



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

Pastor

Rev. Gregory Rannazzisi frgreg@stgmajella.org

Parochial Vicars

Rev. Frank Grieco
Rev. Sijomon Varghese frsijomon@infantjesus.org

In Residence

Rev. Matthew Udobi
Rev. Vitus Ezeiruaku

Deacons

Deacon Pat Gerace deaconpat@infantjesus.org
Deacon Frank DellAglio deaconfrank@stgmajella.org
Deacon John Grebe deaconjohn@stgmajella.org
Deacon Carlito Roman deaconcarlito@stgmajella.org

Parish Trustees

Art Reyling & Ralph Carusillo

Pastoral Staff

Dcn. Carlito Roman, Pastoral Associate for Administration
Chuck Pramnieks, Music Director chuck@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

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 meets with a member of the clergy.

Parish Outreach Hours

Food Pantry

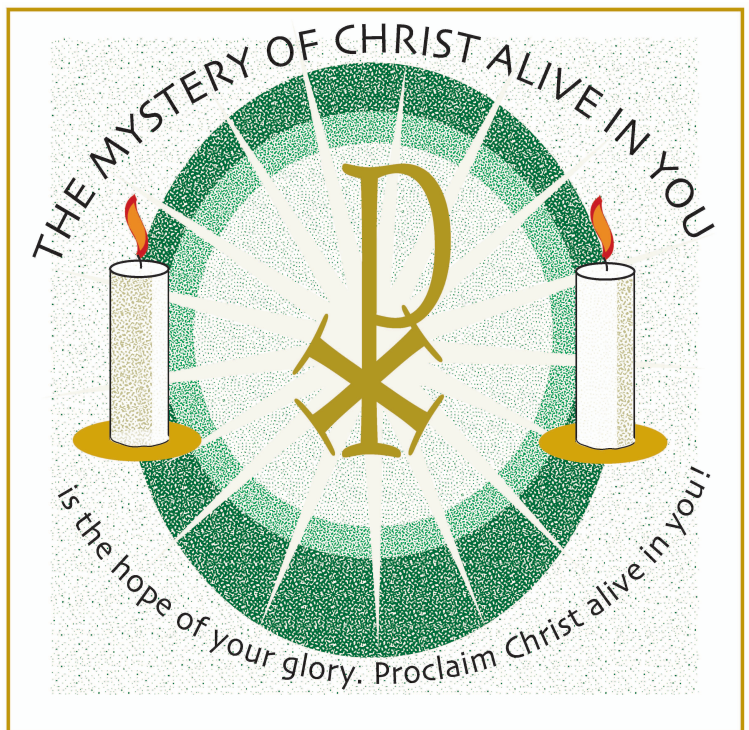
Tuesday: 11:30am-3:00pm
Wednesday: 12:30pm-3:00pm
Thursday: 11:30am-1:30pm & 4:30pm-5:30pm

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, July 20, 2025
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



“Whose Sins “You” Forgive Are Forgiven them, and Whose Sins “You” Retain Are Retained”

-Deacon Frank Dell’Aglio

What do these words of Jesus mean? Most Christian communities do not believe in the institution of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Catholic and Orthodox Churches, along with a few other ecclesial communities do hold that Christ, with these words, instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the evening of that first Easter Sunday.

For the Christian communities that do not hold that Jesus instituted this sacrament, to whom do they suppose Jesus is referring to when He used the words “you” and “them” in this important verse from John’s Gospel (Jn 20:23)? Is He referring to all of His disciples when He said You?

In both parts of this verse, Jesus is delegating His authority to those persons referred to as “you” with extraordinary powers to forgive and, in some cases, to retain sins not only here on earth but implicitly by God in heaven as well. This implicit reference is clearly delineated by Jesus’ definitive use of the word “are” in both the first and second parts of this verse.

The problem with this interpretation becomes plain to see in light of what Jesus said in the second part of the verse. If we assume the “you” refers to all of His disciples rather than some subset of them, then we must further assume that Jesus has enabled all of His disciples to withhold the forgiveness of other peoples’ sins.

If this interpretation is correct, every Christian has the means to withhold forgiveness and have its effect bound in heaven. What good would come of that? We know that Jesus must be true to His word. Imagine the arbitrariness of humanity binding in heaven such things! How can that make any sense? Think of the chaos that would ensue.

