



# St. Gerard Majella

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



“I am the living bread that came down from heaven.  
Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the  
bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

John 6:51

*Sunday, June 2nd, 2024*

*The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ*

## ***The Ratification of the New and Eternal Covenant***

***By Deacon Frank Dell'Aglio***

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. It also marks the end of a two-year Eucharistic revival within the Catholic Church in America. This Eucharistic revival was principally initiated to draw the Catholic faithful into a greater awareness of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Not a symbol or a representation of Christ but rather His very-Self made present in His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity!

Sadly, many Catholics don't believe in this important Church teaching. This despite the fact, that the Catholic Church has always held, and will always hold to this teaching, which is so central to our faith. Critically, this teaching has been handed down to us by the Apostles, who themselves received it directly from Christ our Lord!

The Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ is annually celebrated by the Church to enliven our belief in and worship of this Sacrament. Thus, to likewise impart to the faithful, a greater understanding of Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist.

Our first reading at this year's Solemnity celebration comes from the Book of Exodus. It relates to the ratification of the Mosaic covenant between the Lord and His people, the Israelites. This reading focuses on four distinct actions taken by the Israelites at Sinai during the ratification process of this covenant.

The first of these actions was the acceptance by the Israelites of all the ordinances of the Lord that Moses had conveyed to them. The second of these actions was the erection of an altar and twelve pillars symbolizing the presence of God and the twelve tribes of Israel, who were the parties to this covenant.

The third action involved the sacrificing of young bulls by the Israelites as a peace offering to the Lord. Finally, the fourth action involved the sprinkling of some of the bulls' blood on the Israelites while Moses said, "*This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words of His.*" This sprinkling of blood being the visible sign chosen by God to have His people ratify this covenant. Their offspring would become the inheritors of this covenant.

Sadly, down through the centuries, the Israelites would knowingly and repeatedly break this covenant with the Lord.

In chapter 31 of the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah, God revealed to the Prophet that, despite their ancestors' unfaithfulness to the Mosaic covenant, He would make a new and eternal covenant with His people.

This new covenant which the Lord foretold would be given "after those days" would, "Place my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people...all shall know Me, for I will forgive their iniquity and no longer remember their sin."

But how would God choose to fulfill this new and eternal covenant and, just as importantly, how would He elect to have His people ratify their acceptance of and participation in it?

The answer to the first part of this question is by sending His Only Begotten Son, who would become incarnate. By virtue of his incarnation, Christ could offer His Body as a sacrificial offering pleasing to God His Father, in atonement for our sins. This was no mere body for it contained within it Christ's divinity! Thus, His sacrifice warrants infinite merit for and on behalf of His disciples' salvation. And thus His Blood was poured forth upon the cross.

But in what manner was Christ's disciples to ratify their acceptance of and participation in this new and eternal covenant? The answer is by eating his Body and drinking His Blood!

Now let us compare the four actions that comprised the Israelites' ratification of the Mosaic covenant which I have outlined above, with the corresponding actions taken by Christ's disciples in ratifying their acceptance of the new and eternal covenant.

Recall that the first of these actions was the acceptance by the Israelites of all the ordinances of the Lord that Moses had just conveyed to them. Well in a like manner, participants in this new covenant must first be baptized and become full members of Christ's Body, His Church, by accepting all of her teachings which have come down to us from the Apostles.

The second action was to erect an altar and twelve pillars signifying the participants to the Mosaic covenant. Likewise, in the new covenant an altar is erected, and in lieu of twelve pillars that signify the twelve tribes of Israel, our spiritual and physical presence is necessary and provided for in the church. Thus both parties to this new covenant are present!

The third action was the sacrifice of bulls as a peace offering to the Lord. Let me be clear, no amount of animal blood can atone for sins then or now. This action in the Mosaic covenant was to imbue His people in the knowledge that sacrifice, by the shedding of blood, was in fact necessary for the atonement of sins.

This animal sacrifice was a foreshadowing of the new and eternal covenant that would be fulfilled by Christ's sacrifice on Calvary. Thus, enabling the promise made by God *"for I will forgive their iniquity and no longer remember their sin"* to come to fruition.

