



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.

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.**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT NOVEMBER 29, 2015

The true measure of courage is not how many battles we have won, but how many defeats we have overcome. The people who deserve our admiration have been knocked around by life, but they have always come back for more. Standing up to life, no matter what happens, is the mark of real courage, as well as faith.

First reading – Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the life of the prophet Jeremiah, God has set the pattern of persistence. God has maintained his covenant commitment with the people of Israel through all manner of circumstances, both good and bad. God will raise up a messenger of truth and hope from the dead stump of his people's forgotten faith.

Second reading – 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

The apostle Paul understood the spiritual life for what it was, a continual battle. Love is to be cherished, but does not come easily when we are dealing with a careless and calloused world. Strong hearts filled with the love of Christ is what is needed if the people of God are to stand up to such a world.

Gospel – Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

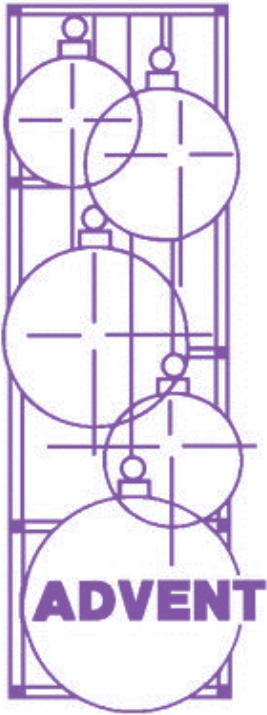
Jesus was candid and upfront with his disciples about the dire things that lay in their future. It would be as if the heavens crashed and the earth burned. But those are the times when faith will see us through. Faith is our most precious resource. It will give us the strength to stiffen our backbones and stand up to whatever happens.

Our reading today begins with Jesus painting a grim picture of human life. He speaks of entire nations being in anguish, of authorities being threatened, and of people being fearful of death. He was speaking of difficult times that are coming. The disciples will face a daunting future. But Jesus went on to say, "When these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads." This was how Jesus wanted them to face what was coming. It is how we are to face the future, as well. When life is hard, we still have a choice. We can lie down and quit, or we can stand up in faith and face what comes. In order to do this, we must first accept responsibility for ourselves. We must hold ourselves accountable for our lives. When we fail, the first place to look for the reason is within ourselves. In saying this, however, we still know that, to some degree, every one of us is a victim. We did not choose to be born in our confused and confusing generation. It is not our fault that the world is in turmoil, that historical institutions are crumbling, and that many moral values are in question. But we must accept responsibility for ourselves. Otherwise, we don't have a chance!

The parents of a teenage girl suddenly filed for divorce. The girl was confused, angry and frightened. She went to her priest for help. He said, "You have encountered a situation you did not ask for, and don't deserve. No one who knows what happened will blame you if you spend the next five years being angry. But, for your own sake, you do not have to use your time that way. There is a better way, and you can choose that." The girl was not responsible for what happened in her world, but she could hold herself accountable for the response she made to it. George Bernard Shaw wrote: "People are always blaming their circumstance for what they are. I don't believe in circumstances. The people who get on in this world are those who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and, if they can't find them, make them."

Have a Blessed Week! Fr. Festus

A Week Ahead



WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 5

Monday 9:15 AM
Dobbs, Kemp, Trayer, Robrecht and
Donarman Families
Requested by C. Kemp

Tuesday 9:15 AM
Josephine and Enrico Soave
Requested by Children

Wednesday 9:15 AM
Sandi Clapper
Requested by Rose Pierce

Thursday 7:00 PM
Sophie Shields
Requested by Family

Friday 9:15 AM
Dobbs, Kemp, Trayer, Robrecht and
Donarman Families
Requested by C. Kemp

Saturday 9:15 AM
Thanksgiving for Sandeep John
Requested by Family

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: ROM 10:9-18/PS 19:8-11/MT 4:18-22

TUESDAY: IS 11:1-10/PS 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/
LK 10:21-24

