

THE VOICE

SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

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

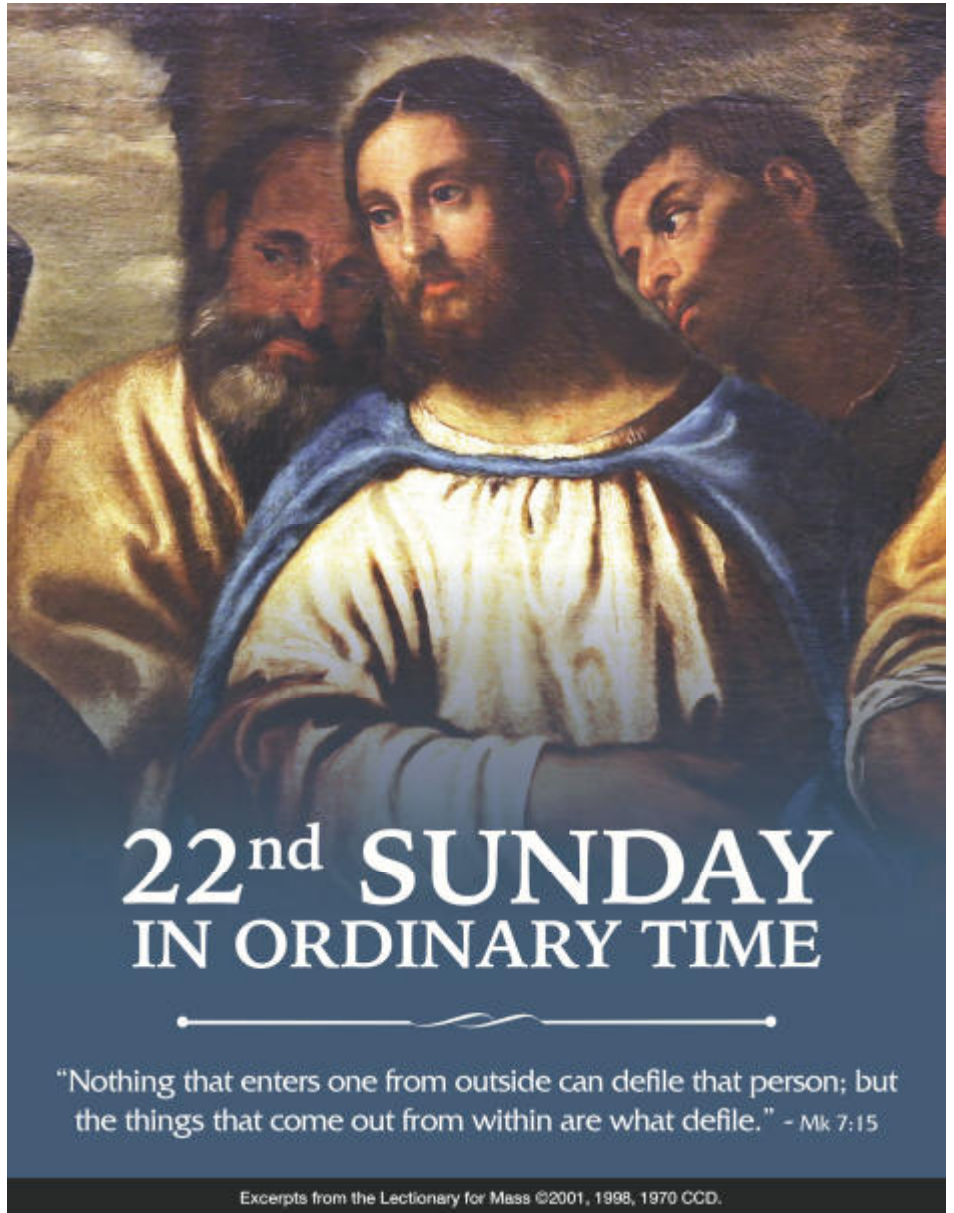
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:15 a.m.
and 12:00 Noon

WEEKDAYS

Monday, Tuesday, Friday:
9:15 a.m.
Thursday Evening: 7:00 p.m.

