



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. and 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.





Dearest Friends,

With deep joy and gratitude, I extend to you my prayerful best wishes for a holy and blessed Christmas. During this Advent Season, it has been my prayer that each of you would find opportunities to reflect on your own faith and relationship with the Lord Jesus and His Church. I hope the 'Mass Journal' helped. I have heard from a number of you that it has. Be assured this will be an ongoing 'Tradition' for the St. Gerald Community.

Several years ago I received a Christmas card with this message on the cover: "This Christmas, I wish you Jesus." On the inside it read: "Isn't it nice to have everything!" That does sum it up pretty well, doesn't it?

In the midst of all our current challenges and concerns, the love of God the Father is made manifest to us in the wonderful gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. With the angels in Bethlehem, our faith moves us to sing: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth!" We recognize that true peace on earth flows from our recognition and praise of God in our lives and our service to others.

Christmas has a way of bringing to Church individuals and families who, for various reasons, have not been to Mass or the Sacraments for months or even years. What a wonderful and grace-filled opportunity to put aside past differences and old habits and begin anew that prayerful relationship with the Lord and His Church Family. I extend to all of you an open, grateful heart of welcome. Together, may we grow in strength and grace to know and celebrate God's presence in our lives and His love for all His creation.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families and loved ones at this Holy time of Hope and Grace. May Mary, the Mother of the Child Jesus and our Mother, watch over you and our beloved St. Gerald Parish.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May Christ abide in your hearts always!

MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 29

Monday 8:30 AM For All Our Parishioners

10:15 AM All Living and Deceased Morelli & **Rotondo Family** Requested by J. Rotondo & Family

> 12:00 PM For All Our Parishioners

Tuesday 9:15 AM Bashir Jabra Requested by Graziano Canini

Wednesday - No Mass

Thursday 7:00 PM Molly Joy Requested by Family

Friday 9:15 AM **Eugene Wojnar** Requested by Family

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: VIGIL: IS 62:1-5/PS 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2A]/ ACTS 13:16-17, 22-25/MT 1:1-25 OR 1:18-25

- MIDNIGHT: IS 9:1-6/PS 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [LK 2:11]/ ТІ 2:11-14/Lк 2:1-14
- DAWN: IS 62:11-12/PS 97:1, 6, 11-12/TI 3:4-7/LK 2:15-20
- DAY: IS 52:7-10/PS 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3C]/HEB 1:1-6/
- JN 1:1-18 OR 1:1-5, 9-14
- TUESDAY: ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59/PS 31:3CD-4, 6 AND 8AB, 16BC AND 17 [6]/MT 10:17-22
- WEDNESDAY: 1 JN 1:1-4/PS 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/ JN 20:1A, 2-8
- THURSDAY: 1 JN 1:5--2:2/PS 124:2-3, 4-5, 7B-8 [7]/ Мт 2:13-18
- FRIDAY: 1 JN 2:3-11/PS 96:1-2A, 2B-3, 5B-6 [11A]/ LK 2:22-35
- SATURDAY: 1 JN 2:12-17/PS 96:7-8A, 8B-9, 10 [11A]/ LK 2:36-40

NEXT SUNDAY: GN 15:1-6; 21:1-3 OR SIR 3:2-6, 12-14/ PS 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7A, 8A] OR PS 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [CF. 1]/HEB 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 OR COL 3:12-21 OR 3:12-17/LK 2:22-40 OR 2:22, 39-40

LITURGICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC

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



Parish Offices will be closed from December 22 through January 1. If there is an emergency and you need to reach someone in the Parish Office, please call 248-477-7470 and listen to directions prompted on the voicemail message. Thank you!

DECEMBER 31, 2017 THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY		
5:00 PM December 30 Fr. Kris		
For Edward Weberlein Requested by Dennis & Sharon Weberlein	Servers	Eli Gerhart Adrianna Gerhart
	Lector/ Ushers	Monica Murone 5:00B
8:30 AM December 31 Fr. Kris		
For Fr. Krzysztof Nowak Requested by Friend	Servers	Need Servers
	Lector/ Ushers	Ray Pisani 8:30C
10:15 AM December 31 Fr. Puzio		
For Fr. Krzysztof Nowak Requested by Friend	Servers	Need Servers
	Lector/ Ushers	Gerryanna Luscri 10:15C
12:00 PM December 31 Fr. Kris		
For Fr. Krzysztof Nowak Requested by Friend	Servers	Need Servers
	Lector/ Ushers	Paul Radzilowski 12:00B

Team #1 is scheduled for Botsford Commons Sunday, January 7th following the 8:30 AM Mass.