WEDNESDAY: IS 25:6-10A/PS 23:1-6/MT 15:29-37

THURSDAY: IS 26:1-6/PS 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27/
MT 7:21, 24-27

FRIDAY: IS 29:17-24/PS 27:1, 4, 13-14/MT 9:27-31

SATURDAY: IS 30:19-21, 23-26/PS 147:1-6/MT 9:35--
10:1, 5A, 6-8

NEXT SUNDAY: BAR 5:1-9/PS 126:1-6/PHIL 1:4-6, 8-11/
LK 3:1-6

Liturgical Publications Inc

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

DECEMBER 6, 2015 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 PM December 5 Fr. Festus		
For Richard Novak Requested by Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group	Servers	Need Servers
	Lector/ Ushers	Lyda DelRosario 5:00B
8:30 AM December 6 Fr. Kaiser		
For Sophie Shields Requested by Family	Servers	John Smith Gabe Smith
	Lector/ Ushers	David Wells 8:30B
10:15 AM December 6 Fr. Festus		
For Coyt Ford Requested by Joan & Ken Galica	Servers	Ashley Grabinski Sofia Mansoor
	Lector/ Ushers	Mary Power Nancy Stone 10:15A
12:00 Noon December 6 Fr. Festus		
For Muzzy Deporre Requested by Friends	Servers	Need Servers
	Lectors/ Ushers	Tim Wardle 12:00B

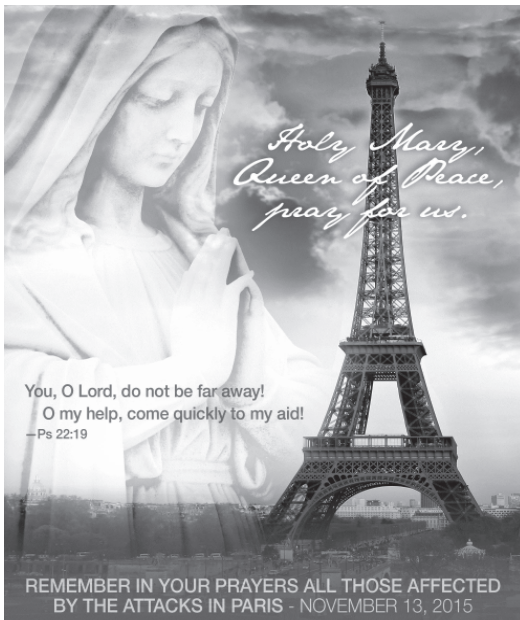
Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks

December 4 and December 5
Team #6

December 11 and December 12
Team #1

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED:

Juice 64 oz.	Laundry Detergent
Canned Fruit	Kleenex
Cookies	Cereal
Mac and Cheese	Lg. Cans of Soup
Saltines	Canned Chicken/Spam



First Friday, December 4
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from
10 AM - 9 AM Saturday Scheduled
Adorers Needed
Sign-up sheets in narthex

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING TAG WEEKEND

If you have not picked up your gift tag yet, there are still Christmas Tags available after all the Masses this weekend in the Social Hall. Everyone is welcome to take one or more tags to help the needy in our community. Please note the gifts are due back the weekend of Dec. 12th and 13th. Thank you!

GIFT CERTIFICATES FROM GROCERY STORES NEEDED!

We are accepting food cards from Kroger and Meijer to give help during the holiday and throughout the year. Just drop your donation in the Sunday collection basket or bring to the Christian Service Office. Thanks!

HAT AND MITTEN DONATIONS

Please bring a pair of mittens, gloves, hat, scarf or socks next week to help us decorate the tree in the church gathering space.



SANTA'S VISIT



Santa will be at St. Gerald's social hall for all the children and grandchildren of the parish after all masses on Sunday, December 6th. Photos will be taken with Santa and sent to your home. Santa will also have gifts for the children. Freewill donations will be accepted. This event is sponsored the St. Gerald Knights of Columbus.

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.