Finally, the fourth action involved the sprinkling of some of the bulls' blood on the Israelites. In our Gospel reading at this year's Solemnity celebration, Jesus is *quoted as saying, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many."* In the first part of this phrase, Jesus uses the very same words spoken by Moses when sprinkling the Israelites with blood. Though Jesus personalizes it by adding the word *"my"* blood.

He is conveying to His disciples what He is about to do in order for the fulfillment of the new and eternal covenant to take place. By further instructing His disciples *"to do this in remembrance of me"* Jesus is conveying to His disciples how their ratification of this new and eternal covenant is to occur.

In the new covenant blood is not sprinkled upon us. Rather we consume Christ's Body and Blood! Not a symbol or a representation of Christ but rather His very-Self made present in His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity! For nothing can so fortify us spiritually for our journey through life as His disciples than His Precious Body and Blood!

# “Take; this is my body”

—Mark 14:22

The presence of Christ in the Eucharist is real, true, and substantial.

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“Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love.” (St. John Paul II, *Dominicae cenae*, no. 3)

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“It is called: Eucharist, because it is an action of thanksgiving to God.” (CCC, no. 1328)

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Eucharist “makes present the one sacrifice of Christ the Savior.” (CCC, no. 1330)

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## ***The Sacrament of the Eucharist: A Holy & Sacred Celebration***



The Eucharist is holy, a sacred celebration that brings us into close contact with the holiness of God. In the Eucharist the holiness of God is present to us in a unique way. We are made holy by the very act of participating in the Eucharist. Everything associated with the Eucharist is blessed and holy. The Eucharistic community is holy, as it makes the Lord present in its very gathering and then rejoices in the Lord's presence in the Eucharist. By receiving the Body and Blood of the Lord, we become one body, a holy offering to the Father for the salvation of the world. The priest is holy, for through his prayer in our name, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Through him the sacrificial offering is made, and the community is united as one holy family. The place in which we gather is holy, because the church building is consecrated to the worship of God and the service of the community. The day of the Lord is holy, because the followers of Jesus have been called to keep Sunday a special day of Eucharistic prayer and rest in the name of the Lord. (Loyola Press)

The Church celebrates the Solemnity of Corpus Christi Sunday on June 2nd this year. The feast dates back to the 13th century when Pope Urban IV instituted it in 1264. It commemorates and emphasizes the belief in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. The term "Corpus Christi" is Latin for "Body of Christ." Holy devotion to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament is a common thread in the lives of the saints. We can look to their example and grow in our own relationship with Christ through the Body and Blood of our Lord.

Here are nine quotes from the saints on the Holy Eucharist:

*"A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament." -St. Padre Pio*

*"How many of you say: I should like to see His face, His garments, His shoes. You do see Him, you touch Him, you eat Him. He gives Himself to you, not only that you may see Him, but also to be your food and nourishment." - St. John Chrysostom*

*"God dwells in our midst, in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar." - St. Maximilian Kolbe*

*"Jesus has made Himself the Bread of Life to give us life. Night and day, He is there. If you really want to grow in love, come back to the Eucharist, come back to that Adoration." -St. Teresa of Calcutta*

*"The courage and strength that are in me are not of me, but of Him who lives in me – it is the Eucharist." -St. Faustina*

*"One of the most admirable effects of Holy Communion is to preserve the soul from sin, and to help those who fall through weakness to rise again. It is much more profitable, then, to approach this divine Sacrament with love, respect, and confidence, than to remain away through an excess of fear and scrupulosity." - St. Ignatius of Loyola*

*"If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion." - St. Maximilian Kolbe*

*"Do you realize that Jesus is there in the tabernacle expressly for you - for you alone? He burns with the desire to come into your heart...don't listen to the demon, laugh at him, and go without fear to receive the Jesus of peace and love..." -St. Therese of Lisieux*

*"Always remain close to the Catholic Church, because it alone can give you true peace, since it alone possesses Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, the true Prince of Peace." - St. Padre Pio*

