

The VOICE

NOVEMBER 27, 2016

ST. GERALD

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
A Servant Church Of
The Archdiocese of Detroit

21300 Farmington Road
Farmington, Michigan 48336
Phone: 248-477-7470
Fax: 248-477-3878
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, Friday: 9:15 a.m.
Thursday Evening: 7:00 p.m.

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES

What American does not think about or prepare for the future? Americans save for a rainy day, to get married, to buy a home, to send the children to college, and to retire in comfort. Americans also protect themselves against future misfortunes with varieties of insurance.

Jesus' advice to his contemporaries, "Stay awake!" and be prepared for an imminent event, belabors the obvious for Americans (Mt 24:42-43). However, future events are not obvious for Middle Easterners.

Present Focus

Generally speaking, people in the Middle East are unable and unwilling to think about the future. Only God knows that, and it is futile for humans to try to discover it.

People of that world live entirely for the present. Jesus chides them for worrying about tomorrow and what they will eat, drink, or wear (Mt 6:25-34). He instructs them to ask God only for today's bread and not a week's supply (Mt 6:11).

Where, then, did today's exhortation to "stay awake" and "be watchful" for the "advent of the Son of Man" come from? Did Jesus say these words, or were they placed on his lips by his disciples?

Present Frustration

Scholars point out that Jesus frequently proposed behaviors alternative to those favored in his culture. Obsessive and narrow focus on the present can cause a person to miss events just around the corner (which are also present but slightly delayed).

By the time Matthew compiled his Gospel, around 80 to 85 C.E., Jesus had been dead and risen nearly fifty years. About ten to fifteen years prior to Matthew's work, the failed revolt of the Judeans resulted in the utter demolition of their Temple by Titus and his Roman legions (70 C.E.).

Still, the Son of Man had not yet returned, and many of Jesus' original listeners had already died. Christians were frightened and becoming impatient.

Matthew's community was further agitated by its vocal Judean opponents. Their taunt to the Christians ran something like this: "Where is your 'coming Son of Man?' You keep saying 'in *this* generation,' but you are deceived. Remember Daniel's inability to calculate and predict? You are similarly misguided. Give it up!"

Hope for the "Future"

For today's reading, Matthew has borrowed and redirected parables from Mark 13 to console and instruct his beleaguered community. The Son of Man gave his word; he definitely will return (Mt 24:35).

No one can calculate the exact time because his coming will be unexpected, just as the flood was for Noah's contemporaries (Mt 24:37-39). For this reason, the Christian must be ever watchful. The parables about the two in the field (v. 40) and two grinding (Mt 24:41) give no clue as to which will be taken and which will remain. Each person must be vigilant like the good homeowner, wary of thieves and vandals (Mt 24:43). Each must be ever prepared for the Lord's sudden return.

For our present-oriented ancestors in the faith, the ongoing delay of Jesus' expected imminent return forced them to think "future." When this delay had reached fifty years and more in Matthew's community, the evangelist was able to force his present-oriented people to begin to think of at least a slightly remote, if not yet very far off, future.

The challenge to American believers is quite different. Americans are so terminally future oriented, often to a distant future (college for the infant; retirement for the new worker), that they frequently miss the present entirely.

With our futures relatively well-secured, we need to be wakeful to and watchful of the present lest misfortune creep up on us before we realize it.

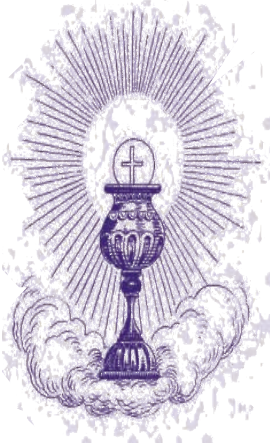
John J. Pilch is a biblical scholar and facilitator of parish renewals. Liturgical Press has published fourteen books by Pilch exploring the cultural world of the Bible.

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.

WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS

NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 3



Monday 9:15 AM

Marino Dall'Olmo

Requested by Graziano Canini

Tuesday 9:15 AM

Shirley O'Connell

Requested by Pat Kirchner & Kathryn Marshall

Wednesday

NO MASS

Thursday 7:00 PM

Marino Dall'Olmo

Requested by Graziano Canini

Friday 9:15 AM

Kenneth Eschebach

Requested by Julee Berger

Saturday 9:15 AM

For All Our Parishioners

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: IS 4:2-6/PS 122/MT 8:5-11

TUESDAY: IS 11:1-10/PS 72/LK 10:21-24

WEDNESDAY: ROM 10:9-18/PS 23/MT 4:18-22

THURSDAY: IS 26:1-6/PS 118/MT 7:21, 24-27

FRIDAY: IS 29:17-24/PS 27/MT 9:27-31

SATURDAY: IS 30:19-21, 23-26/PS 147/MT 9:35--10:1, 5A, 6-8

NEXT SUNDAY: IS 11:1-10/PS 72/ROM 15:4-9/MT 3:1-12

LITURGICAL PUBLICATIONS INC

(FOR A LIST OF DAILY READINGS: GO TO [HTTP://WWW.USCCB.ORG/NAB](http://www.usccb.org/nab))



**First Friday, December 2,
 Exposition of the
 Blessed Sacrament from
 10 AM - 9 AM Saturday
 Scheduled Adorers Needed
 Sign-up sheets in narthex**

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE!

When you are looking for Mass Times or other special events at St. Gerald, please visit our website at www.stgeraldparish.org or "like" our Facebook page at St. Gerald Catholic Church, Farmington.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER CHAIN

If you know someone who could use our prayers and would like them added to our prayer chain, please call the Parish Office at 248-477-7470 or email stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com and their name will be added to our prayers.

**DECEMBER 4, 2016
 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

5:00 PM December 3 Fr. Roodbeen

For Matthew Boyer Requested by John & Doris Juzswik	Servers	Isabelle Gerhart Eli Gerhart
	Lector/ Ushers	Tim Westfall 5:00A

8:30 AM December 4 Fr. Kris

For Harry Barr Requested by Marjorie Barr	Servers	John Smith Gabe Smith
	Lector/ Ushers	Paul Borchert 8:30C

10:15 AM December 4 Fr. Roodbeen

For Myron, Millie, and Greg Kopasz Requested by Best Friends Ever	Servers	Luke Horsburgh
	Lector/ Ushers	Sofia Mansoor Gerryanna Luscri 10:15A

12:00 Noon December 4 Fr. Kris

For Cutinha & Valder Families Requested by Simon & Stella Cutinha	Servers	Grace Pagnucco Claire Pagnucco
	Lectors/ Ushers	Sue Wardle 12:00A

Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks

December 3 and December 4

Team A

December 10 and December 11

Team C



- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Wanda Reiner | Beth Croitori |
| Tony Wadrick | Bill Walker |
| Robin Kafcas | Carol Reinke |
| Dick Campbell | Erin Malloy-Tingle |
| Charles Minear | Andy Mosher |
| Rita Knight | Cyndy Fenech |
| John MacDougall | Emily Choike |
| Josephine Meyers | Dennis Hill |
| Corinne Wedge | Erin Malloy-Tingle |
| Wanda Johnson | Stephen Cleary |
| Ralph Wenski | Nancy Kolliker |
| Laurie Aldrich | Margaret Joyal |
| Mary Ann Alcala | Joan Preston |
| Andy Vermiglio | Gerry Makowski |
| Joan Goniea | Norma Bazzett |
| Bill Borchert | Gabbie Frey |
| Josephine Beals | |

ELECTRONIC DEPOSIT OF DONATIONS IS AVAILABLE AT ST. GERALD. FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH OFFICE OR ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE

Children of the parish in grades Preschool-6 are invited to participate in the St. Gerald Gospel Enactment of the Christmas Story at the 6:00 Christmas Eve Mass



There will be one rehearsal on Saturday, December 17th at 11:00 AM in the church. Please contact Mary Taylor by December 8th to sign up at 248 476-7677, ext. 201 or taylor.mary04@yahoo.com.

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING TAG



WEEKEND

Christmas Tags are available after all the Masses this weekend in the Social Hall. Everyone is welcome to take one or more tags to help the needy in our community. Please note the gifts are due back the

weekend of Dec. 10th and 11th. Thank you!