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.



**22nd SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

“Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile.” - Mk 7:15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Have a safe Labor Day



**PARISH OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD IN
OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY.**

MASS INTENTIONS

SEPTEMBER 3 - SEPTEMBER 7



Monday 9:15 AM
For All Our Parishioners

Tuesday 9:15 AM
Dominic and Lena Ponzetti
Requested by Graziano Canini

Wednesday - No Mass

Thursday 7:00 PM
Dobbs, Kemp, Trayer, Robrecht and Goderman Families
Requested by C. Kemp

Friday 9:15 AM
Special Intention
Requested by Friend

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: 1 COR 2:1-5/PS 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102 [97]/LK 4:16-30
TUESDAY: 1 COR 2:10B-16/PS 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13AB, 13CD-14 [17]/LK 4:31-37
WEDNESDAY: 1 COR 3:1-9/PS 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21 [12]/LK 4:38-44
THURSDAY: 1 COR 3:18-23/PS 24:1BC-2, 3-4AB, 5-6 [1]/LK 5:1-11
FRIDAY: 1 COR 4:1-5/PS 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40 [39A]/LK 5:33-39
SATURDAY: MI 5:1-4A OR ROM 8:28-30/PS 13:6AB, 6C [IS 61:10]/MT 1:1-16, 18-23 OR 1:18-23
NEXT SUNDAY: IS 35:4-7A/PS 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1B]/JAS 2:1-5/MK 7:31-37

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

Offertory Snapshot

Actual Offertory for Weekend of August 19 \$ 11,431.00
 Budget Offertory for Weekend of August 19 \$ 9,096.00
 Actual Offertory as of August 19 \$ 71,469.00
 Budget Offertory as of August 19 \$ 72,768.00

ON-LINE GIVING OF DONATIONS IS AVAILABLE AT ST. GERALD. PLEASE VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE OR CALL THE PARISH OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Please pray for:

Doug Foley	Sofia Weiland	Kimberly Thompson
Tim O'Brien	Karen Hall	Erin Malloy
Beth Croitori	Jim Sockow	Wanda Reiner
Linda Malloy	Rose Hickey	Pat Fanilone
Ralph Wenski	Roberta Provenzano	Nancy Kolliker
Anna Iadipaolo	Yolanda Fenech	Genevieve Browne
	Joan Goniea	Gerry Maxey

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2018
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

5:00 PM September 8 Fr. Kris		
For Michael Hoots Requested by Delphine Midura	Servers	Isabelle Gerhart Adrianna Gerhart
	Lector/ Ushers	Diane Blankenship 5:00A
8:30 AM September 9 Fr. Roodbeen		
For Rita Sproule Requested by Bill Sproule	Servers	Servers Needed
	Lector/ Ushers	Ray Pisani 8:30C
10:15 AM September 9 Fr. Kris		
For Livio Olei Requested by Josephine Rotondo & Family	Servers	Servers Needed
	Lector/ Ushers	Rick Stone 10:15B
12:00 PM September 9 Fr. Kris		
For All Our Parishioners	Servers	Servers Needed
	Lector/ Ushers	Teddi Williams 12:00B

Church Cleaning Schedule for Next Week
September 8 and September 9
Team B

Team #3 is scheduled for Botsford Commons Sunday, September 2 following the 8:30 AM Mass.

First Friday, September 7
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following the 9:15 AM Friday morning Mass ending with Benediction at 5:00 PM. Scheduled adorers needed. Please see sign-up sheet in the narthex for times.



- Tuna Helper
- Canned Vegetables
- Mac and Cheese Boxes
- Canned Soup
- Jelly/Jam
- Cereal
- Canned Fruit
- Crackers/Saltines

For Your Information . . .
Thank you to everyone who makes donations to the St. Gerald Food Pantry. Please know that these food items are here at St. Gerald to be given out to those who may need a little help from time to time. If you are ever in need of food, please contact our St. Vincent de Paul at 248-476-7677, ext. 220 and leave a message. Your information is always kept very confidential. Please know they are here for you!



