

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.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 8, 2016

From its inception the church has faced trouble of one kind or another, and yet has prevailed. When Jesus had to prepare the disciples for his coming death, they must have felt that there was no future for them whatsoever. As if following Christ had not been challenging enough, they had to face the loss of all of his promises and the end of their hopes and dreams.

First reading – Act 7:55-60

The first Christian martyr was Stephen. He met a violent death for challenging the sterile traditions of the religion of his time. His threat to the religious power structure, however, cost him his life because they valued unity over truth.

Second reading – Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20

The book of Revelation makes one thing clear. The unity of the church is not based on a creed but on a person. Jesus is the central figure and centering force of the Christian faith. The Church is one and united wherever Christ is proclaimed and worshipped.

Gospel – John 17:20-26

Jesus prayed for the unity of his church on the eve of his crucifixion. He knew that his mission would fail if his disciples were not joined together by the same spirit of truth, the same presence of love, and the same faith that bound Jesus to his father in heaven.

Jesus accepted the inevitability of his own destiny, but he was filled with concern about what it would mean for all those he left behind. His first response was to pray. John 17 is widely acclaimed as the loftiest spiritual passage in the fourth Gospel. Only Jesus could offer such prayer as we find there. First, Jesus prays for himself (vs. 1-5) acknowledging that he has already overcome the world and will glorify the Father in all he does. Then he prays for his disciples (vs. 6-19), rather than the unbelieving world, because the disciples would play a unique role in reaching that world. Finally, he prays for the unity of all who would believe through the disciples (vs. 20-26), in order that the world might know the love that is the deepest reality of the Godhead. It has proven true that the glorified Christ is the only hope of the Church, that the church witnessing to truth is the only hope of new converts, and that the loving fellowship of all converts is the only hope of an unbelieving world.

Jesus takes a long time to say goodbye to his disciples in John's Gospel. As early as the 13th chapter, Jesus is speaking his farewell. In Matthew and Luke it only takes a few verses for his farewell. But in John it takes four long chapters. Sometimes it is difficult to say goodbye, and it may be more difficult to hear someone telling us goodbye. Parting can be a great sorrow. We may need God's help. The English word "goodbye" and Spanish word "adios" and the French word "adieu" all imply giving someone to God. When we part, for whatever reason, it is a good thing to give the other person to God in our own minds. Goodbye. God be with you! Jesus says in John's Gospel, "In a little while, you will see me no more." (16:16) But he is promising to somehow not leave them as orphans (14:18). But it is loss in the meantime. Have a blessed week! Fr. Festus

A Week Ahead



WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS MAY 9 - MAY 12

Monday 9:15 AM
Christine Westfall
Requested by Timothy Westfall

Tuesday 9:15 AM
Carmel Galea
Requested by Stella Galea

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

Thursday 7:00 PM
For All Our Parishioners

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: ACTS 19:1-8/PS 68:2-7/JN 16:29-33
TUESDAY: ACTS 20:17-27/PS 68:10-11, 20-21/JN 17:1-11A
WEDNESDAY: ACTS 20:28-38/PS 68:29-30, 33-36/JN 17:11B-19
THURSDAY: ACTS 22:30; 23:6-11/PS 16:1-2, 5, 7-11/
JN 17:20-26
FRIDAY: ACTS 25:13B-21/PS 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20/JN 21:15-19
SATURDAY: ACTS 1:15-17, 20-26/PS 113:1-8/JN 15:9-17
VIGIL: GN 11:1-9 OR EX 19:3-8A, 16-20B OR EZ 37:1-14 OR
JL 3:1-5/PS 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-30/ROM 8:22-27/JN 7:37-39
EXTENDED VIGIL: GN 11:1-9/EX 19:3-8A, 16-20B/EZ 37:1-14/
JL 3:1-5/PS 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-30/ROM 8:22-27/JN 7:37-39
NEXT SUNDAY: ACTS 2:1-11/PS 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34/
ROM 8:8-17 OR 1 COR 12:3B-7, 12-13/JN 14:15-16, 23B-26
OR JN 20:19-23

