



**Novenas & Prayers to  
St. Gerard Majella  
The Mothers' Saint**

# Novenas & Prayers to St. Gerard Majella

*The Mothers' Saint*

Imprimi Potest

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## What Is a Novena?

Traditionally, a novena is a prayer or set of prayers repeated for nine consecutive days, often before an important feast. However, there are no fixed rules for making a novena, except to persevere in prayer. The versatility and richness of these prayers goes hand in hand with their popularity. Novenas have been a great source of comfort and strength for centuries.

Through our devotion to a particular saint we are assisted in our lives to love God and our neighbor wholeheartedly. We strive to be light in the world, bringing the compassion and love of God to all we meet on our life's journey. Novenas give form to our devotion to a favorite saint and the novena prayers are woven into the fabric of our daily lives.

St. Gerard Majella, a Redemptorist brother, is recognized by millions around the world as "The Mothers' Saint." Since his death in 1755, extraordinary favors have been granted to mothers who prayed to him. His presence is felt in hearts, homes and hospitals around the world. Whenever or wherever there is a mother in need, a baby in danger, a sick child or a family in distress, prayers are raised up to St. Gerard.

The word novena is derived from the Latin word for nine. Two different novenas are available in this booklet. The first novena is adapted to each of the nine months of pregnancy, to be prayed every day of each month or on one day of each month. It consists of a short meditation, a prayer and some questions for reflection. The second novena is a traditional nine-day novena. This novena may be prayed during the nine days leading up to St. Gerard's feast on October 16th or during any other nine-day period throughout the year. The novena consists of the same opening prayer to be said each day, followed by a particular prayer for each day and ten Hail Marys.

For both novenas, find a place where you can be comfortable and quiet, preferably before the Blessed Sacrament, if possible. Begin by closing your eyes and recognizing yourself in the presence of God. Before beginning the prayers, call to mind what it is you want to ask of St. Gerard. Please feel free to spend time in silence and/or say other prayers. Above all, pray with faith, hope and love, remembering all the intentions that come to St. Gerard. It is most important to always pray with trusting faith, confident hope and compassionate love.



# Months of Pregnancy Novena

## Prayer to St. Gerard During Pregnancy

Gentle and joyful St. Gerard, friend of mothers everywhere, especially those expecting a child, please intercede for me to our loving God, to protect and nurture the child I carry.

You so loved the Virgin Mary as mother of our savior. You had a special love for all women, praying for them whenever you would see one. Be with me now as my baby grows within me.

Take my hand and walk me through a healthy pregnancy and safe delivery. Take my fears about this journey and turn them into prayers of thanksgiving for the person I carry, whom I dearly love. Guide me in these months of development to make good choices for my baby so that I may welcome a new member of our family into the world when my child is born.

As I pray for the grace to accept God's will in all things, please watch over me and my baby so that we may grow together in faith and hope. In your joy and love for the Risen Christ, please hear and answer me. Amen.

St. Gerard, special friend of Jesus and Mary, pray for me.

## MONTHS OF PREGNANCY NOVENA

### Month 1

**I**t is sometimes difficult to know God's will for us and often equally difficult to accept that will. This was not the case for St. Gerard, who lived his life joyfully doing God's will.

#### Prayer

*Good St. Gerard, I pray for the trust you had in God, the complete and unconditional love you saw that God had for you. Intercede for me before our loving God that I may become a mother. I humbly turn my will over to our all-knowing God and believe that God will care for me and love me as I am. I pray for the grace to know and accept God's will for me, and if possible, bless my life with a child.*

*St. Gerard, always obedient to the Will of God, pray for us.*

#### Reflection

What is God's will for you? How can you live out that will? Sit quietly with God for a few moments and open your heart to God.

## Month 2

**D**uring the first three months of pregnancy, not much change is visible on the outside, but on the inside much is happening. Soon a tiny heart begins to beat so that your heart and the baby's heart are beating together in one body.

### Prayer

*Good St. Gerard, I thank God for the life that grows within me. I humbly ask for your protection as I look forward to giving life to this new and precious child that God has seen fit to entrust to me. As a servant of God and a Redemptorist brother, you awoke each day, anxious to do the will of God, and to care for God's people. Help me to take care of this child, whom I already love more than life itself, to be aware of this miracle I carry until the day I hold this child in my arms. St. Gerard, special friend of God and mothers everywhere, pray for us.*

### Reflection

What are your hopes and dreams for your child? How will you bring yourself and your baby closer to God during this time of preparation? Sit quietly with God for a few moments and share your thoughts with God.



## Month 3

People sometimes make poor choices about what to do, how to live, what to eat and drink. Someone carrying another person's life inside of them must start thinking about the baby and what is good for that tiny life growing and developing.

