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 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. CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING PROGRAM

Fourth Sunday of

Thank you to each of you who have done something special for those who will receive the blessings of our Christmas Giving Gift Program.

May Light and Love be yours in abundance as the feast of Christmas comes. I am so thankful to you who share the light and love of Jesus with our church and with people in need all during the year. It is a joy to partner with you in ministry of all kinds.

My prayer is that God will bless you and give you what you most need this Christmas!

Fr. Krzysztof Nowak

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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

DECEMBER 19 - DECEMBER 23

<u>Monday</u> 9:15 AM **Dobbs, Kemp, Trayer, Robrecht and Donarman Families** Requested by C. Kemp

<u>Tuesday 9:15 AM</u> Marino Dall'Olmo Requested by Graziano Canini

> Wednesday NO MASS

<u>Thursday 7:00 PM</u> Joan Wojnar Requested by Bill Croitori

Friday 9:15 AM Oscar Pompa Requested by Lee Pompa

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25A/Ps 71/Lk 1:5-25			
TUESDAY:	IS 7:10-14/PS 24/LK 1:26-38			
WEDNESDAY	: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18A/Ps 33/Lk 1:39-45			
THURSDAY:	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2/Lk 1:46-56			
FRIDAY:	MAL 3:1-4, 23-24/PS 25/LK 1:57-66			
SATURDAY:	MORNING: 2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16/PS 89/LK			
	1:67-79			
NEXT SUNDAY: VIGIL: IS 62:1-5/PS 89/ACTS 13:16-17, 22-25/				
	MT 1:1-25 OR 1:18-25			
OT OTOTTO	NIGHT: IS 9:1-6/PS 96/TI 2:11-14/LK 2:1-14			
(HISTA)	DAWN: IS 62:11-12/PS 97/TI 3:4-7/LK 2:15-20			
0	DAY: IS 52:7-10/PS 98/HEB 1:1-6/JN 1:1-18 OR			
	1:1-5, 9-14			
LITURGICAL PUBLICATIONS INC				

(FOR A LIST OF DAILY READINGS: GO TO HTTP://WWW.USCCB.ORG/NAB)



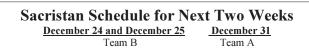
8:30 AM 10:15 AM 12:00 PM



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

DECEMBER 25, 2016 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

4:00 PM I	Jecember 2	24 Fr. Kris				
For Kaye & Pavco Families	Servers	Grace Pagnucco Claire Pagnucco				
Requested by Joe Pavco	Lector/ Ushers	Candy Rosowski Lyda DelRosario				
6:00 PM December 24 Fr. Kris						
For Michael & Phyllis Albis	Servers	Luke Horsburgh Angie Horsburgh				
Requested by Mary Taylor	Lector/ Ushers	Sofia Mansoor Fernando Guerra				
10:00 PM December 24 Fr. Kris						
For Enrico & Josephine	Servers	Ashley Grabinski Clarisa Russenberger				
Soave Requested by Family	Lector/ Ushers	Ray Pisani Angela McLoughlin				
12:00 Midnight	December	24 Fr. Kris				
For William Mooney	Servers	Gabe Smith				
Requested by Mary Taylor	Lectors/ Ushers	Tim Westfall				
8:30 AM December 25 Fr. Kris						
For Eileen DeGabriele	Servers	John Smith				
Requested by Lillian Malley	Lector/ Ushers	Paul Borchert Jim Bergin 8:30 C				
10:15 AM E	ecember 2	5 Fr. Kris				
For All Living & Deceased Morelli & Rotondo	Servers	Need Servers				
Families Requested by Josephine Rotondo & Family	Lector/ Ushers	Caron Kott Nancy Stone 10:15 B				
12:00 PM December 25 Fr. Kris						
For	Servers	Need Servers				
Isabelle Boivin Requested by Friends of Family	Lectors/ Ushers	Gerryanna Luscri Rob Gulick 12:00 B				



Taize Prayer Service Sunday, December 18th at 6:00 PM



Join us for a service of music, prayer and quite reflection. This hour is exactly what we need to slow down and remember what is truly important during this holy season of Advent.

PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE 7:00 PM on Monday, December 19th



With individual confession and absolution

All Religious Formation classes will break for the Christmas Holiday beginning December 21st and will resume on Monday, January 9th.

Christmas Wafers (Oplatki) are available in the Parish Office during our regular office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. If you would like an Oplatki and are unable to come during office hours, please call 248-477-7470 and other arrangements can be made. A freewill donation would be appreciated!



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM A SUCCESS! There are not words that can show our appreciation for the wonderful gifts and gift cards that were purchased for our Christmas Program this year. Your generosity will definitely help to bring joy into the lives of many in our community. Thank you again, we couldn't have done it without you!

