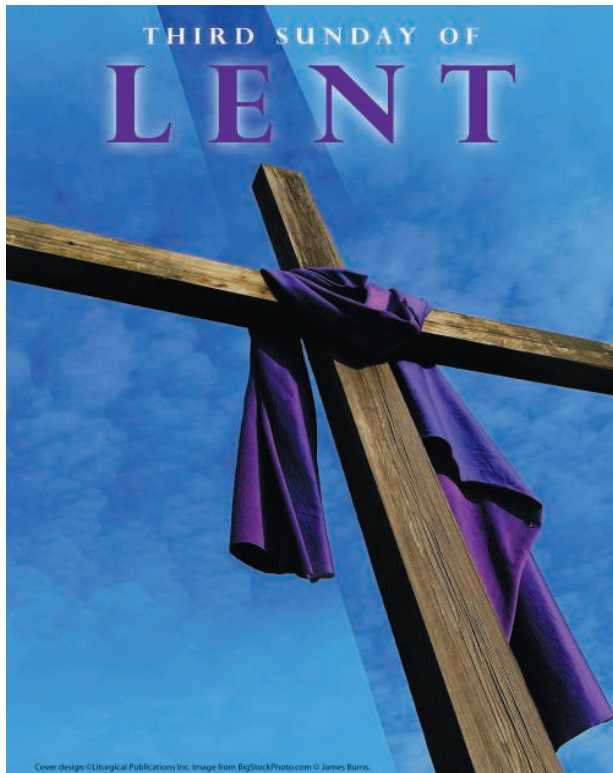


The VOICE

February 28, 2016



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.

Martin Luther, the great reformer, challenged Christians “to sin boldly but even more boldly believe.” Luther was saying that we cannot live a responsible life in the world without compromises and failure. But it is far better to make mistakes in the attempt to be a good person, depending on God’s forgiveness, than to withdraw to the sidelines and do nothing.

First reading – Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

Moses was destined for great things from his birth. He miraculously escaped death and was raised as a prince. But he spent forty years in the wilderness doing nothing to deliver his people from Egyptian bondage. Even when God called him to his ordained task, Moses balked for fear of failure. But God assured him that he would see to his success.

Second reading – 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

The children of Israel had been miraculously delivered from Egyptian slavery. They had escaped into the desert under divine protection and providence. But they complained about everything and finally staged a sit-down strike. God punished their sin of doing nothing by condemning them to forty years of wandering in the wilderness.

Gospel – Luke 13:1-9

The parable of the unproductive fig tree is a warning against all people who play it safe to avoid making mistakes. The person who takes no risk avoids doing evil but also avoids doing good. There is no room for strict neutrality in our world of mixed good and evil. The person who does not do good contributes to the triumph of evil.

People of the first century, like many of us today, conceived of sin in a very narrow and oversimplified fashion. For them there was a direct correlation between sin and suffering. When people suffered, it was assumed to be punishment for sin their lives. Jesus could not accept such inadequate understanding of life. He knew that people sometimes suffer, not because they are evil, but because they are good. Furthermore, they sometimes suffer because of accidents, or because of someone else’s wrongdoing. Jesus challenged his hearers to expand understanding of both sin and suffering. He mentioned two tragic occurrences. First, a group of Galilean worshippers had been slaughtered in the Temple. Second, in Siloam eighteen men had been killed by a falling tower. Concerning both events, Jesus asked: “Do you think this means they were worse sinners than anyone else?” Then he answered his own question: “Not at all, and unless you repent you will also perish.”