If we therefore conclude that Jesus is not speaking to all of His disciples, then to whom is He referring to?


From the Catholic and Orthodox perspective, Jesus is speaking to His Apostles, who are the foundation stones of His newly founded Church.

But this forgiveness and retention of sins was not meant to be the exclusive delegated authority of the Apostles alone. It would also include the successors of the Apostles – today called bishops – who would receive such delegated authority as well.

Afterall, Jesus knew His Church would endeavor to carry out its mission for the salvation of souls to the end of time, long past the lifetime of His Apostles.

As the Church grew, this authority was further delegated by the bishops to the priests to ensure all of Christ’s disciples had access to this Sacrament.

One might ask why Jesus made such a declaration in the first place. Jesus knew that the Sacrament of Baptism would remove all sins of the newly baptized. But He also knew that humanity’s fallen nature would lead His disciples back into sin, and at times into deadly sin.



Therefore, in order to provide a remedy for this, He knew that His Church had to provide a means of reconciliation with God for these souls post-baptism. We are all sinners as John stated: "If we say, 'We have not sinned,' we make him a liar, and his word is not with us." 1Jn 1:10

John further stated: "There is such a thing as a deadly sin, about which I do not say you should pray. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that is not deadly." (1Jn 5:16b)

Thus, there are two categories of sin based upon the severity of the wrongdoing. The Catholic and Orthodox Churches have always held that to obtain forgiveness of a deadly sin one must seek reconciliation with God by means of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Since all Christians believe, an outward action is necessary for salvation, namely baptism, it would stand to reason that Jesus would desire an outward action to forgive sins committed post-baptism.

One might ask if forgiveness of sins is ever withheld. Two conditions must be present for the confessor to forgive one's sins. They are (1) true contrition for committing the sin; and (2) a firm purpose of amendment in one's life to avoid that sin in the future.

Many Christians object to this notion, thinking one may seek such forgiveness directly from God Himself. But then one must ask why did Jesus say:

"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them and whose sins you retain are retained." (Jn 20:23)

To grasp fully Jesus' actions in this important verse from John's Gospel, we need to examine the verse that precedes it.

"Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" (Jn 20:22)

These two verses are intrinsically linked. By virtue of receiving the Holy Spirit, the Apostles have been delegated by Jesus with this awesome authority to forgive sins.

Armed with the seven sacraments of the Church, all instituted by Christ, the Apostles were sent forth to minister these sacraments with great care to converts, while making good on the great commission of Jesus, by making disciples of all the nations!

Sadly, today so many do not avail themselves of these sacraments, which bestow innumerable graces upon the recipient. Foremost of these underutilized sacraments is the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

One must ask why so many are avoiding this sacrament? The reasons are varied as they are many. Each of us must ask why Jesus granted this authority to forgive sins to His Apostles if not for the obvious purpose!

My hope is that some of you who are reading this article will return to this great sacrament of forgiveness! I am certain you will be glad that you did. For nothing is so soothing to the soul than to hear these words "Through the ministry of the Church... I absolve you of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." It truly brings peace to one's soul!



Parish Outreach Ministry
**“Be diligent in serving the poor. Love the poor,
honor them as you would Christ himself.”**
—St. Louise de Marillac

Food Pantry Needs

- Peanut Butter
- Mac n Cheese
- Granola Bars
- Shelf Stable Milk
- Canned Chicken
- Jelly
- Soup
- Canned Tuna
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Fruit
- Beef Stew
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Feminine Products
- Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Soap
- Laundry Soap
- Toothpaste/
Toothbrushes

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



*As often as you did it for one
of my least brothers, You did
it for me.*

• Soup Kitchen Needs

- College Inn Beef and Chicken Broth
- Pasta
- Crushed Tomatoes
- Baked Beans
- 4C Bread Crumbs
- Frozen Vegetables

****Please drop off items into the
Kitchen in the Parish Hall*****

**Welcome Friends Free Curbside
Meal Program**

Monday: 5:00 – 6:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church, Main & South St.
Port Jefferson

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

Religious Education

Religious Education Registration forms for the 2025/2026 year are available on our Parish website or at the Parish Office. Registration is due by August 1st. Please reach out to Patty at patty@stgmajella.org for further questions

Background on this Sunday's Gospel Reading

The story of Jesus in the home of Martha and Mary complements the story of the Good Samaritan, which immediately precedes it in Luke's Gospel. Both stories are unique to Luke. The story of the Samaritan opens with the words "a certain man." Today's reading opens with the words "a certain woman." The Samaritan is an example of how a disciple should see and act. Mary is an example of how a disciple should listen. Mary, a woman, is a marginalized person in society, like the Samaritan. Both do what is not expected of them. As a woman, Mary would be expected, like Martha, to prepare hospitality for a guest. Here again Jesus breaks with the social conventions of his time. Just as a Samaritan would not be a model for neighborliness, so a woman would not sit with the men around the feet of a teacher.