### Prayer

*Dear St. Gerard, as my baby grows my body changes to accommodate the presence of a new life. Please keep me and my precious baby safe. Help me to make good choices in what I do and where I go so that I might nurture this baby entrusted to my care.*

*St. Gerard, you touched people and brought them closer to God. Intercede for me to God as I pray each day for me and my baby.*

*St. Gerard, lover of God and Mary, pray for us.*

### Reflection

How can you live healthier? What better choices should you make to keep your baby safe? Spend a few minutes letting God speak to you, giving you ideas that will be good for your family.

## Month 4

Being afraid of the unknown is natural. Discovering how the baby develops from month to month, and how the body changes each month can be enlightening and reassuring. Help me turn my fears over to God.

### Prayer

*St. Gerard, as time passes I slowly realize the gift God has given me. Please take the fears that burden me and turn them into prayers of thanksgiving. Sometimes fears of my child's unknown future almost overwhelm me. Please help me to turn away from them and put my trust in God.*

*St. Gerard, who trusted completely and unconditionally in God, pray for us.*

### Reflection

Fear requires a good deal of energy to keep it going. Inhale good thoughts and exhale fear. All words and actions can be a prayer. Spend a few minutes turning your mind and heart over to God.

## Month 5

**T**he baby moves, kicks, and makes his or her presence known. These signs of life can be a secret joy, and ones to be shared with family. Special moments between mother and baby are the source of great happiness.

### Prayer

*Dear St. Gerard, the baby continues to grow. More and more changes are taking place inside of me as the baby's body takes shape. Help me to stay joyful as I continue to prepare for this baby to come into our family. Happiness and worry now go hand in hand. Having so much joy before the baby comes can be frightening. St. Gerard, protect this baby, help me to breathe in the joy and breathe out a prayer of thanksgiving with each unfolding day.*

*St. Gerard, joyful servant of God, pray for us.*

### Reflection

Think about how happy you are and how soon a new person will come into your world. It is truly cause for great joy. Take a few moments to share your joy with God, to thank God for this joy and for this child.

## Month 6

**W**hen a baby dies before birth, the sadness is overwhelming, the loss unimaginable. Mother and father are devastated. They must be held with special tenderness. The grieving parents need special prayers to give them strength.

### Prayer

*St. Gerard, sometimes a baby doesn't make it through the entire nine months. Sometimes a child comes into the world early. Please protect these children and give them the help they need to live through this experience. Help the medical personnel who care for these babies and their families. Give them the skills to treat these fragile children, so that they can thrive and grow with God's help, giving every baby a chance to be loved and cherished here on earth.*

*St. Gerard, healer of the sick, protect these fragile little ones so that they may praise God on earth for many years. St. Gerard, pray for us.*

## Reflection

Think about the medical personnel who work hard every day to preserve and protect life. Sometimes no matter how hard they try, things don't work out. Talk to God for a few minutes about these brave and committed people and the families who need their help.



## MONTHS OF PREGNANCY NOVENA

### Month 7

**T**alking to a child still snug and secure within the womb gives a mother the chance to begin to connect in a special way with her baby. It may seem strange at first, but giving the baby a chance to know a mother's voice makes it all worthwhile.



## Prayer

*St. Gerard, my baby can hear the sound of my voice now. Help me speak my heart to this miracle of life inside me. Please give me the words to speak my joy and to withhold any fears I may have for the baby's safety. Love is difficult to quantify or describe. Already I know I carry love in my heart for this child whose heart beats along with mine.*

*St. Gerard, you spoke to those in need of help. Pray for us who anxiously await the birth of our child.*

## Reflection

If you speak to your baby, the baby may respond with movement or a kick. It's thrilling as you respond to each other. When you speak to God, you don't always feel a concrete movement, but sometimes you feel a "kick of grace" to move in the right direction. Spend a few minutes and talk to God about how you feel right now.

## Month 8

So many children in the world have no home, no family, no one to love and care for them. A mother and her child are a blessing to one another.

## Prayer

*Dear St. Gerard, all children deserve God's love and the love of those who surround them. Protect those who are vulnerable. Feed those who are hungry. Ask God to give all parents the grace to watch over their children and assist those who have no one to care for them.*

*St. Gerard, who looked on the blessed Virgin as the perfect example of a mother, pray for us.*

## Reflection

Consider how many children you know who are loved and cared for. Were you loved and cared for as a child? If you were, it was a great gift that you can pass on to your child. If not, change the world for your child and love him or her more than words can say. Talk to God for a few minutes about the children of the world and see what God wants you to do to make things better for them.

## Month 9

**T**he baby arrives and the world is changed forever. Make room for the baby in your life as you made room for the baby inside of you. It may not be easy to make all the adjustments, but know that the adventure is just beginning.

### Prayer

*St. Gerard, give me the grace to accept whatever God gives me as I see my child for the first time. Thank you for taking this journey with me. Do not leave me now that my child has come into the world.*

*St. Gerard, you who accepted God's will in all things and in all ways, pray for us to do the same.*

### Reflection

O how great and wonderful is God that He has given you this gift of life to love, cherish and watch over. "Thank you" is such a small thing to say. But if you say it every day, no matter how that day may go, it will become a prayer for you and your family throughout the coming years. Sit with God and be thankful that life is beginning anew.