Sacristan Schedule for Next Week

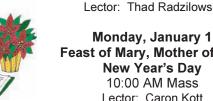
Dec. 23 & Dec. 24 Team A

Dec. 30 and Dec. 31 Team C

Mass Times:

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Sunday, December 31 Feast of Mary, Mother of God New Year's Eve 5:00 PM Mass Lector: Thad Radzilowski



Feast of Mary, Mother of God New Year's Day 10:00 AM Mass Lector: Caron Kott





Please note that the list of those remembered with Poinsettias will be in our December 31st issue of the bulletin.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In today's Christmas Mass at dawn we hear from the Gospel reading that God has entered quietly into the world. Not into the great city of Jerusalem, but into a small village about five miles south. Not into a noble family, but to an outcast couple keeping the newborn in a manger. Not announced by royal edicts, but to common shepherds, the first human heralds of Christ's birth. As Christian stewards we simply allow Christ to live in us no matter what our circumstances happen to be. We allow Christ to share his love with us and reflect that love out to others. We now are the heralds of Christ's Incarnation. What an unimaginable gift from a generous Lord. Good stewards rejoice in this gift and give glory to God.

DISCOVERING YOUR GIFTS CHARISM WORKSHOP Wednesdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31, and February 7; 7-9 PM St. Gerald Parish Hall

This workshop is for those:

- Seeking to learn more about themselves and their relationship with God
- Facing life transitions, career moves, or ministry opportunities
- Seeking a deeper prayer life
- Desiring to know their gifts and how to find happiness through them

In these five sessions you will uncover how God has uniquely gifted you to find true happiness, live out your call to holiness, lead a fulfilling life, and go deeper in your relationship with Jesus. During the sessions, you will learn how both your spiritual gifts given in baptism (charisms) and natural talents are discerned, activated and exercised through ministry, career, volunteer opportunities, and relationships with others. We will also delve into learning how to pray deeply to be able to discern wisely.

The workshops will be presented by Judy Maten and Mary Garlow of *Via Maria Consulting, LLC*. The cost is \$30.00 per person for the five week workshop. All materials will be provided. Please make checks payable to <u>Saint Gerald Parish</u>. Walk-ins are welcome, but we will need to know beforehand, if you plan to attend. To register or for questions contact Tim Westfall at timwestfall.sgp@gmail.com or 248-477-7470 x202.



Doug Foley Charles Minear Betty Hunter Linda Malloy Ralph Wenski Florence Ptak Kimberly Thompson Erin Malloy

Pat Fanilone Beth Croitori Karen Hall Jim Sockow Rose Hickey

Wanda Reiner

Andy Vermiglio

Roberta Provenzano







The Week Ahead ...

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day 8:30 am - Mass 10:15 am - Mass 12:00 pm - Mass

Tuesday, December 26 Parish Offices Closed 9:15 am - Mass

Wednesday, December 27 Parish Offices Closed 7:30 pm - Adult Choir Practice

Thursday, December 28 Parish Offices Closed 7:00 pm - Mass 7:45 pm - Holy Hour

Friday, December 29 Parish Offices Closed 9:15 am - Mass 11:00 am - Funeral Mass 8:00 pm - AA Meeting

Saturday, December 30 3:30 pm - Confessions 5:00 pm - Mass 6:00 pm - Baptism

Sunday, December 31 Feast of the Holy Family

8:30 am - Mass 10:15 am - Mass 12:00 pm - Mass 5:00 pm - New Year's Eve Mass

Monday, January 1 Feast of Mary, Mother of God Parish Offices Closed 10:00 am - New Year's Day Mass

Merry Christmas And A Blessed New Year

FROM THE ST. GERALD STAFF:

Fr. Krzysztof Nowak Nancy Carroll Mary Hoots Tom Kruger Aniela Lezarska Gerryanna Luscri Mary Melonio Kim Shepard Mary Taylor Timothy Westfall Matthew Yokom



A LOOK AT SOME OUR MINISTRIES AT ST. GERALD

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Christian Service is a vital part of St. Gerald Parish. Our Christian Service efforts reach out to the community to help those in need. Some of the areas we are involved in include: funeral luncheons, parish picnic, Christmas gift giving program, St. Christine's Soup Kitchen, fellowship, Mercy Day In Action, and card ministry. We also have an active St. Vincent de Paul Society. All of these areas can always use more volunteers. If you are looking for something to do, please do not hesitate to contact Matthew Yokom, Christian Service Coordinator at 248-476-7677, ext. 204.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

The St. Gerald Religious Formation program provides spiritual guidance for our children and strives to teach our

children to become disciples of Jesus through prayer, reflection, catechesis and hands on activities. Through our teaching we prepare our children to receive the sacraments of



Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We strive to continue to strengthen their faith as they journey into young adulthood. Religious Formation classes are offered weekly from September to May for children in pre-school thru 8th grade. For more information contact Mary Taylor, Director of Religious Education at 248-476-7677 ext. 201.

