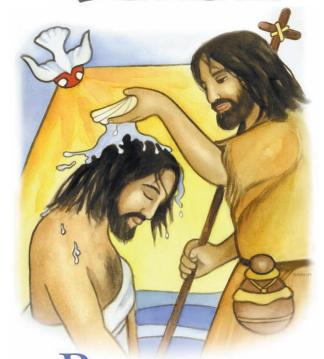
# VOICE



## ST. GERALD

SAPTISM

OF THE LORD

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.

#### **BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

#### January 10, 2016

The celebration of the feast of the Baptism of the Lord concludes the Christmas season. In the Gospel reading, we hear how the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus and how God was "well pleased" with his "beloved Son." The descent of the Spirit onto Jesus and the voice of God from heaven mark the final epiphanies of the Christmas season.

The first reading from Isaiah is the opening words to a section of the Book of Isaiah referred to as "Second Isaiah" (chapters 40–55). Scholars date this section of Isaiah to around 550 BC, somewhere in the later stages of Israel's exile in Babylon. Second Isaiah was a prophet who emerged during Israel's darkest period. Two generations into exile in the land of Babylon, many Israelites had likely given up hope for the possibility of a return to their historic Promised Land. The otherwise unknown prophet we call "Second Isaiah" brought a message of unthinkable optimism to a captive people: "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God... her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated." To the captured Israelites, this was their first real sign of hope for a new future. To the early Christians, this prophecy was fulfilled in Christ.

The second reading comes from Paul's Letter to Titus. According to Titus 1:5, Paul sent the letter to Titus who was a leader among the Christian congregations on the island of Crete. Much of the letter discusses the duties and tasks of bishops who are to be vigilant in defending the faith. In today's reading, we hear some of the basic teachings of the faith. Paul instructs Titus (and the recipients of the letter) on how Christ brought "eternal life" to all believers through the kind and "generous love of God" and not from works on the part of believers. The faithful are justified, according to Paul, by God's grace and mercy. It was through baptism ("the bath of rebirth") and the "renewal by the Holy Spirit" that Christ "saved us." Already by the year AD 100, the date that most scholars think the Letter to Titus was composed, the meaning and interpretation of the baptism of Jesus was regarded as important in the teachings of the faith.

The Gospel reading is Luke's account of the baptism of Jesus. Included in the baptism story is part of John the Baptist's teachings on the Messiah and the messianic age. John clarifies to the crowds that he is not the Messiah for he only baptized with water. The coming Messiah, according to John, would baptize believers "with the Holy Spirit and fire." For Luke, fire was a powerful symbol for the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. In Acts of the Apostles, it is the Holy Spirit that descends upon the apostles on Pentecost as "tongues of fire" that ignites the birth of the Church and empowers the apostles to preach the good news of Jesus Christ to all the nations (Acts 2:1-4).

Luke reports that after Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended upon him like a dove. The Holy Spirit is mentioned often in the opening chapters of Luke's Gospel. In the infancy narrative (Lk 1–2), the Holy Spirit literally "filled" Elizabeth, Zechariah, and Simeon.

And the Holy Spirit "overshadows" Mary whereupon she conceives Jesus in her womb. Here, too, at the baptism of Jesus, the Holy Spirit is present and active in the life of Jesus. Luke concludes his account of Jesus' baptism by reporting a private revelation experienced by Jesus: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." The feast of the Baptism of the Lord affirms Jesus' identity as the Son of God and his mission throughout his public ministry as Spirit-driven.

Dr. Daniel J. Scholz

# A Week Ahead



## WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS JANUARY 11 - JANUARY 14

Monday 9:15 AM
Intentions of Jeannette Inamdar
Requested by Family

Tuesday 9:15 AM
Valentina Berti

Requested by Graziano Canini

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

Thursday, 7:00 PM

Valentina Berti

Requested by Graciano Canini

#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: 1 SM 1:1-8/PS 116:12-19/MK 1:14-20 TUESDAY: 1 SM 1:9-20/1 SM 2:1, 4-8/MK 1:21-28 WEDNESDAY: 1 SM 3:1-10, 19-20/PS 40:2, 5, 7-10/ MK 1:29-39

THURSDAY: 1 SM 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/

Мк 1:40-45

FRIDAY: 1 SM 8:4-7, 10-22A/Ps 89:16-19/MK 2:1-12

SATURDAY: 1 SM 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1A/Ps 21:2-7/

MK 2:13-17

NEXT SUNDAY: IS 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-3, 7-10/1 COR 12:4-11/ JN 2:1-11

Liturgical Publications Inc

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

## 2015 St. Gerald Contribution Statement

In an effort to reduce expenses, the 2015 St. Gerald Contribution Statements will not be mailed out. If you need a copy of your contribution statement, please send your request to stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com or call 248-477-7470. The Parish Office is open Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. With a prior request, statements will be available for pick up in the Parish Office during the hours indicated above. Please allow one week to process your request. Thank you!