Jesus illustrated his lesson with a story about a barren fig tree. For three consecutive years this tree failed to produce any fruit. The owner of the vineyard was seriously considering cutting it down. Why should it take up space? But the wise vinedresser made a special request. “Let me give it special attention for another year, then, if it fails I will cut it down.” The vinedresser had the sensitivity and the wisdom to see an alternative to destroying the fig tree. He bought time, a grace period for the tree. Consider the possibility that you and I are in this world for a reason. We have been placed here to produce something good and pleasing to God. When we fail to do so, we are guilty of sin just as surely as if we had committed some evil deed. And failing to act, in some cases, can be as sinful as an overtly evil action. Have a Blessed Week! Fr. Festus

A Week Ahead

WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS FEBRUARY 29 - MARCH 5



Monday 9:15 AM
Nemesio Barreto
Requested by Blem

Tuesday 9:15 AM
Cecilia Carroll
Requested by Taylor Family

Wednesday 9:15 AM
A. Dennis Ouellette
Requested by Rich and Pauline Plasencia

Thursday 7:00 PM
Fred and Ellen Anne Rumball
Requested by Bob and Monica Koenig

Friday 9:15 AM
For All Our Parishioners

Saturday 9:15 AM
Thank you, for favors received

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: 2 KGS 5:1-15AB/PS 42:2-3; 43:3-4/LK 4:24-30

TUESDAY: DN 3:25, 34-43/PS 25:4-9/MT 18:21-35

WEDNESDAY: DT 4:1, 5-9/PS 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/
Mt 5:17-19

THURSDAY: JER 7:23-28/PS 95:1-2, 6-9/LK 11:14-23

FRIDAY: HOS 14:2-10/PS 81:6-11, 14, 17/Mk 12:28-34

SATURDAY: HOS 6:1-6/PS 51:3-4, 18-21/LK 18:9-14

NEXT SUNDAY: 1 SM 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A/PS 23:1-6/EPH 5:8-14/
JN 9:1-41 OR 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Liturgical Publications Inc

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

March 6, 2016 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00 PM March 5 Fr. Festus		
For Edward Midura Requested by Delphine Midura	Servers	Sarah Weber
	Lector/ Ushers	Diane Blankenship 5:00B
8:30 AM March 6 Fr. Festus		
For Eleonora Valente Requested by Cosimo Valente & Family	Servers	John Smith Gabe Smith
	Lector/ Ushers	David Wells 8:30C
10:15 AM March 6 Fr. Roodbeen		
For Maureen K. Griffin Requested by Family	Servers	Emma DuLong Jack DuLong Carter Cannon
	Lector/ Ushers	Gerryanna Luscri 10:15A
12:00 Noon March 6 Fr. Festus		
For Bernadette Grix Requested by Sharon & Roy Steinbock	Servers	Servers Needed
	Lectors/ Ushers	Paul Radzilowski 12:00A

Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks

March 4 and March 5
Team #2

March 11 and March 12
Team #4



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



Stations of the Cross
Fridays during Lent at 9:15 AM and
7:00 PM, except for First Friday,
March 4th, following the 9:15 AM
Mass

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.

Calendar for the week of parish events on Page 5

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK...

Wanda Reiner
Beth McLaughlin
Bill Walker
Robin Kafcas
Daron Tilburt
Andy Mosher
John MacDougall
Emily Choike
Corinne Wedge
Wanda Johnson
Ralph Wenski
Erin Malloy-Sidaway
Sofia Weiland
Nancy Kolliker
Margaret Joyal
Mary Ann Alcalan
Lorrie Aldrich
Joan Miele
Joan M. Preston



UPCOMING FOOD COLLECTION FOR EASTER

Grocery bags with a short shopping list attached will be distributed on the weekends of Feb. 27/28 and March 5/6 by members of the Christian Service Commission. *All grocery bags need to be returned by Sunday, March 13th and should be placed in the Social Hall.* Food collected from this effort will be included in Easter boxes which will be distributed to needy families in the community on March 19th.



Tim's Tidbits

Lent calls us to enter the desert of repentance. The Cross is the central symbol of Lent and is our focus. In the Gathering Space we find the Cross, with a pedestal of rock and purple sash on this Third Sunday of Lent. As we pass by it, we are reminded of what it symbolizes for us. When you pass by it feel free to touch it, as you enter or exit the church proper. Let it serve as a reminder to you of the season. This is the Cross which we will use throughout the season and one that we will venerate on Good Friday. Throughout the season of Lent, let our Cross be our guide as we move towards the most sacred time of the Church Year – the Paschal Triduum. With Lent, always let our focus be on the glorious, redemptive act, of the triumphant cross. Our focus is always to be on the Resurrection, what we all await and hope for.