*(©Church Pop)*

## *Mass Intentions and Presider Schedule for the Week of June 3 – June 9*

**Monday, June 3 (St. Lwanga)**

9:00am Umberto DeCarlo

**Tuesday, June 4**

9:00am Edward Allen

**Wednesday, June 5 (St. Boniface)**

9:00am Msgr. John Rowan, Msgr. John Heinlein,  
Judy Daly

**Thursday, June 6**

9:00am For All Priests

**Friday, June 7 (Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus)**

9:00am Anthony & Marilyn DuBritz

**Saturday, June 8 (Blessed Virgin Mary)**

5:00pm Russell & Madeline Larson, Howard Wilson,  
Marcia Napoleon, William Byrnes, John Salajka,  
Angela & Joseph Gadalata



**Sunday, June 9**

8:00am Jennifer Antonello

10:00am The Living & Deceased Members of St. Gerard's  
Knights of Columbus

12:00pm Pat Gomez

Fr. Greg

Fr. Vitus  
Fr. Samuel

Fr. Greg

### **Stewardship Report**

Last Week's Collection - To Be Announced

### *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, Kellie Menno, Charles Ricottone, Ted Claesen, Connie Biscardi, Ronnie Pryor, Vinnie Surwilo, Barbara Klein-Croner, Garrett Duffy, Hunter Reyes, Barbara & Pat Consorte, Marie Auld, Erin Whitehead, Bill Klein, Barbara Forbes, Thomas Hayes, Carole Fackina, Dani Floyd, Maureen Valentine, Karen Strahmann, Nancy Mulvihill, Linda Tesone, Alexa Mastando, Michael Bruton, Jack Grob, Gerard Healy, Donna DiBiagio, Denise Shaw, Thomas Foley, Richard Zwycewicz Jr., Brenda Fort, Guiliana Roccisano, Robert Mutschler, Barbara Riley, Kathy Dailey, Genevieve Eannuzzi, Alexa Mastando, Debbie Esposito Arpino, Leonardo Alfuentes, Bonnie Forbes, Jeanette Prossi, Cody Family, Philip Spucci, Debra Hamera, Dennis Myles, Baby Camden Miller, Nilda Menendez, Drew Flynn, Baby Julianni, Samantha Brandt, Katie Ankner.

### *Weekly Memorials*



Our Sanctuary Candle has been lovingly donated in honor of:

***Joseph Marchese***

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



***Daniel Wright***

We pray for all recently deceased, remembering Fr. Joseph D'Angelo and Msgr. Dan Picciano 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.



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**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. If you would like to join, please contact Jennifer at 631-473-2900.

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.

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[YouTube Channel-St. Gerard Majella Parish](https://YouTube.com/St.GerardMajellaParish)

**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?**

**June 9, 2024**

**Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Mk 3:20-25**

Jesus came home with his disciples. Again the crowd gathered, making it impossible for them even to eat. When his relatives heard of this they set out to seize him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." The scribes who had come from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "By the prince of demons he drives out demons."

Summoning them, he began to speak to them in parables, "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand; that is the end of him. But no one can enter a strong man's house to plunder his property unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder the house. Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin." For they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

His mother and his brothers arrived. Standing outside they sent word to him and called him. A crowd seated around him told him, "Your mother and your brothers and your sisters are outside asking for you." But he said to them in reply, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

### Reflection Questions

- How are the demands of Jesus' ministry described? What did Jesus' family decide to do and why? How is the Lord's work sometimes opposed by well-meaning family members or friends?
- What great promise did Jesus give? What warning did Jesus give and why? What sin is unforgivable and why?
- What are some ways you can choose to do God's will in your daily life?
- Ask God this week to give you the courage and faith to do His will each day and show by your actions that you choose to follow Him.



## Father's Day Novena



Pick up the Mass Remembrance form/Father's Day card packet in the front office or on the table in the church lobby. The name of your loved one will be remembered at Mass.

St. Joseph, pray for all fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, and father figures, both living and deceased. Amen

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### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS:

Good Shepherd Hospice Bereavement Services are opened to anyone in the community who has experienced a loss through death at no charge.