ST. GERALD PARISH
FINANCIAL TOWN HALL MEETING
Sunday, January 17th
3:00 - 4:00 PM

Please join us for an information session regarding the current financial position of the parish.

Reminder . . .

Parish Council and Commission Meetings on Tuesday, January 12th at 7 PM.

### JANUARY 17, 2016 SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 PM January 16 Fr. Medina							
For <b>Jean Lopus</b>	Servers	Need Servers					
Requested by Bob & Diane Blankenship	Lector/ Ushers	Diane Blankenship 5:00B					
8:30 AM January 17 Fr. Kaiser							
For <b>Kurt Burghardt</b> Requested by Monica Harley	Servers	John Smith Gabe Smith					
	Lector/ Ushers	Thad Radzilowski 8:30B					
10:15 AM January 17 Fr. Roodbeen							
For Frank & Edna Cannizzaro Requested by Yolanda Fenech	Servers	Eli Gerhart Isabelle Gerhart					
	Lector/ Ushers	Angela McLoughlin 10:15C					
12:00 Noon January 17 Fr. Roodbeen							
For Irene Burghardt Requested by Monica Harley	Servers	Fernando Guerra Angela Guerra					
	Lectors/ Ushers	Maggie Kohler 12:00B					

Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks

January 15 and January 16 Team # 2 <u>January 22 and January 23</u> Team #4

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.

# Church Support

#### Offertory Snapshot

Actual Offertory for Weekend of December 27 \$ 6,402.00

Budget Offertory for Weekend of December 27 \$ 9,334.00

Actual Offertory July 1 - December 27 \$215,606.00

Budget Offertory July 1 - December 27 \$242,664.00

Christmas Collection Actual \$42,698.00

Christmas Collection Budget \$30,000.00



St. Gerald Education Commission PRESENTS: Sr. Barbara Beesley, **IHM** "Vocations and the Call to Social Justice" Sunday January 31, 2016 St. Gerald Parish Social Hall

4:00 PM

Sister Barb will discuss vocations and social justice - all are welcome! Sr. Barb is minister, campus service learning coordinator and adjunct professor of Social Justice at Marygrove College in Detroit.



#### SAVE THE DATE

St. Gerald Parish Mardi Gras Celebration Saturday, February 6th 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Music and entertainment for all ages

#### **Food Pantry Items needed:**

Tea Bags 48 ct. Canned Ham or Chicken Tuna Helper Spaghetti Sauce and Noodles Canned Fruit Cookies Snacks Big Cans Soup Shampoo Juice Boxes

Place donations in bins located in main entrance of church. Thank you!

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK...



Wanda Reiner Beth McLaughlin Corinne Wedge Bill Walker **Lequests** Robin Kafcas Bernie Fox Daron Tilburt Gina Riggi Nancy Kolliker Emily Choike

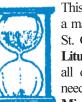
Kimberly Plonka Wanda Johnson Ralph Wenski Erin Malloy-Sidaway Sofia Weiland Frank Adams Andy Mosher

#### **Tim's Tidbits**

A grand 'Thank You' is due to all those who helped with the Christmas celebrations - the altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, ushers, greeters, choirs who made the celebrations prayerful and celebratory. And, especially, the people who came to help with the church environment. Direction was given and they took off with the ideas and made our Christmas beautiful. We hope everyone was delighted to see the décor for Christmas and the Christmas Liturgies were prayerful and meaningful for everyone.

I know that the Christmas environment was different from what was done in years past. I have heard many, many, many positive compliments about the décor. In another issue of, "The Voice" there will be a short evaluation to fill out with your thoughts and ideas. Stay tuned!

# **GIVE** YOUR



This month of January, we need to focus on a major component of our Liturgies here at St. Gerald. There is an extreme need for Liturgical Ministers in various capacities at all of our Liturgies. A few Lectors are needed to add to the schedule. Eucharistic Ministers are desperately needed, especially

at the Sunday Noon Mass. For both of these ministries, it is required that you have received the sacrament of Confirmation. Altar Servers are needed, especially at the Saturday Evening Mass. Anyone, third grade and above can be an Altar Server.

For Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, training will consist of one two hour session. Some theology and a practicum will enable you to minister effectively. If you would like to become a Lector, please email me or call and we can set up a meeting time for a one to one training. If you would like to become a Communion Minister, training will be held on Wednesday, January 20 at 6:30 PM in the Church and a repeat of it will be on Saturday, January 23 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Please call me at 248-477-7470 x 202 or email me timwestfall.sgp@gmail.com to reserve your spot for the training.

For those interested in becoming an Altar Server, training will consist of some explanation as to why we do things, a tour of the church and a practice. Altar Server Training will be held on Saturday, January 23 from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM and will continue on the following Saturday, January 30 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Please call or email if you are interested or have questions.

Another aspect of Liturgical Ministry is families. In some parishes that I know of, they have what is called a Family Ministry for the Liturgy. Sometimes a family will serve and take on other roles in the Liturgy. I am exploring the idea of this ministry here at St. Gerald and the possibility of having this at one of the masses each week or monthly.



If you are "on" Facebook, you might want to "like" our parish page there. Just look up, St. Gerald Catholic Church and "like" us! Or go to the following link:

www.facebook.com/St-Gerald-Catholic-Church-217736158327755/?ref=hl. We will provide a link every week to our parish bulletin and post articles, pictures and other information. May God's blessings be upon each of us this week.

# Vocations Is the Religious Life the Life for You?

Go and make a difference! Be God's love through prayer, service and sacrifice.

Discovering the vocation that God has given you takes time. It might be a long time before you need to make a decision. Your abilities and talents, the things that you enjoy doing, and the things that you do not like can give you some directions of what God is asking.

Religious Life is a term our Church uses to describe a lifestyle for persons who join a religious community. Each community was started for a particular purpose. Some do teaching, healthcare, parish or missionary work. The Priest of the Sacred Heart (SCJ), work particularly with those who are most in need. Their spirituality is one of commitment to a life of love and reparation. They love God and others through praying together, take time in Adoration of the Eucharist, live together and serve where they are called. SCJ Priests and Brothers live to serve God and the Church through the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Are you interested in exploring God's call to a life of service? The Priests of the Sacred Heart (SCJs) invite your questions. Take a postcard from the poster in the Gathering Space and send it in. Or you can email via:

vocationcentral@wi.twcbc.com or call 800-609-5559

Is the Religious Life the life for you?



#### BANNS OF MARRIAGE 3RD BANN

Let us pray for Lauren Vogrin and Jamie Foust as they prepare to be joined in Holy Matrimony at St. Gerald Parish on January 16, 2016

#### "Why JESUS Matters," Fr. Patrick Gonyeau Tuesday, January 26 from 7:00 - 9:00 PM St. Gerald Church

Fr. Gonyeau, once a fallen-away Catholic, experienced a great period of conversion that not only led him back to the Catholic Faith, but also to his vocation. Come and hear his fascinating story! Following his talk there will be an opportunity to ask questions. Father will complete the evening with a slow motion Mass. Free will offering. Refreshments will be served.

# WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF

#### **ALINE MERLIHAN**

十

FEBRUARY 14, 1927 DECEMBER 28, 2015

AND

#### MARCO ENRIQUE MELIA

4

SEPTEMBER 21, 1941 DECEMBER 31, 2015



ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO
ALINE AND MARCO
O LORD,
AND MAY PERPETUAL LIGHT
SHINE UPON THEM

### Welcome



I am the gate.
Whoever enters through me
will be safe.

My Church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its' pews will be filled, if I help fill them.
It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all of the things that I want my church to be. Amen.

### Week Ahead

11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:15 am Mass 5:30 pm Elementary Religious Formation Classes	9:15 am Mass  9:45 AM Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions  5:15 pm Elementary Religious Formation Classes  7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting  8:30 pm Commission Meetings	9:15 am Mass	7:00 pm Mass	5:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal 7:30 pm Holy Hour 8:00 pm AA Meeting	2:00 pm Wedding 3:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Wedding	Blood Pressure Screening after all Masses Sunday Fellowship 8:30 am Mass 10:15 am Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:15 am Sunday School 12:00 pm Mass 3:00 pm Town Hall Meeting 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Confirmation Parent Meeting

## **EVANGELIZATION**

#### **EVANGELIZATION...What's your role?**

It is our commitment to act justly, protect human dignity, and to share God's love with others. That is evangelization. That is our role in the community. Share by invitation; if you're here, bring a friend to share it with you.

