child/children for sacrament celebration; receiving an overview of activities and a list of dates

Parents who take an active role in their child's faith formation are the primary models for their children. The Church community and the Catholic school provide support and additional modeling of the Christ-centered life.

MUSIC OF THE HEART

Twilight Retreat with Father Bob Mitchell

Thursday, October 21st; Mount St. Francis Retreat Center
6:30 PM – supper; 7:30 PM – presentation by Fr. Bob
Call 403-932-2012 for further information.

Cost: \$25/person

Thanksgiving Blessings {Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB}

Tradition is meant to help us remember what is important in life.

One day, in one of those great life inventory games that have become so popular in an age of humanistic psychology and personal development exercises, I was part of a seminar that asked us to list ten of your warmest memories. It was easy. I wrote them all down quickly:

- Family birthday parties
- My mother's Irish potato candy at Christmastime
- Summer picnics on the peninsula
- Thanksgiving Dinner
- Dad's cinnamon toast
- Packing sandwiches for our fishing trips together
- Watermelon on the Fourth of July
- Our family's Irish wakes and the story-telling times we had at those wakes
- Eating out on the weekends
- Smelling my mother's oyster stew

It didn't take long before I realized that it wasn't the food that I remembered. It was the occasion and all it meant, year after year after year. All those things had marked my way through life. They were the things I waited for. They were the moments that made life special and family real and life fun. The food was simply the sign that all those things were still safe, still functioning, still the stuff of life. Luciano Pavarotti's insight was on target, "One of the very nicest things about life is the way we must regularly stop whatever it is we are doing and devote our attention to eating."

The oyster stew and the watermelon, the fresh bread for sandwiches and the bottle of wine to go with them, the smell of a Christmas ham and a turkey on Thanksgiving, the weekly meal with the crowd, the holidays and birthdays and picnics and family specialties all serve to remind us still of the glory of God, the bounty of God, the blessedness of life, the proof that life, in the end, is always good.

TEN THANKSGIVING THOUGHTS

1. It's important to dot our lives with unscheduled as well as scheduled feast days. That way we remember that we are able to make 'joy' as well as to expect it. Or as Lin Yutang, the Chinese philosopher, put it: "Our lives are not in the lap of the gods, but in the lap of our cooks."
2. Food and feasting are the things that remind us of the unending glory, the limitless love, of God. Voltaire said of it: "Nothing would be more tiresome than eating and drinking if God had not made them a pleasure as well as a necessity."
3. A Jewish proverb teaches us that "Worries go down better with soup." Treating food as a sacrament rather than a necessity reminds us that, in the end, there is always more good in life than bad. The trick is to notice it.
4. To love good food is a measure of our love of life. Food preparation teaches us to do everything we can to make life palatable, spicy, comforting, full of love.
5. Sitting down to a meal with the family—table set, food hot, salad fresh, water cold, and food served rather than speared—may be the very foundation of family life in which we celebrate our need for one another. The loss of the family feast may do more to loosen the family bonds than any other single dimension of family life.
6. One purpose of feasting is to get back in touch with the earth that sustains us, to glorify the God that made it and to pledge ourselves to save the land that grows our food.
7. In this country, we are conditioned to think that taking time to eat together, to make a meal an event rather than an act, takes time from the important things of life. That may be exactly why we are

confused now about what the important things of life really are. "Happiness," Astrid Alauda writes, "is a bowl of cherries and a book of poetry under a shade tree."

8. Good food is the hallmark of every season: fresh fruit in summer, roasted chestnuts in the fall, warm bread in winter, oyster stew in the spring. Leslie Newman says of it. "As the days grow short, some faces grow long. But not mine. Every autumn, when the wind turns cold and darkness comes early, I am suddenly happy. It's time to start making soup again." Good food is the sacrament of life everlasting.

9. Food doesn't have to be exotic to be wonderful. Peasant societies give us some of the best meals ever made. It is always simple, always the same—and always different due to the subtle changes of sauce and cooking style that accompany it. As the Polish say: "Fish, to taste right, must swim three times—in water, in butter and in wine."

10. **To be feasted is to be loved outrageously!**

Faithful Friends and Spirit Seekers

Sunday Oct. 17 2:30 - 4:00

Come and join us for a FALL FAIR. There will be games, crafts and snacks. Come and join us for an afternoon of fun.

Faithful Friends 3-8 years and Spirit Seekers 8-11. If you have any questions phone Sheila O, 255-4314 or Lorelei, 686-1813.

CWL General Meeting Tuesday October 12 @ 7:00 pm

Another year has gone by and October is membership drive month so we will be collecting membership fees for the upcoming year.

SCRIPTURE STUDY ENTHUSIASTS, NEW CATHOLICS,...Don't Forget –

Wednesday evenings; 7:30 PM in the hall – a study of the ACTS OF THE APOSTLES. People living after the generation of the original eyewitnesses [that includes us] needed a way of understanding how the life of Jesus still had relevance in their own lives. Come & join our study as we explore, through Scripture, video presentation, and discussion, how the mission of Jesus should be guiding our lives in our individual circumstances.