Upcoming Bereavement Support Groups, led by a Bereavement Specialist, include:

**Spousal/Partner Bereavement Support Group** - Good Shepherd Hospice Inpatient Center, 200 Belle Terre Road, Port Jefferson

Tuesday Early Evenings - July 9 – August 27 / 5:00PM-6:30PM Registration Required. Call Maribeth Mckeever, LCSW-R @ (631) 828-7628

**Adult Loss of Parent or Sibling Bereavement Support Group** - Good Shepherd Hospice Inpatient Center Tuesday Afternoons - July 9 – August 27 / 2:15PM-3:45PM Registration Required. Call Maribeth Mckeever, LCSW-R @ (631) 828-7628

DRVC Eucharistic Revival-  
drvceucharisticrevival.com

Eucharistic Revival-www.eucharisticrevival.org

Busted Halo - www.bustedhalo.com

Word on Fire - www.wordonfire.org

The Augustine Institute -

www.augustineinstitute.org Ascension Press-

www.ascensionpress.org

Loyola Press-www.loyolapress.org

The Augustine Institute -

www.augustineinstitute.org

https://learn.eucharisticrevival.org/for-kids

Our Sunday Visitor Podcasts-  
revive.osvpodcasts.com

https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/prayer-partners

https://www.usccb.org/eucharist

https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/

***THE LITANY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST***

Lord, have mercy Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy Lord, have mercy

Jesus, the Most High have mercy on us

Jesus, the holy One have mercy on us

Jesus, Word of God have mercy on us

Jesus, only Son of the Father have mercy on us

Jesus, Son of Mary have mercy on us

Jesus, crucified for us have mercy on us

Jesus, risen from the dead have mercy on us

Jesus, reigning in glory have mercy on us

Jesus, coming in glory have mercy on us

Jesus, our Lord have mercy on us

Jesus, our hope have mercy on us

Jesus, our peace have mercy on us

Jesus, our Savior have mercy on us

Jesus, our salvation have mercy on us

Jesus, our resurrection have mercy on us

Jesus, Judge of all have mercy on us

Jesus, Lord of the Church have mercy on us

Jesus, Lord of creation have mercy on us

Jesus, Lover of all have mercy on us

Jesus, life of the world have mercy on us

Jesus, freedom for the imprisoned have mercy on us

Jesus, joy of the sorrowing have mercy on us

Jesus, giver of the Spirit have mercy on us

Jesus, giver of good gifts have mercy on us

Jesus, source of new life have mercy on us

Jesus, Lord of life have mercy on us

Jesus, eternal high priest have mercy on us

Jesus, priest and victim have mercy on us

Jesus, true Shepherd have mercy on us

Jesus, true light have mercy on us

Jesus, bread of heaven have mercy on us

Jesus, bread of life have mercy on us

Jesus, bread of thanksgiving have mercy on us

Jesus, life-giving bread have mercy on us

Jesus, holy manna have mercy on us

Jesus, new covenant have mercy on us

Jesus, food for everlasting life have mercy on us

Jesus, food for our journey have mercy on us

Jesus, holy banquet have mercy on us

Jesus, true sacrifice have mercy on us

Jesus, perfect sacrifice have mercy on us

Jesus, eternal sacrifice have mercy on us

Jesus, divine Victim have mercy on us

Jesus, Mediator of the new covenant have mercy on us

Jesus, mystery of the altar have mercy on us

Jesus, mystery of faith have mercy on us

Jesus, medicine of immortality have mercy on us

Jesus, pledge of eternal glory have mercy on us

Jesus, Lamb of God,

you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us

Jesus, Bearer of our sins,

you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us

Jesus, Redeemer of the world,

you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us

Christ, hear us Christ, hear us

Christ, graciously hear us Christ, graciously hear us

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer. Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

## The History of Corpus Christi (Ascension Press)

*Here beneath these signs are hidden / Priceless things to sense forbidden; / Signs, not things are all we see: / Blood is poured and flesh is broken, / Yet in either wondrous token / Christ entire we know to be.*

### *Lauda Sion, the Sequence for Corpus Christi*

Catholic tradition has often referred to the Eucharist as “the bread of angels.” While true in a certain sense, the Eucharist may more appropriately be called “the bread of God.” For the sacrament of the Most Holy Body and Blood comes from God, contains God, and transforms into God those who eat it.

