

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF SAINT GERARD MAJELLA
17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME **JULY 27, 2025**



I tell you, keep asking,
and it will be given you.
Keep seeking, and you
will find. Keep
knocking, and it will be
opened to you.

LUKE 11:9

MASS SCHEDULE
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
9:00 am
Saturday 4:30 pm
Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am

ADORATION
Friday 9:00 am - Noon

RECONCILIATION:
Saturday 3:45 pm - 4:15 pm
Also, by Appointment

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday,
9:30am—4:30pm

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From the Pastor's Desk

Here are **10 key points** explaining the **levels of sin—venial, serious, grave, and mortal**—and the **need for regular confession**:

1. Sin is a rejection of God's love

Sin damages our relationship with God. While all sin is harmful, the Church distinguishes between **venial** and **mortal** (grave) sins based on their severity and effect on the soul.

2. Venial sin weakens, but does not break, our relationship with God

Venial sins are lesser sins that do **not destroy the state of grace** in the soul. Examples might include impatience, small lies, or unkind thoughts. They make us more vulnerable to committing mortal sin.

3. Mortal sin destroys sanctifying grace in the soul

Mortal sin is a **grave violation of God's law**, done with **full knowledge and deliberate consent**. It **kills the life of grace** and, if unrepented, leads to eternal separation from God.

4. Grave matter is the first condition for mortal sin

For a sin to be mortal, it must involve **grave matter**, such as breaking one of the Ten Commandments (e.g., murder, adultery, missing Sunday Mass without serious reason).

5. Serious sin and grave sin are often used interchangeably

"Grave sin" refers to the **objective seriousness** of the act, while "mortal sin" includes **grave matter plus full knowledge and full consent**. A serious sin may not always be mortal if the other conditions are lacking.

6. Regular confession is necessary for spiritual health

Even if we haven't committed a mortal sin, **regular confession helps cleanse venial sins**, strengthens the soul, and deepens humility and love for God.

7. Mortal sin must be confessed before receiving Communion

Anyone aware of having committed mortal sin must first receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. Receiving the Eucharist in a state of mortal sin is itself a **sacrilege**.

8. Frequent confession helps form conscience

Confession is not only about forgiveness—it also **trains the soul** to discern right from wrong, to examine life honestly, and to strive for holiness.

9. Confession brings grace and healing

The Sacrament of Reconciliation restores sanctifying grace, **reconciles us with the Church**, and gives **actual graces** to resist future sin.

10. Jesus gave the Church the authority to forgive sins

In John 20:22-23, Jesus told the apostles: "*Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them...*" Confession is not man-made—it is **divine mercy administered through the Church**.

Please Pray for Our Sick Parishioners:

Trudy Arrington, Asher Barhite, Nancy Brabner, Candace Carne, Mason Cobble, Julianna Cooke, Al & Carol Corkum, Rick Davidson, Jimmy Dwyer, Nancy Jane Edwards, Matthew Gaudet, Daniel Hamby, Megan Hoette, Anne Janecji, Phyllis Lampert, Linda Meeks, Sandy Murphy, Dale & Jane Osterling, John Pitner, Bill, Jeff & Rose Pugliano, Nicholas Richardson, Kathy Samilo, Mary Ann Shanahan, Jim Staub, Carl Suehrer, Lilia Thompson, Ross Vecchio Sr. & Jr., Baby Nalayva Wright.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday, August 4, Women's Spiritual Study Group, 6 pm.
- Tuesday, August 12, Ladies Guild, 6 pm. Also Finance Committee Meeting at 6 pm.
- Wednesday, August 13, Knights of Columbus Business Meeting, 7 pm.
- **Friday, August 15, Assumption of Mary, Mass at 9 am and 7 pm.**
- The Senior Ministry will not meet again until September.

Knights of Columbus

Any male 18 or older and a practicing Catholic can become a Knight. If you are interested, please contact **Kieron Gleeson** at **423-240-1798** or kierongleeson@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 4:30 PM

PETER BOROWISK+
(Maria & John Butler)

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 9:00 AM

ANNABETH SHORACK (Healing)
(Sally McNulty)

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 11:00 AM

BILL & KATHY CAREW+
(Sally McNulty)

Youth Choir

3rd – 12th Grade

Practice is twice a week. To join
Contact Lora Levesque at

youthchoir@saintgerardmajella.net

Weekly Offerings

7/20 Offertory Received: \$5,476

Online Giving \$1,725

Weekly Offertory Goal: \$6,000

St. Vincent de Paul

"Who is my neighbor?"

These words from Sunday July 13 Mass should give us all a reason to reflect. Father Young spoke about the parable of the Good Samaritan in his sermon and left no doubt in our minds as to the answer to this question.

Those of us who were members of SVdP a couple of years ago will remember that we used to call the people who came to us for help our "clients"; now they are more appropriately referred to as our "neighbors"

So what have we done for our neighbors lately? Here is our 2nd quarterly report:

Food \$1147.89

Utilities \$3021.26

Bags of Blessings \$2550.18

Grants received: NGEMC \$4000

Knights of Columbus \$1000

Ga. Natural Gas \$800

Our next pantry day is Sat. August 16 from 10-11. Don't forget to bring your excess fresh garden veggies, if you have them to donate. (at 9:00 AM, please, on pantry day).

