



THE VOICE

ALL ARE WELCOME

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church;
 No matter what your current family or marital situation;
 No matter what your past or present religious affiliation;
 No matter what your personal history, age, background, race, or color;
 No matter what your self-image or esteem;
 You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected at
 St. Gerald Catholic Church.

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 13, 2015

The cross of Christ is memorialized in many different ways. Huge crosses bearing the likeness of the Savior hang over the altars of our churches. Tiny crosses free of all adornments are worn on chains around our necks. But the most memorial to the cross of Christ are the crosses we bear in the living of our faith and our obedient discipleship.

First reading – Isaiah 50:5-9a

In such a world as ours, offering a helping hand is much more difficult than giving advice to those in need. Jesus taught the truths of God, but he also gave his life on a criminal's cross for a world of sinful people. Those of us who would follow him must not withhold ourselves from a hostile and a helpless world.

Second reading – James 2:14-18

Talk is cheap, especially in the realm of faith. All our talk about clothing the naked and feeding the hungry is a mockery of Christian compassion if it costs us nothing. Only those who are willing to take up a cross of service are worthy to be called the disciples of Jesus Christ.

Gospel – Mark 8 8:27-35

The logic of the cross of Christ contradicts everything the world teaches about successful living and getting ahead. Faith's truth contradicts the popular wisdom of this misdirected world. Strange as it seems, those who live under the shadow of the cross can receive only by giving, win only by losing, and live only by dying.

Popular Christianity today tends to be too comfortable, which makes it hard to be taken seriously. But this is not new. The history of the church reveals how Christians have always tried to make faith as simple and as easy as possible. We have an example in today's reading. Peter had just made his confession that Jesus was the Messiah. Then Jesus began to teach the disciples what kind of Messiah he would be. He told them of the coming days of his suffering, his rejection, and his death. The disciples could not have been more shocked. Peter took Jesus aside and rebuked him. But Jesus turned on Peter and said, "Get out of my sight, you Satan!" Then Jesus gathered all the disciples and said, "If any wish to come after me, they must deny themselves, take up their crosses, and follow in my steps." Are we called to the way of the cross?

The cross was never for Christ only. It has always been for his followers as well. The cross stands at the center of the Christian faith. Without it, Jesus would not have been the Christ. Without it, we cannot be his followers. The cross is central to our faith for several reasons. First, it reveals the true nature of sin. Sin is not just a specialty of religion. It is a very real fact of human life. Sin is why our governments spend millions of dollars on police officers and jails, law courts and prisons. Why else have the nations of the world spent themselves into bankruptcy making machines that do nothing but kill people? Sin is the deepest problem of the human race, and this would be the case even if religion ceased to exist.

The cross is central to our faith because it reveals the way of true faith. Faith is not always a good thing. We are called on to have faith in our political leaders, but some politicians are crooks. Faith in dishonest politicians is bad faith. It may have seemed grim and foreboding to have spoken of the cross as revealing the true nature of sin, the power of sacrificial living, and a cross-shaped faith. But this is the only kind of Christian faith that has a chance in the real world. In their deepest hearts, people despise a soft and easy religion. The causes that call for our response are dangerous and demanding. The church cannot face this world at a lower level of devotion. The way of the cross is the only way. Have a Blessed Week! Fr. Festus

ST. GERALD

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Servant Church Of
 The Archdiocese of Detroit

21300 Farmington Road
 Farmington, Michigan 48336

Phone: 248-477-7470

Rectory Fax: 248-477-3878

Ministries Fax: 248-381-5803

Website: stgeraldparish.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday
 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:15 a.m.
 12:00 Noon

WEEKDAYS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, First Friday:
 9:15 a.m.

Thursday Evening: 7:00 p.m.

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:30–4:30 p.m.

A Week Ahead

WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS
SEPTEMBER 14 - SEPTEMBER 17



Monday 9:15 AM
Michael and Phyllis Albis
Requested by Mary Taylor

Tuesday 9:15 AM
Michael Hoots
Requested by Family

Wednesday 9:15 AM
Lauren LaFontaine
Requested by Friends

Thursday 7:00 PM
Jamie Smith
Requested by St. Gerald Staff

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: NM 21:4B-9/PHIL 2:6-11/JN 3:13-17
TUESDAY: 1 TM 3:1-13/JN 19:25-27 OR LK 2:33-35
WEDNESDAY: 1 TM 3:14-16/LK 7:31-35
THURSDAY: 1 TM 4:12-16/LK 7:36-50
FRIDAY: 1 TM 6:2C-12/LK 8:1-3
SATURDAY: 1 TM 6:13-16/LK 8:4-15
NEXT SUNDAY: WIS 2:12, 17-20/JAS 3:16--4:3/
MK 9:30-37

