THE VOICE

DECEMBER 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.

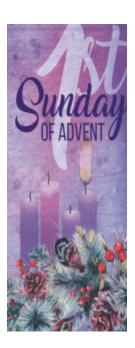
RITE OF RECONCILIATION Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.







SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8TH HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION 9:15 AM MASS



MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 3 - DECEMBER 7

Monday 9:15 AM Charles "Mel" Webster Requested by Barbara DellaMora

> Tuesday 9:15 AM Eldon Funk Requested by Diane Petter

Wednesday - No Mass

Thursday 9:15 AM Dobbs, Kemp, Trayer, Robrecht and Goderman Families Requested by C. Kemp

<u>Friday</u> 9:15 AM Craig Croitori Requested by Croitori Family

Saturday 9:15 AM Anthony Wrukowski Requested by Grandparents

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/ Mt 8:5-11
- TUESDAY: IS 11:1-10/PS 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [CF. 7]/ LK 10:21-24
- WEDNESDAY: IS 25:6-10A/PS 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6 [6CD]/ MT 15:29-37
- THURSDAY: IS 26:1-6/PS 118:1 AND 8-9, 19-21, 25-27A [26A]/MT 7:21, 24-27
- FRIDAY: IS 29:17-24/PS 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1A]/MT 9:27-31
- SATURDAY: GN 3:9-15, 20/PS 98:1, 2-3AB, 3CD-4 [1]/ EPH 1:3-6, 11-12/LK 1:26-38
- NEXT SUNDAY: BAR 5:1-9/PS 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/ PHIL 1:4-6, 8-11/LK 3:1-6
- LITURGICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC

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

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary December 8 Lector Teddi Williams



TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE Sunday, December 2nd at 5:00 PM

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



St. Gerald Parish Advent Reconciliation Service with individual confession and absolution 7:00 PM, Monday, December 10

DECEMBER 9, 2018 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 PM December 8				
For Ann Valasek Requested by Dennis & Sharon Weberlein	Servers	Isabelle Gerhart Eli Gerhart		
	Lector/ Ushers	Monica Murone 5:00B		
8:30 AM December 9				
For Mario Rossi	Servers			
Requested by Wife	Lector/ Ushers	Ray Pisani 8:30A		
10:15 AM December 9				
For All Our Parishioners	Servers			
	Lector/ Ushers	Angela McLoughlin 10:15C		
12:00 PM December 9				
For Dobbs, Kemp, Trayer, Robrecht & Goderman Families Requested by C. Kemp	Servers			
	Lector/ Ushers	Fernando Guerra 12:00A		

Church Cleaning Schedule for Next Week

December 8 and December 9 Team C

Team

Team #1 is scheduled for Botsford Commons Sunday, December 9 following the 8:30 AM Mass.

At 1			
In Our Thoughts	Sofia Weiland	Kimberly Thompson	
and Prayers 🔪	Thomas Jacques	Erin Malloy	
Doug Foley	Jim Sockow	Wanda Reiner	
Tim O'Brien	Rose Hickey	Pat Fanilone	
Shel Levine	Roberta Provenzano	Nancy Kolliker	
Joyce LaMarra	Genevieve Browne	Gerry Maxey	
Ralph Wenski	Yolanda Fenech	Pam Akey	
Anna ladipaolo	Joan Goniea	Monica Koenig	

First Friday, December 7th Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following 9:15 AM Mass until 5 PM Benediction Scheduled Adorers Needed. Sign-up sheets in Gathering Space.