FORMATION

Children of the parish in grades
Preschool-6
are invited to participate in the
St. Gerald
Gospel Enactment
of the Christmas Story
at the 6:00 Christmas Eve Mass



There will be one rehearsal on
Saturday, December 19th at 11:00 AM in the church.
Please contact Mary Taylor by
December 7th to sign up,
248 476-7677, ext. 201 or
taylor.mary04@yahoo.com .



We are well into the holiday season! We are into Advent and planning for Christmas!! The season is so busy and can at times be stressful. I suggest that when the stress is getting to be to much, to get quiet, and sit with Jesus. Being quiet is being in prayer and it is time to regroup, to de-stress. give yourself that time and everyone benefits!! This is a joyful season, so treat it and yourself that way!

CALENDAR:

Saturday, Dec. 5th:	K of C spelling Bee!
Sunday, Dec. 6th:	Pictures With Santa
Sunday, Dec 6th:	Confirmation Session 5
Tuesday, Dec. 8th:	Mass @ 7:00 PM Feast of Immaculate Conception
Saturday, Dec. 12th:	Caroling @ Ashley Ct. @ 2:00PM
Sunday, Dec. 13th:	Gift sorting with Karing Kids and Youth group @ 3-5PM
Friday, Dec. 25th:	Merry Christmas!



St. Gerald Evangelization Committee PRESENTS:

Sr. Nancy Sylvester, IHM
"Laudato Si—a call to contemplation"
Wednesday, December 2, 2015
St. Gerald Parish Social Hall
7:00 PM—8:30 PM

"Pope Francis' encyclical, "Laudato Si' , on Care For Our Common Home," unequivocally names human behavior as a major cause of global climate change and urges all sectors of society to examine our actions, policies and behaviors in light of this urgent situation. It speaks to how the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor are one and that all forms of poverty – environmental and human – need to be addressed in an interconnected way."
— Sr. Nancy Sylvester

WORSHIP

Tim's Tidbits

Happy 1st Sunday of Advent! As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior – we take time for the next few weeks to spiritually make our hearts ready to welcome Him. This Season allows us to open our hearts and be ready for something new to happen to us, and for the world around us. We can pray especially for the situation in the world today and include a prayer for peace: that the peace of Jesus reaches out to the ends of the earth.

Our days are getting shorter, as we move towards winter. We can look up at the winter sky and see an array of stars and contemplate our wonderful universe. And hold our universe and each other in prayer. As daylight gets shorter, we long for the coming of the child – Jesus, the Light of the World. We long for that Light that provides us with life. Amen! Let our Advent be a fruitful time for us as we journey along.

We need more Eucharistic Ministers at all the Masses. I would encourage you to think about giving the Body of Christ to your fellow parishioners. No matter what age you are, as long as you are confirmed, you may be a Eucharistic Minister. Training is provided and consists of a two hour session in which we go over some Theology and a practicum. Please email or call me if you are interested at 248-476-7677 Ext 202 or email me at timwestfall.sgp@gmail.com. Have a prayerful week!



Please join us for Christmas Caroling on Saturday, December 12 at 2 PM at Ashley Court, located on the Northeast corner of 7 Mile and Farmington Roads in Livonia. More voices are needed!

Please contact Theresa Smith at 248-476-7677, ext. 203 for more information.

ST. GERALD PARISH ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2015-2016

The Advent/Christmas Mass Schedule

Daily Mass—**M, T, W —9:15 AM; First Friday - 9:15 AM; Th—7:00 PM**

Weekend Mass—**Nov. 28-29, Dec. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20
Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM, 12 Noon**

Feast of the Immaculate Conception— (Holy Day of Obligation)

Tuesday, December 8 - 9:15 AM & 7:00 PM Masses

Christmas Eve—Thursday, Dec. 24
4:00 PM, 6:00 PM Children's Mass, 8:00 PM Choir Mass

Christmas Day—Friday, Dec. 25
(no 8:30 AM Mass) 10:15 AM & 12 Noon Masses

Feast of The Holy Family

Dec. 26 - 5:00 PM, Dec. 27—8:30 AM, 10:15 AM, 12 Noon

New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31-5:00 PM Mass

New Year's Day, Feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Friday, January 1 - 10:15 AM & 12 Noon Masses