Liturgical Publications Inc
(For a list of daily readings: go to <http://www.usccb.org/nab>)

Festival of Ministries

The weekend of September 19 and 20 is Festival of Ministries Weekend here at St. Gerald. Please join us after Mass in the Social Hall to learn about ways that you can volunteer your time and talents to support one of our many ministries here at St. Gerald. Tables will be set up in the hall with information and displays along with representatives to answer any questions you may have.

This is a great way to get involved in parish life! Ask anyone you know who already volunteers, there are many rewards personally and spiritually that you get when you get involved, no matter how large or small your time commitment is, we appreciate your help!



**St. Alexander Church
Estate Sale will be held
October 2 through**

**October 4. Volunteers are needed. If
you can volunteer your time please
call Tim Westfall at
248-476-7677 ext. 202.**

SEPTEMBER 20, 2015 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 PM September 19 Fr. Festus		
For Nancy J. Corey Requested by Bernadette Fea	Servers	Rob Gulick Gavin Kamm
	Lector/ Ushers	Barb Desmond 5:00A
8:30 AM September 20 Fr. Roodbeen		
For Mary Camilleri Requested by Family	Servers	John Smith Gabe Smith
	Lector/ Ushers	Thad Radzilowski 8:30A
10:15 AM September 20 Fr. Festus		
For Herman & Helen Lojowski Requested by Joan & Ken Galica	Servers	Grace Pagnucco Ashley Grabinski
	Lector/ Ushers	Timothy Wardle, Jr. Caron Kott 10:15B
12:00 Noon September 20 Fr. Festus		
For All Our Parishioners	Servers	Fernando Guerra Angela Guerra
	Lectors/ Ushers	Maggie Kohler 12:00A

Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks

September 18 and September 19 Team #1 September 25 and September 26 Team #2

KNIGHTS TO COOK PANCAKE BREAKFAST SEPTEMBER 27

St. Gerald's Knights of Columbus members will cook pancakes with lots of sides for parishioners September 27 after the 8:30AM and 10:15 AM masses. Net proceeds will benefit the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society.



In addition to pancakes, diners will enjoy ham, pork sausage links, scrambled eggs, orange juice, apple sauce and coffee. Tickets will be available at the door. An adult ticket is \$6, child (kindergarten through 8th grade) is \$3 and a family ticket (two adults and 3 child tickets) is \$20. Toddlers and preschoolers are free.

WORSHIP

Tim's Tidbits

It's been a busy week with meetings and getting acquainted with everyone. After the long Labor Day weekend, we are now in full swing with planning and other parish events. I hope everyone had time to pause and reflect over the past weekend as to why we celebrate Labor Day. It is a time to reflect upon contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

As for the title of my article, when I attended the Seminary, I wrote in the parish bulletin under the heading, "Seminarian Spot." When I left the Seminary I chose to continue writing but under a different heading, so this heading was born. I attended St. Alphonsus High School in Dearborn and the Pastor and Associates had neat titles to their articles, Fr. Kevin Britt had "Homily Britts", Fr. Tom Bryne had "By-Line by Bryne", Fr. Zbigniew Grankowski had "From A to Z" and Fr. Stephen Rooney had "Rooney Tunes". I had remained friends with them since that time and often joked with Bishop Britt about it. Sadly, both Bishop Britt and Fr. Bryne are gone now. I still keep in touch with Fr. Rooney though and I think he still uses that title for his articles.



As you may be aware, we are planning for an Estate Sale to be held at the St. Alexander Church property. This will happen the weekend of October 2 – 4. Both the former rectory and convent will be opened with many, many items. The hours will be determined as we get closer. If you would like to lend a hand, please call me at 248-476-7677, Ext 202 or email me at timwestfall.sgp@gmail.com. You can assist with the sale for a few hours that weekend or come and help sort and price items in the weeks prior.

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** has been a yearly process here at St. Gerald Parish. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church or need to make your First Communion and/or Confirmation, please call me to set up a time to meet. If you have questions as well, please call or email me.

Have a good week ahead and take some time out to give thanks to God for all God has done for you.

FORMATION

RELIGIOUS FORMATION CLASSES - STARTING SOON

If you are new to the parish or did not have a child in the program last year please contact Mary Taylor at 248-476-7677 ext. 201 or via email at taylor.mary04@yahoo.com and a registration form will be mailed to you.