## Novena in Honor of St. Gerard

*This novena was first published in "Novena to St. Gerard"  
by Gerffert-Hirten, New York, 1956*

### **OPENING PRAYER**

*(To be prayed each day)*

All-loving and ever-living God, you drew St. Gerard Majella to yourself, already when he was still quite young, conforming him to the image of your crucified Son, grant we pray that, imitating his example, we too may be conformed to the same divine image, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*V. Pray for us, O St. Gerard.*

*R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

## Day1

### **OPENING PRAYER**

### **FIRST DAY PRAYER**

St. Gerard, ever full of faith, grant that we may firmly believe all that the Church proposes for our belief and that we may strive to secure the joys of eternal happiness through a holy life.

### **10 HAIL MARYS**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen. (Pray 10 times.)

## Day 2

### **OPENING PRAYER**

### **SECOND DAY PRAYER**

St. Gerard, most generous saint, who from your youth did care so little for the goods of the earth, grant that we may place all our confidence in Jesus Christ alone, our true treasure, who alone can make us happy in time and eternity.

### **10 HAIL MARYS**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen. (Pray 10 times.)

## Day 3

### **OPENING PRAYER**

### **THIRD DAY PRAYER**

St. Gerard, bright angel of love who did consecrate your whole life to the service of God and your neighbor, promoting God's glory in your humble state, and ever ready to assist the distressed and console the sorrowful, grant that, loving God and our neighbor for his sake, we may be hereafter united to him forever in glory.

### **10 HAIL MARYS**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen. (Pray 10 times.)

## Day 4

### **OPENING PRAYER**

#### **FOURTH DAY PRAYER**

St. Gerard, spotless lily of purity, by the angelic virtue and the wonderful innocence of your life you received from the Madonna and Child sweet pledges of their most tender love, grant, we beg you, that we may always strive in our life-long struggles to win the crown that awaits the brave and the faithful.

#### **10 HAIL MARYS**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen. (Pray 10 times.)

## Day 5

### **OPENING PRAYER**

#### **FIFTH DAY PRAYER**

St. Gerard, model of holy obedience, who throughout your life heroically submitted your judgment to those who represented Jesus Christ to you, thus sanctifying your lowliest actions, obtain for us from God cheerful submission to God's Holy Will and the virtue of perfect obedience, that we may be more conformed to Jesus, our model, who was obedient even to death.

#### **10 HAIL MARYS**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen. (Pray 10 times.)

## Day 6

### **OPENING PRAYER**

### **SIXTH DAY PRAYER**

St. Gerard, most perfect imitator of Jesus, our Redeemer, your greatest glory was to continue the mission of Jesus by being humble and lowly. Grant that we too, knowing our smallness before God, may be found worthy to enter the Kingdom that is promised to the humble and lowly of heart.

### **10 HAIL MARYS**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen. (Pray 10 times.)

## Day 7

### **OPENING PRAYER**

### **SEVENTH DAY PRAYER**

St. Gerard, most heroically patient in suffering, you found glory in infirmity and, in facing cruel lies and disgrace, rejoiced to suffer with Christ. Obtain for us patience and surrender in our sorrows, that we may bravely bear whatever cross will gain for us the crown of everlasting glory.

### **10 HAIL MARYS**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen. (Pray 10 times.)

## Day 8

### OPENING PRAYER

#### EIGHTH DAY PRAYER

St. Gerard, true lover of Jesus in the Eucharist, you knelt long hours before the tabernacle and there did taste the joys of paradise. Obtain for us an undying love for Jesus, that receiving frequently the Eucharist, we may grow daily in God's holy love and merit the priceless grace of loving God.

#### 10 HAIL MARYS

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen. (Pray 10 times.)

## Day 9

### OPENING PRAYER

#### NINTH DAY PRAYER

St. Gerard, most favored child of heaven, to whom Mary gave the infant Jesus in the days of your childhood, to whom she sweetly came before you to close your eyes in death, obtain for us, we beg you, so to seek and love our Blessed Mother during life, that she may be our joy and consolation in this valley of tears, until with you, before the throne of God, we may praise her goodness for all eternity. Amen.

#### 10 HAIL MARYS

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## Feast of St. Gerard Majella

The feast of St. Gerard Majella, the Mothers' Saint, is a very blessed day for all those devoted to him, especially his prayer angel friends who pray with him for all who seek his intercession. May St. Gerard Majella continue to work miraculous wonders and help all mothers and women who want to be mothers. May our humble prayers continue to be heard in heaven and answered on earth.



## Litany to St. Gerard

St. Gerard, child of God and special friend of Jesus, pray for us.

St. Gerard, living image of the crucified Christ, pray for us.

St. Gerard, lover of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, pray for us.

St. Gerard, devoted to Mary, our Blessed Mother, pray for us.

