

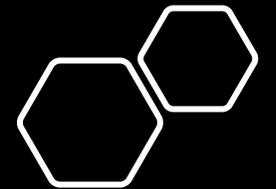


St. Charles  
Borromeo  
Church

# Vespers



Friday Evening Prayer  
Memorial of St. Francis Xavier Cabrini  
November 13, 2020



## INTRODUCTION

Leader: God, + come to my assistance.

**All: Lord, make haste to help me.**

Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**All: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

# PSALMODY

**Psalm 145:** Praise of God's majesty

*Lord, you are the Just One, who was and who is (Revelation 16:5)*

**Antiphon:**

*Leader:* Day after day I will bless you, Lord;

*All:* **I will tell of your marvelous deeds.**

I will give you glory, O God my King,

I will bless your name for ever.

**I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.**

**The Lord is great, highly to be praised,  
his greatness cannot be measured.**

Age to age shall proclaim your works,  
shall declare your mighty deeds,  
shall speak of your splendor and glory,  
tell the tale of your wonderful works.

**They will speak of your terrible deeds,  
recount your greatness and might.**

**They will recall your abundant goodness;  
age to age shall ring out your justice.**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures.

**All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign  
and declare your might, O God,**

to make known to men your mighty deeds  
and the glorious splendor of your reign.  
Yours is an everlasting kingdom;  
your rule lasts from age to age.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.**

**Antiphon:**

*Leader:* Day after day I will bless you, Lord;

*All:* **I will tell of your marvelous deeds.**

## Psalm 145: Part II

### **Antiphon:**

*Leader:* To you alone, Lord, we look with confidence;

*All:* **you are ever close to those who call upon you**

The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and loving in all his deeds.  
The Lord supports all who fall  
and raises all who are bowed down.

**The eyes of all creatures look to you  
and you give them their food in due time.  
You open wide your hand,  
grant the desires of all who live.**

The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts.

**He grants the desires of those who fear him,  
he hears their cry and he saves them.  
The Lord protects all who love him;  
the wicked he will utterly destroy.**

Let me speak the praise of the Lord,  
let all mankind bless his holy name  
for ever, for ages unending.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.**

### **Antiphon:**

*Leader:* To you alone, Lord, we look with confidence;

*All:* **you are ever close to those who call upon you**

### **Psalm Prayer**

Lord, be near to all who call upon you in truth and increase the dedication of those who revere you. Hear their prayers and save them that they may always love you and praise your holy name.

## **Canticle: Revelation 15:3-4: Hymn of adoration**

### **Antiphon**

*Leader:* King of all the ages,

*All:* **your ways are perfect and true.**

Mighty and wonderful are your works,  
Lord God Almighty!  
Righteous and true are your ways,  
O King of the nations!

**Who would dare refuse you honor,  
or the glory due your name, O Lord?**

Since you alone are holy,  
all nations shall come  
and worship in your presence.  
Your mighty deeds are clearly seen.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.**

### **Antiphon**

*Leader:* King of all the ages,

*All:* **your ways are perfect and true.**

**READING:** Romans 8:1–2, 10–11

There is no condemnation now for those who are in Christ Jesus. The law of the spirit, the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, has freed you from the law of sin and death.

**RESPONSORY**

God has chosen her. He chose her before she was born.

**God has chosen her. He chose her before she was born.**

He brought her to live in his holy dwelling-place.

**God has chosen her. He chose her before she was born.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**God has chosen her. He chose her before she was born.**

# GOSPEL CANTICLE

## **Canticle of Mary:** Luke 1:46-55

*The soul rejoices in the Lord*

*Leader:* You have left all things and have followed me;  
*All:* **you will be repaid a hundred times over, and gain eternal life.**

My + soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

**From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

**He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.

**He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.**

### **Antiphon:**

*Leader:* You have left all things and have followed me;  
*All:* **you will be repaid a hundred times over, and gain eternal life.**

## INTERCESSIONS

Through the intercession of holy women, let us pray for the Church in these words:

***Be mindful of your Church, Lord.***

Through all the women martyrs who conquered bodily death by their courage, strengthen your Church in the hour of trial.

***Be mindful of your Church, Lord.***

Through married women who have advanced in grace by holy matrimony, make the apostolic mission of your Church fruitful.

***Be mindful of your Church, Lord.***

Through widows who eased their loneliness and sanctified it by prayer and hospitality, help your Church reveal the mystery of your love to the world.

***Be mindful of your Church, Lord.***

Through mothers who have borne children for the kingdom of God and the human community, help your Church bring all men and women to a rebirth in life and salvation.

***Be mindful of your Church, Lord.***

Through all your holy women who have been worthy to contemplate the light of your countenance, let the deceased members of your Church exult in that same vision for ever.

***Be mindful of your Church, Lord.***

## **BLESSING OF A CHILD IN THE WOMB**

*Priest:* God, author of all life,  
bless, we pray, this unborn child;  
give constant protection  
and grant a healthy birth  
that is the sign of our rebirth one day  
into the eternal rejoicing of heaven.  
Lord, who have brought to this woman  
the wondrous joy of motherhood,  
grant her comfort in all anxiety  
and make her determined  
to lead her child along the ways of salvation.

[For the father:  
Lord of the ages,  
who have singled out this man  
to know the grace and pride of fatherhood,  
grant him courage in this new responsibility,  
and make him an example of justice and truth for  
this child.]