HAT AND MITTEN DONATIONS

Please bring a pair of mittens, gloves, hat, scarf or socks to help us decorate the tree in the church gathering space.

RIGHT TO LIFE/LIFESPAN CHRISTMAS CARDS

Lifespan Christmas cards will be available for purchase after all the Masses this weekend.

**ST. GERALD PARISH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
2016-2017**

The Advent/Christmas Mass Schedule

Daily Mass—**M, T, F-9:15 AM; Th-7:00 PM & First Saturday-9:15 AM;**

Weekend Mass—**Dec. 3-4, 10-11, 17-18**

Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM, 12 Noon

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception—
(Holy Day of Obligation)**

Thursday, December 8 - 9:15 AM & 7:00 PM Masses

Christmas Eve—Saturday, Dec. 24

4:00 PM, 6:00 PM Children's Mass, 10:00 PM Choir Mass & Midnight Mass

Christmas Day—Sunday, Dec. 25

8:30 AM Mass, 10:15 AM & 12 Noon Masses

New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31

5:00 PM Mass

**New Year's Day, Feast of Mary,
Holy Mother of God**

Sunday, January 1 - 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM & 12 Noon Masses

First Friday observance-adoration,

Friday, Dec. 2 & Jan. 6

Adoration begins after the 9:15 AM Mass and ends at 9:00 AM Saturday with benediction followed by 9:15 AM Mass of Anointing of the Sick

First Saturday Masses

Saturday, Dec. 3 and Jan 7—9:15 AM

Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday, Jan 7 - 5:00 PM,

Sunday, Jan 8 - 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM, 12 Noon

The Advent Reconciliation/Confession Schedule

Regular Reconciliation/Confession every Saturday at 3:30 PM

(No Confession Dec. 24)

Monday, Dec. 19 -

Parish Reconciliation Service —7:00 PM

THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKET THANKS!

A huge thank you to all the parishioners of St. Gerald who helped make our Thanksgiving basket drive such a huge success. We, as a parish, were able to help over 70 families this Thanksgiving. Each family received a turkey generously donated by JSP Foundation, and all the trimmings to make a delicious Thanksgiving meal. Also included in the box was additional food to help in the coming days. Thank you again, you are all such a blessing!



CHRISTMAS FAMILY CRAFT DAY

December 3rd

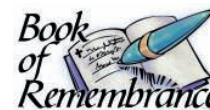


10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Many crafts to choose from.

Pizza will be provided.

All ages are welcome!



St. Gerald keeps a Book of Remembrance in our gathering space during the month of November. We invite you to write the names of your deceased loved ones in this book at any time during the month of November. The deceased listed in the Book of Remembrance are remembered during the Prayers of the Faithful at each of our weekend Masses in November.

We realize that this time following the death of your loved one has been a difficult time for you and your family and we pray that you might find comfort in our Lord and our Blessed Mother, Mary. Please know that you are remembered in the prayers of our Parish community.

ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA

If you would like to make a donation to the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, envelopes are available on the table in the gathering space of the church. Please take one home and return in the collection basket the following weekend. These donations provide the Gospel, the sacraments and other forms of spiritual support to the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces wherever they serve and to the veterans who are in VA medical centers.


ABOUT THE ADVENT WREATH



Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.



**ADVENT TEA BY
CANDLELIGHT
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016
6:00PM
PARISH SOCIAL HALL
\$11 PER PERSON**

All are welcome at the Annual St. Gerald Advent Tea

It has been a St. Gerald tradition to come together in the season of advent to break bread with a group of friends and enjoy a short Advent Reflection. You may host an entire table, or come as a single person and we will provide a place for you.

Table Hostesses provide dessert and festive place settings for their table. St. Gerald's provides an Advent Reflection and dinner with tea and coffee.

Please contact Diane Gerometta for more information or to make your reservation at 248-763-3193 or diane.gerometta@aon.com. Tables fill up quickly; reserve your spot early so you are not disappointed!

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

At St. Gerald we welcome all and encourage anyone 18 years of age and older to become registered members of the Parish.