Both stories exemplify how a disciple is to fulfill the dual command which begins chapter 10—love of God (Mary) and love of neighbor (the Samaritan). These are the two essentials of life in the kingdom. By using the examples of a Samaritan and a woman, however, Jesus is saying something more. Social codes and boundaries were strict in Jesus' time. Yet to love God with all one's heart and one's neighbor requires breaking those rules. The Kingdom of God is a society without distinctions and boundaries between its members. It is a society that requires times for seeing and doing and also times for listening and learning at the feet of a teacher.

Family Connection

In our families and homes, we have boundaries. Some are geographical; we may have our own room or part of a room that we want others to stay out of. Parents may have home offices that are off-limits to children. Some boundaries are behavioral; children may speak one way to their friends, but they are not allowed to speak the same way to their parents or other adults. A Curfew is another type of boundary, whose purpose is to protect children's safety.

Talk about examples of boundaries in your family. For the most part, these boundaries are good. Talk about how sometimes we set up boundaries for the wrong reasons. For example, if we are angry with a sibling, we may draw a line and tell him or her to stay on his or her side. Explain that when we use boundaries to exclude others, we are being hurtful. Point out how in Jesus' time, some boundaries were used to unfairly exclude people. One example was from last week's Gospel: Samaritans. This Sunday's Gospel has another example: women. Talk about how the role of women has changed in your lifetime. Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus breaks down a barrier that kept women from being disciples.

Read aloud Luke 10:38-42. Talk about how Martha is conditioned by the existing boundaries of her society, but how her sister, Mary, breaks through that boundary and becomes a disciple of Jesus. Talk about how you can work as a family to break down boundaries that separate people. Point out that when we pray the Lord's Prayer, we call God "Our Father," meaning that we are all his children; no boundaries should separate us. Conclude this time together by praying the Lord's Prayer.

(Loyola Press)

Mass Intentions and Presider Schedule for the Week of July 21 – July 27

Monday, July 21

9:00am The Intentions of Fr. Douglas Arcoleo

Tuesday, July 22 (Feast of St. Mary Magdalene)

9:00am Hilda McDowell

Wednesday, July 23

9:00am Geraldine Italiano

Thursday, July 24

9:00am Lucy Quirk

Friday, July 25 (Feast of St. James)

9:00am The Intentions of John Kelly

Saturday, July 26 (Saints Joachim & Anne)

5:00pm Lucy Quirk, Jeffrey Sisson, Anthony Hayes,
Lucille & Anthony Amatucci, Dennis Paniccia,
Josephine Ferrera

Fr. Greg

Sunday, July 27

8:00am Judy Daly

10:00am Lisa Viscardi

12:00pm Luca Cerullo

Fr. Samuel

Fr. Samuel

Fr. Vitus



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, Luke John Carusillo, Erin Whitehead, LouEllen Klints, Arline & Paul Guma, Charles Ricottone, Ted Claesen, Connie & Frank Biscardi, Ronnie Pryor, Vinnie Surwilo, Barbara Klein-Croner, Robert Mutschler, Joan Francavilla, Barbara & Pat Consorte, Nancy Mulvihill, Paul Csorba, Antonio Loiacone, Mario Cappellieri, Vincent Ricottone, Dale Beck, Leonardo Alfuate, Kristine McDonald, Frank Perugini, Mary Louise Delano, Jean Maglione, Brenda Fort, Michael Maglione, Donna DiBiago, John Schlauraff, Margaret Clark, Diane Chin, Francis Keryc, James Maynard, Anthony Paletto, Sr. Annmarie, Jasmine Fernandez, Judith Montesusco, Margorie Higgins, Ann Marie Calise, Tim Hawn, Richard, Dr. Assunta DiValentino, Joe Bocklet, Paula Prete, Thomas Palmer, Pat Ryan, Kathy Lods, Elena Badami, Patricia Cruz, Garrett Greene, Eileen Dailey, Thomas Hayes, Jaclyn Lin, Andrew DiPiermo, Sal & Rosalie Cottone.