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. 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, please contact me as well. Please call me at 248-477-7470 x 202 or email me at timwestfall.sgp@gmail.com.

The next **Soup Supper** is on Thursday, March 10th, from 5:30 to 6:45. It is followed by Mass at 7:00 PM with Fr. Richard Leliaert, presiding. Fr. Richard will offer an extended Homily on "Covenant".

We invite parishioners and friends to attend these Lenten events. For the soup suppers, I invite you to consider bringing in a crock pot of your favorite recipe of soup to share with our community. It should be enough to serve folks. Please call me to let me know what soup you will bring. You can reach me either by phone at 248-477-7470 x 202 or email timwestfall.sgp@gmail.com. We look forward to you sharing your favorite soup with us. I have seen this done in other parishes and thought it would be a good idea to bring to the St. Gerald Parish Family. Fresh bread and freshly made soup to feed your body and the Eucharistic Liturgy to feed your soul. Come for the soup and stay for the Mass. You will be refreshed in mind/ spirit and body. Have a prayerful week.

St. Gerald Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 26th,
starting with blessing in church at 11:30 AM.



Donations of wrapped candy and plastic Easter Eggs filled with wrapped candy are needed in order to make this a successful event.

Please place your donation of Easter Eggs in the plastic bins located in the vestibule of the Church.



FORMATION



CONFIRMATION CLASS FALL 2016

**Confirmation Retreat
Sunday, February 28, 2016
at St. Paul of the Cross
Passionist Retreat Center**

Please keep our Confirmation Spring 2016 Candidates:
Grace Bednarski, Luke Braska, David Buckley, Justin Bugeja, Rosemarie Burns-Pavlik, Kenneth Davis, Matthew Dennison, Eleanor Gagner, Isabelle Gerhart, Troy Gietek, Elaine Girbach, James Hanrahan, David Harrison, Jaclyn Jose, Jenna Keeney, James Neuhaus, Emily Pace, Grace Pagnucco, Maria Piasentin, Elliot Smith and Matthew Williams
and our Confirmation Fall 2016 Candidates:
Marc Ball, Alexis Bandy, Emily Chojnacki, Justine Czyrka, Matthew DeMartini, Henry Ficyk, Gabrielle Gjerding, Christopher Ihm, Ellise Makowiec, Victoria Nolan, Enya Perez, Marco Riggi, Nicole Sabbagh, Joel Taylor and Abigail Thomson, their Sponsors and their families in your prayers.

ST. GERALD EASTER FLOWERS

This Easter Season the church will once again be decorated with memorial flowers. Parishioners have the opportunity to remember loved ones who have passed away through donations toward the purchase of these Easter flowers. Suggested donation this year is \$10.00 per name.

Just fill out the form below! Place your form and donation in an envelope marked "Easter Flower Donation" and drop it in the collection basket on Sunday or bring it to the Parish Office.

If you wish to donate to this cause but do not want any memorialization, please submit your donation in an envelope marked "Easter Flower Donation."



A list of the donors and memorial names will appear in the bulletin for our Easter Edition.

IN MEMORY OF: _____
(PLEASE LEGIBLY PRINT NAME OF DECEASED)

REMEMBERED BY: _____
(Your name)

YOUR PHONE NUMBER: () _____
(in case we need to verify the spelling of a name)

Please make checks payable to St. Gerald Church

*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.

EVANGELIZATION

EVANGELIZATION...is on the MOVE!

- Actions of kindness
- Speaking truth
- Listening thoughtfully
- Reading God's Word

How do you actively evangelize? Do others know you are Christian by your LOVE? Make this a Valentine's Year and begin a habit to actively evangelize. Invite others to join you in some of our events throughout the year.