Mark your calendar for upcoming activities: **2016** (all events held in the Social Hall, unless specified)

**Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>** any time after **7:30 PM - Theology on Tap** (21 & up) at Peterlin's Restaurant 9 Mile & Farmington Rds. Adults gather for friendly discussion of current events and the impact on our lives and spirituality. Need not be Catholic to attend.

Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 PM - Adult Date Night Couples are invited to attend a night of adult fellowship, games and music. Euchre, charades, and other games are planned. BYOB, and a snack to share. Feel free to bring your own game preference.

Become *RADIO-ACTIVE*: listen to *Ave Maria Radio AM 990*; you'll enjoy learning more about faith and practices. Listen, be informed...and PASS IT ON!

If you, or someone you know is interested in joining the Evangelization Committee, please call our parish secretary at 248-477-7470 for next meeting date.

#### **EVANGELIZATION THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

John Paul II stressed that "in the future, evangelization will depend largely on the domestic church." How? Not many families are likely to take an active role in evangelizing as such. And although the family is the means by which the Christian faith is handed down from generation to generation, even this fact does not exhaust the meaning of John Paul II's assertion. Rather he is saying that the family is- and will be - the chief witness to the active power of the love of God in the world. The family thus is a dimension of evangelization.

#### To the Parish Family of St. Gerald:

As Fr. Festus had mentioned a couple weeks ago during the weekend masses, we are trying to update our parish data system and are encouraging registered members to use their contribution envelopes each week when attending Mass. If you contribute electronically, we understand that you do not use parish envelopes, and we will not take you off St. Gerald as a registered member. If you are going through financial difficulties, please put your empty envelope in the collection basket, so we know you are practicing your faith as a parishioner at St. Gerald. Thank you for your cooperation!

# 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.

#### LENT/SPRING SCRIPTURE STUDY – THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Father David Santoro, O.P., Chaplin at the Blessed Sacrament Monastery in Farmington Hills will lead the study using the Ignatius Bible Study Guide. The study will continue the Gospel of Matthew.

Location: St. Gerald's Church hall

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

Dates: March 2 - May 4, 2016

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.

All hands needed for UNDECORATING the church on Monday, January 11. Please come after

1:00 PM to help take down the Christmas decorations. Thank you!



#### KNIGHTS CORNER

We're back in business after the holiday respite and starting a new year. Our Council's first big event will be another pancake breakfast for the parish after the first two masses Sunday, Jan. 24. That is just two weeks away.



Chancellor Dave Bednarski again will be the event manager; he will have a signup sheet at the Jan. 19 membership meeting. If you are looking for an opportunity to get involved with the Council, this is a good time. Helping out pouring coffee or bussing tables will take only a hour or so, plenty of time to renew acquaintances or make new ones.

The January pancake event also is when we make a big sales push of the State K of C raffle tickets. Money raised by the annual raffle goes mostly to the State council to finance the gifts to more than 50 charities throughout Michigan; and our Council receives \$1 for every ticket a Council member sells as long that member writes "Council 13673" on the ticket stub.

If you need more raffle tickets, give PGK Bruce Roberts a call at 248-756-9257. He is the project manager for the raffle. Bruce also is in charge of our wearables program. If you need a shirt, a cap, or one of the new lightweight jackets, see him at the next meeting.

Dues for 2016 are due now. The "Take 5" item on the invoice is optional but most of our members participate since it funds many charities and supplements the giving sponsored by the state raffle. To avoid a second invoice, bring a check to the Jan. 19 meeting. If you already paid your dues, come to the Jan. 19 meeting and pickup your new membership card.

Another January event is our first Family Communion Mass at 10:15 AM Jan. 31. Bring the family. Business attire with your Council badge or your Council shirt is the uniform of the day. Please come a few minutes early and sit in the reserved rows with the group in front of the lectern. At every Family Communion Mass I have attended in recent memory, there are always two or three guys sitting in other parts of the church totally unawares. The Council looks weak when we only fill three or four pews. Together we are strong, a force for good. Be proud of your knighthood.

## ST. GERALD CATHOLIC CHURCH Office Hours

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

#### STAFF

#### **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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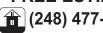
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