



# 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
Charles Pramnieks, Music Director	chuck@stgmajella.org
Deacon Carlito Roman, Pastoral Associate for Administration	deaconcarlito@stgmajella.org
Bob Paplin, Facilities Manager	rpaplin@stgmajella.org
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.



Sunday, August 27, 2023  
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time



# Eucharistic Miracles Throughout History

Sometimes the veil between heaven and earth flutters, and God allows us a physical glimpse into supernatural realities. Below are some of the many amazing Eucharistic miracles that provide evidence for the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

## Scientifically Confirmed

### LANCIANO, ITALY

In the eighth century, an Italian monk had doubts while saying Mass. As he said the words of consecration, the host visibly changed into cardiac tissue and the wine became physical blood. This miracle has been studied by modern scientists, who have concluded that there is no natural explanation. DNA indicates the flesh is from the middle east, matching the genetics and blood type recovered from the Shroud of Turin.

## The Waters Parted

### AVIGNON, FRANCE

The Chapel of the Holy Cross had the Eucharist exposed during the massive 1433 flood. The water in the church was 4ft high, but the center aisle remained completely dry, creating a clear path to the Eucharist.

## An Army, Defeated

### ASSISI, ITALY

In September of the year 1240, the Saracen Army stormed the convent of the Poor Ladies of San Damiano, now known as the Poor Clares. Though frail at the time, St. Clare carried the Blessed Sacrament before the army and cried out to Jesus for protection. The soldiers were struck with fear and retreated at the sight of the Sacred Host.

## A Living Person

### BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

On his 1995 visit to the United States, Pope St. John Paul II asked to visit the Blessed Sacrament at Saint Mary's Seminary chapel in Maryland. His security personnel brought in trained dogs to sweep the area. The dogs indicated that a living person was in the Tabernacle, and refused to leave!

## Even Fish Worship Him

### ALBORAYA-ALMÁCERA, SPAIN

In 1348, while a priest was crossing the river on his way to bring the Eucharist to some sick members of his community, he was knocked into the water by a wave, and the consecrated hosts were swept away! Horrified, he did not think they could be recovered. Some fishermen called to him from further down the river, where three fish suspended themselves almost completely out of the water, holding the precious hosts carefully in their mouths. One-by-one, they deposited the hosts back into the chalice and dove back into the water.



Scan to See the  
Full Exhibition!

Bl. Carlo Acutis dedicated his life to chronicling hundreds of approved Eucharistic Miracles on a website he built himself. Join us in asking his intercession for the National Eucharistic Revival, that we may be set ablaze with the same desire to make Jesus in the Eucharist better known and loved!

[eucharisticrevival.org](http://eucharisticrevival.org)

## *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](http://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

### ***Background on this Sunday's Gospel Reading***

It is important to read today's Gospel and next week's Gospel as two parts of a single story. These readings are a turning point in Matthew's Gospel. This week we hear Jesus name Simon Peter as the rock upon which he will build his Church. Next week we will hear Jesus call this same Simon Peter "Satan" when he reacts negatively to Jesus' prediction about his passion and death.

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about his identity. The disciples indicate that most people believe that Jesus is a prophet of Israel. Then Jesus asks his disciples who they believe that he is. Simon Peter answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God.

Jesus commends Simon Peter for this profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God. Because of Simon Peter's response, Jesus calls him the "rock" upon which Jesus will build the Church. This is a word play on the name Peter, which is the Greek word for "rock." Peter is then given special authority by Jesus, a symbolic key to the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter will play an important role in the early Christian community as a spokesperson and a leader.

In today's Gospel, Peter's recognition of Jesus' identity is credited to a revelation by God. This will contrast sharply with Jesus' rebuke of Peter in next week's Gospel. When Peter rejects Jesus' prediction of his passion and death, Peter is said to no longer be thinking as God does but as humans do.

The use of the term church in today's Gospel is one of only three such occurrences in Matthew's Gospel. Peter in this Gospel is being credited as the foundation for the Church, a privilege granted to him because of his recognition of Jesus' identity. The Church continues to be grounded in the faith that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Today's Gospel reminds us that the Church is built on the foundation of faith in Jesus Christ. Peter announces the core of our faith, that Jesus is God's only Son. The family, as the domestic church, has this same faith as its foundation.

