

# The VOICE



## 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.

## PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

March 20, 2016

Continuing the reflection on my Nigerian trip, I am writing you today about a specific event, among many others, that I was completely unprepared for. On this day, I went to visit a niece of mine in college who could not come to see me because she was writing her exams. It was a very hot scorching day, about 94 degrees; I was sweating profusely as most people were looking for shelter due to the intense heat. The distance to my niece's college was about 80 miles. So, I set out to visit her with the hope of getting back to other schedules. My niece's college was about four miles to a hospital run by the state. As I approached the school, the entrance was blocked because of some construction on the road median. Because of this, I had to make a detour in order to enter the school. In less than a mile, I saw a young lady who was by the roadside, pregnant and bleeding. I also observed that there were people who walked by her side and totally ignored her. There were those who saw her but kept a distance because they were afraid she might die.

So, I pulled over and went to her and asked what was going on. She was weak and could barely speak. I heard her say that she went to the hospital and was turned away by the hospital administration because she could not afford a deposit for hospitalization. I motioned to some of the passersby to assist me in getting her to the vehicle, some responded while others were moping at us. At this time, she was helpless and almost unresponsive. I made a U-turn to the hospital and asked that she be attended to. Funny enough, the hospital staff and nurses recognized her immediately because she was there earlier. One of them asked me, "Are you the husband?" One of them assumed I was. She said, "How could you send your wife to the hospital alone in her condition without money for her admission?" Then, the matron of the hospital spoke to me in a harsh voice, "Oga (Sir), take your wife to another hospital because we do not work for charity." It was at this moment that I explained to them I was a priest, that I found this woman on the side of the road and brought her to be given medical attention. They were all surprised, and felt bad because of their erroneous assumptions. But still the matron insisted that I had to put down a deposit before they could commence treatment. I gave what I had with me at the time to the hospital and had to return to my home to get money to complete the fee. On trust that I was a priest, and that I had deposited some money, they took her to the Neonatal Unit. So, I called my niece to give me a rain check, that something very urgent and pressing had surfaced. Obviously, she was disappointed but understood.

(Article continued on bottom of Page 5)

# A Week Ahead



## WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS MARCH 21 - MARCH 24

Monday 9:15 AM

**Marino and Rosa Benedettini**  
Requested by Graziano Canini

Tuesday 9:15 AM

**For All Our Parishioners**

Wednesday 9:15 AM

**Dobbs, Kemp, Trayer, Robrecht and Donarmen Families**  
Requested by C. Kemp

Thursday 7:00 PM

**Marino and Rosa Benedettini**  
Requested by Graziano Canini

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: IS 42:1-7/PS 27:1-3, 13-14/JN 12:1-11

TUESDAY: IS 49:1-6/PS 71:1-6, 15, 17/JN 13:21-33, 36-38

WEDNESDAY: IS 50:4-9A/PS 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34/  
MT 26:14-25

THURSDAY: CHRISM MASS: IS 61:1-3A, 6A, 8B-9/PS 89:1-6/  
RV 1:5-8/LK 4:16-21

EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: EX 12:1-8, 11-14/  
PS 116:12-13, 15-18/1 COR 11:23-26/  
JN 13:1-15

FRIDAY: IS 52:13--53:12/PS 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25/  
HEB 4:14-16; 5:7-9/JN 18:1--19:42

SATURDAY: VIGIL: GN 1:1--2:2 OR 1:1, 26-31A/GN 22:1-18 OR  
22:1-2, 9A, 10-13, 15-18/EX 14:15--15:1/  
IS 54:5-14/  
IS 55:1-11/BAR 3:9-15, 32--4:4/EZ 36:16-  
17A, 18-28/  
PS 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/ROM 6:3-11/  
LK 24:1-12

NEXT SUNDAY: ACTS 10:34A, 37-43/PS 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/  
COL 3:1-4 OR 1 COR 5:6B-8/JN 20:1-9 OR LK  
24:1-12 OR LK 24:13-35