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

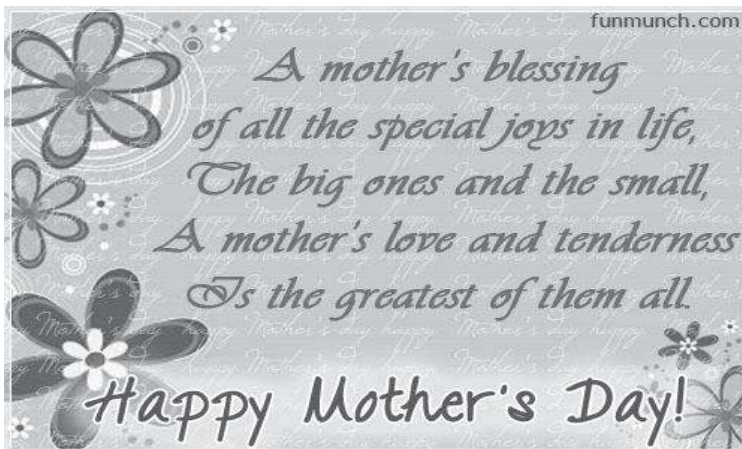
MAY 15, 2016 PENTECOST SUNDAY

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| 5:00 PM May 14 Fr. Festus | | |
| For Michael Hoots Requested by Deacon Ron Grenda | Servers Jackie Hoerner | Lector/ Ushers Diane Blankenship 5:00B |
| 8:30 AM May 15 Fr. Festus | | |
| For Helen Winiarski Requested by Victor Winiarski | Servers Carter Cannon | Lector/ Ushers Ray Pisani 8:30B |
| 10:15 AM May 15 Fr. Festus | | |
| For Gordon Meyers Requested by Josephine Meyers | Servers Grace Pagnucco Luke Horsburgh Claire Pagnucco | Lector/ Ushers Nancy Stone 10:15C |
| 12:00 Noon May 15 Fr. Roodbeen | | |
| For Bettina Maggio Requested by Mr. & Mrs. Nazzareno Troiani | Servers Emma DuLong Jack DuLong | Lectors/ Ushers Susan Wardle 12:00B |

Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks

May 14 and May 15
Team A

May 21 and May 22
Team C



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS . . .

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Microwaveable Boxed Entrees | Canned Fruit |
| Canned Spaghetti or Ravioli | Pudding or Jello snack packs |
| Brown paper grocery bags | Dish Detergent |
| Snacks for children | Cleaning Supplies |
| Tuna Fish | |

Offertory Snapshot



| | |
|--|--------------|
| Actual Offertory for Weekend of April 24 | \$ 9,539.00 |
| Budget Offertory for Weekend of April 24 | \$ 9,334.00 |
| Actual Offertory July 1 - April 24 | \$378,563.00 |
| Budget Offertory July 1 - April 24 | \$401,330.00 |

Reminder:

Parish Council Meeting 7:00 PM, May 10th
followed by Commission Meetings

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.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE



It's almost that time of year again for our annual parish picnic! This year, the picnic will take place on Sunday, June 5th, from 1-4:30 PM. As usual, we will need some wonderful people to volunteer to help with some things. It's always nice to see some new faces so if you or someone you know is interested in helping, you can call

Candy Desjarlais at Christian service at 248-476-7677, Ext. 204 or you can email me as well at desjarlais.candy@gmail.com

We are also in need of baked goods for the picnic if you can help in any way with this please call Christian service as well. Thanks!



St. Gerald would like to thank the volunteers who came out to make a difference on Saturday for Rebuilding Oakland County work day. Pictured are Candy Desjarlais, Julie Staley, Dawn, Ron Henrick, Nancy Lacey, John McLoughlin and Homeowner James Forbes. Not pictured who also helped are Angela McLoughlin, Chip Staley and Mark Koss our maintenance man here at St. Gerald. It was an amazing day and it felt so good to help this gentleman.



GARDEN NEWS UPDATE

Spring Clean-up on April 23rd yielded more than 40 plus waste bags, as well as piles of branches and brush.

But there's more work to be done before planting and color can be added. For willing hands, **you are needed** any day of the week for a couple hours that you choose! More clearing, weeding and turning of soil are needed. Continued donations of brown lawn bags are appreciated throughout the summer.

Again, our thanks to those giving of their time, talents and muscle!
St. Gerald Garden Committee

TIM'S TIDBITS

A Happy Mother's Day to all!

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension. It was transferred to this Sunday a few years ago. Although in some dioceses, Ascension Thursday is still celebrated. Today's celebration is a reminder that we live in the time between Christ's first coming and his second coming, between his ascension and the final day at the end of time. In this in-between time we have a job to do: we are to continue his mission on earth. As we gather today at God's invitation, may our prayer be to remain faithful and diligent disciples until the end.