Hello and happy summer to all!

Planning is underway for the upcoming school year with fall functions at our church and in our community. Opportunities for service, worship and learning are coming your way. Keep posted through the bulletin board, Voice bulletin, or contact Gerryanna for details as needed.

~~~~~  
On Sunday, September 9th come join us for 10:15 AM Mass with Teen Fellowship. We will be walking to Dunkin Donuts after Mass for treats, meet with friends and share summer stories. Meet in the church Gathering Space at 10:00 AM and we will all sit together for worship.

~~~~~  
Team Solanus, a greeting ministry of welcoming, evangelizing and service is forming now. If you are interested in being a helpful greeter at any mass, on any day, at any time... text the word "greeter" to 734-341-1999 (Gerryanna).

~~~~~  
See you at CHURCH!

**RELIGIOUS FORMATION  
CLASSES STARTING  
SEPTEMBER 24TH AND 25TH**

**If you are new to the parish or did not have a child in the program last year, please contact Mary Taylor at 248-476-7677 ext. 201 or via email at [marytaylor.sgp@gmail.com](mailto:marytaylor.sgp@gmail.com) and a registration form will be mailed to you.**

Elementary classes, grades 1-6, will begin September 24th and 25th, Monday sessions meeting from 5:30 PM to 6:45 PM and Tuesday sessions meet from 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM. Students in the Confirmation program, grades 7 and 8, will attend their first session on Sunday, September 30th from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. The Sunday School program, for 4 and 5 year olds, also begins on Sunday, September 30th during the 10:15 AM Mass. Please contact Mary Taylor if you have any questions.



**REMINDER:** *Following the guidelines of the Archdiocese of Detroit, children of the parish are to receive two full years of religious formation before the reception of a sacrament.*



**FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK**

How can I get some well needed exercise, visit a Detroit jewel, and help a worthy cause? The answer is to participate in the annual St. Vincent de Paul Friends of the Poor Walk on Belle Isle.

You can do this by registering online at [www.FOPWALK.org](http://www.FOPWALK.org) and joining me on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at Belle Isle. When registering on-line, just choose St. Gerald as your beneficiary. Walkers can then solicit online donations or cash/check donations made to St. Gerald St. Vincent de Paul Conference. All donations will then go 100% to our parish conference.

Registration at Belle Isle is at 9:00 AM, and the walk begins at 10:00 AM. There is an \$11 State Park Recreation Pass required per vehicle entry.

If you can't join us for the walk, you can make a pledge on-line by going to [www.FOPWALK.org](http://www.FOPWALK.org) and searching for my name. For more information, call Bob Kuhr at 248-888-9335.

**ITALIAN DAY IN DOWNTOWN FARMINGTON**

Our collaborative evangelization efforts continue with the help of St. Fabian and Our Lady of Sorrows parishes. Together, we are hosting another 'faith booth' and are looking for cheerful volunteers to help at the **Italian Day at the Farmington Farmers & Artisan Market on Saturday, September 29th**. Since this date is close to the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the day will start with a gathering at 8:45 AM of people and pets in front of the Pet Valu shop on the south side of the pavilion for a pet blessing.

Followed by:

- 9:00 AM Market Blessing and San Francesco procession with music
- 9:00 to 11:00 AM Accordion and Mandolin music with a sing-a long
- 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM Brick oven pizza, pasta and other Italian food vendors, cooking demonstration along with usual market vendors and food sales and even a children's craft tent
- 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM Live festive dance music with the Amici Band



Our tri-church booth will be set up from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM with two tables under the tent to distribute collected give away items and offer prayer

- We will need help with set-up, hosting and then clean up. So commitment time will be from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM. This includes:
- 8:30 to 10:30 AM Set- up and hosting booth
  - 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM Booth host
  - 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM Booth hosting and clean-up

This is a fun and lively event. You will want to spend some time walking the market, eating, dancing and enjoying the festivities. Raffle baskets and great food items will tempt you.

Watch for newspaper articles in the Observer for more information and local advertising. Follow the Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market page on Facebook for details and link information.

Contact Gerryanna Luscri from our Evangelization Committee to volunteer your time. Grazie!