Liturgical Publications Inc

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

## March 27, 2016 EASTER SUNDAY: THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

8:30 PM March 26 Fr. Festus

For  
**Joann Pavco,  
Bernice, Louis &  
Dennis Kaye**  
Requested by  
Joe Pavco

Servers

Fernando Guerra  
Angie Guerra

Lector/  
Ushers

5:00A

8:30 AM March 27 Fr. Roodbeen

For  
**Bernadette Grix**  
Requested by  
Barbara Yaich

Servers

John Smith  
Gabe Smith

Lector/  
Ushers

Yvonne Nemeth  
David Wells  
8:30A

10:15 AM March 27 Fr. Festus

For  
**Onesta, Antonio,  
Giuseppe & Neil  
Morelli**  
Requested by  
Josephine Morelli

Servers

Grace Pagnucco  
Ashley Grabinski  
Claire Pagnucco

Lector/  
Ushers

Ray Pisani  
Mary Power  
10:15A

12:00 Noon March 27 Fr. Festus

For  
**Marino and Rosa  
Benedettini**  
Requested by  
Graziano Canini

Servers

Luke Horsburgh

Lectors/  
Ushers

Susan Wardle  
Tim Wardle  
12:00B

### Sacristan Schedule

March 20 & 21

Team #1

March 24

Team #2

March 26 (before 10:30 am

Team #4 & after 12:00 pm

**St. Gerald Parish  
Communal Penance Service  
with the opportunity  
for individual confession and  
absolution  
Monday, March 21 at  
7:00 PM**

### PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK...

Wanda Reiner  
Bill Walker  
Daron Tilbert  
John MacDougall  
Corinne Wedge  
Ralph Wenski  
Sofia Weiland  
Margaret Joyal  
Lorrie Aldrich  
Joan M. Preston

Beth McLaughlin  
Robin Kafcas  
Andy Mosher  
Emily Choike  
Wanda Johnson  
Erin Malloy-Sidaway  
Nancy Kolliker  
Mary Ann Alcalan  
Joan Miele  
Dennis Hill



**HOLY THURSDAY MASS AND EASTER  
VIGIL MASSES  
Ring in the Gloria and the Alleluia!!!!  
BRING BELLS TO RING**

Also Reminder . . .



Please remember to bring a canned food donation to the 7:00 PM Mass on Holy Thursday. Items needed are: Canned Fruit, Pasta Sauce, Canned Vegetables and Juice. Thank you!

**Please look at the Holy Week schedule on Page 5 of the bulletin**

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE

We are excited to provide funeral luncheons here at St. Gerald. However many hands are needed to provide these services to our parishioners. If you would like to volunteer a couple hours to help with serving and clean up when there are funeral luncheons please call Christian service at 248-476-7677 ext. 204 and leave a message with your name and phone number and I will return your call. Thank you.



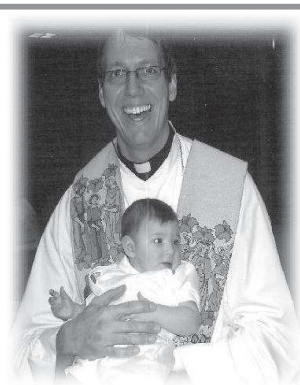
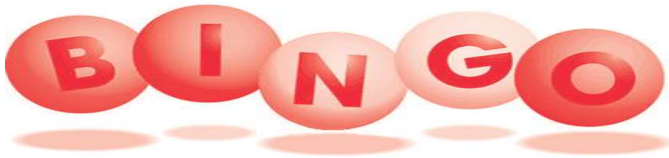
St. Gerald is forming a group to participate in the Crop Walk on April 1<sup>st</sup> here in our area. The Crop Walk is an organization where different ages, races and faiths come together to walk and raise funds to help end world hunger. They have an impact locally and globally. Their website is [crophungerwalk.org](http://crophungerwalk.org). More information will be provided in the voice soon.