Christmas Decorating Schedule

Many hands are needed. Please consider coming to help decorate the church on the following dates:

Wednesday, December 21 – starting at 1 PM Thursday, December 22 – starting at 1 PM Friday, December 23 – starting at 2 PM

No RSVP is needed, but consider helping out when you can. Thank you!!

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.

TIM'S TIDBITS

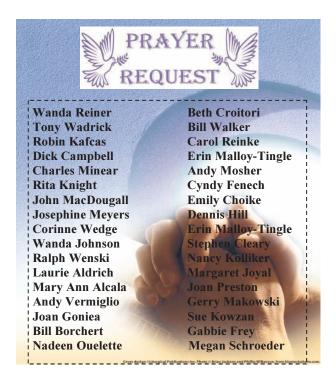
Living the Paschal Mystery

Christmas – the mystery of Emmanuel, "God is with us" – can't be simply a day or season on our calendars. It is the eternal mystery of making incarnate through the goodness of our own lives the God who loves us and saves us. Emmanuel is given birth through our being obedient to God's will and encountering the Presence of this Savior all year long. Each of us is God's betrothed overshadowed with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Each of us carries within ourselves this "God is with us" who is Savior. Each of us has the capacity to embrace divine indwelling and to make that Presence known to all the world. (Living Liturgy, 2017)

Advent Expecting: The Universal Norms on the Liturgical year and the General Roman Calendar simply describes Advent as "a period of devout and expectant delight" Naturally, with this Fourth Sunday of Advent our expectation is heightened. Christmas is almost here! Yet we can so easily fool ourselves; once Christmas Day arrives we might think our expectation is ended. Actually, it's only begun!

Christian living is characterized by expectation: Christ continually comes in the most unexpected ways. Jesus' birth so long ago unleased a new and startling Presence of God in our midst. Since that time our expectation never ceases: we live for Christ's coming. The surprise of the Good News of salvation is that God comes to dwell among us. Our wildest dreams, our most heartfelt expectations are fulfilled in the birth of this Savior, Emmanuel, "God is with us." (Living Liturgy, 2017)

Below you will see the dates and times for Christmas decorating inside the church. If you can, come and help out. The majority of the decorating will be done on Wednesday and Thursday, with Friday being a back-up date. The poinsettias have been ordered from Moose and Squirrel, formerly Meiring Nursery. Have a prayerful Advent Season.



A WEEK AHEAD:

Monday, December 19 9:15 AM Mass 5:30 PM Elementary Religious Formation 7:00 PM Parish Reconciliation Service

Tuesday, December 20 9:15 AM Mass 5:00 PM Elementary Religious Formation 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus Membership Meeting

> Wednesday, December 21 7:30 PM Adult Choir

Thursday, December 22 7:00 PM Mass

Friday, December 23 9:15 AM Mass 7:30 PM Holy Hour 8:00 PM AA Meeting

Saturday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE DAY No Confessions 4:00 PM Mass 6:00 PM Children's Mass 10:00 PM Choir Mass 12:00 Midnight Mass

Sunday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY 8:30 AM Mass 10:15 AM Mass 12:00 PM Mass

NEWS FROM THE ST. GERALD WOMEN'S CLUB

The St. Gerald Women's Club is a group for women of all ages - from young adults through seniors! We get together for fellowship, fun and more!

Our next outing will be on Sunday, January 8th. We will start the day by going to 12:00 PM Mass, then will meet for lunch in downtown Plymouth at the Box Bar, after that we will go to the ice carving show in Plymouth. Feel free to choose any or all of these options. You can show up to any of these events on your own, with a friend, with a spouse, or with the family. You will probably see some of us at the ice show any time between the hours of 1:00 and 5:00 PM. We hope to see many of you there. Dress warm.

There will be a Taize Prayer Service Sunday evening at 6:00 PM and the Parish Advent Reconciliation service on Monday at 7:00 PM.

Be sure to always check the Voice and the church website at stgeraldparish.org for upcoming activities.



Offertory Snapshot

Actual Offertory for Weekend of Dec. 11	\$ 8,536.00
Budget Offertory for Weekend of Dec. 11	\$ 8,800.00
Actual Offertory July 1 - December 11	\$229,598.00
Budget Offertory July 1 - December 11	\$211,200.00



Welcome



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

My Church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. Its' pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship, if I invite and bring them. It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things. Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all of the things that I want my church to be. Amen.

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL CTND

As you prepare for the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, on Christmas, tune into the Catholic Television Network of Detroit (CTND) for programming focusing on the true meaning of Christmas.

Since 1985, CTND has broadcast faith-filled programming that informs, educates, inspires, and entertains to homes throughout southeast Michigan. CTND became an affiliate of Boston-based Catholic TV Network in 2011.

