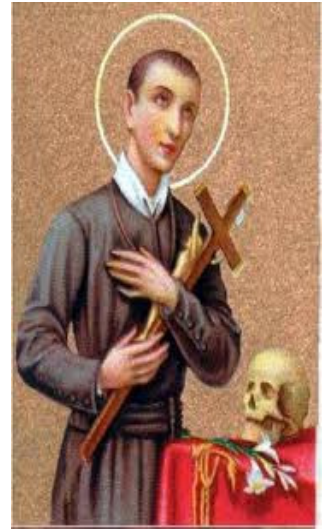


St Gerard Majella (m)

- b. 1726, d. 1755 (29 yrs.)
- Born and lived most of his short life in the Kingdom of Naples, present-day Italy.
- He was a member of the *Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer*, also known as the *Redemptorist Order*. This is an organization that focuses on helping and teaching the neglected people of the world, particularly the poor.
- Responsible for numerous miracles in his lifetime, including the restoration of life of a boy who had fallen from a cliff and the multiplication of various foods.
- He is the patron of expectant mothers because of the powerful story attached to his life. Late in his life, he was visiting a family as he often did. While he was leaving, he dropped his handkerchief and left without noticing. After he left, one of the girls noticed he had dropped it and ran after him to return it. When she caught up with him, he told her to keep it, saying that she may need it someday. Years later, when she was giving birth and it appeared that she was going to die, she asked for that handkerchief, she was immediately healed and gave birth to a healthy child. This story spread throughout the area and led to prayers for his intercession, which was followed by many miracles, especially after his death.
- Pictured with a Crucifix, representing his focus on Jesus; a skull, representing his focus on life after death; lilies, to represent purity; and handkerchief, because of the story
- Died very young of tuberculosis
- Patron Saint of unborn children and pregnant mothers
- Inspiration for the League of St. Gerard, an organization in London that supports and prays for pregnant mothers and their families.
- Feast Day: October 16th



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