## A Letter From Archbishop Vigneron

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My prayers today are with the victims of abuse at the hands of clergy worldwide, particularly those represented in the grand jury report in Pennsylvania. The allegations contained in that report, as well as recent allegations of sinful behavior involving former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick – regardless of when and where they happened – are daunting tests of faith for you in the Church, her leadership and our ongoing efforts towards abuse prevention and response.

To begin, be assured that I am one with you in lamenting all of the hurt and pain caused by these moral failures – failures by those who have committed sins against chastity and failures by those who ought to have used their authority to prevent these acts, respond so as to help heal the wounds inflicted, and to ensure that the perpetrators lost their positions of authority. I have met with victim-survivors of sexual abuse and exploitation, and have heard firsthand of the grave harm they have suffered. I continue to pray for them, with confidence that because of the death and rising of Christ, no evil is beyond his healing power.

I acknowledge, too, how disheartening it is for us once again to come face-to-face with moral failures in the priesthood, especially among us bishops. I realize how discouraging it is that we have not decisively overcome these sins after all these years. These sins are marks of shame upon the Church and a great weight impeding the progress we strive so zealously to make in advancing the Lord's Kingdom. In order to find a graced-ray of guiding light in the gloom, I have returned to the 23 April 2002 address of St. John Paul II to the cardinals of the United States during the height of the abuse crisis. Now, as much as then, these words of this great pope and pastor ring true, and so I share them here:

*It must be absolutely clear to the Catholic faithful, and to the wider community, that Bishops and superiors are concerned, above all else, with the spiritual good of souls. People need to know that there is no place in the priesthood and religious life for those who would harm the young.*

Shortly after the Holy Father affirmed this principle, the Catholic bishops in the United States joined together to create and implement The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, a set of norms designed to ensure the safety of the most vulnerable in our communities. Today, our Archdiocese of Detroit requires safe environment training programs for clergy, employees, volunteers and children. When allegations of wrongdoing surface, we report them to local police, fully cooperate with their investigations and, in the case of substantiated reports, publicize the names of those accused. In addition, we encourage those who have been abused to come forward, and stress there are no deadlines or restrictions on bringing a complaint to us. Be it five, fifteen, or 50 years later, our diocese accepts and responds to all reports.

This summer's news reports affirm why we – as bishops priests, Church representatives and lay people – must be ever vigilant to protect children from abuse and must re-double our efforts of outreach and healing to those most harmed by sexual abuse. I remain fully committed to this goal. We can never become complacent with what has been accomplished.

Similarly, in the light of reports about former Cardinal McCarrick's sins against chastity, I affirm that priests who try to live a double life by "cheating on the Church" through impure relations with others need to repent or to give up their pastoral office. I am committed to helping all our bishops, priests and deacons cultivate those habits which reinforce their commitments to lives of holiness, and holding them accountable for maintaining the virtue of chastity.

Likewise, I acknowledge that I, too, am accountable for living up to my commitment to celibacy. To that end, it is essential that I adhere to my habits of prayer and asceticism, especially regular Confession and spiritual direction. In standing before Christ's judgment, I humbly give an accounting for myself, acknowledging my weaknesses and asking for pardon and healing. Were I to lapse in my chastity, I should be corrected not only by those in authority over me, but by any brother or sister who had knowledge of my fall.

My response to those who break their vows of chastity is to resort to the medicine of the Gospel: a call to repentance and renewal, using all the supernatural and natural remedies at our disposal for repairing moral failure. As your bishop, I recommit to preserve and advance the life of celibate chastity in the life of our priests, for their sake and for the good of the whole Christian community. If you cannot trust us, we cannot serve you.

In the course of his remarks in 2002, St. John Paul also called upon us bishops to be clear in teaching the whole of the good news of Christ on matters of sexual morality. He pointed out that this is an essential condition for renewal:

*They [the faithful] must know that Bishops and priests are totally committed to the fullness of Catholic truth on matters of sexual morality, a truth as essential to the renewal of the priesthood and the episcopate as it is to the renewal of marriage and family life.*

