



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.**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 6, 2015

Advent is when we celebrate God's special gift of Jesus Christ to the world and to each of us. Although it is a free gift, it does not come easily. It calls for changes in our lives and for our continued spiritual growth. A true encounter with Christ invariably involves changes of many kinds. We cannot take hold of heaven's life and love without letting go of earth's life and love.

First reading – Baruch 5:1-9

The wonder of God's divine love is that we are not only forgiven, but our sins have been put away. God forgives our sins, then forgets our sins. Although we come to God in repentance, wearing robes of mourning and misery, God responds by wrapping us in cloaks of mercy and peace. This is God's great salvation.

Second reading – Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Repenting of our sins is not as simple as saying, "I'm sorry." More is required than feeling remorse and expressing regret. The intention to change directions and pursue God's will is vital. Once one's conscience is cleared there comes a time of learning and loving the value of the things that really matter.

Gospel – Luke 3:1-6

It has been said that repentance means clearing away the rubble and filling in the pot holes on the roadway to the kingdom of God. Many things have stood in our way in the past. Cruel customs, unjust laws, shabby deeds, and broken vows are obstacles that stand between us and God's gift of salvation.

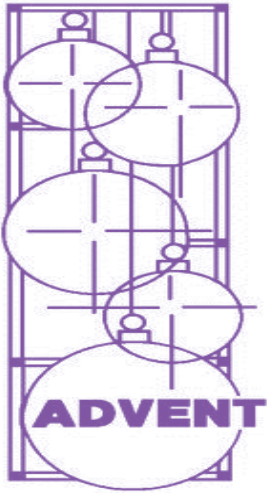
The word "salvation" has so often been used in inappropriate and simplistic ways that many religious people have stopped using it. Now it is associated with segments of religion that limit it to an emotional experience and to the promise of everlasting life. The worst thing that can happen to any religious concept or tenet is for it to be simplified into irrelevance. In more and more circles today the word "salvation" has been disconnected from real life. This means that, as Christians, we are faced with the strange paradox of salvation itself needing to be saved!

Perhaps we can start that process by remembering that the need for salvation is rooted, not in religion, but in life. Look up the word "salvation" in almost any dictionary and you will likely find two definitions. The first is something like "preservation from destruction, ruin, loss, or calamity." The second is about the "saving of the soul from sin and its punishment." These two are in proper order. Salvation is a big and broad word. It has to do with something more than the saving of the soul.

If religion mishandles this important matter, so much the worse for religion. But human life will go right on searching and working, hoping and praying for salvation. Disarmament talks are a prayer of salvation. Medical research is a prayer for salvation. Every economic conference is a prayer for salvation. Every child who enrolls in school is seeking salvation. Every adult who gets up in the morning and goes to work is concerned with salvation. We in the church need to recognize this important truth. We need to strip the word of its inferior meanings and put it back in touch with life, where people desperately need to be saved. Consider the last sentence of our Gospel reading. It is from the book of prophet Isaiah and reads: "The crooked way shall be made straight, and the rough places shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Have a Blessed Week! Fr. Festus

A Week Ahead



WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 10

Monday 9:15 AM
Felipe DelRosario, Jr.
Requested by Lyda DelRosario

Tuesday 9:15 AM
Geri and Frank Adams
Requested by Bob and Monica Koenig

Tuesday 7:00 PM
For All Our Parishioners

Wednesday 9:15 AM
James and Joy Miller
Requested by Bob and Monica Koenig

Thursday 7:00 PM
For All Our Parishioners

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: IS 35:1-10/ PS 85:9-14/LK 5:17-26
TUESDAY: GN 3:9-15, 20/PS 98:1-4/EPH 1:3-6, 11-12/
 LK 1:26-38
WEDNESDAY: IS 40:25-31/PS 103:1-4, 8, 10/MT 11:28-30
THURSDAY: IS 41:13-20/PS 145:1, 9-13/MT 11:11-15
FRIDAY: IS 48:17-19/PS 1:1-4, 6/MT 11:16-19
SATURDAY: ZEC 2:14-17 OR RV 11:19A; 12:1-6A, 10AB/
 JDT 13:18-19/LK 1:26-38 OR LK 1:39-47
NEXT SUNDAY: ZEP 3:14-18A/IS 12:2-6/PHIL 4:4-7/
 LK 3:10-18