### RICE BOWLS ARE DUE!

Thank you to all who have donated to Operation Rice Bowl so far. Donations may be placed in the box located in the gathering space of the church, or dropped off in the Christian Service Office.

### ATTENTION SENIORS OF ST. GERALD

We will be hosting bingo along with sit and chat on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 AM in the social hall. Spread the word and come have some fun and socialize. Prizes will be awarded.



**St. Gerald Church  
Monday  
March 21, 2016  
5:30 PM**

**Mass of Explanation!**  
*Fr. Jack Baker will "walk us through" the ritual prayers and actions of the Eucharist to examine why we do what we do at Mass.*

**ALL ARE WELCOME !**



**All children in elementary, middle school and confirmation classes are expected to attend this celebration of the Mass in addition to their regularly scheduled class.**

## FORMATION



**St. Gerald  
Easter Egg Hunt  
Saturday, March 26th  
starting in church at 11:30 AM with a  
Blessing of Bread  
and a  
Blessing of Butter  
All are welcome!!**

**Easter Egg Hunt to follow  
Prayer service on the  
Rectory lawn.**

### SAVE THE DATE

### Celebration of the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation



**Saturday, April 16, 2016  
During the 5:00 PM Mass**

**Bishop Francis Reiss will be our celebrant at this Mass. All are welcome!**

### RELIGIOUS FORMATION CLASSES

#### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WEEK SCHEDULE



Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30PM "Mass of Explanation" with Fr. Jack Baker—all students are asked to attend with an adult in addition to their regularly scheduled class.

Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Social Hall all students are invited to join us for a Holy Week experience of the Last Supper and praying a child's version of the Stations of the Cross with Fr. Festus.



Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM please join us for the "Living Stations of the Cross" presented by our Confirmation students.

Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, beginning with a prayer service in church at 11:30 AM, all families are invited to participate in our annual Easter Egg Hunt.



Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, students will experience the wonder and joy of the empty tomb during their class session.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

The Confirmation students have been hard at work practicing for the Stations of the Cross Reenactment. This takes place on Good Friday, March 25, 2016. I ask that you join us for a powerful and moving experience. This could not have happened without the tireless direction of Gerryanna Luscri. She has been working with the kids, and has the patience's of a saint! The Confirmation Students and I want to thank her for all she has done! Join us at 12:30 PM on Good Friday! It will be an awesome start to your Easter!

### MONTHLY UPDATE FROM ST. ALEXANDER'S FOOD PANTRY


While we all recognize that we have been blessed this winter with relatively mild weather, we also continue to count our blessings for the stocked shelves that we are seeing in our Food Pantry during the winter months this year. Donations of groceries as well as monetary donations have remained steady during a time of the year that normally drops off after the holidays, so we feel most fortunate to be able to offer many choices to our client families. This year, the Gleaners delivery truck stops by once a month to offer us fresh produce, so thus far, we have been able to provide potatoes, apples, onions, broccoli, carrots and grapefruit to our families.

The recertification process continued during the month of February, and thus far, more than 130 families have completed the screening and have qualified for food assistance every four weeks from our outreach program.

Thank you to every individual donor who has supported the Food Pantry during the past month as well as St. Gerald, Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Fabian, Nardin Park United Methodist, First Presbyterian, North Congregational, Faith Covenant, Starbucks of Downtown Farmington, the Senior Division at the Costick Center, Heartfelt Harvest, Forgotten Harvest, the Detroit Burger Bar and the Grand Tavern. May God continue to bless each and every person for their generosity!

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.