(LoyolaPress.com)

# 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

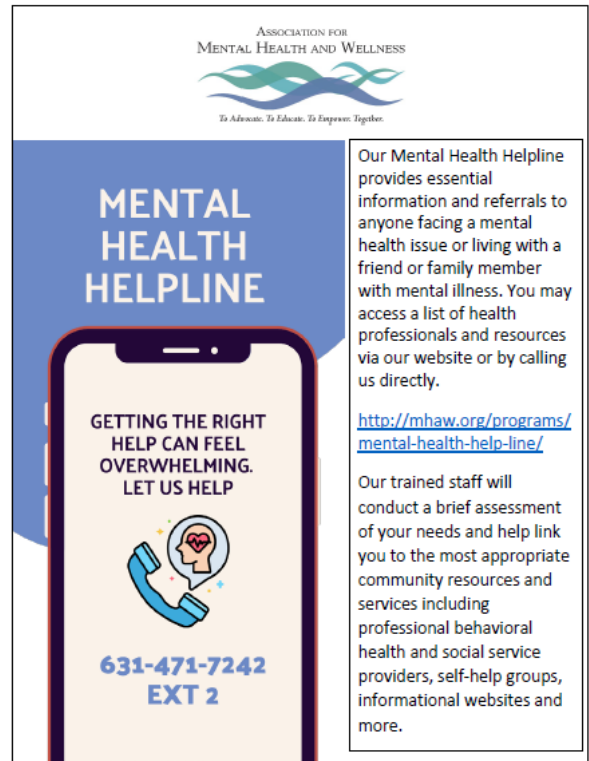
**Thursday: 4:00 – 5:30 PM**

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



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**MENTAL HEALTH HELPLINE**

GETTING THE RIGHT HELP CAN FEEL OVERWHELMING. LET US HELP

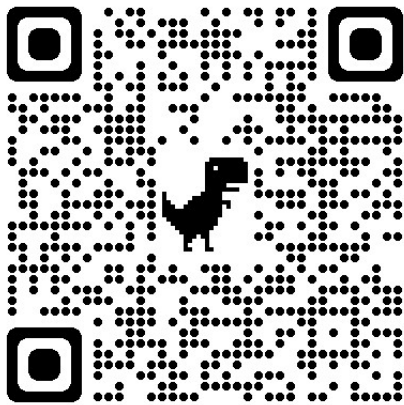
631-471-7242  
EXT 2

Our Mental Health Helpline provides essential information and referrals to anyone facing a mental health issue or living with a friend or family member with mental illness. You may access a list of health professionals and resources via our website or by calling us directly.

<http://mhaw.org/programs/mental-health-helpline/>

Our trained staff will conduct a brief assessment of your needs and help link you to the most appropriate community resources and services including professional behavioral health and social service providers, self-help groups, informational websites and more.

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 28 - September 3

**Monday, August 28 (St. Augustine)**

9:00am Mary Ellen Lenihan

**Tuesday, August 29 (St. John the Baptist)**

9:00am Carla Sciara

**Wednesday, August 30**

9:00am Gustave Lapolla, Eileen Phoel, RoseMarie Miano

**Thursday, August 31**

9:00am Daniel O'Hara

**Friday, September 1**

9:00am Patricia Monetti

**Saturday, September 2 (Blessed Virgin Mary)**

5:00pm Joseph Soriano, Marcy Dionisio, JoAnne Smith,  
MaryEllen Claesen, Julius J. Yenick,  
the Intentions of Daisy Alfuentes

**Sunday, September 3**

8:00am Ethel Bryant

10:00am Andrew Eichner

12:00pm Alida Rivera Cruz



*Fr. Samuel*

*Fr. Vitus*

*Fr. Samuel*

*Fr. Samuel*

### Stewardship Report

Last Week's Collection - \$7,404.00

### Weekly Memorials

Our Sanctuary Candle and Bread & Wine has been lovingly donated in memory of :

**Thomas Catalano Jr.**



### 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, Arline Guma, John Schlauraff, Genevieve Eannuzzi, Kellie Menno, Charles Ricottone, Baby Fulton, Ted Claesen, Connie Biscardi, Ronnie Pryor, Vinnie Surwilo, McKinney, 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, Barbara Forbes, Trip & Jenna, Sharon Goodman, Harriet Reissmann, Nicholas Traynor, Claire Reilly, Joan Francavilla, Alba Gosin, Leslie, Alex & Baby Sortz Clark.




We pray for all recently deceased, remembering especially Ann Gail Bean and Salvatore Filippi, may they find eternal rest and joy.

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](mailto:deaconfrank@stgmajella.org) or 631-473-2900.



 [Facebook.com/stgmajella/](https://Facebook.com/stgmajella/)

 [Instagram.com/sgmparish](https://Instagram.com/sgmparish)

 [Facebook.com/SGMthriftshop/](https://Facebook.com/SGMthriftshop/)

 [Instagram.com/sgmthriftshop](https://Instagram.com/sgmthriftshop)

 [YouTube Channel-St. Gerard Majella Parish](https://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](http://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?**

**September 3, 2023**

**Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Mt 16:21-27**

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct."