YOUTH GROUP



The St. Gerald Youth Group is growing stronger as teens participate in various events in our parish and community. Come join us! See our bulletin or go online at parishesonline.com. There are social activities, charity events and teen topic discussion groups to participate in. Bring a

friend and make a difference for Christ.

Note: Our Super Bowl Sub Fundraiser will be the weekend of Feb. 3rd & 4th. Pre-orders of sandwiches can be placed by emailing gerryanna.youthministry@gmail.com, or call 248-476 -7677 x208 by January 27th.



WORSHIP

At St. Gerald's we have lectors, those who proclaim God's word at Liturgy; Eucharistic Ministers, those who distribute the Eucharist to folks during Liturgy; Ushers and Greeters, who assist and greet people attending the Liturgy. Sacristans are usually behind the scenes preparing the vessels, bread and wine. Altar Servers, who assist the priest. Church cleaners, who keep God's house tidy. Altar linen washers, who wash and iron the various towels and linens for the Liturgy.

There are also the Church decorators, who arrange and prepare for each liturgical season. Ministry to the Homebound, those who take the Blessed Sacrament to the sick and shut ins. Communion Service Leaders who lead a prayer service at one of the nursing homes in our area. Prayer Leaders who lead the prayer services at funeral homes, at the Vigil for the deceased. If you are interested in any of these ministries, please contact Tim Westfall, the Pastoral Associate.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Do You Hear What I Hear? A song, a song, that the choir sings, to praise God, the Almighty ONE! Your voice so Sweet, waiting to be Heard, so Come share with us your gift! If you have always wanted to sing, to play an instrument, to give back to the Lord the love of music He has given you, come join us on Wednesday evenings in the Church for practice at 7:30 PM. We are a welcoming group of singers who LOVE to praise the Lord. Instrumentalists are always welcome and encouraged to join. We sing at the 10:15 AM Mass each and every Sunday from September through Pentecost. We can't wait to meet YOU!

PARISH GROUNDS COMMITTEE

We had a busy year with clean-up of the grounds and preparing for the Winter months. Our group assists in keeping the grounds sparkling by trimming bushes, planting flowers, maintaining the gardens and ornamental shrubbery throughout the planting and growing season. We also prepare the planting beds for the Spring. We are always open to new members. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

St. Gerald St. Vincent de Paul Conference is blessed to serve the poor and needy within our parish boundaries. Assistance with rent and utilities is requested often. An emergency food pantry provides a generous bag of groceries to the hungry in our area. This assistance is only possible through the donations of parishioners who open their hearts to this work with a check or cash in the Poor Box or grocery or toiletry items in the vestibule food box. Our neighbors facing hunger, eviction or utility shut-off thank you.

Clients are visited in their homes by a pair of Vincentians, which is unique to SVDP and based on the ministry of our founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam. We end each visit with an offer to pray with and for our client(s).

St. Gerald Conference meets twice monthly to foster friendship and spirituality among its members, in addition to serving the needs of the poor. If you feel called to this ministry, please leave a message on our line, 248-476-7677, ext. 220. There are a variety of ways to serve. On January 13, 2018, St. Gerald will be hosting an orientation for new Vincentians from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Please consider attending to learn more about the ministry. A continental breakfast will be provided.

ST. GERALD MOM'S CORNER

The purpose of St. Gerald Mom's Corner is to provide mothers with fellowship, support and opportunities to grow their Christian faith to nurture their children with confidence and Christian values. Through activities such as service projects, parties, speakers, outings and discussion – moms are given the opportunity to connect with other moms in support and friendship. The meetings take place the 3rd Sunday of the month after 12:00 Mass in one of the classrooms.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Knights of Columbus Council 13673 is the parish's most active men's service group. Open to practicing Catholic men age 18 and older. St. Gerald's Knights assist other parish groups and sponsor more than 20 social and charitable projects during the year, including three pancake breakfasts, five casino bus excursions and several family communions masses. Call Grand Knight Fred Gerometta at 248-763-3196 to learn how to join or transfer from another Council. Meets at 7 PM each third Tuesday of the month in the Social Hall.

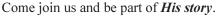
EVANGELIZATION

Evangelizing our FAITH...

Another year has passed and our dedication continues. Our parish feeds the community through engaging Bible Studies, a fun Vacation Bible School, Vicariate speaker presentations, Theology on Tap nights, Game Nights and numerous other activities and charitable events.

We are here, as disciples of Christ, to live and share the goodness of the Gospel. We encourage you to live like Jesus, to love one another, and to deepen your relationship with God.

- 1. Spend time in prayer and in the word of God.
- 2. Participate in a service to God and the church.
- 3. Work to improve yourself; know that God loves you and wants the best for you.