St. Gerard, endowed with extraordinary graces from early childhood, pray for us.

St. Gerard, worker of wondrous miracles, pray for us.

St. Gerard, humble and obedient servant of God, pray for us.

St. Gerard, desiring only to please God in all things and at all times, pray for us.

St. Gerard, seeker of God's holy will and loving plan in all things, pray for us.

St. Gerard, great lover of prayer and work, pray for us.

St. Gerard, admirable model of heroic obedience, pray for us.

St. Gerard, truly wise and humble with childlike simplicity, pray for us.

St. Gerard, patron of a good confession, pray for us.

St. Gerard, silent victim of embarrassing lies, pray for us.

St. Gerard, supernaturally enlightened spiritual guide, pray for us.

St. Gerard, wise counselor in vocational discernment, pray for us.

St. Gerard, faithful and faith-filled Redemptorist missionary brother, pray for us.

St. Gerard, trusted friend of all mothers, pray for us.

St. Gerard, intercessor for all women who seek motherhood, pray for us.

St. Gerard, intercessor for couples who are finding it difficult to conceive, pray for us.

St. Gerard, consoler of those unable to conceive, pray for us.

St. Gerard, intercessor for women with difficult or risky pregnancies, pray for us.

St. Gerard, patron of safe deliveries, pray for us.

St. Gerard patron of first time, single and teenage mothers, pray for us.

St. Gerard patron of stepmothers and foster mothers, pray for us.

St. Gerard patron of birth mothers and adoptive mothers, pray for us.

St. Gerard patron of mothers of children with special needs, pray for us.

St. Gerard, protector of mothers and children who are immigrants, refugees and migrants, pray for us.

St. Gerard, intercessor for mothers who also work outside the home, pray for us.

St. Gerard, most kind friend of the poor and homeless, marginalized and excluded, pray for us.

St. Gerard, protector of all girls and women, victims of all types of abuse, pray for us.

St. Gerard, protector of children who are sick, pray for us.

Pray for us O holy St. Gerard, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

O God—Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier—you drew St. Gerard to yourself from his earliest days, conforming him to the image of your crucified Son, may we, by following his example, be transformed into the same image, through the name and the power of Jesus, the Christ, who is our Lord forever and ever. Amen.



# Various Prayers to St. Gerard

## **Prayer to St. Gerard Majella**

Blessed St. Gerard, during your life you extended your help to the unfortunate and poor around you. Help me in my present need (mention your particular intention). Give me insight to recognize the presence of Jesus in the sufferings and troubles of others. Let not my urgent need for help cause me to think only of myself. Following your example, uniting my prayers and sufferings with Jesus on the cross, may I be transformed into a humble, wise, compassionate and loving person. May I be constantly aware of my need for God's grace. St. Gerard, pray for me. Amen.

## **Prayer for the Gift of Motherhood**

Dear St. Gerard, we ask you to seek a special blessing for all women who desire to be mothers and those already now awaiting the birth of their child, especially those who may be having any problems or complications. We ask you to seek fertility for those couples who seek the fruit of the womb, a child for whom they can be good parents. We pray that the genuine love between women and men might be fertile ground for new life to grow, develop, be nurtured and mature. May their love for each other be made flesh in

a unique, unrepeatable new person. May all women who seek motherhood be blessed with the grace to conceive, carry well and safely deliver healthy babies. We ask your special blessings on all women already pregnant and awaiting the birth of their child. We ask you to watch over all life developing in the womb, may these lives be loved, cherished, nourished and cared for with profound respect and come safely to see the light of day. We make our prayer through the name and the power of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

## **Prayer for Parenthood**

Good St. Gerard, powerful intercessor and wonder-worker, we call on you and seek your help. You know that we have not been blessed with a child and how much we desire this gift. Please present our pleas to God, from whom all life and parenthood proceed, and beseech the Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier of Life to bless us with a child whom we may raise as an heir of heaven. We make our prayer through the name and the power of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

## **Prayer for Women Having Difficulty Conceiving**

St. Gerard, life doesn't seem fair when a woman who so badly wants a child cannot conceive or is having difficulties conceiving. Give those women who desperately want to be mothers the grace to continue to persevere. Miracles happen everyday, and even though prayers are not always answered the way someone wants, God hears our prayers. Intercede for women who want to be mothers and ask God to grant their request.

We ask this of you, St. Gerard, a man who looked kindly on every woman because of your love for Mary, the Mother of God.

We humbly ask you to take this prayer to Jesus who is Christ the Lord. Amen.

## **Women Enduring Complicated Pregnancies**

Generous St. Gerard, take special care of all mothers who are experiencing difficult pregnancies, who find themselves and their babies in jeopardy. Not all mothers carry their babies easily or for the full nine months. Stay close to those mothers and those children as they try to make it through the days and nights ahead. Help those mothers find a way to reduce the stress in their lives and to accept God's will

in their lives. Let them open their hearts to the peace and quiet of God's love.