Here, in this address to you, I renew my resolve to be the sort of good shepherd I hear St. John Paul calling for me to be. I owe that not only to you and to the Church, but to Christ himself. The message handed on to us from the apostles about the norms for chaste living is of one piece, an integrated whole. To cover over, not to mention dissenting from, one part of Christ's vision for chaste living is to weaken every other dimension of that sexual purity Christ demands of his followers. The new Adam is one in all his parts.

Weak teaching about the demands of the Christian life makes it easier for us to lapse into vice, and thus pushes us toward personal and communal shipwreck. While policies and best practices are necessary, we will never be able to create, as T.S. Eliot once put it, "systems so perfect that no one will need to be good." Nothing can replace the need for each of us to strive for personal holiness in our sexuality. I know this, and am resolved to do my part by my teaching and leading as Christ expects.

**(Continued on Page 5)**

## A Letter From Archbishop Vigneron (Continued from Page 4)

This seems to be an appropriate place for me to affirm to you, as part of my accounting of my stewardship of the leadership of our local Church, my endorsement of what Cardinal DiNardo, as the President of our Bishops' Conference, wrote on 1 August:

*The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will pursue the many questions surrounding Archbishop McCarrick's conduct to the full extent of its authority; and where that authority finds its limits, the Conference will advocate with those who do have the authority. One way or the other, we are determined to find the truth in this matter.*

We must give an accounting for the failures that have occurred. While policies and best practices are never substitutes for moral integrity and virtue, they are nonetheless necessary. They do much to protect the vulnerable and to create clarity about what needs to happen when things go wrong. We bishops must look honestly at how this situation unfolded, and I want you to know that I am committed to joining my brother bishops in seeing this work through.

Even with our renewed prayers and support for our dedicated priests and deacons, I note a temptation to despair among some over whether things can change. However, we know that reform can only happen when hope lives. We must move forward with the conviction that God will not abandon his Church. He wants her purified, cleansed of these sins and brought to new life. St. John Paul II concluded his 2002 discourse with these words of encouragement:

*We must be confident that this time of trial will bring a purification of the entire Catholic community, a purification that is urgently needed if the Church is to preach more effectively the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all its liberating force. Now you must ensure that where sin increased, grace will all the more abound. So much pain, so much sorrow must lead to a holier priesthood, a holier episcopate, and a holier Church.*

By the power of the risen Christ, this hour of darkness is a moment to anticipate the dawn. We are called to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to turn what could deflect us from the work of the new evangelization into an opportunity to proclaim the Lordship of Christ over all sin – yes, even these sins of which we are so painfully aware in these days.

Please pray for me, that I may be a good pastor and that God's power will be made perfect in the weaknesses and shortcomings I bring to my ministry. Know also that I pray each day for you, that you might find peace and light in these difficult times.

Fraternally yours in Christ,  
The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron, Archbishop of Detroit

## STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

Today's Scripture readings profess a common theme: God, through His commandments, shepherds us to live fruitful and holy lives. Moses, in the Book of Deuteronomy, clearly expresses how fortunate and blessed the ancient Israelites are to be favored by God as His people. In St. Mark's Gospel, Jesus implies that following strict rituals may actually lead to disregarding the spirit of the commandments themselves. St. James proclaims two important stewardship norms: First, *all good giving and every perfect gift is from above*. Second, Christian stewards accept and are doers of His Word, *and not hearers only*. They acknowledge God's many blessings and strive to embrace evangelization through Christian stewardship as a way of life. We recognize this by gratefully returning back to God the first fruits of our time, talent, and treasure to feed and clothe those in need, shelter the homeless, and visit the sick, elderly, and imprisoned. Christ uses us as His instruments through these Corporal Works of Mercy to spread His hope and peace to everyone we serve. To put Word into action, please consider giving generously to your parish St. Vincent de Paul Society or serving at a local soup kitchen.