### **Reflection Questions**

- In this Gospel, how does Jesus want Peter to think?
- Why do you think Peter was so upset by what Jesus was saying?
- How is God's thinking different from Peter's thinking in this story?
- Do you sometimes forget to let God be God for you? That is, do you sometimes get discouraged because God doesn't act in our world in the ways that you expect?
- Pray this week that you will remember that God is always working for the world's salvation in ways that are beyond our human imaginings.



### **Weekly Memorials Now Available**

Would you like to have a loved one remembered? Give thanks for one of God's many Graces? Or offer up a prayer for someone in need? Please consider a Weekly Memorial. These are Memorials that are dedicated for an entire week, running from Monday to Sunday. Memorials are listed each week in the parish bulletin. Please contact our parish office to reserve a memorial for your intention. Memorials are available for:

Bread & Wine (\$30)

Sanctuary Lamp Candle (\$20)

### **Save the Date**

Our Parish will be hosting a spaghetti dinner on Friday, September 29th. This will be a fun night for the whole family so mark your calendar.

More details to follow!



### **Theology 101 with Fr. Roy Tvrdik**

Are you interested in learning about our Catholic Church? If so join Fr. Roy Tvrdik for an interesting journey into the history of our church. We meet on Tuesday evenings in the Infant Jesus school basement 7 ;30-9 PM We will be starting up again on September 12. We hope you can join us on our journey. Come as your schedule permits. All are welcome, free will offering accepted.

Many may be familiar with the RCIA program, which was renamed OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults). OCIA enables those who were never baptized or have no formal faith background, those who were baptized in another Christian church who would like to become Catholic, and Catholics who never received all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Communion and Confirmation) to receive sacraments and be fully initiated into the Catholic faith. It is the work of the Holy Spirit that brings people to OCIA, but often the Holy Spirit works through the encouragement of a friend or family member. If you know someone who is interested in the Catholic faith or in completing their Sacraments please have them reach out to Deacon Frank([deaconfrank@stgmajella.org](mailto:deaconfrank@stgmajella.org)).

### **The Catholic University of America Collection**

Next weekend, the diocese will be taking up the National Collection for The Catholic University of America. Catholic University is a national research university with over 5,700 undergraduate and graduate students in more than 250 academic programs in the heart of Washington, D.C. By giving to the collection, you are supporting both future Catholic leaders, religious and lay, who are being formed by an exceptional, Faith-inspired education and the University's various research and training initiatives that support dioceses and parishes in responding to the most pressing needs of their faithful. The Catholic Project - an initiative that brings together clergy and laity to address the challenges that the Catholic Church faces in the U.S. contributing education, formation, research, events, and media, a master's program in Ecclesial Administration and Management, and a credentialing program that prepares recent graduates to serve as campus ministers are a few examples how the University is serving the Church and nation. Please give generously. Support the collection at: [futurecatholicleaders.givecatholictogether.org](http://futurecatholicleaders.givecatholictogether.org).

### **Parish Blood Drive**



This Sunday, August 27th before and after all Masses.

Please give the gift of life by donating blood.

Thank you!

It's that time of year again!



Calling all new and previous members of our St. Gerard's Youth Choir.... We are BACK! We will have our first rehearsal September 13 at 6pm. All are welcome! We have rehearsals every Wednesday at 6pm in the main church. If you have any questions, please contact Catherine (631)830-3388. Can't wait for another blessed and fun year!



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# Plants Have Been Shown To...

Boost your mood, productivity, concentration and creativity

Reduce stress and fatigue

Clean indoor air by absorbing toxins, increasing humidity and producing oxygen

Add life to sterile spaces, offer privacy and reduce noise levels

Be therapeutic to care for

# Plants Make A House A Home

Thanks to our dedicated volunteer, Jean Hughes' "green thumb" and ability to propagate plants, we often have beautiful houseplants for sale at our thrift shop for a fraction of what you would pay at a "big box" store. While she is a gifted gardener, we often do not have enough pots to accommodate her beautiful creations...

## Decorative, Indoor Ceramic Plant Pots Needed!

If you have any new or gently used ceramic pots you are able to donate, please consider donating them to our thrift shop. They can be brought directly to the store during business hours (Monday-Thursday 10-3:30; Friday 10-2) or dropped off after mass next weekend. In addition, we would appreciate donations of small bags of indoor potting soil.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!





# Liturgy and Life



**A**t its heart, the Eucharist is a sacrament of communion, bringing us closer to God and to our brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ. If we live the fruits of the Eucharist in our daily lives, we will fill our families and our communities with the life-giving qualities that the Liturgy brings: hospitality, concern for the poor and vulnerable, self-offering, and thanksgiving.

An ancient saying in the Church reads “*lex orandi, lex credendi*,” meaning that the law of prayer is the law of faith. More loosely: as we pray, so we believe. To that we might add *lex vivendi*, meaning that as we pray, so we believe, and so we live. In the third edition of the *Roman Missal*, the bishops and translators took great care to ensure that the prayers accurately and fully reflect the mysteries of our faith. Thus, the words that we pray in each liturgical celebration help to form and strengthen our understanding of the faith.