We humbly ask you to take this prayer to Jesus who is Christ the Lord. Amen.

## **Prayer for Safe Delivery**

Beloved St. Gerard, we ask you to accompany and bless all women giving birth. Help them to have uncomplicated and safe deliveries, without difficulties or complications. Preserve mothers and babies from danger and risk in childbirth. May delivery be trouble-free and safe. If there are complications, may those assisting the birth know how to best resolve the problems for the well-being of the child and the mother. Help all medical personnel to do their work well. May all newborns have a safe and healthy environment in which to be born. Blessed St. Gerard, be with and help especially any and all mothers who may have to overcome serious obstacles in order to deliver their babies. We make our prayer through the name and the power of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

## **Prayer for a Mother with a Child**

Almighty and Eternal God who, through the work of the Holy Spirit, prepared the body and soul of the Blessed Mother, Mary, to be a worthy dwelling for

your divine Son, please listen to the prayers of your humble servant who implores, through the intercession of St. Gerard, to protect her (me) from the dangers of child-bearing and to watch over the child with which you have deigned to bless her (me), keeping it from all troubles and sickness. We make our prayer through the name and the power of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

### **Prayer for New, First-Time Mothers**

Kind, St. Gerard, a new mother needs a special grace after a baby is born. Please help all new mothers to hold their children close to them, love them dearly and do what is best for their children and themselves. Give new mothers someone to help them through their first weeks and months of motherhood, to guide them, to calm their fears, to rejoice with them in this new and precious life that has been entrusted to them. Encircle them with confidence to make good choices for their babies and themselves. Always keep them safe in your loving protection.

We humbly ask you to take this prayer to Jesus who is Christ the Lord. Amen

### **Prayer for Single Mothers**

St. Gerard, sometimes life doesn't go the way a young woman plans. Somehow, a woman finds herself

alone and pregnant, not looking forward to the coming months when a baby will change her life. Help the single mother look forward to the birth of her child. Give her the strength to find support from others to help her through what may be trying times ahead. Mary trusted God with her life. St. Gerard, stand by single mothers. Give them the help they need to trust the right people. Help them bring their children into a world with hope and love.

We humbly ask you to take this prayer to Jesus who is Christ the Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer for Teenage Mothers**

St. Gerard, teenagers have so many life issues to deal with everyday as they navigate the time between childhood and adulthood. Help those teens who become pregnant to take good care of their babies both inside the womb and once they are born. It's a confusing time to become a mother, but with support and love they can become loving mothers to their children.

We humbly ask you to take this prayer to Jesus who is Christ the Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer for Foster Mothers**

St. Gerard, becoming a mother requires making many changes. A foster mother makes those changes

gladly to give a baby or a child a chance to have a good, safe life. Adjustments must be made to welcome a new person into the rhythm of another's family life. Sometimes, when that new young life becomes a real part of a mother's dream, the foster child is returned to its biological family. The foster mother must then deal with the grief of losing someone who has become part of the family. Give these special mothers real support as they deal with the ups and downs of welcoming new life and then, perhaps, letting it go.

We humbly ask you to take this prayer to Jesus who is Christ the Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer for Stepmothers**

Holy man of God, St. Gerard Majella, we pray for stepmothers, those good women who step in to take the place of a biological mother who is hindered for some reason, in some way, from fulfilling her motherly vocation. May these mothers assume their parental, motherly role with responsibility, care, concern and generous, unselfish love. May all children grow up feeling and knowing deeply that they are loved and lovable, through the experience of genuine motherly love. We make our prayer through the name and the power of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

### **Prayer for Birth Mothers**

Dear St. Gerard, I know that I will not accompany this special child on its life path. I call to you when I, in my weakness, find myself hesitant to surrender this infant whom I would so dearly love to keep as my own. Help me to acknowledge that this is not only my baby, but God's as well, a child who needs a home of His choosing. Dear St. Gerard, I pray that my infant will be placed in the loving care of a good family and raised as a child of God. Sustain me with your strength dear St. Gerard, that I may trust with unceasing faith in God's direction for the life of my baby as I surrender my child.

We humbly ask you to take this prayer to Jesus who is Christ the Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer for Women Who Adopt**

St. Gerard, as someone who understood the needs of the mothers you met in your day, please listen to the prayers of women who want to adopt a child. Opening their arms, their hearts and their homes to a child they are preparing to meet, give them the strength to persevere throughout the adopting process. Be at their sides when things don't go smoothly or seem to take so long. It's difficult to wait for a baby whom a mother longs to hold in her arms. When the adoption has been

finalized, celebrate with them the prospect of another child growing up in a loving and caring home. Help them, St. Gerard, as you helped mothers so long ago.

We humbly ask you to take this prayer to Jesus who is Christ the Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer for Mothers of Children with Special Needs**

Dear St. Gerard, all mothers and their children are special in God's eyes. But the mothers of children with special needs suffering from mental and physical disabilities live in God's heart in a particular way. These mothers must often call upon energy they have already spent to watch over their special children. Please encircle them in your love and your care as they go about their days loving and protecting children so dear to God. Help these mothers to find solace and comfort as they live each day doing your will.