Friday evening, March 4th Theology on Tap at The Italian-American Club of Livonia. Located on 5 Mile east of Haggerty, on the lower club level. Family friendly venue; foosball, bocce and pool table available.

Monday, March 21st at 5:30 PM Mass of Explanation with Fr. Jack Baker. Come enjoy Eucharist celebration with an engaging informative presentation by Fr. Jack. You don't want to miss this.

Good Friday, March 25th at 12:15 PM Stations of the Cross Reenactment. Come for contemplative reflection of Christ's journey to the cross before Liturgy at 1:00 PM.

FIESTA!! Adults and teens will be needed for our Annual Vacation Bible School that will run M-F July 25 to 29. Please notify Mary Taylor if you can help out with planning and preparing or the week of the program. Our theme is Fiesta! Getting fired up about Jesus!

Future Movie Night suggestions and dates will be determined. Contact Gerryanna Luscri with your ideas.

Consider joining the Evangelization Committee; come share your ideas and input. Call Mary Hoots at 248-477-7470 for information and next meeting date.

YOUTH MINISTRY

As Lent progresses, are you looking back to see if you are following the plans you made? Some plans are easier than others to follow, and some are forgotten. Look back and adjust the plans you made and do what God is calling you to do. Try everyday to be the best you, that you can be!

Youth Ministry Calendar

- Feb. 28 Retreat for 8 and 9 Grade Confirmation at St Paul of the Cross
- Feb. 29 Stations Practice 6-7:30 PM
- March 6 Karing Kids 3-4:30 PM
- March 6 Stations Practice from 5-6 PM
- March 6 8 and 9th Grade Confirmation 6-8 PM
- Feb. 28 Retreat for 8 and 9 Grade Confirmation at St. Paul of the Cross

RIGHT TO LIFE-LIFESPAN DROP OFF BABY SHOWER

St. Gerald, in cooperation with Right to Life-Lifespan, will be accepting donations of new and gently used baby items, clothes, furniture and maternity clothes on — the weekend of March 5 and 6. Your donations may be placed in the playpen located in the social hall that weekend. Monetary donations will also be appreciated.



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!



Please place your donations in the boxes located at the entrance of the church. Thank you!

- Tea Bags 48 ct.
- Mac and Cheese
- Peanut Butter
- Saltines
- Canned Ham or Chicken
- Pasta/Pasta Sauce
- Cookies
- Baked Beans
- Snacks for children
- Coffee 11 oz.
- Laundry Detergent 50 oz.
- Dish Soap



CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Next week, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. This collection supports six Catholic agencies that touch more than 100 million lives around the world. The funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and Christ's love and respect to all people. Next week, please give generously to The Catholic Relief Services Collection and help Jesus in disguise.

MOMS GROUP

COME JOIN IN ON THE FUN! Please *Join Us!* call the Parish Office if you are interested in joining our parish MOMS Group. We are planning to meet as a group very soon. Don't miss out. This group is open to moms of ALL ages. Call the Parish Office at 248-477-7470 and leave your name and contact information and someone will get back with you regarding a meeting date.

Collection Report

Offertory Snapshot

Actual Offertory for Weekend of February 21	\$ 9,285.00
Budget Offertory for Weekend of February 21	\$ 9,334.00
Actual Offertory July 1 - February 21	\$278,493.00
Budget Offertory July 1 - February 21	\$317,356.00



MONDAY NIGHT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



A Pretzel to Remind us of Arms Crossed In Prayer

Special thanks to Katy Baracco for presenting this lesson to the Monday Religious Formation students.

The pretzel has been used during Lent for over 15000 years. It is thought that originally pretzels were made to resemble arms crossed in prayer. Since, basically only flour and water are used, pretzels can remind us of Lenten fasting. They are also reminders of the call to deeper prayer which we hear at Lent.

Pretzel Prayer



Heavenly Father, we ask you to bless these little breads. Each time we eat them may we be reminded of the special season of prayer and fasting that we are keeping. May they remind us of our need to come closer to you in prayer. May they remind us of those in need. Keep your loving arms around us, O Father, to protect us always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



PRETZEL MAKING FUN!



