



St. Gerard Majella Roman Catholic Church

300 Terryville Road
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776
Phone: 631-473-2900 Fax: 631-473-0015
www.stgmajella.org

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Gregory Rannazzisi, Pastor	frgreg@stgmajella.org
Rev. Vitus Ezeiruaku, <i>in residence</i>	
Deacon Frank DellAglio	deaconfrank@stgmajella.org
Deacon John Grebe	deaconjohn@stgmajella.org
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Deacon Carlito Roman, Pastoral Associate for Administration	deaconcarlito@stgmajella.org
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Jennifer Donnellon, Office Manager	jennifer@stgmajella.org
Patty Longo, Director of Religious Ed.	patty@stgmajella.org
Denise Nienburg, Thrift Shop Manager	thrift@stgmajella.org
Jackie Maggiore, Receptionist	secretary@stgmajella.org
Alfredo Sobalvarro, Custodian	
Joseph Crescitelli, Sacristan	

Parish Office Hours

Monday — Thursday: 9:00am-4:30pm
Sunday: 8:00am-1:00pm
Closed Friday and Saturday

Mass & Devotions

Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm
Weekdays: 9:00am
Rosary: Monday – Friday: 8:30am
Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Monday - Friday: 9:30 am
First Saturday: 11:00am Mass with the Anointing of the Sick

Penance

The sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is celebrated on Saturdays from 3:45pm-4:45pm. You may call the Parish Office to make an appointment with one of the priests.

Baptism

Baptisms are typically held twice a month at 1:30pm. Please call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment to set a date. Selection of godparents should be made after speaking with one of the priests or deacons.

Marriage

Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements for your wedding at least six months in advance. No date can be set until the couple

Parish Outreach Hours

Food Pantry

Tuesday: 11:30am-3:00pm
Wednesday: 12:30pm-3:00pm
Thursday: 11:30am-1:30pm & 4:00pm-5:00pm

Thrift Shop/Barn

Monday — Thursday: 10:00am-4:00pm
Friday: 10:00am-2:00pm
Donations accepted Monday-Thursday: 10:00am-3:00pm and Friday: 10:00am-1:00pm. Please refer to our website for a list of items that can be donated.

Stewardship Supper

The Thursday evening dinner is served between 4:30pm and 5:30pm. All are welcome.



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Sunday, August 13, 2023
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Naturally, the Mother of the Son of Man is called Woman

By Deacon Frank Dell'Aglio

In the four Gospel accounts, Jesus refers to himself as the Son of Man over 80 times. But the term did not originate with Jesus. It is used 107 times in the books of the Old Testament.

It is clearly a messianic title in the Old Testament, especially in the Book of Daniel. Jesus by referring to himself in that manner is claiming his Messiahship and, by extension, his role in the redemption of all humanity. While he is a divine person he has two distinct natures; human and divine which are separate but indivisible.

It is by virtue of his human nature that he is able to offer himself as the pure sacrifice to God the Father to make atonement for our sins and, by virtue of his resurrection, to restore us as adopted sons and daughters of God the Father. He alone by virtue of his two natures is able to do this!

In the Book of Genesis, when speaking to the serpent immediately after the fall of our first parents God said, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall strike at your head, while you strike at his heel" (Gn 3: 15). Many of the early Church Fathers, saw in this passage of Genesis, often referred to, by them, as the "protoevangelium", the first announcement of the "Good News" of our redemption.

It's reasonable to ask, why does God refer to a woman in this important passage? Afterall, it is God's Son, that is in turn the woman's male offspring, who shall strike at the serpent's head. The answer quite simply, is because God chose that his only begotten Son would receive his human nature from a woman. And that woman is Mary. Pure and gentle, immaculate from the first moment of her conception. The true tabernacle, that was destined to bear the Son of God in her womb for nine months!

The very next time in sacred scripture that Mary is referred to as the woman is at the wedding feast at Cana. Mary realized that the wine was running out. Jewish wedding celebrations, at that time, lasted an entire week and wine was an essential staple at all weddings. This predicament, if not remedied quickly and discreetly, would have caused considerable embarrassment to the bride and groom and their families.