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



Tuesday,
 December 8th, is
**The Feast of the
 Immaculate Conception of
 the Blessed Virgin Mary**
 which is a Holy Day of
 Obligation. Mass times are:
 9:15 AM
 7:00 PM

**Parish Council Meeting this Tuesday,
 December 8, will follow our 7:00 PM evening Mass.
 All are welcome!**



Taize Prayer Service Sunday, December 13th at 5:30 PM

**Join us for a service of music, prayer and
 quite reflection. This hour is exactly what we need to
 slow down and remember what is truly important
 during this holy season of Advent.**

DECEMBER 13, 2015 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 PM December 12 Fr. Festus		
For Nancy J. Corey Requested by Bernadette Fea	Servers	Need Servers
	Lector/ Ushers	Diane Blankenship 5:00A
8:30 AM December 13 Fr. Festus		
For Mario Rossi Requested by Flora Rossi	Servers	Sofia Mansoor
	Lector/ Ushers	Thad Radzilowski 8:30C
10:15 AM December 13 Fr. Festus		
For Walter & Jennie Chlastawa Requested by Joan & Ken Galica	Servers	Emma DuLong Jack DuLong
	Lector/ Ushers	Caron Kott Tim Westfall 10:15B
12:00 Noon December 13 Fr. Festus		
For Irene Fiori Requested by Joan Fiori	Servers	Need Servers
	Lectors/ Ushers	Fernando Guerra Rich Kohler 12:00A

Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks

<u>December 11 and December 12</u> Team #1	<u>December 18 and December 19</u> Team #2
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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.

Please join us in the social hall after masses this weekend for a small reception on Sunday 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!

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING PROGRAM



Volunteers are needed to help out with our Christmas Gift Giving Program. Please call the Christian Service Office at 248-476-7677 ext. 204 or email at csstgerald@yahoo.com if you are able to help. Many volunteers are needed. Please consider volunteering a few hours of your time!

CHRISTMAS GIFTS DUE BACK NEXT WEEKEND

Just a reminder, if you took a Christmas tag, please return your gift Dec. 12th and 13th. Thank you again for helping to support our Christmas Program here at St. Gerald.

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.

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!



Items needed:

Laundry Detergent Dish Detergent
Big Cans of Soup Soup

Place donations in bins located in main entrance of church

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 and pompous 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 this weekend. A Free Will donation is not required, but would be appreciated!

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.



While you are running around preparing for Christmas, be joyful! You only get to shop, cook, and wrap for this Christmas once! If you enjoy this time, you will feel accomplished, and satisfied. Treat yourself with care and love and you can return that love tenfold! Forget stress and be happy!

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. @ 2:00 PM
Sunday Dec. 13th:	Gift sorting with Karing Kids and Youth group @ 3-5 PM Merry Christmas!
Friday Dec. 25th:	



PRAY FOR...

Wanda Reiner	Kimberly Plonka
Beth McLaughlin	Corinne Wedge
Bill Walker	Wanda Johnson
Robert Sikorski	Robin Kafcas
Ralph Wenski	Bernie Fox
Erin Malloy-Sidaway	Daron Tilburt
Sofia Weiland	Gina Rigg
Frank Adams	

Offertory Snapshot

Actual Offertory for weekend of Nov. 22	\$ 6,889.00
Budget Offertory for weekend of Nov. 22	\$ 9,334.00
Actual Offertory July 1—November 22	\$174,803.00
Budget Offertory July 1—November 22	\$196,002.00

WORSHIP

Tim's Tidbits

We begin the second week of Advent. This week we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Tuesday and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Saturday. Also on December 8, we begin the Jubilee Year of Mercy that Pope Francis has called. Elsewhere in this bulletin you will find the prayer that is to accompany this Year of Mercy.