All Altar Servers  
Eucharistic Ministers  
Lectors

Please arrive at Church 15 minutes  
before the start of Mass.

### An Invitation to Journey!

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** (RCIA) is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. The process is concerned with the total formation of the person into:

- Believing with the Church community
- Living with the Church community
- Praying with the Church community
- Serving with the Church community

#### The RCIA is intended to serve:

- The unbaptized who would like to learn more about the Catholic religion.
- Those baptized in another religion who think they might like to become Catholic.
- Those baptized Catholics who have not completed the Initiation Sacraments.

#### The RCIA Process is much more than a program:

- It is a learning and loving process in which conversion of the heart brings one to Christ in a powerful manner.
- It is an answer to the Gospel invitation "Come to me all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart. Your soul will find rest, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Sessions will begin in the middle of September. Please consider joining us. Have Questions... need more information? Please contact Fr. Kris Nowak or the Parish Office at 248-477-7470.





**Knights Corner**

**First Sunday Noon Mass Calls for Knights to Serve Then Celebrate Labor Day**

Happy Labor Day to all! The day has more meaning to some who use it to celebrate the winning of the right to form unions and the right to collective bargaining with employers. The result was the growth of the middle class in America and a better life for hundreds of millions and their offspring. For others, Labor Day is just a day off or the end of summer.

Before we get to the holiday, we mark a first Sunday of a month, September 2 – an event that brings our members to provide the support for the Noon Mass. If you can serve as an usher, Eucharistic Minister, altar server or lector at these Masses, give Program Director Tom McPhail a call at 248-875-1185. If you have never served in one of those functions and would like to enrich your prayer at Mass, give Tom a call and he will see that you receive the necessary training.

At its' August 21 Membership Meeting, the Foster Closet of Michigan - Oakland County Branch was chosen as the recipient of the net proceeds from the September 23 Pancake Breakfast. The members also voted to make a donation of \$1,000 to the all-volunteer Closet, which will include the pancake proceeds. The Closet is located at 20853 Farmington Road in Farmington Hills. It provides new and gently used clothing to foster children who often arrive at new placements with only the clothes on their backs. It also helps caregivers by providing clothing to foster children in established relationships.

Pancake Boss Frank Gariepy, our Deputy Grand Knight, will be circulating a volunteer sign-up sheet at the September 18 Membership Meeting. If you want to volunteer but can't make that meeting, give him a call at 248-982-7782. The September breakfast is one of three this fraternal year. The others will be in January and April. For the last five years the Knights have been donating pancake profits to various charities.

Our Council's Insurance Agent, Greg Bennett, took a few minutes at the August 21 meeting to remind members that they receive a free accidental death benefit as part of their membership. He also discussed the excellent insurance opportunities and savings programs available. For more information, give Greg a call at 248-884-4095.

Know a fellow parishioner who would make a great Knight? Talk with Membership Director PGK Rich Smith about the best approach to take. Few men agree at the first asking. Look over the pamphlets on the table at the Knights Corner in the Social Hall.

**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, Pastor ..... x 203  
Mary Hoots, Administrative Assistant. .... x 212  
Email: stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com

**All other offices dial (248) 476-7677**

**Christian Services**

Matthew Yokom: Christian Service Coordinator ..... x 204  
Email: myokom.sgp@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul ..... x 220

**Education**

Mary Taylor: Director Religious Education ..... x 201  
Email: marytaylor.sgp@gmail.com

**Music Ministry**

Mary Melonio ..... x 222  
Cell: 734-578-4179 or Email: mmelonio@aol.com

Worship Ministry ..... x 202  
Email: stgeraldworship@gmail.com

**Youth Ministry**

Gerryanna Luscri ..... x 208  
Email: gerryanna.youthministry@gmail.com

Maintenance  
Tom Kruger

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 Parish Office. Registration forms are located on the shelf in the classroom hallway and the gathering space of the church 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 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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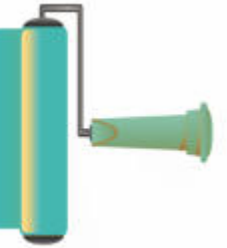
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