A look ahead

<p>29 Monday</p> <p>8:40 am Rosary</p> <p>9:15 am Mass</p> <p>5:30 pm Elementary Religious Formation Classes</p>	<p>1 Tuesday</p> <p>8:40 am Rosary</p> <p>9:15 am Mass</p> <p>9:45 am Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions</p> <p>2:00 pm Nursing Home Mass</p> <p>5:15 pm Elementary Religious Formation Classes</p> <p>7:00 pm K of C Officer's Mtg.</p>	<p>2 Wednesday</p> <p>8:40 am Rosary</p> <p>9:15 am Mass</p> <p>7:00 pm Vicariate Bible Study</p> 	<p>3 Thursday</p> <p>10:30 am St. Vincent de Paul Meeting</p> <p>6:20 pm Rosary</p> <p>7:00 pm Mass</p>	<p>4 First Friday</p> <p>Eucharistic Adoration following Stations of the Cross</p> <p>9:15 am Mass</p> <p>9:45 am Stations of the Cross</p> <p>7:00 pm Stations of the Cross</p> <p>8:00 pm AA Meeting</p> 	<p>5 First Saturday</p> <p>Food Pantry Donation Bags available for pickup</p> <p>9:15 am Mass for Life</p> <p>11:00 am First Reconciliation</p> <p>3:30 pm Confessions</p> <p>5:00 pm Mass</p>	<p>6 4th Sunday of Lent</p> <p>Food Pantry Donation Bags available for pickup</p> <p>Fellowship Sunday</p> <p>8:30 am Mass</p> <p>10:15 am Mass</p> <p>10:15 am Children's Liturgy of the Word</p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p> <p>11:15 am 7th Grade Religious Education</p> <p>12:00 pm Mass</p> <p>6:00 pm 8th and 9th Grade Confirmation</p>
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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.



KNIGHTS CORNER

Knights Tweaking Improvements to Church and Social Hall Sound System; T-Coil Feasibility is Considered

The Feb. 16 membership meeting produced 160 pounds of nonperishable food for the St. Gerald pantry under the Council’s new Red Bag Food for Families program. “Coupled with the 103 pounds collected at December’s membership meeting, we are one quarter of the way to our goal of 1,000 pounds,” said Larry Swanson, the program director. A 1,000 pounds of food and 100 hours of food related service work earns the Council a \$100 rebate from the national K of C.

The Council already has earned one such rebate last November when it gathered more than 1,000 pounds of food in a weekend house-to-house drive in Farmington’s Alta Loma neighborhood. The food went into the St. Alexander pantry.

Brother Gil Schultz and his crew of GK Darren Losey, Armin Russenberg and Pat McDonald have been putting some finishing touches on the Church sound system. The latest wrinkle is adding an AM/FM tuner to the system. The guts of the system are speakers salvaged from St. Al’s. Schultz fashioned some switches and other gadgets to enrich the system. Schultz who is the technical expert behind the project said the feasibility of adding of a tele-coil is being considered to improve sound for those with hearing aids.

The insurance wing of the national K of C has been registering some impressive milestones in recent months. In 2015 it recorded its 15th consecutive year of insurance growth, issuing more than \$8.4 billion in individual life insurance. On 2015 it surpassed \$100 billion in life insurance in force, cementing its position as one of the largest life insurers in North America. And for the second straight year, the K of C was named a “World’s Most Ethical Company” by Ethisphere. The K of C was one of only three companies to receive that award in the life insurance category.

Looking Ahead: Officers meet March 1, a casino bus trip rolls March 9, another parish soup supper is March 10, members meet March 15 and Easter is celebrated March 27.

Sell someone a winning ticket for the Michigan K of C Charity Raffle; Drawing is April 16

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

Candy Desjarlais: Christian Service Coordinator x 204
 Email: desjarlais.candy@gmail.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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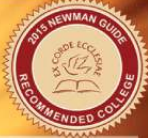
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