

WHAT IS IT AT THE PARISH OF ST. GERARD'S THAT YOU GIVE GOD THANKS FOR?

(THIS LIST WAS COMPILED AT THE PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 2023)

- Fr. Charlie as our Pastor and his awesome and inspiring homilies
- The devotion of our substitute priests who serve our parish—Fr. Al and Fr. Tom
- Music—special to hear—inspirational music ministry—Karen Blomgren
- The culture of the parish, i.e., the way we do things here
- The Funeral Ministry
- Grateful for those on all of the commissions who work to make the St. Gerard community an example of God's love for his people
- The community spirit of St. Gerard parishioners
- The feeling of it being a second home (and a first home spiritually) This is “home”
- The friendliness and openness of parishioners in general
- The “special” Masses like All Souls' Day and Holy Thursday
- The sense of welcoming and acceptance
- Hospitality times (donuts!)
- Corn Fest, the joyfulness of the event, and representing who we are to the community at large
- Inclusiveness not exclusiveness
- Diversity of the parishioners
- Pastoral Care team
- Trunk or Treat
- Flexibility of various groups which allows for occasional absences from participation
- Responsiveness of office staff
- Parish inclusiveness
- Knights of Columbus contributions and how hard they work for the parish and the community
- Community Garden
- Daily Mass
- Special opportunities we were given by the staff outside of the regular personalized retreats
- Wonderful staff and their willingness to be there for the volunteers and community
- Donation given to pay for the new stove and oven in the parish kitchen
- Our beautiful All Souls Day Mass
- We find sustenance here in friend, food and soul
- Those who share professional talents
- The people—welcoming feeling, support from the parish, the morning Mass group, sense of community
- Comments that St. Gerard's is “fun again”
- People who stayed through all the changes we've been through
- People here are caring—not too many people at St. Gerard's that would turn you away if someone needs help
- History of how this church grew into community
- Welcoming parish
- Core people who stayed through all the tough times
- People who are coming back
- Diversity of parish cultures
- Café Majella
- Grief Share ministry
- Bob Imholte, Facilities Care Coordinator
- Parish Mission after Christmas—before Lent

- Parishioners—people who come to our church
- Volunteers—funeral, office, outreach sharing time and talent
- The way we do liturgy
- Open door to the office
- People united in common goal
- Think of St. Gerard's as home
- Feeling loved and accepted
- Welcoming and hospitality
- Welcoming to children
- Collaboration of gifts
- Relationship building beyond our church—outreach
- Spacious church facility
- Committed/dedicated staff
- We are smaller community and we recognize people—build relationships

FR. CHARLIE COMMENTARY:

The character of the parish shines through the resilience of those who toughed it out during the transition of pastors—people who hung in there. Visiting priests enjoy the spirit of the people.

In gratitude for:

1. Catechists—their commitment of time and the team who rebuilt Faith Formation
2. Youth—weekend retreat was successful in prayer and devotion and the generation of today choosing the Catholic Faith
3. Sundays—do services well with liturgy and music