First, the Eucharist comes from God. He is the “divine baker and vintner,” as it were. Man has had “food issues” from the beginning, ever since Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden tree. Since then, the descendants of Adam have sought to fill themselves on food that does not satisfy and slake their thirst on drink that does not quench. Part of the Father’s “diet plan” for his children begins as the Chosen People journey through the desert. Responding to his people’s wish for the food of their former days, the Lord provides manna:

“In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning dew lay round about the camp. And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as hoarfrost on the ground.” Exodus 16:13–14

The Lord also gave water to accompany them along their way to the Promised Land (see Exodus 17:6).

Later, with the coming of Christ, God gives us true bread and true drink—the very Body and Blood of his Son. The Father nourishes us with healthy food and drink by sending his Spirit “like the dewfall” upon mere bread and wine. As God’s new People of God, the Church, we eat divine Bread and imbibe divine Drink on our journey to the “new Promised Land,” heaven.

The Eucharist sustains us on our way because it truly is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus. Our belief that we are consuming God himself would be un-believable if God himself, in the person of Jesus, had not asserted it:

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven ... [M]y flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.” John 6:51, 55; proclaimed in the Gospel of this solemnity during Year A

Jesus confirms his Eucharistic words at the Last Supper:

“This is my body which is for you ... This chalice is the new covenant in my blood.”

1 Corinthians 11:24–25; the second reading at Mass during Year C; also Mark 14, the Gospel reading for Year B

The substance of the Eucharist—that which stands beneath it and fills it with reality—is God himself. “What could be more wonderful than this?” asks St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) in the Office of Readings for the day.

Indeed, the Church expresses her wonder about the substance of the Eucharist in the Opening Prayer (Collect) of the Mass for this Solemnity. Unlike nearly every Collect throughout the liturgical year that is addressed to God the Father, the Opening Prayer on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi addresses the Eucharistic Christ himself:

“O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption.”

But we hear this prayer regularly throughout the year as well. The Church prays this same text prior to Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament that concludes Eucharistic Adoration—she speaks directly to Christ, present before her.

Finally, we know that the Sacrament of the Eucharist is the food of God because of its remarkable effect upon those who receive it worthily. In short: we become what we eat—we become God. St. Thomas Aquinas not only contributed great philosophical and theological insights to our understanding of the Eucharist, but he also penned beautiful poetry celebrating the “sacrament of sacraments,” including *Lauda Sion* (“Laud, O Sion”), *O Salutaris Hostia* (“O Saving Victim”), *Pange Lingua* (“Sing, my Tongue,” a hymn the last two verses of which are sung as the *Tantum Ergo*), and *Sacris solemniis* (from which the term “bread of angels” comes). It is no wonder, then, that his words are heard throughout this solemnity.

The Office of Readings, for example, opens with one of his most remarkable lines:

“Since it was the will of God’s only-begotten Son that men should share in his divinity, he assumed our nature in order that by becoming man he might make men gods.”

Make men gods? But was this not the essence of the sin of our first parents— wanting to be gods? The central difference between their desire for divinization and ours depends wholly on who is doing the divinizing: Our first parents sought divinity according to their own designs, but our divinization comes from God’s own will and power. And the Eucharist is one of his means to divinize us, to make us, as St. Thomas says, “gods.”

Like St. Thomas, St. Augustine also saw the human and divine dynamic at work in the Eucharist. “I am the food of grown men,” St. Augustine hears the Eucharistic Christ tell him. “Grow, and you shall feed upon me; nor shall you change me, like the food of your flesh, into yourself, but you shall be changed into me.” (Cited in Pope Benedict XVI’s *Sacramentum Caritatis* (February 22, 2007), 70.) We really, truly become what we eat! As Pope Benedict XVI says, by the Eucharist we become blood relations, “consanguine,” with Jesus:

“The blood of Jesus is his love, in which divine life and human life have become one.”

Benedict XVI, homily given at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 2009

Thus the “bread of angels” is first and foremost the “bread of God.” It comes from him, it is filled with him, and it transforms in him all who receive it worthily. In this way, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi provides for us an opportunity to fill up our lives with God even as we recognize that we need no longer be fed up with the emptiness created by our fallen nature.