We humbly ask you to take this prayer to Jesus who is Christ the Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer for Mothers with a Son or Daughter in Prison**

Gracious St. Gerard, all mothers and children are loved by God, but some children lose their way in life and are incarcerated. Help these mothers support

their children who have lost their freedom. As these mothers grieve for the loss of their children's presence, give them the strength to continue to love their children even if they can't be with them now.

We humbly ask you to take this prayer to Jesus who is Christ the Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer for Grandmothers**

Good St. Gerard, becoming a grandmother is an incredible gift as a new life comes into a family. Give grandmothers the special grace to be ready to offer wisdom and experience as they are needed. Teach them to take care to give advice when it is requested and to offer all the love they have to a new grandchild that has come into their lives. To be a mother is a wonderful gift; to become a grandmother renews that gift ten-fold. Stand by the generation that has mothered others and support them in this new and wonderful role.

We humbly ask you to take this prayer to Jesus who is Christ the Lord. Amen.

## **Prayer for Women Who Are Poor, Homeless and Marginalized**

Dear St. Gerard, we humbly ask you to look kindly upon all mothers who are poor, not because they want to be poor, but because their labor is exploited, they are not paid a just wage, they do not have employment opportunities or they struggle alone. We pray for all mothers who struggle to raise their children in poverty, hunger and homelessness. Too often they do not have a safe place where their children have enough food, clothing, shelter, necessary medical care and opportunities for education. May God help us to feel compassion for the forgotten, the excluded, those oppressed by poverty, hunger and homelessness. May God help us build a more just and loving world where all can live with dignity as human persons made in the image and likeness of the living, life-giving God of Love. May all human societies and communities provide assistance, programs, projects, moral support and opportunities for all women, especially mothers, so that they will always be deeply respected. Move the hearts of those who have been chosen to govern and of all women and men of good will to work for the necessary changes in our world, so that all people will be able to live a dignified human existence. Change our hearts, Lord. May we feel your compassion for those

in need. Help us to see and to know what we can do to help create a more just world for all people. We make our prayer through the name and the power of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

## **Prayer for Mothers Who Also Work Outside the Home**

Dear holy man of God, St. Gerard, you were poor, so you know what it means to work hard to earn your livelihood. Look with favor on all working class people, especially mothers who must work hard to maintain a decent home with human dignity and the necessities of life for their children. Touch the hearts of all employers, that they will do all in their power to pay their workers a just, living wage. May we always have God's compassion in our hearts. We make our prayer through the name and the power of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

## **Prayer for Migrant, Immigrant and Refugee Mothers**

Blessed St. Gerard, we ask you today to remember all people, especially mothers and children who, because of political oppression, financial misfortune or war and violence, are forced to seek refuge in an often unwelcoming, foreign place. Please watch over,

protect and guide all who are fleeing human violence, oppression, exploitation or natural disasters, leaving their familiar lives and cultures, going to other lands in search of a safer and better life, but are often rejected. Watch over and protect all these people, especially the most vulnerable ones, children, women and the elderly. We make our prayer through the name and the power of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

### **Prayer for Mothers with Children in Harm's Way**

O great St. Gerard, today we pray especially for mothers with children in harm's way because of injustice, war and violence. Grant divine wisdom, strength and courage to these mothers so that they can protect their children and keep them safe, even in these most adverse conditions. Watch over, protect and come to the assistance of innocent women and children around the world. We make our prayer through the name and the power of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

### **Prayer for Mothers with a Son or Daughter in the Military**

St. Gerard, the mothers of soldiers worry about their children, in far off lands and living in harm's

way. As you protect the children who are soldiers, also give these mothers the grace to wait in hope for their child's return. As they wait anxiously, give them peace of mind and heart. Open their hearts to send their prayers to God for the safety of all children who must live in places where there is no peace.

We humbly ask you to take this prayer to Jesus who is Christ the Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer for Mothers Struggling with Mental Health Issues**

Blessed St. Gerard, being a mother does not exempt any woman from the challenge of maintaining good mental health. We pray for God's blessing on all mothers struggling with any mental health issues. Give them deep, inner peace and strength. Bless them and surround them with compassionate, understanding people who will know best how to help them move to a better place. We pray especially for mothers who struggle with varying degrees and types of depression. Grant them all the graces and aids they need to overcome all feelings of despair and meaninglessness, finding in your love the joy and strength they need to be good mothers. We also pray for mothers who struggle with chemical dependency or substance abuse. Grant them all the graces they need to be to-

tally free from such artificial help and to find, in your love, real strength and the power to be good mothers. We make our prayer through the name and the power of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