Students in the 7th grade pre-Confirmation program will attend classes on alternate Sundays following the 10:15AM Mass beginning September 20th. 8th and 9th grade students will attend formation classes on alternate Sunday evenings in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmations. These classes will also begin on September 20th but they will gather from 6:00PM –8:00PM. Students in grades 1-6 may choose to attend classes either on Mondays from 5:30PM-6:45PM or Tuesdays from 5:15PM-6:30PM, beginning on September 28th. The Preschool and Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds) class will be held during the 10:15AM Mass beginning Sunday, September 20th. **If you have any questions, contact Mary Taylor at 248-476-7677 or taylor.mary04@yahoo.com.**

REMINDER: Following the guidelines of the Archdiocese of Detroit children of the parish are to receive two full years of religious formation before reception of a sacrament.

YOUTH MINISTRY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

September 19, 2015 **St. Christine's Soup Kitchen** 11:00 AM -2:00 PM
 September 20, 2015 **Confirmation Session 1** - with 8th and 9th grade from 6:00 PM -8:00 PM
 September 27th **Pancake Breakfast**
 September 27th 6:00 PM -8:00 PM
Youth group

MUSIC MINISTRY

Hello! As the Music Director of St. Gerald Parish, I would like to welcome all new and returning Adult Choir members to another year of glorifying God with our music! We rehearse Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 PM and sing at the 10:15 AM Mass on Sunday mornings. Our first rehearsal will be Thursday, September 10th in the Music



Office, located on the southwest side of the building. We welcome everyone from high school age to retirement age! We are in particular need of more male voices, but all are welcome! The ability to read music is not required. Please direct any questions you may have to me, Mary Zelinski. You can reach me by email at mzelinsk@umich.edu, or come say hello after Mass! I look forward to making music with new and returning members and praising God in song! God's blessings always, Mary Zelinski Music Director at mzelinsk@umich.edu

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



We are pleased to announce that our "Friends of the Poor Walk" will be on October 17th at Belle Isle. This new location

has such rich history and natural beauty, we are excited to be hosting it! For more information, please contact the Christian Service Office at 248-476-7677 ext. 204.



HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

A look ahead: Starting in 2015-2016, we will be offering CPR classes, a Flu Clinic in October, Blood Pressure Screenings, and Blood Drives two times a year. Our Health Ministry table is set up in the social hall near the offices. We will provide educational material

monthly, and a suggestion box for ideas you would like to see offered. I am also looking for people to help with these endeavors, Nurse's, EMT's, Health Care Professional's, or anyone just interested in the Health Care Field. I can train you in many areas; I can also train you on how to take a blood pressure. We will be offering Blood Pressure screenings starting in September and need volunteers to help after each Mass. Please contact Barbara Seabolt at 248-477-4752.

FALL SCRIPTURE STUDY

THE GOSPELS OF LUKE AND MATTHEW

Father David Santoro, O.P., Chaplain at the Blessed Sacrament Monastery in Farmington Hills will lead the study using the Ignatius Bible Study Guide. The study will continue with Luke moving into Matthew.

Location: **St. Gerald's Church hall**

Time: Wednesday evenings 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Dates: **September 16 – November 18, 2015**

All are Welcome to this Inter-Parish Scripture Study. Bring your Bible and/or Ignatius Study guides. No need to register.

Contact Diane Blankenship (dlb882@gmail.com), Sharon Weberlein (shrweber@aol.com) if you have questions or 248-477-7470.



Juice 64 oz.	Cake Mix
Canned Fruit	Lg. Can of Soup
Laundry Detergent	Dish Detergent

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Please call the Parish Office at 248-477-7470 if you would like a name added to the Prayers for the Sick.

PARISH COUNCIL AND COMMISSIONS VOLUNTEER

SIGN UP FORM

If you were unable to attend the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 8th, and would like to be actively involved in either the Parish Council or a Commission, please complete a volunteer form located on the table in the entrance of the church. Once you have completed the form, please give to Fr. Festus or return to the Parish Office. Forms need to be turned in no later than Monday, September 21.

EVANGELIZATION

SHARING GOD WITH OTHERS

St. Gerald Evangelization Committee has created a schedule of events for parish members, and their family and friends, to participate in.