Mary approached Jesus to inform him of this predicament, and said "They have no wine." Jesus responded by saying to his mother "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." Mary did not hesitate but told the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." And we know that Jesus performed the very first of his miracles, or signs as St John describes them, at this wedding feast at Cana.

On its surface, Jesus' response to his mother appears to be disrespectful. This mistaken connotation is largely the result of Jesus' use of the word "woman" in addressing his mother. In the English lexicon of our modern day, addressing someone as "woman" has a very negative inference. It conjures up a sense of angst in the person addressing a woman in that manner.

But is that what Jesus is really doing? Jesus would never be disrespectful of his mother. To act in this manner would be a violation of God's fourth commandment which states "Honor your mother and your father".

Recall that Jesus also refers to Mary as "woman" at his crucifixion when he said to her, "Woman behold your son." Notice that the wedding feast at Cana marks the beginning of his public ministry, while his crucifixion ends his earthly life. If you will, these two references to "woman" serve as markers at the beginning and end of his public ministry. These are the only two times in the four gospel accounts that Mary is referred to as woman by Jesus. Is this coincidental? I think not.

So by what means does Jesus' response to his mother accord respect, not condescension. What if Jesus were actually informing his mother that if he granted her request their life together, as they knew it to that point in time, would come to an end. Knowledge of that miracle of changing water into wine would quickly spread, far and wide, making their life together, as before, impossible.

This miracle, if performed by Jesus, would necessitate the forfeiture of the precious little time they had left together before his hour would indeed come. His use of the term “woman” would make clear to her this point. He is at once, notifying her of this and, affording her the right to choose when his public ministry would begin.

Mary does not hesitate but chooses to aid the bride and groom in avoiding an embarrassing predicament coming to fruition. This, at great cost to herself. Truly selfless in her concern for others. Imagine her feelings of sorrow at the moment of realization that this choice of hers would have, and yet she did not hesitate. Love is giving of self and Mary is all love!

Mary is also referenced in chapter 12 of the Book of Revelation “as the woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.” St. John is clearly depicting Mary, in this passage, as Queen of heaven. This chapter goes on to say “a red dragon appeared before the woman. The red dragon (which is an image of Satan) had designs on devouring the child when she was to give birth”. But then St. John states “She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne.”

Do you see the parallels between the “woman” of Genesis and the “woman” of Revelation? Both begin with a “woman” who will bear a male child. Who will conquer Satan and his minions and rule on his throne forever.

And just as Jesus referred to the “woman” of Cana at the inception of his public ministry and the “woman” at Calvary at the end of his earthly life, so too the “woman” of Genesis is referenced at the very beginning of the bible and the “woman” of Revelation at the very end of the bible. These are the only four times Mary is referred to as “woman”. The perfect symmetry of those references is undeniable! Their placement infers premeditation by God, of Mary’s role in his plan for our salvation!

At Cana, Jesus turned water into wine, and at the last supper he turned wine into his precious blood and on Calvary blood and water flowed from his side when all had been accomplished. Water, wine, and blood; a trilogy of natural substances that God used to inaugurate the New and Eternal Covenant!

So necessary was Jesus’ human nature in order to accomplish our salvation. And his human nature was received through a “woman”. Not just any woman, but one chosen by God, and who by her fiat, freely chose a path of sorrows; to accompany her Son in his great redemptive work of our salvation.

I think, St Paul said it best and most succinctly when he wrote “When the designated time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to deliver from the law those who were subjected to it. So that we might receive our status as adopted sons and daughters.”

Mary, who is all love, is so necessary in our lives today. A world sadly devoid of love. Let us allow the Woman to teach us how to Love as we ought...



Religious Education

*****2023-2024 Religious Education Registration Deadline was August 1st-Still time to Register*****

Registration forms, health history forms, and a registration letter are on our church website and printed copies in the lobby. Students must register EVERY YEAR. Tuition can be paid by cash or check by mail or in person. Credit card payments can only be made online at www.stgmajella.org Be sure to include the child's full name in the information box. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Wishing you all a happy, healthy and holy Summer!