St. Gerald Evangelization Team meets each month to promote evangelization among our parish community. Consider joining our team for His purpose.

TIM'S TIDBITS (BY: TIM WESTFALL)

Whether you are here with us today for the first time or have been here for many years, welcome! We hope you will feel at home worshiping with us. And come back to worship with us, often.

Christmas is a season where we receive Christ, who is the light of the world. This is a season of light. It is so much more than just a time for giving and receiving presents. When we see colorful lights on Christmas trees and on houses, we Christians see the light Jesus brings to the world. And this is a light that is meant to be shared. As you listen to the Scriptures today, see the light that Jesus is for you, a light that makes people radiate with love and joy.

During Christmas Time, we celebrate the Incarnation – the Divine Word becoming flesh. In *Evangelii gaudium*, Pope Francis speaks of the devotions of the people as a kind of incarnation of their faith: "Genuine forms of popular religiosity are incarnate, since they are born of the incarnation of Christian faith in popular culture. For this reason they entail a personal relationship, not with vague spiritual energies or powers, but with God, with Christ, with Mary with the saints. These devotions are fleshy, they have a face. They are capable of fostering relationships and not just enabling escapism" (90).

The popular devotions associated with Christmas – most especially visits to the manger scene – can do just that: lead us to an encounter with Christ.

Spread the good news that you heard here today – to all your neighbors and friends.

This is a season of miracles. Let us give thanks and rejoice in this season! God has come among us to dwell! May God dwell in your heart forevermore!



KNIGHTS CORNER

May You and Your Family Enjoy the Blessings of Christmas!

Grand Knight Fred Gerometta and the Council Officers extend best wishes for a Merry Christmas to and your loved ones. May we all remember to pray for our fellow Knights and for our fellow Christians, especially those in the Middle East.

With the New Year just around the corner, it is time to start thinking about making resolutions. One might be to get involved with one more Council activity than last year. Another might to be to sign on as an assistant Event Manager of an activity with the idea of assuming the lead role. One such activity is the Pancake Breakfast series where Dave Bednarski probably will need to be replaced by July 1. For those of you who haven't been keeping up with the news, Dave is in line to become Grand Knight under a succession policy adopted a few years back. The idea is that Grand Knight candidates start with the Chancellor position for two years, then serve as Deputy Grand Knight for two years. After four years, they are well acquainted with the problems and the people and ready for the Grand Knight's job.

A third resolution might be to bring yourself and your family to one of four Family Communion Masses our Council joins in when there is a month that has a fifth Sunday. When 20 or so Knights pray together wearing our red shirts with our families, we send a powerful message to others.

GK Fred Gerometta is gathering data for a report required by the Supreme K of C that estimates the hours Council members spent doing charitable works in 2017. In addition to the hours spent on Council or church projects such as the pancake breakfasts or ushering, count personal hours such as visiting the sick or driving an elderly person to an appointment. Give Fred a note with your hours at Tuesday's meeting or contact him at 248-763-3196.

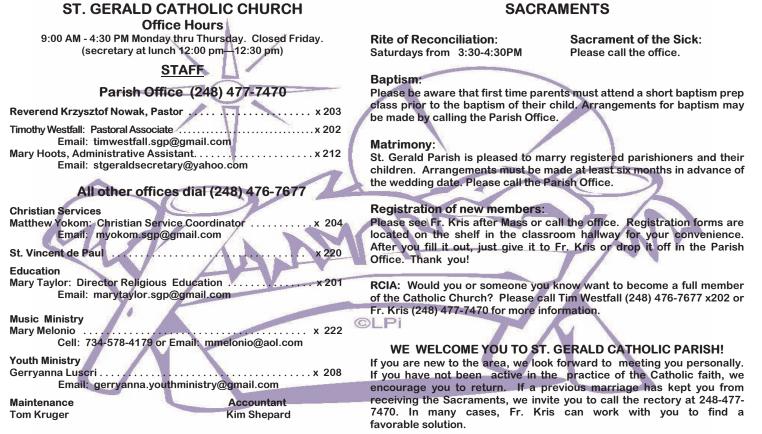
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OFFER KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS MAGNETS

St. Gerald's Knights of Columbus members are continuing their "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign after masses this weekend. They are offering a 6 inch by 6-1/2 inch auto magnet of a manger scene bearing the legend "Keep Christ in Christmas" for a suggested donation of \$5.00. See a Knight at an exit door this weekend.

The plastic coated magnets will adhere to a steel or iron surface such

as an auto trunk. They will not stick to plastic, wood, paper or aluminum surfaces. If attached to your vehicle, remove before entering a car wash.

Send Someone on a Cruise, Sell a State K of C Charity Raffle Ticket This Week!



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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