### **Prayer for Babies and Children Who Are Sick**

Dear St. Gerard, like our Savior you loved children so tenderly and by your prayers freed many from disease and even death, look today at us who are pleading for our little ones who are ill. We lift up to you all our babies and children who are sick and suffering. We know that you do not like to see them suffer and so we are sure that you will hear our prayers for all the sick children in the world. Intercede for them and bring them God's healing touch. Restore them to complete, full health and help them along the way that leads to true happiness. May they live to realize their full potential as children of God. We make our prayer through the name and the power of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

### **Prayer for Children Who Have Died**

Blessed St. Gerard, the death of babies and children is always tragic. It is, to our mind, always premature. Too often we cannot fathom or understand. We cannot find any reason that makes sense, that gives mean-

ing. All we can do is entrust the sweet, innocent and precious life of all the babies and children who have died into the gentle, strong arms of the carpenter from Nazareth – Jesus, the Christ, our Redeemer, Lord and Brother, Son of Man and Son of God. We remember all those who were stillborn or miscarried, those who died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), those born with a serious birth defect, the premature, those born too small (low birth weight) and too early, the ones who died due to maternal complications during pregnancy, or problems due to malnutrition, infectious disease, home environment, dehydration and diarrhea, a lack of medical care or whatever other reason. We know they are completely innocent and that they are forever in God's heart. We just want to remember them in Jesus' loving arms. We make our prayer through the name and the power of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

### **Prayer for Mothers Who Have Lost a Child**

Beloved St. Gerard, today we pray for parents, especially mothers who have lost a baby before, during or after birth. Perhaps God the Father and the Blessed Mother of Jesus alone can fully comprehend their pain. We pray for the healing of their emotions and the grace to live with purpose beyond the ter-

rible sense of loss. If it be their wish and the will of God, may they conceive, bear well, safely deliver and rear yet another child for the glory of God, which is a human being fully alive. May you know a profound peace in the depths of your being. We make our prayer through the name and the power of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

### **Prayer for Mothers Considering Abortion or Who Have Had an Abortion**

Dear St. Gerard, most mothers really don't want to abort their babies. Help all mothers, and help us help them keep their babies and bring them to see the light of day, providing reasonable and realistic options. We also pray for women suffering the after effects of an abortion. Help them examine their abortion experience, identify the ways that the loss has impacted them in the past and present, and help them acknowledge any unresolved feelings they may be struggling with after an abortion. Because of the emotional numbness and secrecy that often surrounds an abortion experience, conflicting emotions both during and after the event may remain unresolved. These buried feelings can surface later and may be symptoms of post abortion trauma. Give these women a contrite heart, forgiveness, inner peace and healing graces. We make

our prayer through the name and the power of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

### **Prayer for Women Who Are Victims of Abuse**

Beloved St. Gerard, we pray for all victims of abuse, especially girls and women who have been or are being abused, whether psychological, emotional, verbal, physical or sexual. We pray that their wounds and brokenness will heal and that the scars left will not keep them from living happy, productive and fulfilling lives. Despite everything, may they once again learn to trust. Help us become more aware of this evil. Help us better protect our innocent children and those most vulnerable in our world. Let us always be on our guard. Help us educate young people to not act violently, especially toward girls and women. We make our prayer through the name and the power of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

### **Thanksgiving for a Safe Delivery**

Good St. Gerard, the saint for all mothers, assist us in thanking God for the great gift of motherhood. During the months of waiting we learned to call upon you and placed the safety of our children and ourselves under your powerful protection. The lesson of your great trust in God sustained us; your slogan,

“God will provide,” became our hope and consolation. Thank God for healthy babies and our own good health. Help us to prize the great treasure of motherhood and obtain for us from God the graces to raise our children as children of God. In gratitude we will continue to call upon you and will tell other mothers about their special patron and friend. Amen.

### **Prayer to Make a Good Confession**

St. Gerard, patron of a good confession, you give me the courage to overcome my fear and shame. Help me make a good confession. Enable me to see and know my sins, to be truly sorry for them and firmly resolved, with God’s grace, never to sin again. Help me confess my sins humbly and sincerely. Stand by me, gentle saint of God. May the grace of this sacrament help me to grow in holiness. I make this prayer through the name and the power of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

### **Prayer for Special Blessings**

Blessed St. Gerard, most appealing model and powerful friend, we rejoice in your happiness and glory. We bless the Lord who endowed you with the choicest gifts of grace and we congratulate you for corresponding and cooperating so faithfully. In your brotherly

love, which made you the support of the poor, the comforter of the afflicted and an apostle to the most abandoned, grant me the favors for which I now pray (mention them). By your example you show us how to love and trust God. You have obtained many blessings for so many who have called upon you. For God’s greater glory, and if it be God’s holy will and loving plan, please obtain for us the desires of our hearts, that which we seek and most truly need. We make this prayer through the name and the power of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

### **Prayer in Time of Trial**

Dear St. Gerard, your heart went out to the unfortunate. You worked tirelessly to relieve the poor, heal the sick and comfort the afflicted. I am worried and troubled as I come before you. In vain would I seek only this world’s help and consolation. Graciously pray with me and for me, St. Gerard, that, being freed from this trial or strengthened to bear it for love of God, I may give praise and thanks to God and serve my neighbor with greater compassion and love. I make this prayer through the name and the power of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.