### A look ahead:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
8:40 am Rosary 9:15 am Mass 5:30 pm Elementary Religious Formation Classes 5:30 pm "Mass with Explanation" with Fr. Jack Baker 7:00 pm Parish Reconciliation Service	8:40 am Rosary 9:15 am Mass 9:45 am Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions 5:15 pm Elementary Religious Formation Classes	8:40 am Rosary 9:15 am Mass	<b>HOLY THURSDAY</b> 7:00 pm Mass Of The Lord's Supper 8:30 pm Garden of Repose 10:30 pm Night Prayer	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 12:30 pm Living Stations of the Cross 1:15 pm Liturgy 3:00 pm Private Veneration of the Cross 8:00 pm AA Meeting	<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> 10:30 am Morning Prayer with Blessing of Easter Baskets/Foods 11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt with Prayer Service NO 3:30 pm Confessions 8:30 pm Easter Vigil	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 8:30 am Mass 10:15 am Mass 12:00 pm Mass 

## EVANGELIZATION

Lent is coming to a close...

Are you working toward improving yourself?

Have you spent time with God?

Are you ready to be resurrected with Jesus Christ?

*Come to church and spend some time in His presence.*



### Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM ~ Good Friday ~ Living Stations of the Cross

Confirmation candidates will provide a prayerful presentation of Christ's powerful journey and crucifixion. Good Friday Liturgy begins at 1:15 PM.

### Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 PM Game Night

Player's choice; bring your favorite. Euchre, Catch Phrase, R-L-C, Pinochle, Taboo and more. So mark your calendars and plan to join us for fun, chat and laughs. (future dates June 4, Aug. 6, Oct. 1)

### Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM ~ SYNOD 2016

*...is both an event and a process.*

*The purpose is to focus on how we can make evangelization our most important pastoral activity Please plan to attend a dialogue meeting here at St. Gerald, to provide your feedback to the Archdiocese of Detroit as we work to evangelize about Jesus Christ and our Catholic faith.*

*Dates and times to be posted soon. [www.aod.org](http://www.aod.org)*

**Lenten Retreat:** Thank you to all who came and participated. Thank you for your time and feedback, it was a pleasure to share time together.

Volunteers interested in promoting St. Gerald Church at the Farmington Founder's Festival Thurs-Sat. July 14, 15, 16 are asked to call Gerryanna at 248-477-5098.

**SPRING clean-up at St. Gerald**  
**Your help is needed on**  
**Saturday, April 16th at 9:00 AM**  
*(rain date of April 23rd)*



Any help is appreciated. Bring your rake, gloves, garden tools and a willingness to work. Teens who need community service hours, gardeners who wish to lend a hand... . we need you ALL. Many hands make lighter the load.

Thank you for those who donated yard waste bags for church use. We will need more through the seasons, so please drop all bag donations in the large box in the social hall.

There are only a few gardens areas that need to be adopted. Sign up on the garden plot board to claim your garden now.



WE PRAY FOR THE  
 REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF  
**KEVIN MCKERVEY**

+  
 FEBRUARY 22, 1955  
 MARCH 13, 2016

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



- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Cereal            | Mac and Cheese |
| Pasta Sauce       | Canned Fruit   |
| Laundry Detergent | Dish Detergent |
| Children's Snacks | Coffee 11 oz.  |

*Holy Week Schedule*

**March 24 - Holy Thursday**  
 Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7 PM  
 Night Watch  
 At the Garden of Repose from 8:30 PM until  
 Night Prayer at 10:30 PM

**March 25 - Good Friday**  
 Stations of the Cross at 12:30 PM  
 Good Friday Services at 1:15 PM  
 3:00 - 5:00 PM Private Veneration of the Cross

**March 26 - Holy Saturday**  
 Morning Prayer with Blessing of Easter Baskets  
 and Easter Foods at 10:30 AM  
 \*NO 3:30 PM CONFESSIONS OR 5 PM MASS\*  
 Easter Egg Hunt beginning with Prayer and Blessing of  
 Butter Lambs and Bread in church at 11:30 AM

**March 26- The Easter Vigil**  
 Celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord  
 Saturday 8:30 PM

**March 27**  
**Easter Sunday**  
**The Resurrection of**  
**Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**  
 Masses: 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM, 12 Noon

**2015 ST. GERALD CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT**

If you need a copy of your contribution statement, please send your request to [stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com) or call 248-477-7470. Thank you!