Next weekend is Pentecost! Please wear **RED** to Church.

If you wish to be a reader of a language for Pentecost, please contact me. We will be having a rehearsal this week. The reading from Acts, can be done with different languages. If you can read or speak another language, please let me know, either by calling me at 248-477-7470 x 202 or emailing at timwestfall.sgp@gmail.com. Prayerfully in this Easter Season!

RED GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST



Next weekend, which is **Pentecost Sunday**, the church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit with the symbolic color of red. We invite you to bring a potted red geranium to decorate our sanctuary with on Pentecost Sunday. Just bring a potted **red** geranium and place it in the sanctuary.

The following week, the red geraniums will be planted on the parish grounds to beautify our campus all season long. Thank you.



WE PRAY FOR THE
REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF
ISABELLE BOVIN

+
FEBRUARY 13, 1926
APRIL 26, 2016

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO
ISABELLE O LORD, AND MAY
PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON HER

EVANGELIZATION

Unleash the Gospel in your life and join the band of joyful missionaries.

St. Gerald Church will host our **LAST Synod discussion session**
on **Saturday, May 14th at 9:00 AM**

Hospitality and refreshments will be available.

Synods are by God's grace something powerful in the life of the Church,
a way to grow together. Be sure to join us and give your input and ideas for
YOUR CHURCH!



For information on other dialogue locations, go to:
www.aod.org/our-archdiocese/archdiocesan-synods/synod-16/parish-dialogue-gatherings/

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, June 13th at 7:00 pm - Movie Night "The Way" with Martin Sheen

Future Game Night dates to be announced soon.

Come be a part of what's happening...
NOT apart from it.



A look at the week ahead:

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| 9 8:40 am Rosary 9:15 am Mass | 10 8:40 am Rosary 9:15 am Mass 9:45 am Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions 7:00 pm Parish Leader's Meeting 8:30 pm Commission Meetings | 11 8:40 am Rosary 9:15 am Mass | 12 6:20 pm Rosary 7:00 pm Mass | 13 7:30 pm Holy Hour 8:00 pm AA Meeting | 14 9:00 am Parish Synod Dialogue 3:30 pm Confessions 5:00 pm Mass | 15 PENTECOST SUNDAY Blood Pressure Screenings after all Masses Sunday Fellowship 8:30 am Mass 10:15 am Mass 10:15 am Children's Liturgy of the Word 12:00 pm Mass 6:00 pm Youth |

AMAZING PARISH CONFERENCE 2016 – OVERVIEW

St. Gerald participated in the Amazing Parish Conference in April. Over 200 of the 226 Catholic churches in our Archdiocese attended this first-of-its kind event in the USA. Each church sent four lay leaders plus one priest. During the three-day workshop, the 1,000 plus audience gathered for daily prayer, learning, and discussion focused on how laity and clergy can work *together* to renew our churches, re-invigorate our Sunday worship services, and help bring about the blossoming of faith in our parishes. Three essential ingredients of a flourishing church life are:

Prayer – *“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.”*

(1 Thessalonians 5: 16-17)

To share Christ with others, we must first come to know Him and his voice

Praying together as a parish staff or as a family builds bonds of trust.

All aspects of the Sunday worship experience (greeting, preaching, music, invitation to return) are important and should reflect our church family’s unique mission and charism.

Discipleship – *“Christ must increase and I must decrease.”*

(John 3:30)

Make discipleship exciting! It’s a journey, not just a program.

Do we have a culture and path of discipleship at our church?

Are we passing on our Faith and Traditions effectively to the Youth?

Evangelization – *“We are called to be joyful band*

of missionaries.” (Archbishop Allen Vigneron)

The Church is a missionary venture to serve others; it’s not a club to serve only its members.

How do we turn the Sunday “obligation” into a Sunday opportunity?

Who is not being ministered to? Who is still spiritually hungry?

What evangelization opportunities are we overlooking?



Our attendees at the Amazing Parish Conference (from left to right) where Fr. Festus Ejimadu, Gerryanna Luscri, Nancy Lacey, Tim Westfall and Shatomi Kerbawy.