First Friday observance-adoration, Friday, Dec. 4
Adoration begins after the 9:15 AM Mass and ends at 9:00 AM
Saturday with benediction

First Saturday Mass for Life

Saturday, Dec. 5 and Jan 2—9:15 AM

Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday, Jan 2 - 5:00 PM, Sunday, Jan 3

8:30 AM, 10:15 AM, 12 Noon

The Advent Reconciliation/Confession Schedule
**Regular Reconciliation/Confession every Saturday at
3:30 pm**

(No Confession Dec. 19)

Monday, Dec. 14—Parish Reconciliation Service —7:00 PM

ST. GERALD CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS 2015

This Christmas Season the church will once again be decorated with memorial poinsettias in gold metallic pot covers.

Parishioners have the opportunity to remember loved ones who have passed away through donations toward the purchase of these poinsettias and other festive greenery.

Suggested donation this year is \$10.00 per name.

Just fill out this form! Place your form and donation in an envelope marked "Poinsettias" and drop it in the collection basket at weekend Masses or bring it to the Parish Office. If you have more than one name, then just make your list and submit that with your name and phone number. Thank you. A list of the donors and memorial names will appear in the bulletin for our Christmas Edition.

(DEADLINE FOR DONATIONS IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 14)



In Memory of: _____
(Please legibly print name of deceased)

Remembered by: _____
(Your name)

Your phone number: () _____

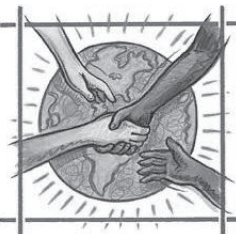


St. Gerald keeps a Book of Remembrance in our gathering space during the month of November. We invite you to write the names of your deceased loved ones in this book at any time during the month of November. The deceased listed in the Book of Remembrance are remembered during the Prayers of the Faithful at each of our weekend Masses in November.

We realize that this time following the death of your loved one has been a difficult time for you and your family and we pray that you might find comfort in our Lord and our Blessed Mother, Mary. Please know that you are remembered in the prayers of our Parish community.

FATHER FESTUS'S NIGERIAN MISSION

Father Festus is planning to continue his Nigerian Mission in January 2016. CORE Nigeria, his non-profit corporation, will be once again requesting contributions for his medical, food pantry and education mission.



Plan on attending a reception after all the Masses on Sunday, December 6 to view Father's updated video, which features scenes from his 2015 mission trip.

There will be a second collection for this upcoming mission trip on the weekend of December 12 and 13.

Father thanks you for your continued prayers and support of this worthy mission!



PRAY FOR . . .

Dennis Beiting
Beth McLaughlin
Bill Walker
Robert Sikorski
Ralph Wenski
Erin Malloy-Sidaway
Daron Tilburt
Gina Riggi

Wanda Reiner
Corinne Wedge
Wanda Johnson
Robin Kafcas
Bernie Fox
Pat Centers
Sofia Weiland
Frank Adams

EVANGELIZATION

SHARING GOD WITH OTHERS

The Evangelization Committee of St. Gerald is committed to our parish community. The aim is to transform our culture and provide conversation about our Catholic faith. It is a call to holiness. Please share the invitation with others.

Mark your calendar for upcoming activities:

Wed. Dec. 2nd at 7:00 PM **Advent Speaker**, Sr. Nancy Sylvester, IHM, President of Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue, will speak on "Laudato Si – A Call to Contemplation"

Saturday, January 9, 2016 - Movie Night (13+ and adult) We will be showing the film *For Greater Glory* starring Andy Garcia and Eva Longoria. Pizza, pop and popcorn. Sponsored by St. Gerald Youth Group