However, if the effects of the Liturgy stop at the doors of the church, we have not made our prayer and our faith part of our law of living. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) teaches that the Eucharist helps us to grow in union with Christ, avoid sin, increase in charity, strengthen communion with our brothers and sisters, and recognize Christ in the poorest and most vulnerable members of society (see CCC, nos. 1391-1397). But what does that mean in daily life?

## LIVING A LIFE OF PRAYER

Our prayer lives should not be limited to a single hour on Sunday mornings. In fact, the richer our prayer lives are throughout the week, the more fully we will be able to enter into the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. Here are some ways to make your daily life more prayerful:

- ✦ Try attending daily Mass at least once a week. Your parish may have an early morning Mass, or a church near your job may offer a lunchtime Mass.
- ✦ Stop in a church before or after work or on your lunch hour for fifteen minutes of quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.
- ✦ Make it a practice to say grace before every meal—even if you are eating in the car.
- ✦ Schedule time for family prayer at least once a week. This prayer can be as simple as saying the Our Father or a decade of the Rosary together.
- ✦ Take time during the week to read or listen to the readings for the upcoming Sunday. The readings are available online (in print and audio) at [www.usccb.org/bible](http://www.usccb.org/bible).
- ✦ Begin your day with a brief prayer of thanksgiving to God, offering your day to him.
- ✦ End your day with an examination of conscience, looking at your successes and failures in what you have done or what you have failed to do. If you are aware of serious sin, receive the Sacrament of Penance before you receive Holy Communion again.

## LIVING A LIFE OF LOVING SERVICE

Celebrating the eucharistic Liturgy and receiving Holy Communion should strengthen us to conform our lives more closely to the example of Christ. As Jesus knelt before his Apostles to wash their feet (see Jn 13), giving them an example of humble service, so must we who bear the name Christian live our lives in service to our brothers and sisters.

To help us in this endeavor, Church Tradition has identified works of mercy. These fourteen practices demand great sacrifice and generosity, but they also draw us more deeply into conformity with the Lord. Focusing on one of these works each week may be a practical way to integrate them into our personal, family, and parish lives.

### Corporal Works of Mercy

- ✦ Feeding the hungry
- ✦ Sheltering the homeless
- ✦ Clothing the naked
- ✦ Visiting the sick
- ✦ Visiting the imprisoned
- ✦ Giving drink to the thirsty
- ✦ Burying the dead

## Spiritual Works of Mercy

- ✠ Converting sinners
- ✠ Instructing the ignorant
- ✠ Advising the doubtful
- ✠ Comforting the sorrowful
- ✠ Bearing wrongs patiently
- ✠ Forgiving injuries
- ✠ Praying for the living and dead

Our parishes and civil communities offer numerous opportunities to live out these works, from assisting with religious education classes or volunteering at a food bank to encouraging our legislators to put forward policies that protect the life and dignity of each person. As we grow in conformity to Christ, we see more clearly that all people are made in the image and likeness of God (see Gn 1:26) and so have an inherent value and dignity. By helping to build a more just and compassionate society, we act as Christ's Body in the world.

## IT ALL COMES BACK TO THE EUCHARIST

Living the Christian life is not easy. "What material food produces in our bodily life, Holy Communion wonderfully achieves in our spiritual life. Communion with the flesh of the risen Christ . . . preserves, increases, and renews the life of grace received at Baptism. This growth in Christian life needs the nourishment of Eucharistic Communion, the bread for our pilgrimage" (CCC, no. 1392).

And so, each Sunday, we return to the eucharistic table, bringing all our efforts of the previous week, the good and the bad, the successes and the failures, the

joys and the sorrows. We gather with our brothers and sisters in the Lord and, together with our priest, we join these efforts to the perfect sacrifice of Christ, asking that God will receive what we offer back to him in humble thanksgiving. The *Catechism* explains it as follows:

The Church which is the Body of Christ participates in the offering of her Head. With him, she herself is offered whole and entire. She unites herself to his intercession with the Father for all men. In the Eucharist the sacrifice of Christ becomes also the sacrifice of the members of his Body. The lives of the faithful, their praise, sufferings, prayer, and work, are united with those of Christ and with his total offering, and so acquire a new value. Christ's sacrifice present on the altar makes it possible for all generations of Christians to be united with his offering. (CCC, no. 1368)

Then, strengthened by Holy Communion, we are once again sent forth into the world to glorify the Lord in our lives.

## REFERENCE

*Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2000.

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# Sunday Gospel Activities



St. John the Baptist - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com All rights reserved.



# Sunday Gospel Activities



Saint Monica - [TheCatholicKid.com](http://TheCatholicKid.com)

*Bryant*  
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