CTND is available to 900,000 homes throughout southeast Michigan. A complete schedule can be found on the Archdiocese of Detroit website and in The Michigan Catholic newspaper.

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

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

A common thread linking today's Scripture readings is the prophecy of Emmanuel, a name that translates to God is with us. Both the passage from Isaiah and St. Matthew's Gospel express this prophecy about Jesus Christ. In the Gospel, an angel visits Joseph in a dream, revealing that Mary has conceived a child by the Holy Spirit and telling him to not fear taking her as his wife. Joseph completely trusts God's will and brings Mary into his home. As faithful stewards, we, too, strive to follow Joseph's example by putting our full trust in the Lord and serving Him as His disciples. Even though the Advent season is busy, set aside a few minutes daily for quiet time with the Lord.





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.

ST. GERALD CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS 2016 This Christmas Season the church will once again be decorated with memorial poinsettias in gold metallic pot covers.



Parishioners have the opportunity to remember loved ones who have passed away through donations toward the purchase of these poinsettias and other festive greenery.

Suggested donation this year is \$10.00 per name.

Just fill out this form! Place your form and donation in an envelope marked "**Poinsettias**" and drop it in the collection basket at weekend Masses or bring it to the Parish Office. If you have more than one name, then just make your list and submit that with your name and phone number. Thank you. A list of the donors and memorial names will appear in the bulletin for our New Year's Edition.

(DEADLINE FOR DONATIONS IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 19)

In Memory of:		
	(Please legibly print name of deceased)	
Remembered by:		
1	(Your name)	
Your phone number: ()	

• ST. GERALD PARISH, FARMINGTON, MI



KNIGHTS CORNER

Report on Millionaire Party Program to Highlight Tuesday's Membership Meeting

Our last membership meeting of 2016 is slated for Tuesday, Dec. 20. As usual, GK Fred Gerometta will bang the gavel promptly at 7 PM to signal the start of the session. A report on the feasibility of our Council becoming involved in a State of Michigan charity gambling operation is the top item on the agenda.

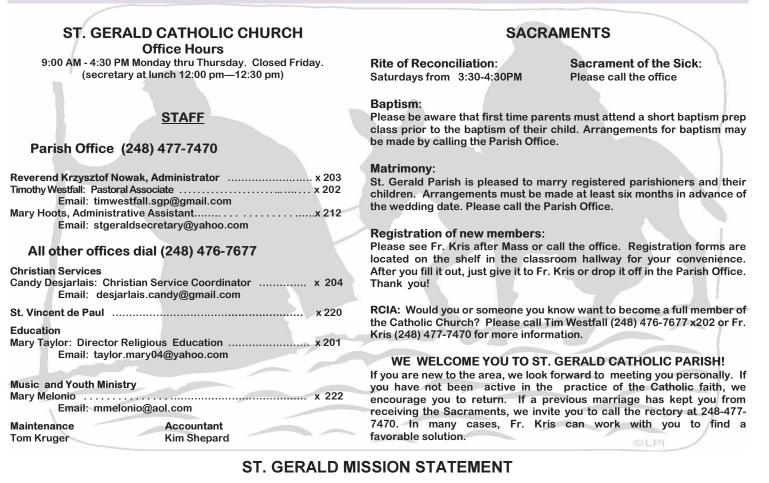
The report will be given by a committee of Thom Seabolt, Frank Gariepy and Bruce Berend who will recount their evening with a poker night involving St. William of Walled Lake Council. A similar report to our Council officers at their monthly meeting Dec. 6 produced a lively discussion and lots of questions about how a project is staffed. The program is dubbed the Millionaire Party program and involves a charity which handles the money and a supplier who provides the site, the dealers and the game.

The site visited by our trio had 4 days of poker – two days from 10 AM to 2 AM and two days from 6 PM to 2 AM – with a minimum of three men working at a time for eight-hour shifts. Some officers questioned if our Council could produce enough workers.

Reservations are being taken for the Michigan K of C Council's bus to the 44th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. The bus will depart Lansing at 5 PM on Jan. 26 and Chelsea at 6:30 PM. and arrive in Washington, D.C, at 7 AM, Jan. 27. The group has a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn Old Towne in Alexandria, VA. They plan to arrive back in Chelsea at approximately 6:30 PM, Jan. 28. For details and reservation information, go to www.mikofc.org

In case you missed it, Financial Secretary Bob Kuhr recently sent an e-mail advising members that the Fr. McGivney Fund has been closed, unbeknownst to him. An appeal for a \$12 donation to the fund was included in the recent notice for 2017 dues. If you already have included that donation in your dues check let Bob know at 248-888-9335 if you want a refund or if you want the amount to be a donation to the Council's general fund.

Changed your phone or e-mail? Let Financial Secretary Bob Kuhr know at 248-888-9335



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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