EVANGELIZATION THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

If you happen to be with an atheist who tells you that he does not believe in God, you can read him the whole library, where it says that God exists, and where it is proven that God exists, and he will not believe. [However] if in the presence of this same atheist you witness to a consistent, Christian life, something will begin to work in his heart.... It will be your witness that brings him the restlessness on which the Holy Spirit works.— Pope Francis, Homily, Domus Sanctae Marthae, February 27, 2014

OPLATEK OR "CHRISTMAS WAFER"

The **Christmas wafer** is a Central European Christian Christmas tradition celebrated in Polish, Slovak, Lithuanian and Italian families during Wigilia (*Christmas Eve Vigil*). The unleavened wafers are baked from pure wheat flour and water, are usually rectangular in shape and very thin; they are identical in composition to the Host used during a Catholic mass however, they are not consecrated. Wafers are embossed with Christmas related religious images, varying from the nativity scene, especially Virgin Mary with baby Jesus, to the Star of Bethlehem. Family members and friends break off a small piece of the oplatek wafer and give it to one another along with a blessing. Breaking off and exchanging part of oplatek with someone is symbol of forgiveness between two people and is meant to remind participants of the importance of Christmas, God, and family. The tradition of sharing the wafer is one of the rich variety of traditions that Poles still celebrate during **Christmas Eve Supper**, which is the most elegant evening in the whole year. Why not start a new tradition this year. Oplateks are available in the Parish Office and will be available after all the Masses on the weekend December 5 and 6. A Free Will donation is not required, but would be appreciated!

ADVENT TEA

Please join us on Monday evening, December 7, 2015 at 6 PM in the Social Hall. All are welcome..

You may host a table or come as a single person and we will provide a place for you. The cost is \$11 per person.

Please contact Diane Gerometta at 248-763-3193 or diane.gerometta@aon.com to make your reservations or for any questions.



WE PRAY FOR THE
REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF
RONALD HUDAK
+
MAY 13, 1949
NOVEMBER 19, 2015

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



Check Out New Council Display at – www.stgeraldparish.org

Take a look at the Council display on the St. Gerald parish website, www.stgeraldparish.org Newly installed, the multi-page display has news of the Council; a pictorial spread on Knights in action; a history of the Council, and links to this column and links to the national and state websites. A big “Atta Boy” to Membership Director Shatomi Kerbawy for putting it together. We now need someone to tend to it in the future. Any volunteers?

PGK Bruce Roberts announced at the Nov. 17 membership meeting that he has asked the State Council for more raffle tickets for the Michigan K of C Charity raffle. The raffle has some neat prizes, including the first place one that will provide a week in Rome with air fare and \$4,000 in cash. If you haven’t received your book of tickets, give Bruce a call at 248-756-9257. Be sure to mark each stub with “Council 13673” so the Council will get the \$1 rebate per ticket sold. The drawing is in April.

The November meeting was also our traditional Chili Night. Thanks to Shatomi Kerbawy, Dave Bednarski and Larry Swanson for providing the chili and Tom McPhail for providing the home-baked breads. Also thanks to Rogers Otti, Dave Bednarski and Arnie Lemieux for volunteering for the cleanup detail.

Brother Kerbawy is seeking help for a couple of hours next Saturday, Dec.5, with the Spelling Bee. Especially welcome are spouses who are former teachers to serve as judges and Knights to help with registration. Give Shatomi a call at 248-851-9695.

Next Sunday is our traditional “Pictures with Santa” event after all the masses. PGK Rich Smith leads this project which saves our parish a costly visit with a mall Santa. Smith is enlisting elves to help with registration. To volunteer, give him a call at 313-421-0204. Photos of parish kids are e-mailed to parents who can make prints at most drug stores or Costco and Sam’s stores.

Check your e-mails for a message from Financial Secretary Bob Kuhr. In a cost-cutting effort, Brother Kuhr is sending out 2016 dues invoices electronically. Members who are without e-mail will get their invoices via U.S. mail. A prompt return would be appreciated since the Council is experiencing its usual year-end cash flow squeeze.

See the New Council Pages on www.stgeraldparish.org

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.....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.

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