"To show great love for God and our neighbor we need not do great things. It is how much love we put in doing that makes our offering something Beautiful for God " Mother Teresa

Our next food pantry day will be August 16 from 10am – 11am.

HELP LINE: 678-892-6163

SVdP meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7 pm.

Women in Prayer

We have prayer shawls available for anyone who needs one. Please contact Irene or Linda, and if you have any prayer requests.

Contact Irene Staub at

istaub1014@aol.com or Lina Swope at rlswope374@comcast.net.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, celebrated on his feast day of July 31, 2025, holds a pivotal place in Catholic culture as the founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and a model of spiritual transformation. Born in 1491 in Spain, Ignatius transitioned from a life of soldierly ambition to one of profound devotion after a cannonball injury led to his conversion. His spiritual journey, marked by intense prayer and discernment, culminated in the creation of the *Spiritual Exercises*, a guide for deepening one's relationship with God through meditation and self-reflection. In Catholic communities worldwide, his feast day is an occasion to honor his legacy of faith, discipline, and missionary zeal, often celebrated with Masses, retreats, and reflections on his teachings, particularly in Jesuit-run institutions like schools, universities, and parishes.

In 2025, the feast of St. Ignatius will likely inspire Catholics to engage with his emphasis on discernment—the practice of making choices aligned with God's will. Jesuit communities and parishes may host events such as guided retreats or lectures exploring Ignatian spirituality, which emphasizes finding God in all things. The *Spiritual Exercises* remain a cornerstone, encouraging believers to reflect on their lives, recognize God's presence, and respond with purposeful action. This day also highlights Ignatius's role as a reformer during the Counter-Reformation, when the Jesuits became instrumental in revitalizing Catholic education and evangelization, countering Protestantism, and spreading the faith globally, from Europe to Asia and the Americas.

The cultural impact of St. Ignatius extends beyond liturgy, influencing Catholic education and social justice initiatives. In 2025, Jesuit organizations may use July 31 to promote their ongoing work in areas like poverty alleviation, environmental stewardship, and interfaith dialogue, reflecting Ignatius's call to serve others selflessly. Devotees might participate in service projects or Ignatian prayer sessions, often incorporating the Examen, a daily reflective practice he developed. His life inspires Catholics to pursue intellectual rigor and spiritual depth, blending contemplation with action. As a saint who transformed personal struggle into a global mission, St. Ignatius remains a powerful figure for Catholics seeking purpose and connection in a complex world.

NOW THAT WE ARE HAVING ONE COLLECTION AT MASS, YOU MUST EITHER WRITE A CHECK OR IF PAYING CASH IT MUST BE PUT INSIDE AN ENVELOPE (IN THE BACK OF THE PEWS) AND MARKED EXACTLY WHAT IT IS FOR. THAT WAY THE CORRECT AMOUNT CAN BE DESIGNATED TO THE RIGHT FUND. THANK YOU.



PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE NOW HAVING A FRIDAY 9:00 AM MASS – AND STARTING AUGUST 1st, WE WILL HAVE A 9:00 AM MASS EVERY DAY.

When you know a person is grieving the loss of a loved one, please refer them to our local **Griefshare.org** program at OLPH starting in August. Located 501 S. Moore Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37412. **Griefshare Support Group/13 Video Lessons Sat Aug. 16 – 5:30-7:00 for 10 sessions in Library. (Limited to 10),** snacks provided. This Christian program is open to all losses – spouse, relatives, friends, children or pets teaches the process to find Peace and Purpose in their new season of life. **You can register online and also call Ana at the OLPH church office. 423-622-7232.**

American Heritage Girls

Catholic Scouting will have an informational open house on Thursday, August 21st from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at St. Stephen's Parish on Lee Highway - all family members are invited. If you cannot come in person, please reach out to Lynette Cabeen at 423-580-2817 (cell) or email ahgchattanooga@gmail.com to set up a time to meet one-on-one.

August 2025

August 2025							◀ Jul 2025	Sep 2025 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
					1 Adoration after 9 am Mass-Noon	2		
3	4 1 pm Staff Meeting 6 pm Women's Spiritual Study Group 7 pm SVdP	5	6	7	8 Adoration after 9 am Mass-Noon	9		
10	11	12 6 pm Ladies Guild 6 pm Finance Committee Meeting	13 7 pm KC Business Meeting	14	15 Assumption of Mary 9 am Mass Adoration after 9 am Mass-Noon 7 pm Mass	16 10-11 am Gabriel's Hope Pantry		
17	18 6 pm Women's Spiritual Study Group 7 pm SVdP	19	20 7 pm KC 4 th Degree Meeting	21	22 Adoration after 9 am Mass-Noon	23		
24 9 am Religious Ed Registration	25	26 6 pm Parish Council Meeting	27 7 pm KC Officers Planning Meeting	28	29 Adoration after 9 am Mass-Noon	30		
31								