Weekly Memorials

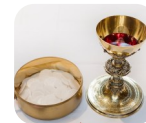


Our Sanctuary Candle has been lovingly donated for:

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

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

Brendan Fox



We pray for all recently deceased,
may they find eternal rest and joy.



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.

Looking to dive deeper into Eucharist, Penance, the rich meaning of Baptism? Lots to learn on the SACRAMENTS & LITURGY shelf of our parish library.



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.

We invite you to register your family at 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 office 631-473-2900 or on our website: www.stgmajella.org

Knights of Columbus

**YOU ARE BORN A MAN
YOU BECOME A KNIGHT!**

Scan with phone camera!



YOU ARE CALLED! JOIN TODAY!

Free 12 Month Membership

Visit

KofC.org/JoinUs

Use Promo Code

BlessedMcGivney

To learn more please call Peter Santoro 631-457-9973

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 Penny at 631-473-2900.

As our parish's fiscal year comes to a close this August and as we prepare for the year ahead, it is a good time to reflect on why we give to the church?

Supporting the church's mission:

- Giving helps the church fund its various ministries, including Masses and services, community outreach, and global missions.
- It supports the work of pastors, staff, and volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to serving the Church and its members.
- Giving helps provide resources for Religious education programs and other initiatives that benefit the church community.
- Some believe that giving to the church is a way to fulfill biblical commands and expectation about supporting the body of Christ.

How our parish supported the church's mission from this past year:

- 162 Knights of Columbus and 54 Columbiettes
- 57 babies Baptized and 4 people over the age of 7 Baptized
- 4 Catechumens
- 59 young people Confirmed, 13 Adults Confirmed
- 82 children received First Holy Communion
- 53 Funeral Masses
- 15 Weddings
- Lay parishioners provide a Sunday Communion Service to a total of 120 Nursing Home Residents from 4 different facilities
- Monthly Adoration
- Advent and Lent Retreats
- Each month, our Outreach ministry provided food and toiletries to between 215 and 230 families. We also supplied school supplies, Easter food, Thanksgiving food, and Christmas gifts to over 100 families in need
- We cooked hot meals for approximately 30 to 40 people each Thursday. Leftovers were brought to Pax Christi
- We had over 470 children in our Religious Education program
- Our clergy taught Adult Enrichment courses, with each having over 100 participants
- VBS 2024-about 70 campers and over 50 teen counselors
- Our thrift shop had over 40 volunteers

Request weekly giving envelopes in our Parish Office or scan the QR code to give online!



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?

July 27, 2025

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 11:1-13

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,' and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.' I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence.

"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

Reflection Questions

- How would you define or describe "prayer"?
- We see Jesus praying in a "certain" place. Why can it be helpful to have a "certain" place to pray?
- How does Jesus respond to the disciple's request to teach them to pray?
- What are the key components of the Lord's Prayer as outlined in Luke 11:2-4?
- Jesus tells a parable about a friend who comes to another friend at midnight to ask for bread. What is the main lesson or takeaway from this parable?
- How can we apply the principles of the Lord's Prayer, persistence in prayer, and trust in God's provision in our own prayer lives?

Weekly Memorials 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)

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Day of Obligation

Vigil Thursday, August 14th-5pm

Friday, August 15th- 9am, 12pm, and 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.



Fellowship of Readers Book Club Ministry

Our first book choice is "Legs in the attic" by Sandra L. Huska

Our next meeting will be Tues. 8/12 @ 10am
(first room on left upstairs)

All are welcome to attend!

Happy reading!!

St. Gerard's Food Pantry needs your support. In conjunction with the Knights of Columbus, we will host a "Grocery Bag"



Food and School Supplies Drive. As you leave mass the weekend of July

26th - 27th, you will be handed a



grocery bag with list of suggested food and School Supplies inside. Please consider returning the bag the following weekend, August 2nd - 3rd with the listed items - HOWEVER, anything that you return would be very much appreciated.

Thank You in advance for your support!