**(Fr. Festus' article continued from front page of bulletin)**

Remember, the trip was about 80 miles one way. I went home and returned to the hospital. Upon my return, I was told that the young lady had lost a lot of blood and would need blood. The problem was that the hospital had no blood bank and would require a purchase of blood or donation of blood. The place was unfamiliar to me, and the closest hospital to the one we were at was about another 30 miles away and there was no guarantee that it would have blood. I pleaded with my niece to consider donating blood and she agreed. First, they checked to make sure she was a candidate for blood donation. By this time, it was getting dark and I needed to return home. I gave my name, number and address to the hospital should they need to contact me, and promised to return the next day. So, very early the next morning in the company of one of my nephews and a friend, we went to the hospital. On reaching there, we were told that they performed a caesarian section on her because the child was in distress.

While we were there, one who claimed to be the husband of the lady showed up. He looked semi-challenged mentally, and unaware of the trauma his wife went through. He was pacing the lobby and could not connect with the questions he was being asked. He seemed totally disconnected from reality. His physical appearance suggested his state of being. I knew he was not able to pay his wife's hospital bill. We asked to see the young lady and her child and were denied because she was still in pain. However, we were told that she did not know how she ended up in the hospital, and when she was told that we made it possible for her to be admitted she cried and wanted to see me. Later that day, I returned to see her and the baby and tears could not stop flowing from my eyes.

Often we say that God works in mysterious ways, this is an example of that. Consider the events that brought me to this woman. If there was no construction at the entrance of my niece's school, I would not have seen this lady by the road side. My niece also played a role by donating blood to save her. The parishioners of St Gerald, a world away, through their financial and prayerful support became her angel too. But then, imagine my joy! This is why I love doing the things I do on my vacation – to see someone smile. Have a Blessed Holy Week! Fr. Festus



**KNIGHTS CORNER**

**Parish Picnic Moved to June 5, Corn Toss Tourney Needs Manager**

Council member needed to become event manager for the corn toss tournament that is being planned as part of the parish picnic. The picnic, originally scheduled for May 22, has been moved to Sunday, June 5 when good weather is more likely. Early discussions about the corn toss tournament focused on it being a team event open to men of the parish. More details from Program Director Tom McPhail (248-875-1185).

Casino bus trip for June 8, 2016 is almost sold out. 5 seats are left on the bus. If you would like to go, contact Rich Smith at 248-747-6817. The last trip on March 9, 2016 was a sellout. Also, anyone interested in going to a Tiger game this year call Rich Smith PGK at 248-747-6817. We have been thinking of going in smaller groups and also having dinner at one of the downtown restaurants. Some of the restaurants will shuttle us to and from the game to our car.

With spring just around the corner, the new, lightweight nylon Council jacket is the perfect fit at \$25. It has a light fleece lining to ward off those night chills and a roomy inside pocket, perfect for your phone or wallet. See PGK Bruce Roberts to purchase yours. Also, hats are still available from Bruce.

A major degree night is planned for Monday, May 9 at nearby Our Lady of Sorrows, home of the St. Francis Council. Our Council has 18 members who lack their second and third degrees, meaning that they have not reached full knighthood. There is no cost other than a couple hours of your time while you learn more about our order and what it means to be a Knight of Columbus. Membership Director Shatomi Kerbawy will arrange your participation. Call him at 248-434-7561.

Next month is April, a time when the Council will be nominating officers who will lead us in the 2016-17 fraternal year. Under a schedule adopted last year, nominations will open at the April 19 membership meeting and the elections held at the May 17 meeting. To be eligible, you must be in good standing and hold a third degree. Candidates can nominate themselves or have a fellow member do it. All terms, except that of the single trustee position, are for one year starting July 1.

**Keep Aware of our Council's News, Read the Knights Corner in The Voice Sundays**

**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**

**Accountant**

Mark Koss ..... Kim

**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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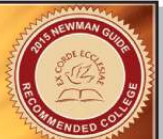
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