CONVERSATIONS with JEAN VANIER: Let yourself be DRAWN INTO THE MYSTERY OF JESUS THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Wednesday mornings – 9:30 AM in the parish hall. Come & have a coffee and watch/listen to the videos: Jean Vanier's reflections on Jesus' love of the 'little ones' – those who are disabled, those who are poor, those who are suffering. Jean's reflections help us to better understand and emulate the compassionate nature of Jesus & the Father.

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: Themes of LIVING WATER, BREAD OF LIFE/EUCHARIST, LIGHT

with Sr. Darlene Madore Thursday mornings in the parish hall. 9:45 am. All are welcome to drop in for Sister's insightful 'breaking open' of the loving 'heart' of Jesus, as revealed through John's gospel. This gospel is a meditative gospel; one is required to sit with this gospel and reflect and ponder the revelation of the Father through the revelation of the Son.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Ministry of Service

Funeral Team – Wilma/Norm Hagel (403)253-2485
Emergency contacts: Doreen Yochim (403)252-4685 or
Jan Gallant (403)281-4327
Pastoral Care of the Sick – Sheila Padley (403)259-2489

Mayfair Nursing Home – Hedy Luijckx (403)252-2902
Grieving/Consolation Ministry – Lois Hagen, Rosemarie Walter,
Pat McMahon, Sr. Evelyn Dechant
Knights of Columbus – 1st Wednesday – 7:30 PM; Gordon Skaluba (403) 255-5248
C.W.L. – 2nd Tuesday – 7:00 PM; Shauna Bedard, (403) 281-4718
Sunday coffee – Ann Bergen (403)252-5384
1st Friday Coffee Social — Rosemarie Baschenis (403) 281-9666

Outreach ministry

St. Vincent de Paul – 3rd Wednesdays – 7:30 PM Geri Schmit
Inn From The Cold – 3rd Mondays contact: Jim Duncan (403)252-3163
Noreen Young (403)255-9486
Sandwiches for the drop-in centre – 1st Fridays
Mission Mexico – Anna Schultz

Parish ministry

Parish Pastoral Council – Jill Negenman (403) 253-8586
Parish Finance Council – John Skelton (403)281-5421
Parish Website – Bandi Szakony

Evangelization and Catechetical ministries

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) - Doreen Yochim ,coordinator
Christian Initiation of School Age Children – Sarah Morrison, (403) 281-4832
Infant Baptism – Jan, parish office, (403) 253-2251
Children's Sacraments – Eucharist, (Bruce Halase, Dianne Bulbrook &
Daniel Bulbrook)
Reconciliation, (Margie Gallagher, 403- 697-5390)
Confirmation – Paul Negenman, 403-253-8586
Special Activities: Judy Broad, 403-253-8697
Pre-Marriage Preparation – Pastoral Team
Marriage Team Leaders – Sponsor Couple Program –
John/Judy Broad (403)253-8697
Scripture Study – Doreen Yochim – coordinator
Little Rock: John Skelton, Jill Moroney
Adult Faith Enrichment – Pastoral Team
Parish Mission Team – Ron and Donna Scott (403) 271-6262
Stewardship Committee – Hanita Simard
Faithful Friends – Denise Webber (403) 253-5139
Spirit Seekers - Sheila Obrigewitsch, (403) 255-4314

Liturgical Ministry

Liturgy Committee – Sheila Padley (Chairperson)
Sacristans – Mary Sylven, (403) 252-5245
Mass Servers – Laurance Daignault (403)281-3665
MUSIC: – parish office (403)253-2251
5:00 PM – 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM – Funeral Choir
Lectors – Chris Simard (403) 730-4776
Hospitality (Ushers and Greeters) – John Hennessey (403)255-7913
Eucharistic ministers - Noreen Hess (403) 255-5183
Weekday Eucharistic Ministers – Yvette Nogue (403)253-1809
Weekday Lectors – Pat Campbell (403)255-0756
Environment and Art – Sue Dondlinger

Prayer Life

Liturgy of the Hours/Prayer of the Church – Sheila Padley (403)259-2489
Holy Hour – Tuesdays – 7:30 PM Melissa Emmelkamp (403)255-1889
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – Lucie Just
Prayer Tree – Kay Power (403)255-6241 / Rosemary Fennell (403)281-5701
Christian Meditation – Anna Tremblay



8944 Elbow Drive SW
Calgary, AB T2V 1L2

Telephone (403) 253-2251
Fax (403) 253-4608
Website: www.stgerards.ca

PASTORAL TEAM

Doreen Yochim {doreen@stgerards.ca}
Bogdan Sianozecki (Pastor)

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Jan Gallant {jan@stgerards.ca}

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 AM

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Tuesday – Friday 9:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 – 4:30 PM or by appointment.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Friday: 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM
Closed for lunch 11:30 AM–12:30 PM

MARRIAGES

By appointment. Please contact the parish office six months before desired date.

BAPTISMS

Preparation and celebration once/month. Please contact Jan in the parish office.