The Living Rosary Overlooking the Beautiful Beach



This is our 29th Anniversary of Prayer
Thursday Evening, August 21, 2025
We will begin promptly at 7:00 PM

At the "**TOP**" of Tides Beach in
Beautiful Rocky Point

In case of rain, we will meet inside St. Anthony's Church, Rocky Point
Car pooling is highly recommended!!

Directions: Go down Rocky Point Landing Rd.
Make a right on Haggerman's Landing Rd to the end.

Entrance to Tides Beach is on the left.

The beach will close promptly at 8:30 PM.

Again, Car Pooling is encouraged and appreciated!

Any questions, call Grace Healy (631-821-3070)

With A Little
T.L.C.
You Can Go
From Trashed....

...To TREASURED!



THIS IS
WHY WE
THRIFT!

The Thrift Shop & Barn @ St. Gerard Majella Church
316 Terryville Rd., PJS 11776
Summer Hours:: M-TH 10-3:30; F 10-2

Thank you for supporting the charitable endeavors
of St. Gerard Majella Church

OUR OUTREACH MINISTRY'S



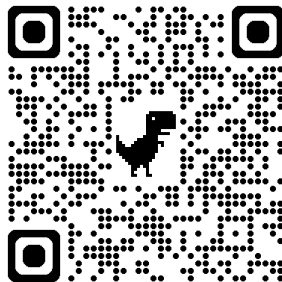
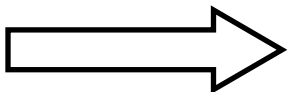
BACK 2 SCHOOL Drive

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. THANK YOU!!

*****DONATIONS NEEDED BY
SUNDAY, AUGUST 17TH.*****

**Pencils, Pens, Crayons, Markers,
Pocket folders, 3 Subject
notebooks, Composition
notebooks, Highlighters, Soft and
Hard Pencil cases, Scissors,
Rulers, Backpacks, Glue sticks,
Dry erase markers, Binders, Index
Cards, Gift cards.**

Link to our Amazon wish list



St. Gerard Majella Adult Enrichment Series

Rediscover Catholicism

Living the Best Version God wants You to Be

Presented by Deacon John Grebe

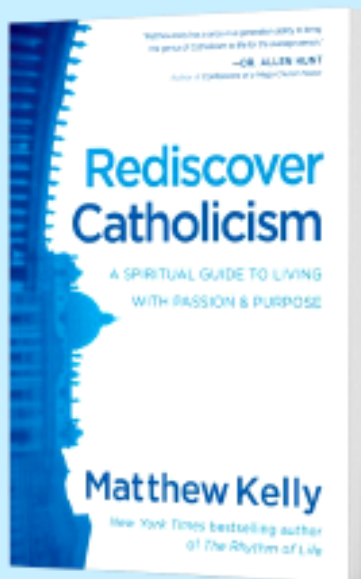


6 Monday Evenings 7:15pm-8:30pm in St. Gerard's Parish Hall

(Classes will be video recorded)

Sept. 8th, Sept. 15th, Sept. 22nd, Sept. 29th, Oct. 6th, Oct. 20th

Spend some time deepening your knowledge of our Catholic Faith!



Registration Form – Complete and Return to the St. Gerard Parish Office

Name _____ Phone # _____

Email Address _____

Please include a donation of \$20 for book and materials

Make checks payable to St. Gerard Majella R.C. Church. Please mail or return form to the church office in a sealed envelope marked Adult Enrichment Course.

Church of St. Gerard Majella | 300 Terryville Road | Port Jefferson Station, NY | 631-473-2900 | www.stgmajella.org

"We pledge to persevere in prayer,
fasting and witnessing to the
sacredness of every human life."

- Bishop Barres' statement regarding the
U.S. Supreme Court Decision in
Dobbs v. Jackson, June 24, 2022



Rosary for Life



JOIN the OFFICE of HUMAN LIFE, FAMILY and BIOETHICS in PRAYER

Every Friday - 3:00 PM

Scan for Zoom link:



Email lhonkanen@drvc.org
if you would like the link sent
to you each week.