# Having a Garage Sale?



Please consider donating your “leftovers”  
to The Thrift Shop & Barn  
@ St. Gerard Majella Church!  
Open M-TH 10 to 4; F 10-2

The Thrift Shop & Barn operate as part of the  
Outreach Ministry at St. Gerard Majella Church.  
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# St. Gerard Majella Knights of Columbus Love an Animal Shelter Drive

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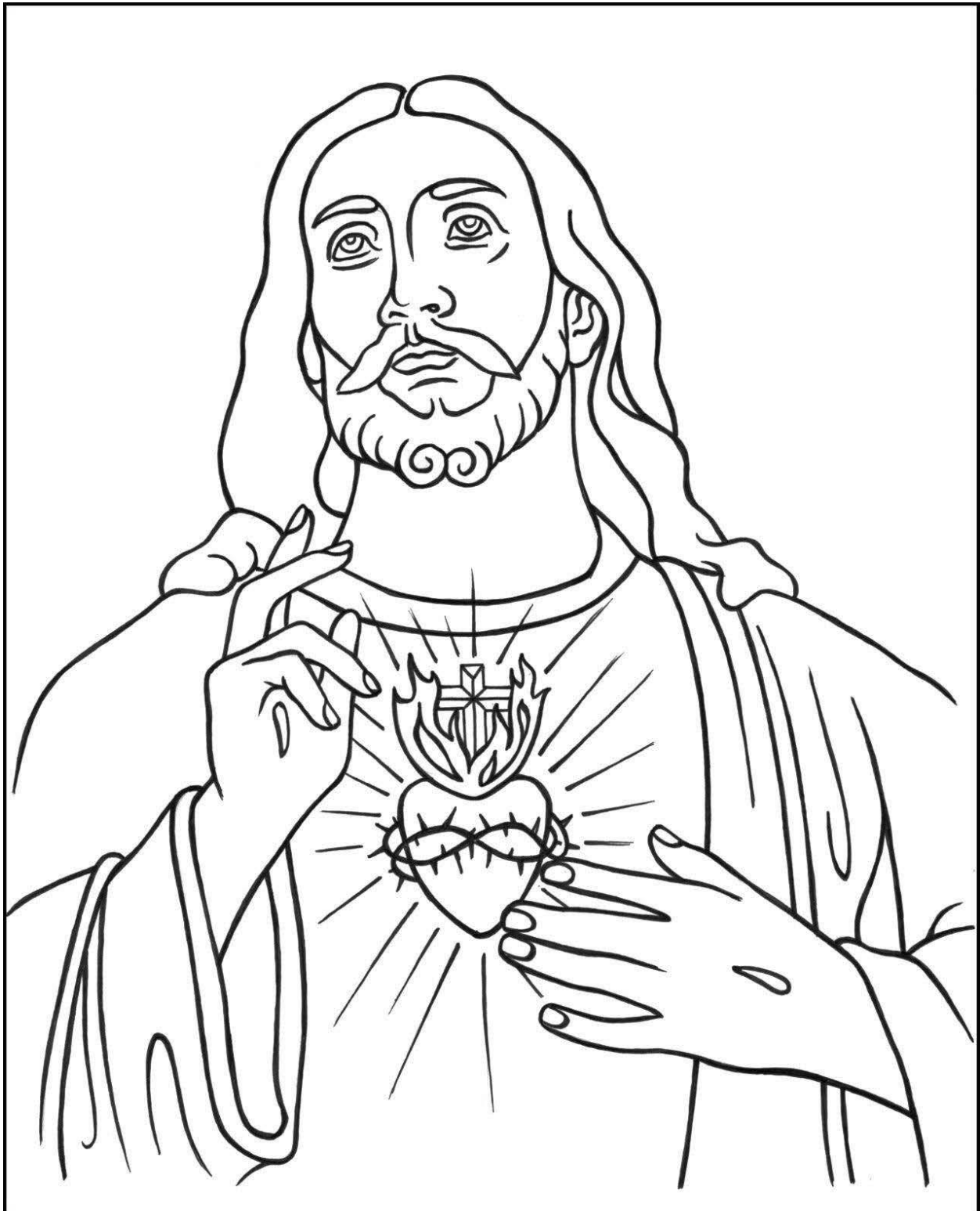
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# Sunday Gospel Activities



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