Upcoming events to put on your calendar:

Saturday, September 19 - Fr. Michael Dwyer will be here to lead Rosary, Mass, healing service and share his life changing story. Book sale and refreshments will be available. \$12, or freewill offer greatly appreciated. Pre-registration is encouraged; go to www.marianpeace.org or call 248-559-4544.

Sponsored by the Marian Peace Center of Detroit and St. Gerald Evangelization Committee.

Sunday, September 20 - Festival of Ministries & Fellowship

All representatives are encouraged to wear your St. Gerald badge to be recognized for your area of service for our church.

Friday, November 20 - Friday Fellowship (theology on tap, Q & A) where adult parish members meet to share reflections of Bible passages and how they impact on our daily lives and perspectives. First held at Gerryanna & Frank Luscri's home at 36778 Kenmore Drive, Farmington Hills.

Saturday, January 9, 2016 - Movie Night (13+ and adult)

We will be showing the film *For Greater Glory* starring Andy Garcia & Eva Longoria. Sponsored by St. Gerald Youth Group

Sunday evening Jan. or Feb. - Fr. Jack Baker - Mass in Slow Motion Fr. Baker is invited to provide a Mass of explanation where he gives an entertaining and informative presentation and celebration of Holy Mass. Feel free to invite others to join this enjoyable evening.

Saturday, February 27 - Date Night for married and single couples. Pot luck & BYOB night of friends and fellowship. Options of Euchre, Bunco or other games for large or small groups. Come join us for some downtime adult time.

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Spring 2016 - Living the Resurrection in your family - It's more than the Easter Bunny - Speaker TBD.

See The Voice for details and more information as dates approach.

Feel free to invite others to these events and enjoy the hospitality of our church. Please consider joining the Evangelization Committee and sharing your ideas for our parish.

EVANGELIZATION THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"The Secret of everything is to let oneself be carried by the Lord and to carry the Lord to others." Pope John XXIII

Have you considered putting St. Gerald Church in your Will? Please call Fr. Festus at 248-477-7470. He would be happy to discuss this with you.



SAVE THE DATE!

**St. Alexander
Rectory & Convent
ESTATE SALE
October 2 - 4**

**27835 Shiawassee
Farmington Hills MI 48336**

248-477-7470

Hours: TBD



SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND

The Archdiocese is blessed to have 127 senior priests who dedicated, in some cases, more than 50 years of their lives to caring for and ministering to others. Even in retirement, many continue to give of themselves in countless ways of service for which we are most grateful.

At age 70, priests in the Archdiocese of Detroit begin receiving a \$1,500 monthly pension and health and automobile insurance from the Priests' Pension Plan. The Archdiocese annually assesses each parish \$15,644 per priest serving there to support this fund.

Next weekend, September 19 and 20, our parish will take up a special collection to help defray the cost of this assessment and to show our appreciation for those priests who have cared for us and ministered to us throughout the years. Please prayerfully reflect on how you can best contribute to the *With Thanks for Their Service in Christ* collection this year and return your special collection envelope at next weekend's Masses.



Do you know someone who would like to become a full member of the Catholic Church? Have you been baptized and need to be confirmed or receive First Eucharist? What is the RCIA process?

Is God calling you to become a full member of the Catholic Church? Please come to the RCIA. Are you getting the feeling that you should be learning more about your relationship with God and how He works in your life by become a full member of the Catholic Church? Please come to the RCIA. Do you have questions? Come to the RCIA. To join, speak to Fr. Festus after Mass or call Tim Westfall at (2) 476-7677, press 2 or email timwestfall.sgp@gmail.com



WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF
MYRON KOPASZ

+
MARCH 13, 1935
SEPTEMBER 4, 2015

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO
MYRON O LORD, AND MAY
PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON
HIM

Offertory Snapshot

Actual Offertory for Weekend of August 31, 2015	\$ 7,990.00
Budget Offertory for Weekend of August 31, 2015	\$ 9,334.00
Actual Offertory July 1 - August 31, 2015	\$75,668.00
Budget Offertory July 1 - August 31, 2015	\$83,998.00



PLEASE RETURN YOUR PLEDGE CARD TODAY!

If you have not already turned in your pledge card, please consider making a donation. If you are unable to make a donation at this time, simply return your CSA card and indicate this on the front of the card. Thank you for your generosity!