God bless, Patty Longo, Director

631-473-2900 x-229



Faith and Fellowship Sunday

Join us on the Second Sunday of each month after the 10am Mass in the Parish Hall for food, faith sharing, and fun with your fellow parishioners!

Get to know and connect more with our wonderful St. Gerard Majella Community. All are welcome!



Parish Outreach Ministry

“Be diligent in serving the poor. Love the poor, honor them as you would Christ himself.”

Welcome Friends Free Curbside Meal Program

Monday: 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Christ Episcopal Church
127 Barnum Avenue, Port Jeff Village

Tuesday: 1:00 – 1:30 PM

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
390 Patchogue Rd. (Rt. 112), Port Jeff Station

Wednesday: 5:00 – 6:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church
Corner of Main St. and South St., Port Jeff Village

Thursday: 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Doors Open at 4pm Sit Down Only between
4:30pm and 5:30pm

St. Gerard Majella Church

Friday: 3:30 – 5:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church
Corner of Main St. and South St., Port Jeff Village

Blossoming with Joy

For the month of **August**, when you buy a \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet at our designated Stop & Shop, we'll receive \$1!

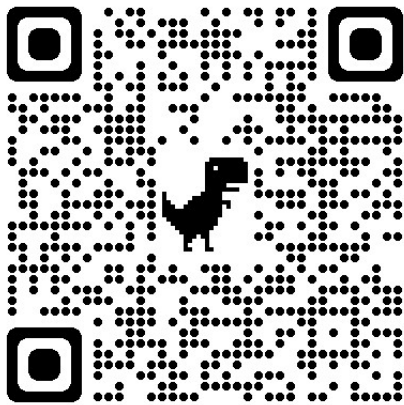
Bloomin' 4 Good Program
stopandshop.2givelocal.com

STOP&SHOP

Benefiting Organization
St. Gerard Majella Food Pantry

At this Stop & Shop Location
260 Pond Path South Setauket NY

We have created an Amazon Wish List for our pantry! All you have to do is scan this QR code with your phone, pick out an item or two and have it shipped to the church. Super simple! Thank you so much for your giving hearts!



Helpful Phone Numbers:

- Alcoholics Anonymous 24-Hour Hotline: 631-669-1124
- Al-Anon Suffolk County: 631-669-2827
- American Red Cross - LI: 516-747-3500
- Birthright (Pregnancy Support): 631-821-9727 or 1-800-550-4900
- Brighter Tomorrow (Domestic Violence): 631-395-1800
- Catholic Charities (Food Stamp Info): 631-789-9546
- Child Advocacy Center (CAC) (Child Abuse): 631-439-0480
- Fidelis Insurance (Family Health Plus): 1-888-343-3547
- Gamblers Anonymous Hotline: 1-855-222-5542
- Good Shepherd Hospice: 631-376-3758
- Hope House Ministries: 631-473-6030
- L.I. Women’s Coalition (Domestic Violence): 631-666-8833
- Narcotics Anonymous: 631-689-6262
- National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-SUICIDE
- Response Crisis Center: 631-751-7500 (Suicide Hotline)
- The Retreat (Domestic Violence Hotline): 631-329-2200
- Conexión Linea de Crisis (M-F: 5-10 PM) 631-751-7423V
- Victims Information Bureau (Advocacy, Counseling): 631-360-3606
- Women’s Services (Town of Brookhaven): 631-698-2074

Mass Intentions and Presider Schedule for the Week of August 14 - August 20

Monday, August 14 (St. Maximilian Kolbe)

9:00am The Intentions of Marillyn Jackson
5:00pm Vigil For All Parishioners

Tuesday, August 15 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00am For All Parishioners
12:00pm For All Parishioners
7:00pm For All Parishioners

Wednesday, August 16

9:00am Sharon Miller, Pat Ricci, Clara Rodgers

Thursday, August 17

9:00am Mary Casper

Friday, August 18

9:00am Marie Kearney

Saturday, August 19 (Blessed Virgin Mary)

5:00pm Eileen Witt, John Puzio, Anthony Bonura, Lucy McCann,
Camille DeFrancisci, Peter Richard & Richard Floyd Gundy