While this may sound like a tall challenge, the conference’s central message was very encouraging: Jesus Christ gives each of us and St. Gerald, everything we need to overcome the challenges of the current day and age. Jesus will never abandon us. The Holy Spirit is here to guide us and to help us activate our own gifts and to recognize and nurture the gifts and faith we see in others. By working, praying, and sharing life’s joys and hardships together, we can overcome anything.

Come Holy Spirit, Come! Renew us and through us, renew the church family of St. Gerald!

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has invited all Catholics to renew their personal relationships with our Savior, as “the joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus.” In this spirit, the theme of the 2016 Catholic Services Appeal is *Celebrate the Joy of the Gospel*. This weekend is CSA Weekend, which marks the beginning of our annual Catholic Services Appeal. Gifts to the CSA make possible a wealth of ministries, programs, and services that touch the lives of thousands throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit each day. No one parish could provide all of these blessings, and benefit so many. The CSA is a pledge program, which allows you to spread your gift over several months. Please prayerfully consider the most generous gift possible to support the 2016 Catholic Services Appeal. For information about CSA-funded ministries, programs, and services, please go to www.aod.org.



BANNS OF MARRIAGE
1ST BANN

Let us pray for Jennifer Lacey and Andrew Midgett as they prepare to be joined in Holy Matrimony at St. Gerald Parish on May 28, 2016

ELECTRONIC DEPOSIT OF DONATIONS IS AVAILABLE AT ST. GERALD. FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE BOOKSHELF IN THE GATHERING SPACE OF THE CHURCH OR ON OUR WEBSITE AT STGERALDPARISH.ORG.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL OUR SICK . . .

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Wanda Reiner | Beth Croitori | Stanley Ptak |
| Bill Walker | Robin Kafcas | Dick Campbell |
| Daron Tilburt | Andy Mosher | Rita Knight |
| John MacDougall | Emily Choike | Dennis Hill |
| Corinne Wedge | Wanda Johnson | Stephen Cleary |
| Ralph Wenski | Erin Malloy-Sidaway | Patricia Drobot |
| Sofia Weiland | Nancy Kolliker | Laurie Aldrich |
| Margaret Joyal | Mary Ann Alcalan | Joan Preston |
| Robert Lindenmuth | Paula Springer | |
| Andy Vermiglio | | |



KNIGHTS CORNER

Officer Election During Member Meet; Spouses Welcome at Memorial Mass, May 19

Next week’s membership meeting on May 17 is an important one. First, we finish the process of electing officers for the fraternal year that begins July 1. Nominations, which opened last month, will close at that meeting with voting immediately following. A list of nominees was published in last week’s column and will be repeated in the May 15 issue of *The Voice*.

Second, PGK Rich Smith will be recruiting Knights to help with the Memorial Mass and reception that will take place at 7 PM Thursday, May 19. Members and their spouses are urged to attend. Business attire is the uniform of the day. If you can help. Contact Smith at 313-421-0204.

Volunteers also will be signed up to help with the parish picnic scheduled for Sunday, June 5. Help with the setup is needed on the day before at 9 AM. The Knights again have been tasked with manning the grills and the beer tent. An Event Manager also is needed. See Project Director Tom McPhail for more details or to volunteer.

No one from our Council won anything in the State Charity Raffle which concluded recently. Michael Kennedy of neighboring Council St. Fabian 13362 won the 4th prize, a golf package for four at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City. The main prize, a week’s stay in Rome for two plus \$4,000 spending money was won by Don Amboyer of Warren Council 3257.



Our 2016 Baby Bottle Drive to aid the Mother and Unborn Baby Care pregnancy center in Southfield got under way today. Parishioners are urged to fill the bottles with their loose change, dollars, or a check made out to Mother and Unborn Baby Care. The drive ends Father’s Day, June 18.

Michigan K of C Tiger Day is July 16. Details at www.mikoc.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

- 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: stgeraldm@gmail.com

Music Ministry

- Mary Zelinski, Director of Music 734-516-0133

Ministries Assistant - Purchaser

- Cathy Long x 222
Email: clong123@gmail.com

Maintenance

Mark Koss

Accountant

Kim Shepard

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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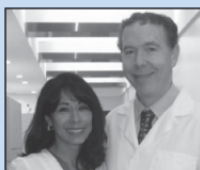
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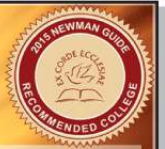
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