ST. GERALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

Office Hours

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday thru Thursday. Closed Friday.
(secretary at lunch Noon—12:30)

STAFF

Reverend Festus Ejimadu, Pastor(248) 477-7470
Timothy Westfall: Pastoral Associate x 202
Email: timwestfall.sgp@gmail.com
Mary Hoots, Administrative Assistant..... . 248-477-7470.....x 212
Email: stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com

All other offices dial (248) 476-7677

Christian Services

Laura Meier, Christian Service Coordinator x 204
Email: csstgerald@yahoo.com

St. Vincent de Paul x 220

Education

Mary Taylor: Director Religious Education x 201
Email: taylor.mary04@yahoo.com

Youth Ministry

Theresa Smith..... x 203
Email: stgeraldym@gmail.com

Music Ministry

Mary Zelinski, Director of Music 734-516-0133

Maintenance

Mark Koss

Accountant

Kim Shepard

Ministries Assistant - Purchaser

Cathy Long X 222 Email: clong123@gmail.com

SACRAMENTS

Rite of Reconciliation:

Saturdays from 3:30-4:30PM

Sacrament of the Sick:

Please call the office

Baptism:

Please be aware that first time parents must attend a short baptism prep class prior to the baptism of their child. Arrangements for baptism may be made by calling the Parish Office.

Matrimony:

St. Gerald Parish is pleased to marry registered parishioners and their children. Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance of the wedding date. Please call the Parish Office.

Registration of new members:

Please see Fr. Ejimadu after Mass or call the office. Registration forms are located on the shelf in the classroom hallway for your convenience. After you fill it out, just give it to Fr. Ejimadu or drop it off in the Parish Office. Thank you!

RCIA: Would you or someone you know want to become a full member of the Catholic Church? The St. Gerald RCIA group meets each week on Thursdays. Please call Tim Westfall (248) 476-7677 x202 or Fr. Ejimadu (248) 477-7470 for more information.

WE WELCOME YOU TO ST. GERALD CATHOLIC PARISH!

If you are new to the area, we look forward to meeting you personally. If you have not been active in the practice of the Catholic faith, we encourage you to return. If a previous marriage has kept you from receiving the Sacraments, we invite you to call the rectory at 248-477-7470. In many cases, Fr. Ejimadu can work with you to find a favorable solution.

St. Alexander Food Pantry Contact Information

Phone: 248-474-8231

Calls taken Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 AM - to 11:00 AM

ST. GERALD MISSION STATEMENT

St. Gerald Roman Catholic Church is a welcoming, inclusive parish striving to be a reflection of Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we are dedicated to strengthening our faith through reverent and uplifting worship, serving those in need, and living the fullness of the Gospel with all God's people.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

Pulled Pork Sandwiches and Pancake Breakfast Sign Up Featured at Tuesday's Membership Meeting

When the members meet again Tuesday they will have an opportunity to sign up to help with the September 27 pancake breakfast. As in the past, the Council will serve pancakes with the trimmings for parishioners after the 8:30AM and 10:15 AM masses that day. Net proceeds will go to the St. Gerald St. Vincent de Paul Society which does so much good work in the parish.

Dave Bednarski is the event chairman and will be circulating a signup sheet. Workers should wear their Council shirts, aprons and, if handling food, a cap. If you don't have a Council apron with our logo, you can earn one by working at five events in three years and having attained the second and third degrees of our Order. We have several members who are eligible for a free apron, but lack the advanced degrees. There are degree ceremonies happening monthly; see GK Darren Losey for details.

Bring your appetite to the meeting, we will be serving pulled pork sandwiches and appropriate beverages. It is rumored that Fred Gerometta found the pork recipe, a family secret for years, last month while attending a family reunion in Italy.

At the officers meeting Sept. 1, GK Losey, appointed part of a Scholarship committee to investigate if the Council can afford to award scholarships and how it could be done. He will be asking for two volunteers to join DGK Fred Gerometta and Program Director Tom McPhail on that committee.

On a national scale, the Supreme Council awarded scholarships worth more than \$1.06 million to 519 students for the 2014-15 academic year. Most recipients are the children of Knights or Knights themselves attending Catholic universities or Catholic colleges in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico or the Philippines. The figures include \$266,275 given seminarians in the U.S. and Canada. For more information on the Order's scholarship program, visit kofc.org/scholarships.

Congratulations to our Treasurer Rich Rosowski who is the Knight of the Month for September and to Mary and Brent Taylor who are the Family of the Month. In addition of keeping track of the Council's spending and building a great budget each year, Rich is an usher at the 8:30 mass and a reliable worker at most Council projects. Mary Taylor heads the parish education program and is a big supporter of St. Gerald's Knights. **Keep in Touch With Your Council, Read the Knights Corner Sunday in *The Voice!***

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