Sunday, August 20

8:00am Helen & Francis Handley
10:00am Kathleen & Frank Manfredo
12:00pm Joseph Jencen



Fr. Greg

Fr. Samuel

Fr. Greg

Fr. Samuel

Stewardship Report

Last Week's Collection - \$8,312.00

Weekly Memorials

Our Sanctuary Candle has been lovingly donated in
memory of :

Susan Bell



Prayers for the Sick

All the sick and residents of Atria, St. Joseph's Village Woodhaven Adult Home & Nursing Home & Jefferson's Ferry, Ann Dellow, Luke John Carusillo, Sandy Barrios, Sabrina Glass, LouEllen Klints, Arlene Guma, John Schlauraff, Genevieve Eannuzzi, Kellie Menno, Joan Petschauer, Charles Ricottone, Baby Fulton, Ted Claesen, Connie Biscardi, Ronnie Pryor, Vinnie Surwilo, McKinney, Jean Grunwald, Robert Cronemeyer, Mary Jo Re, Joseph Bockett, Thomas Hayes, June Russo, Rick Duros, Ron Gendis, Emilio Negron, Stephen Melville, Tezzenha Sealy, Dolores Andersen, Patrick Wilson, James Mihalik, Erin DeCapua, Maureen Uss, Barbara Klein-Croner, Garrett Duffy, Nicholas Traynor, Hunter Reyes, Ann Gerstein, Mike Napolitano, Maxine Politi, Neisha Alli, Pat Consorte, Lawrence DeMeo, Marie Auld, Marie Brienza, Erin Whitehead, Patricia McLaren, Bill Klein, Jr, Thomas J. DuBritz, Theresa Renz, Sr. Laura, DW, Gail Bean, Barbara Forbes, Trip & Jenna, Sharon Goodman, Harriet Reissmann.




We pray for all recently deceased, remembering especially Robert Krajnyak and MaryEllen Claesen, may they find eternal rest.

Please stop by our Prayer Corner near Reception to borrow books and CDs on many Catholic topics to deepen your faith formation and spiritual life.



Knights of Columbus
 A wonderful Catholic organization that helps support charitable causes throughout the year in our church as well as the community. To learn more please call Kevin Coco at 631-839-6333.

Columbiettes
 We are an organization of women from all backgrounds united by our Catholic Faith, the love of family, our country, and our commitment to helping others. We support charities and are involved in community activities as well as working with our brother Knights. If you would like to join, please contact Jennifer at 631-473-2900.

 **Online Weekly Giving**
 “Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.” Luke 6:38 This is a promise from God that He doesn't need a large amount, but will honor our generosity and obedience. Then, He can do a miracle to multiply and pour out blessings that overflow to our lives and others.

Our Parish Mission Statement: Formed by God’s word and nourished at the Eucharist, we strive to be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ by handing on the Catholic faith to our families and community and serving those in need.

OCIA Christian Initiation of Adults
 Are you an adult thinking of becoming part of the Catholic community and completing your sacraments? Contact Deacon Frank at deaconfrank@stgmajella.org or 631-473-2900.



 Facebook.com/stgmajella/

 Instagram.com/sgmparish

 Facebook.com/SGMthriftshop/

 Instagram.com/sgmthriftshop

 YouTube Channel-St. Gerard Majella Parish

SAINT GERARD MAJELLA
 ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



WE INVITE YOU TO REGISTER YOUR FAMILY WITH OUR PARISH

Are you new to our parish? Have you been participating in our parish but never registered? Do you need to update your contact information or add a family member?

Both registration or family update forms are available in our church office 631-473-2900 or on our website: www.stgmajella.org



Breaking Open the Word

Reflecting on next Sunday's Gospel before you come to Mass can bring so much more meaning to your experience of the Liturgy. Here's the Gospel for next Sunday. How does this Gospel touch your life?