Registration is a simple process that is done at the Parish Office during office hours 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday or by picking up a Registration form located on the book shelf in the gathering space of the church and sliding a completed form under the Parish Office door. Keeping our records current is also important. If you have a change of address, phone number or email address, please call the information into the Parish Office at 248-477-7470. If you are moving from our parish, please let us know.

Welcome



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



FUNERAL GREETERS NEEDED

This rewarding service of greeting guests at the door, being kind, helpful and assisting with simple needs is appreciated by everyone. Commitment opportunities will vary upon need and availability of volunteers. Helpful and compassionate persons interested in assisting family and visitors during funeral masses are encouraged to contact Geryanna Luscri (734-341-1999) or Tim Westfall (248-477-7470 x 202) of the Evangelization Committee. Consider answering the call to this need in our parish.

A WEEK AHEAD:

Monday, November 28
9:15 AM Mass
5:30 PM Elementary Religious Formation

Tuesday, November 29
9:15 AM Mass
5:00 PM Elementary Religious Formation
7:00 PM Baptism Prep Class

Wednesday, November 30
7:00 PM RCIA
7:30 PM Adult Choir

Thursday, December 1
10:30 AM SVDP Meeting
7:00 PM Mass

Friday, December 2
First Friday - Eucharistic Adoration following morning Mass
9:15 AM Mass
8:00 PM AA Meeting

Saturday, December 3
First Saturday
9:15 AM Mass with Anointing of the Sick
10:30 AM Christmas Family Craft Day
3:30 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Mass

Sunday, December 4
2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday Fellowship
8:30 AM Mass
10:15 AM Mass
10:15 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word
10:15 AM Sunday School
12:00 PM Mass
6:30 PM Confirmation Classes



Prayer for Vocations

O God, source of creation and love, you invite each of us to serve you through the gift of our life. May your grace encourage men and women to serve the church as priests, deacons, brothers, sisters, and lay ministers. Make me an instrument to encourage others to give of themselves, and challenge me to do the same. Amen.



EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS

“Welcoming the Lord with a Humble Heart,” an Advent Day of Reflection, will be held at Sacred Heart Major Seminary on Thursday, December 1, beginning at 8:30 AM.

Father Patrick Gonyeau will lead the day of prayer and reflection, which will explore how this Advent season can be a time of encountering God’s mercy and deepening our relationship with Jesus. Father Gonyeau is the associate pastor of The Cathedral Cluster of parishes as well as the Evangelization Coordinator for the Central Region of our Archdiocese.

The cost of \$30 includes a light breakfast and lunch.

Gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal help fund this event and other important work of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, which helps parishes build strong faith formation programs that support the work of evangelization at all levels and stages.

For more information about CSA-funded ministries, programs, and services, please go to www.AOD.org.

HELP NEEDEY FAMILIES IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN THIS CHRISTMAS

You can help alleviate some of the financial burdens for needy families here in southeast Michigan and make their Christmas a little brighter through the Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan Adopt a Family program. Families to benefit from this program were nominated by parishes or a local Catholic social service organization such as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. These families need help with necessities like food, rent, utilities, and medical care. You can specify assisting a family identified by number or divide your gift among all the families listed. Donate online by credit card through the Adopt a Family link on the Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (CCSEM) website: www.ccsem.org or mail your check to:

CCSEM Adopt a Family

Kelly Luttinen

15945 Canal RD

Clinton Township, MI 48038-1610

Make checks out to CCSEM with “Adopt a Family” in the memo line. If you would like to help a specific family, remember to specify the family identification number in the memo line. The donation deadline is December 8 at the close of business. Questions? Call Kelly Luttinen at 248-548-4044 ext 3261 or email: luttinenk@ccsem.org



ADVENT EVENING FOR COUPLES

A “Couples Evening of Reflection” will be held on Tuesday, December 6, at St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat & Conference Center. The evening begins with registration from 5:30-6:00 pm and the program ends at 9 pm. Led by the St. Paul Ministry Team, the program includes conferences, personal time for reflection, and a Prayer Service. The evening cost is \$40 a couple and includes dinner. To register, contact Lynnette Marshall at 313/286-2800 or email at lmarshall@stpaulretreat.org. On-line registration at <https://www.stpaulretreat.org/event/advent-evening-of-reflection-for-married-couples/>

2ND ANNUAL CAPUCHIN SCHOOL NIGHT OUT

Thursday, December 8, 5:30 PM

Enjoy a night of mingling with likeminded young adults and learn how to support the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. The event will be held at Brew Detroit, 1401 Abbott St, Detroit, MI. \$50 advance ticket includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, music and a brewery tour. Proceeds benefit the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Purchase tickets online at www.CSKDetroit.org or by calling (313) 579-2100, ext. 170.