Our Christmas decorating scheme this year will be different. The trees will be on the main floor of the church, in the niches and shrine areas. They are the ones that we have had for a few years. The poinsettias in the church and gathering space will be live plants. As is a custom in many places to only use live plants in the worship space. We will only use a few artificial poinsettias in the main entryway, as live poinsettias do not like drafts and being near the cold. The nativity scene will be placed inside the church to the side, in front of the window. The scene we will be using is a beautiful hand carved set, made in Italy, which was brought over from St. Alexander, when it closed. I saw the figures a few weeks ago and they are beautiful.

The Christmas Memorial Poinsettia fund information is listed elsewhere in the bulletin. You have the opportunity to donate towards the Christmas decorations and poinsettias that are purchased for the Christmas church environment. As in years past, we will list the names of those remembered in the parish bulletin and their names will appear on a tree located in the main entryway of the church.



If you are looking for a place to purchase your live Christmas tree this year, I would encourage you to go to Tryban's Christmas Tree Farm at 24233 Orchard Lake Rd, just North of Ten Mile. They have trees, roping and wreaths. Over the years, they have donated the large evergreen wreaths that have hung inside and outside of our church.

Last Sunday, November 29, I was told that at around 6:20 in the morning, a bright star could be seen in the Southeastern sky. Did anyone see it? I asked around and a few of my friends saw it while out walking at that time. I did some research on a few websites and it looks to be the planet Venus. The person that first told me about it seemed amazed. Maybe a sense of what was felt in earlier times around the birth of our Saviour. Our readings tell us to be watchful and ready this Advent Season. Have a prayerful week!



Blessing of Baby Jesus for Family Creche after all the Masses December 12 and 13



**St. Gerald Parish
Advent Reconciliation
Service with
individual confession
and absolution
7 PM on Monday,
December 14**

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 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—**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, 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

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.

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

Getting young people involved starts with simple evangelization. "In my country, the youth feel more attraction to a happy church," said Bishop Mantilla. "They're committed to justice, human rights and solidarity with the poor. People appreciate not so much financial aid, but the closeness of the person to you." The message is, "Get out from behind the desk and start evangelizing. Being active members in the community and relying on Christ's message and actions of love and compassion for others can draw people to the faith." Dan Meloy, The Michigan Catholic



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.

PRAYER FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY 2015-2016

Lord Jesus Christ,

You have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:

"If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy,
you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.
Amen.





KNIGHTS CORNER

Contact Financial Secretary Bob Kuhr If You Haven't Received 2016 Dues Invoice

If you use e-mail and haven't received a friendly note from Financial Secretary Bob Kuhr with an invoice for your 2016 Council dues, let him know by an electronic note to RPKUHR@AOL.COM or a phone call to 248-888-9335. In addition to keeping track of our incoming funds, he also is the official keeper of our membership roster.

A big thank you is due brother Thom Seabolt and his wife Barbara. With Thom's help Barbara conducted two excellent classes on how to administer CPR, giving Council members first call of the classes. A certified emergency medical technician, Barbara also taught the Heimlich maneuver.

Each December the parish gives out free calendars for the coming year. Pick one up and then consult the Council Action Calendar for the coming six months. Mark the yearly calendar with the Council events. Frequent checks of the yearly calendar and a weekly read of the Knights Corner in The Voice will keep you on top of events. If you don't have a Council calendar, dated Nov. 2015 in the lower right corner, give Program Director Tom McPhail a call at 248-875-1185. He'll send you one ASAP.

We had a disappointing turnout at last Sunday's Family Communion Mass. A total of 11 Knights and seven spouses attended. A pitiful showing for an organization that has 78 active members. And a terrible example for potential members. One of the knocks we hear at recruiting time is that the K of C is mostly a drinking club. The counter argument is that parish based councils like ours are spiritually based. We didn't send a very strong message last Sunday.

Don't forget to sell your State raffle tickets. And be sure to write "Council 13673" in the memo line of the stub. For every \$5 ticket we sell and identify the stub properly, \$1 is returned to our treasury. The drawing is April 16, 2016. If you need more tickets, see PGK Bruce Roberts. *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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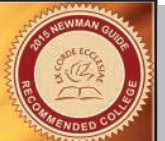
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