August 20, 2023

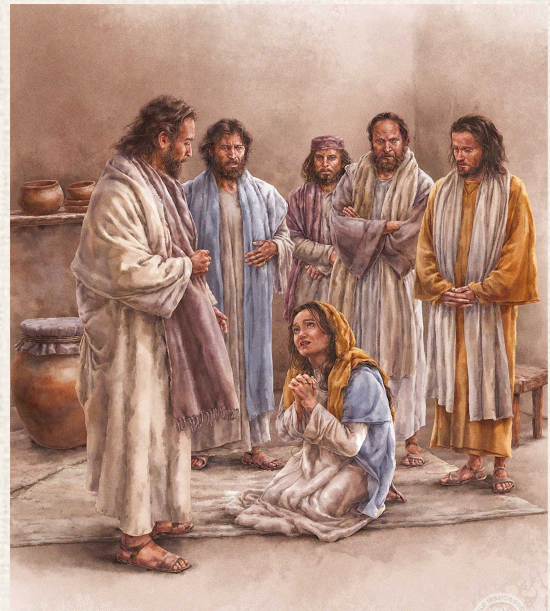
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mt 15:21-28

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her. Jesus' disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me." He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.

Reflection Questions

- What does Jesus mean when he says: "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel"?
- What does the woman mean when she says: "Even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters"?
- Were you surprised by Jesus' response to the Canaanite woman? Why or why not? What makes Jesus change his mind and heal the woman's daughter?
- Why does it matter to us that Jesus healed the woman's daughter?
- When we pray, God wants us to be as confident in his mercy. Spend time this week to identify the things that you most need from God.





Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

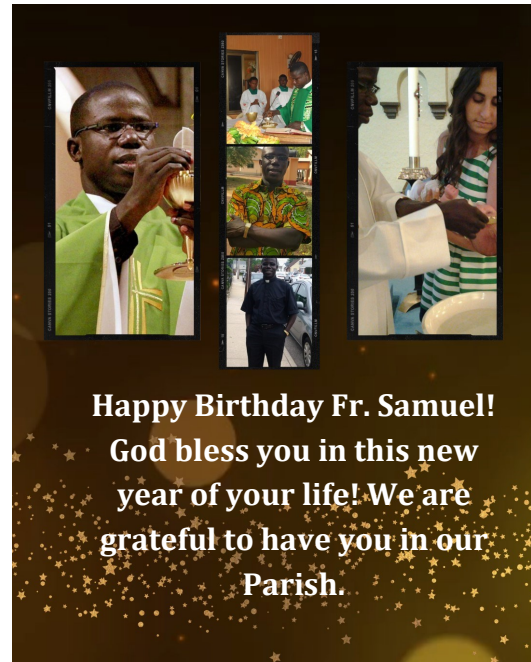
Holy Day of Obligation

Vigil- Monday, August 14th at 5pm

Tuesday, August 15th 9am, 12pm, 7pm

This significant feast day recalls the spiritual and physical departure of the Mother of God from the earth, when both her soul and her body were taken into the presence of God to reign as Queen of Heaven and earth.

The Parish Office will be closed on Aug. 15th.



Happy Birthday Fr. Samuel!
God bless you in this new year of your life! We are grateful to have you in our Parish.

Falls are the leading cause of injury for seniors

Falls Prevention Program

Learn how to prevent falls by attending this free Stepping On® workshop for active seniors.

Class details:

- Classes held two hours a week for seven weeks
- Led by a St. Charles Rehabilitation professional
- Interactive and highly participative
- Guest speakers specializing in exercise, vision, home safety and medications

Topics covered:

- Balance and strength exercises
- The role vision plays in balance
- How medications contribute to falls
- Staying safe out in the community
- Safe and protective footwear
- How to check your home for safety

*Stepping On is a model program that has resulted in a 31% reduction in falls for those who have completed the workshops.



Fall 2023 Offerings

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Classes held on Thursdays with the exception of Tuesday, October 10*

September 7, 14, 21 & 28

October 5, 10* & 12

The program will be held at:

St. Charles Hospital Wisdom Conference Center

To register, please call (631) 474-6797



Crafter Ministry

Every Monday at 2pm, the Crafter ministry meets in the Parish Hall to make items that will be sold at our Annual Christmas Festival. All are welcome to join this creative and fun ministry! No experience necessary. For those who cannot attend during the day, another group meets every other Thursday evening at 7pm. If you would like to join, please contact myself at 631- 828-1430/ drpart2@aol.com. Sincerely, Grace Surwilo, Christmas Festival Chairperson

The Diocese of Rockville Centre requires all church volunteers to participate in the Safe Environment Guidelines as established by the Charter for the Protection of Children/Young People (2002) and outlined in the Diocesan Child Protection Policy.