OPLATEK OR “CHRISTMAS WAFER”

The **Christmas wafer** is a Central European Christian Christmas tradition celebrated in Polish, Slovak, Lithuanian and Italian families during Wigilia (Christmas Eve Vigil). The unleavened wafers are baked from pure wheat flour and water, are usually rectangular in shape and very thin; they are identical in composition to the Host used during a Catholic mass however, they are not consecrated. Wafers are embossed with Christmas related religious images, varying from the nativity scene, especially Virgin Mary with baby Jesus, to the Star of Bethlehem. Family members and friends break off a small piece of the oplatek wafer and give it to one another along with a blessing. Breaking off and exchanging part of oplatek with someone is symbol of forgiveness between two people and is meant to remind participants of the importance of Christmas, God, and family. The tradition of sharing the wafer is one of the rich variety of traditions that Poles still celebrate during **Christmas Eve Supper**, which is the most elegant and pompous evening in the whole year. Why not start a new tradition this year. Oplateks are available in the Parish Office and will be available after all the Masses in the gathering space during Advent. A Free Will donation is not required, but would be appreciated!

BULLETIN REMINDER

All organizations and individuals are reminded to submit articles and announcements for the parish bulletin by 12 noon on Mondays. We ask that you please computer generate your submissions and send them via e-mail to stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com. All articles subject to approval and may be edited to create space. Thank you.



KNIGHTS CORNER

We Knights Have Lots of Extras For Which to be Thankful This Year

Another Thanksgiving is in the books. As Knights, we have some extra things for which we are thankful. The first is being a member of the Knights of Columbus, the largest brotherhood of Catholic men. It is a powerful force for good.

We also can be thankful for:

The St. Gerald parishioners who have given us their generous support since our founding 11 years ago. They have helped by supporting our pancake breakfasts, our Tootsie Roll Sales and our Baby Bottle Drives to name a few events.

Our Pastor, Fr. Kris, who understands the Knights and our mission. He has shown that he supports our Council. He also is our Chaplain.

Our Council and the men who share membership, especially the 35 or so who make up the hard-working core group. They share work, lots of laughs, prayers and friendship. We are blessed to belong to Council 13673 and have these fine men as friends.

Our leadership. Our Council has been blessed with an outstanding lineup of officers through the years. Officers come and go each year, but the group stays constant in its dedication to the Council. In our first 10 years our Council has received 5 Star Council awards, the highest award given by our Supreme Council. Few Councils in the nation can match that record.

PK Rich Smith reports that the Nov. 9 Casino bus trip was a big success. The next trip to the Fire Keepers Casino outside Battle Creek is scheduled for Jan. 11, 2017. All but two seats for that trip have been reserved. He is building a wait list. To get your name on it, give him a call at 248-747-6817.

Shatomi Kerbawy and Frank Gariepy, the organizers of our annual Spelling Bee for youngsters fourth through ninth grade, have scrapped this year's event, citing a lack of lead time for promotion and registration. Both men were involved in other Council projects in October and November. They promise an earlier start for the 2017 Bee.

The Council also has scrapped the annual Picture with Santa event usually held in early December due to lack of interest. Less than a dozen families took advantage of the free service last year and in 2015.

Keep informed of Council activities—Read the Knights Corner in *The Voice*

ST. GERALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

Office Hours

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

STAFF

Parish Office (248) 477-7470

Reverend Krzysztof Nowak, Administrator x 203
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

Music and Youth Ministry

Mary Melonio x 222
Email: mmelonio@aol.com

Maintenance

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. Kris 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. Kris 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? Please call Tim Westfall (248) 476-7677 x202 or Fr. Kris (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. Kris can work with you to find a favorable solution.

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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