Call In #: 1 (646) 876-9923



www.drvc.life.org



Now and then, events occur which highlight the importance of taking care of final important matters. One such event was the passage of The New York Medical Aid in Dying Act (MAID Act), which the legislature passed in June 2025, awaits Governor Kathy Hochul's decision. It allows terminally ill adults with six months or less to live to request lethal medication, conflicting with Catholic teachings on the sanctity of life. The New York State Catholic Conference urges a veto, citing risks of abuse. Regardless of whether the MAID Act becomes law, it underscores the need for doing your estate planning to ensure that your end-of-life medical decisions align with your faith, avoiding choices like euthanasia that contradict Church teachings.

Catholic Medical Directive. Getting a Catholic Medical Directive is an important part of estate planning as it clarifies your medical treatment wishes, helping ensure decisions reflect Catholic values. Without it, families may face uncertainty, potentially consenting to actions like discontinuing life-sustaining care, which may conflict with Church teachings. The Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith's Declaration on Euthanasia (1980) permits refusing treatments that merely prolong life precariously, provided normal care—such as nutrition and hydration—is maintained unless death is imminent and assimilation is impossible. Many Catholics unknowingly sign Living Wills that may authorize ceasing ordinary care, using vague terms like “comfort care” or “heroic measures.” These can lead to outcomes contrary to Catholic pro-life principles. Instead, consider a Catholic Medical Directive Care to ensure care respects your faith. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops offers guidance at [//www.usccb.org/prolife/end-life](http://www.usccb.org/prolife/end-life).

Sacramental Wishes Statement. A Sacramental Wishes Statement ensures your spiritual needs are met as you approach death, aligning with Catholic teachings. This document designates trusted individuals to arrange sacraments—Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Viaticum, and Apostolic Pardon—preparing your soul for eternal life. It also outlines preferences for a Catholic funeral, including a Vigil Service with chosen readings, a Funeral Mass with sacred music, and burial in a Catholic cemetery. You can request Masses and prayers for your soul and specify medical directives to prevent euthanasia. This statement is vital for ensuring your spiritual wishes are respected. File it with your parish, include it in your estate plan, and share it with designated agents to guarantee a dignified passage in accordance with Church doctrine.

Why These Documents Matter. The Catholic Medical Directive and Sacramental Wishes Statement are often overlooked but essential for faithful Catholics. They protect your spiritual and medical wishes, ensuring decisions honor your faith. Without these, families may face pressure to make choices misaligned with Catholic teachings, especially under laws like the MAID Act that challenge the sanctity of life. These documents also provide peace of mind, sparing loved ones from difficult decisions during emotional times. By clearly stating your preferences, you ensure care and spiritual practices reflect your commitment to Catholic values, safeguarding your legacy and soul.

Free Estate Planning with FreeWill. The Diocese of Rockville Centre partners with FreeWill to offer parishioners a free, user-friendly online tool to create legally valid wills or estate plans. This service simplifies planning, allowing you to protect loved ones and include legacy gifts to support the Church's mission. By planning thoughtfully, you ensure future generations benefit from your faith-filled generosity. Explore this resource at [//www.stewardship.org/planned-giving](http://www.stewardship.org/planned-giving).

Additional Resources. The Diocese of Rockville Centre provides a variety of estate planning resources to help Catholics be wise stewards. From medical directives to sacramental planning, these tools empower you to align your end-of-life wishes with Church teachings. Visit [//www.stewardship.org/catholic-life-planning-resources](http://www.stewardship.org/catholic-life-planning-resources) for more information. Perhaps it is time to reflect on your values and ensure your estate plan reflects your Catholic faith. That way you can ensure that your legacy supports your family and the Church. Start today to secure peace of mind for yourself and your loved ones. Seek the advice of an independent advisor, legal, medical or financial, before implementing any planning strategies or ideas. If you would like more information, ideas, or help with this process, please call Barbara Kilarjian at 516-678-5800 ext. 257 or email her at bkilarjian@drvc.org.



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The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

Luke 10:41-42



Visit CatholicMom.com for more resources for you and your family.
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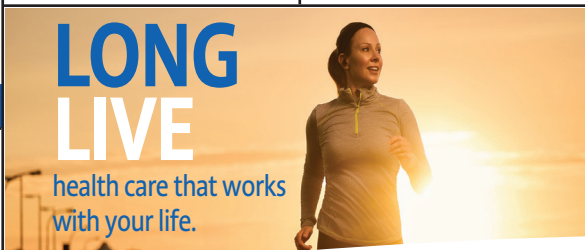
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