Requirements are as follows: Attend a Virtus: Protecting God's Children class, Undergo background screening., Sign the Diocesan Code of Conduct. Sign up at virtusonline.org.

Have you ever seen any statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary quite like this one? Our Lady of Knock, as she is known from this unusual apparition depicted above, was seen by residents of Knock, a small town beset by poverty in County Mayo, Ireland on August 21, 1879, outside of the Church of St. John the Baptist (www.knockshrine.ie). To commemorate the Feast of Our Lady of Knock, a Prayer Service will be held at Saint James R.C. Church in Setauket on Monday, August 21, 2023 at 07:00 p.m. in the Church. Please join us for this special prayer opportunity! To prepare for the Feast of Our Lady of Knock, please offer the Our Lady of Knock Novena prayers from Sunday, August 13 through Sunday, August 20. More information about Our Lady of Knock and the Novena Prayers are available on-line @ www.knockshrine.ie and knock-shrine.com/NovenaLeaflet.pdf www.StJamesSetauket.org

DONATION GUIDELINES

The Thrift Shop & Barn @ St. Gerard Majella Church
316 Terryville Road, Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776

We Are Happy To Accept Your New Or GENTLY USED:

Bedding/Linens	Jewelry & Accessories	Small Toys/Games/Puzzles
Clothing	Shoes & Boots	Vinyl Records/CDs
Home Décor	Small Appliances	Vintage Items
Housewares	Small Furniture	

DUE TO LACK OF STORAGE SPACE, NO CHRISTMAS ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR DONATION UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1, 2023.

Other Holiday/Seasonal Items Accepted IN-SEASON ONLY

We Are UNABLE To Accept:

Infant furniture or large toys	Mattresses/Box Springs	Formalwear
Pillows	Stuffed Animals	Wedding Gowns
Soft Cover Books	Men's & Women's Suits	VHS Players/Tapes
Textbooks	Fur Coats	Rugs

Donations Accepted: Mon. — Thur. 10— 3 & Fri. 10— 1

WE DO NOT OFFER PICKUP SERVICE FOR DONATIONS

We are UNABLE to accept: Sofas, Cribs, Infant Furniture, Large Hutches/China Cabinets, Entertainment Units, Dining Room Sets, Upholstered Furniture, Beds and/or Bed Frames

Our thrift shop and barn generate much-needed funds for the charitable works of our Parish while providing low-cost, high-quality clothing and household items for those in need. Thank you for your continued support.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
LUCK OF THE DRAW RAFFLE**



\$6,200 IN TOTAL PRIZES

Here's how it works.....

- Buy a ticket for \$50
- Weekly Tuesday drawings of \$100 total cash prizes – One \$50 and Two \$25 prizes
- Your ticket will automatically go back into the weekly drawing for multiple chances to win
- GRAND PRIZE IS \$1,000 – drawing held one year from start of raffle date
- MAXIMUM TICKETS SOLD = 300
- Need not be present to win. Your check will be mailed to you.

Tickets can be purchased now after all masses from any member of the St. Gerard Majella Knights of Columbus. Raffle proceeds will be used to continue our charitable works in the community.

Outreach Ministry Back to School Drive

The children in our community will require new supplies this Fall. We are asking for donations to be dropped off in the lobby during office hours or before any of the weekend Masses.



Pencils/Pens	Crayons/ Colored Pencils	Composition Notebooks
Markers	Pocket Folders	Spiral 1 & 3 Subject Notebooks
Highlighters	Hard & Soft Pencil Cases	Glue Sticks
Binders	Index Cards	Dry Erase Markers
Page Dividers	Scissors/ Rulers	Backpacks



We are also accepting \$10, \$20, and \$25 Gift cards (Wal-Mart, Target, Kohls, Dollar Tree, Staples). Thank you for your generosity!