[For the family:  
Lord, endow this family  
with sincere and enduring love  
as they prepare to welcome this child into  
their midst.]

Lord, you have put into the hearts of all men and  
women of good will  
a great awe and wonder at the gift of new life;  
fill this (parish) community  
with faithfulness to the teachings of the Gospel  
and new resolve to share  
in the spiritual formation of this child in Christ  
our Savior,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*All:* **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

God our Father,  
you called Frances Xavier Cabrini from Italy to serve the immigrants in  
America.  
By her example teach us concern for the stranger, the sick, and the  
frustrated.  
By her prayers help us to see Christ in all the men and women we meet.  
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns  
with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
– **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

*Priest:* Bow down for the blessing

May God, the source of all life,  
protect you by his goodness.

*All: Amen.*

May he deepen your faith,  
build up your hope,  
and constantly increase the gift of his love in you.

*All: Amen.*

May he keep all children  
strong in body and in spirit.

*All: Amen.*

And may almighty God bless all of you,  
who are gathered here,  
the Father, and the Son, X and the Holy Spirit.

*All: Amen.*

## Background on St. Gerard Majella

Patron saint of expectant mothers, women in childbirth, children, unborn children, mothers, motherhood, falsely accused people, good confessions, lay brothers and Muro Lucano, Italy.

St. Gerard Majella was born in 1726 in Muro, Italy to a family of seven. Majella grew up in a poverty with a great respect for the poor. As he was just 12 when his father passed away, he was forced to grow up fast.

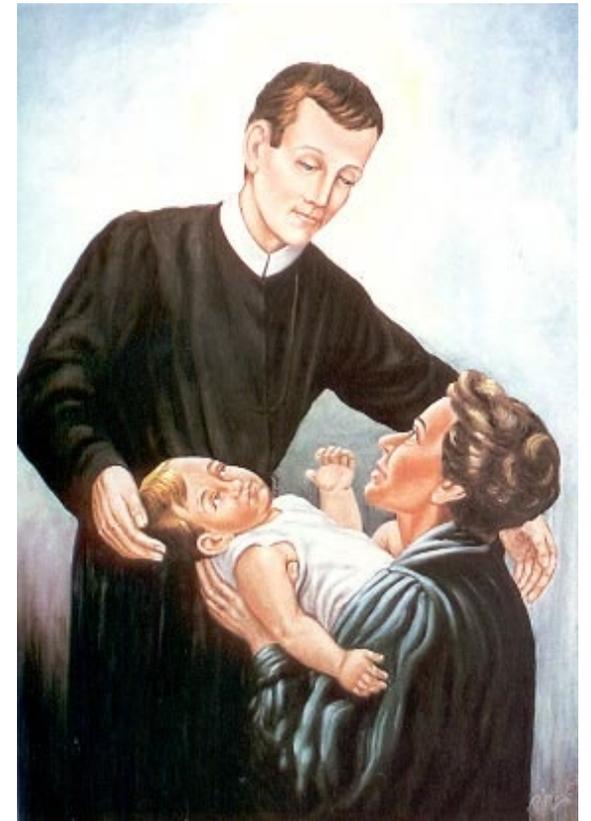
Once Majella began earning money as a journeyman tailor at the age of 21, he split his earnings with his mother, the poor of Muro and the rest in offerings for the poor souls. As the days passed, Majella began to grow pale and thin, often fasting and in prayer at a nearby Cathedral.

He applied to the Capuchin monastery at Muro twice, but was turned down both times. Majella was told his health was not well enough for such a strenuous life. However, Majella did not give up. In 1749, at the age of 23, he joined the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer and just three years later became a professed lay brother.

Majella lived with the three vows of Poverty, Chasity and Obedience. He stayed close with the poor and worked very many different jobs. He served as sacristan, gardener, porter, infirmarian, and tailor. However, because of his great piety, extraordinary wisdom, and his gift of reading Majella was often called on by the poor and the sick.

Along with his miracles effected through prayers for woman in labor, Majella's last recorded miracle is one that many credit toward his becoming the patron of expectant mothers. Shortly before his death, Majella encountered a young girl. He had dropped his handkerchief and she set out to return it, only to be told to keep it. Majella told her she "may need it someday." Years after Majella's passing, the young girl became married and with child. She unexpectedly went into labor and was on the verge of losing her baby. She called for Majella's handkerchief to be applied to her. Almost immediately, her pain abated and she proceeded to give birth to a healthy child, something very rare during that time.

Source: <https://www.catholic.org/>



## **Novena to St. Gerard Majella, Patron Saint of Expectant Mothers**

O great Saint Gerard, beloved servant of Jesus Christ, perfect imitator of your meek and humble Savior, and devoted child of Mother of God, enkindle within my heart one spark of that heavenly fire of charity which glowed in your heart and made you an angel of love.

O glorious Saint Gerard, because when falsely accused of crime, you did bear, like your Divine Master, without murmur or complaint, the calumnies of wicked men, you have been raised up by God as the patron and protector of expectant mothers.

Preserve [Kate] from danger and from the excessive pains accompanying childbirth, and shield the child which [Kate] now carr[ies], that [she] may see the light of day and receive the purifying and life-giving waters of baptism through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Then three Hail Mary's.*

Source: [catholicnovenaapp.com/novenas/st-gerard-majella-novena/#](http://catholicnovenaapp.com/novenas/st-gerard-majella-novena/#)