## Biography

**G**erard Majella was born on April 6, 1726 in the town of Muro Lucano in southern Italy. His father died when Gerard was still a child. He was apprenticed to a tailor in the town. However, Gerard wanted to enter religious life. His uncle was a Capuchin, but that order rejected Gerard because he looked frail and undernourished.

One cold day Gerard was visiting his uncle. He was poorly dressed for the Italian winter. His uncle had bought him a new coat to keep him warm. On his way home, Gerard met a poor man with no coat at all and quickly gave him the new one he was wearing. His uncle saw this as irresponsible and decided not to allow Gerard into the Capuchins.

In 1749 the Redemptorists came to Muro Lucano. After meeting these priests and learning more about the congregation, Gerard decided he would become a Redemptorist brother.

His mother, not ready to let Gerard go, told him he should wait. That night, Gerard tied bed sheets together and climbed out the window so that he could go with the Redemptorists who had just finished their final day of mission preaching. When he caught up with the priests, Gerard was permitted to accompany them. He later entered the Redemptorist congregation as an aspirant and made his novitiate at Deliceto, Italy. He made his first vows as a Redemptorist in 1752.

He was described as always joyful, always close to Jesus Christ, and turned his whole life over to “the will of God.” Gerard’s reputation as a healer grew quickly in his native Italy. Known as “the mothers’ saint,” Gerard seemed especially concerned about women who desired to be mothers. It was said that women

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He visited with the people of his time, listening to them and bringing the Word of God to them. While they did not write down their stories of Gerard’s kindness and his miracles, the stories were passed on through oral tradition.

One day, a middle-aged widower who had just remarried brought his new wife to the town where Gerard was staying. He explained to Gerard their hopes for a child. On looking at the woman, Gerard said with a smile on his face, “Your wife should be happy and of good heart because she is 40 days pregnant.” The couple was ecstatic with joy and thanked Gerard for his words.

Once, as he was leaving the home of friends, one of the daughters ran after him calling out that he had forgotten his handkerchief. In a moment of prophetic insight Gerard said, “Keep it. It will be useful to you some day.” She treasured the handkerchief for years as a precious souvenir from Gerard. Years later the girl found herself in danger of dying in childbirth. She remembered the words of Gerard and called for the handkerchief. Almost immediately the danger passed and she delivered a healthy child.

During his lifetime, Gerard helped young women who wanted to enter the convent to secure their dowry, which had to be paid when they entered. In 1754 he helped one young woman who later decided she wanted to return home. Because she was afraid of bringing shame on her family for leaving the convent, she accused Gerard of improprieties.

Gerard was sent to a nearby monastery where he stayed in seclusion until the accusations could be investigated. Some months later, the young woman recanted and sent a letter retracting all of the charges she had made against him. When he was accused, Gerard said nothing in his defense, imitating Christ who said nothing when false charges were brought against Him. After being vindicated, Gerard continued his preaching and healing.

The Redemptorists knew Brother Gerard was special. His constant joy was evident. His closeness to God and his commitment to Christ were ever present. With his simple and sincere faith, many people wanted to be near Gerard as he traveled in and around Naples and southern Italy.

His health degenerated and soon he became gravely ill. He died on October 16, 1755 in his room in the Materdomini community. He was 29 years old.

He was beatified in 1893 by Pope Leo XIII and canonized in 1904 by Pope Pius X.

In his few short years on earth, he made lasting impressions on the Redemptorists and the people he met. He continues to help those who pray for his intercession.

## Join Our Online Prayer Community on Facebook



### The Prayer Angel Friends of St. Gerard

We pray with St. Gerard for all the intentions that come to him, especially for mothers and the gift of motherhood for those who desire it.

We honor all Prayer Requests and all those who wish to have their names added to a Prayer Flower of Hope. We seek the miraculous power and help of St. Gerard Majella, but above all, we seek the loving plan and holy will of God in all things. The bottom line of all our prayer is always “Thy will be done.”

<https://www.facebook.com/saintgerardmajella>



**St. Gerard Majella** is a Redemptorist brother, recognized by millions as “The Mothers’ Saint.” His special compassion and care for mothers is well known. Since his death from tuberculosis in 1755, St. Gerard has answered prayers offered by

women finding it difficult to conceive and mothers experiencing risky pregnancies or facing complicated deliveries.

This booklet contains a short biography of St. Gerard, which explains why he is known around the world as the patron saint of mothers. Also included are a novena adapted to the nine months of pregnancy and a traditional nine-day novena.

Often there is sorrow in families and mothers find themselves in difficult situations. Mindful of these times, this booklet also contains prayers for mothers in need of prayer in diverse circumstances and difficult life-situations.

**Visit [www.themotherssaint.org](http://www.themotherssaint.org)**