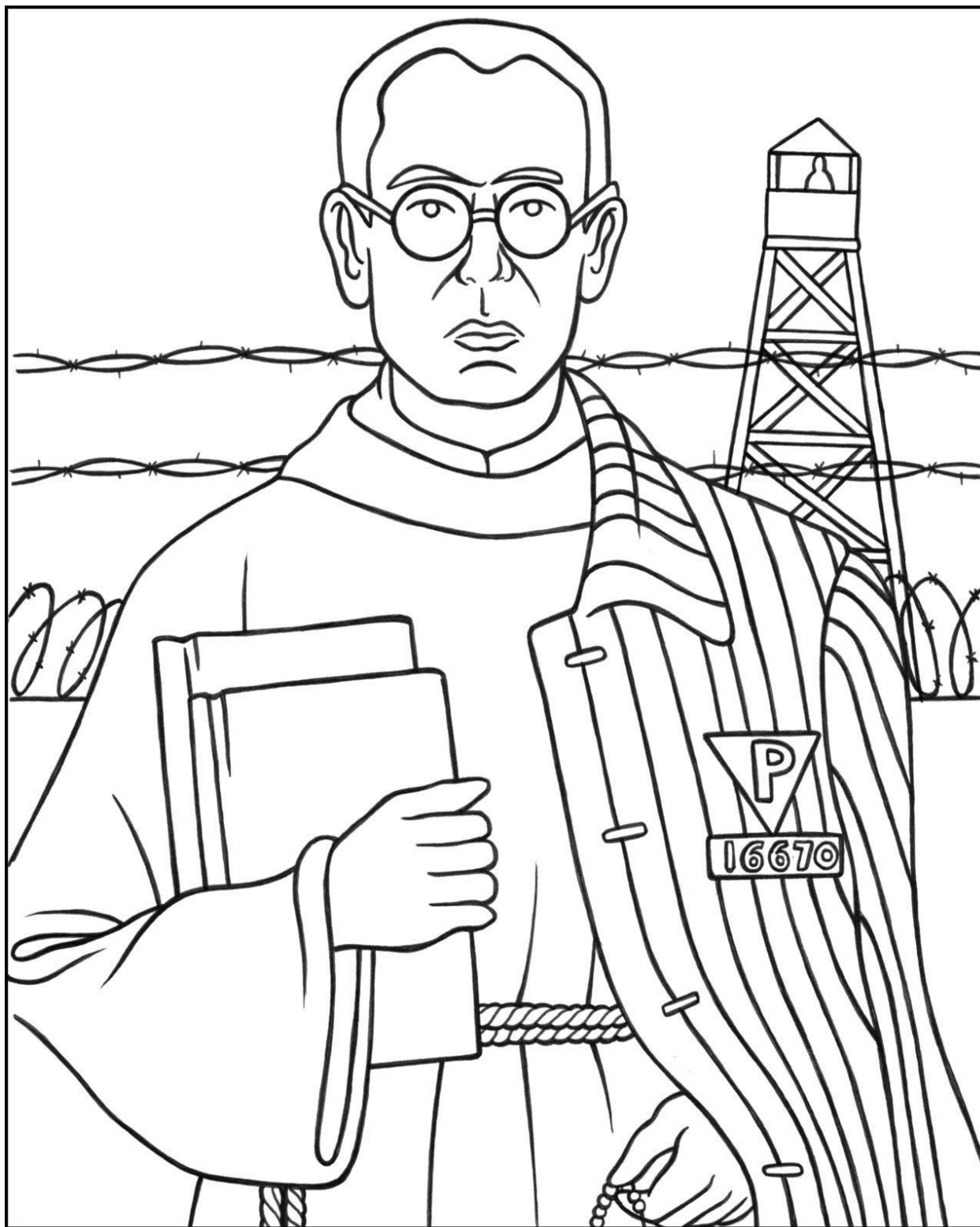
Sunday Gospel Activities



4th Glorious Mystery: The Assumption - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com All rights reserved.



Sunday Gospel Activities



Saint Maximilian Kolbe - © 2017 TheCatholicKid.com All rights reserved.

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