



THE CHURCH OF
ST. GERARD MAJELLA

Dear Parishioners and most welcome friends of St. Gerards,

I am most grateful to God for all who gather each weekend and daily for the Celebration of the Eucharist. Our Masses are indeed the center of our life as a parish and as the Church throughout the world.

I am thankful for our trustees, finance council, commissions, and pastoral council. Through their efforts and counsel, we have hired an experienced and dedicated staff to serve the needs of our community. We continue to call forth the gifts of our members so that we may have every gift we need to meet every need we have.

I hope that our regular reporting of our financial information helps to keep you informed and that you can offer your contributions with increased trust that we are indeed rebuilding and growing with grace.

As the following message from our Finance Council states so well, our parish has its financial challenges, but I am confident that behind these numbers are the faces of all those who support and participate in the mission of Jesus Christ through the ministries of the Church.

Please know of my continued support, prayers, and blessings especially during this Advent season.

In Christ Jesus,

Fr. Charlie Lachowitzer
Pastor

“The measure of your own free will offering shall be in proportion to the blessing the Lord, Your God, has bestowed on you... No one shall appear before the Lord empty handed but each of you with as much as you can give.”

Deuteronomy 16:10, 16-17



Message from our Finance Council



Good things are happening at St. Gerards as we rebuild and grow with Grace.

Our new ministry staff and volunteers are building/rebuilding our faith community through new or expanded programs:

- Our faith formation programs are growing. Our youth preparing for Confirmation just completed a dynamic Confirmation retreat.
- Our pastoral care team brings communion and companionship to individuals at nursing homes in our community.
- Every first and third Monday, seniors gather at Café Majella for cards/games and fellowship.
- Our Grief Share program is attracting parishioners and others from the community.
- New families are joining our community and parishioners who have left are returning.

Our parish, however, is facing financial challenges and we want to be transparent. As you may have noticed in recent bulletins and reports on our website, our contribution revenue is lagging budget projections. Thankfully, expenses have been running below budget.

Our 50-year-old facility continues to produce surprises. A recent example is the new sidewalk by the west entrance has uncovered a drainage issue contributing to erosion of the foundation. Engineers have determined a temporary fix with final repairs set for next spring. With the age of our facility, surprises will likely continue to happen. As we begin the Advent Season, we give thanks to our parishioners for the gifts you are already sharing. Please prayerfully discern how God might be calling you to increase your giving at St. Gerards, especially during this holiday season.

Here are a few examples of ways to support our parish:

- Monetary donations are the simplest way to give. Online giving is a convenient way to contribute. Any amount is welcome!
- We also accept stock, bonds, mutual funds, and other securities as donations.
- Some parishioners give through IRA contributions, donor advised funds or charitable trusts as well as legacy giving, etc.

Thank you for all you do for our parish. Please contact the parish office if you have any questions regarding ways you can contribute or sign up for electronic giving.

May God Bless you and your family during this holiday season,

St. Gerards Finance Council

Remember, whatever you give will be returned many times more as God cannot be outgiven.