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,

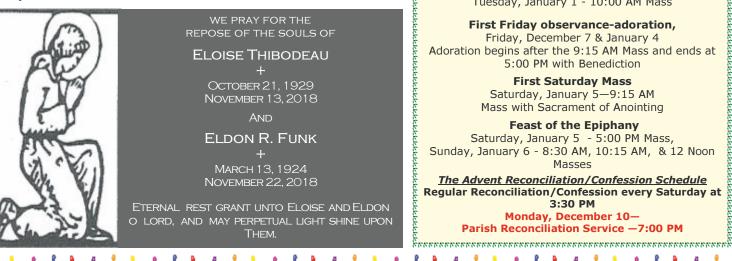
are usually rectangular in shape and very thin; they are identical in composition to the Host used during a Catholic mass however, they are not consecrated. Wafers are embossed with Christmas related religious images, varying from the nativity scene, especially Virgin Mary with baby Jesus, to the Star 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 on the weekends of December 8/9 and December 15/16. A Free Will donation is not required, but would be appreciated!

ANNUAL SWEATSHIRT DRIVE FOR THE CHILDREN AT BOYSVILLE



The Knights of Columbus here at St. Gerald need your help by gifting a hooded sweatshirt to the children at Boysville (Holy Cross Children's Services). This may be the only Christmas gift these children will receive.

Hooded sweatshirts (men's sizes large and extra large) are needed with sports, high school or college names printed on sweatshirts. Please drop them off no later than Sunday, December 9th on the Knight's table in the social hall. Thank you for your generosity Contact Richard Smith, chairperson at 313-421-0204 for additional information.



Children of the parish, preschool-5th grade, 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 15th at 11:00 AM in the church. Please contact Mary Taylor by December 5th to sign up, 248-476-7677, ext. 201 or marytaylor.sgp@gmail.com.

ST. GERALD PARISH ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

The Advent/Christmas Mass Schedule Daily Mass-M, T, F-9:15 AM; First Saturday-9:15 AM; Th-7:00 PM

Weekend Mass-December 8-9, 15-16, 22-23 Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM, and 12 Noon

> Feast of the Immaculate Conception-(Holy Day of Obligation) Saturday, December 8 - 9:15 AM Mass

Christmas Eve-Monday, December 24 4:00 PM Mass, 6:00 PM Children's Mass, 10:00 PM Choir Mass & Midnight Mass

Christmas Day-Tuesday, December 25 9:00 AM Mass & 11:00 AM Mass

New Year's Eve, Monday, December 31 9:15 AM Mass & 5:00 PM Vigil Mass

New Year's Day, Feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God Tuesday, January 1 - 10:00 AM Mass

First Friday observance-adoration, Friday, December 7 & January 4 Adoration begins after the 9:15 AM Mass and ends at 5:00 PM with Benediction

> **First Saturday Mass** Saturday, January 5-9:15 AM Mass with Sacrament of Anointing

Feast of the Epiphany Saturday, January 5 - 5:00 PM Mass, Sunday, January 6 - 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM, & 12 Noon Masses

The Advent Reconciliation/Confession Schedule Regular Reconciliation/Confession every Saturday at 3:30 PM Monday, December 10-

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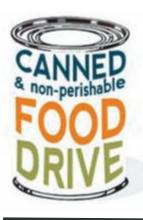


GIFT RETURN WEEKEND

Please return your gifts to the church the weekend of December 8 and 9. You may return your gifts back the morning of December 8th should you be attending Mass for the Feast of The Immaculate Conception, or you may return them at the weekend Masses. Gifts are to be placed on the tables in the social hall just like they were last year. Please place your monetary donations to St. Vincent de Paul in the Sunday collection basket. Thank you for all of your generosity. Awaiting the coming of the Lord. Matt

OVER THREE-QUARTER TON OF SUPPLIES COLLECTED FOR NEEDY FAMILIES!

The 3rd Annual Neighborhood Food Drive during the November 10/11 weekend



was a success. Led by the St. Gerald Knights of Columbus, 25 volunteers of all ages gathered 1,600 pounds of food and toiletry items from 400 homes in the Alta Loma neighborhood.

All food will go directly to needy local families via the community food pantry at C.A.R.E.S. Farmington Hills and the St. Vincent de Paul food closet at St. Gerald. The toiletry items will be given to the shower program for the homeless at Samaritan Center in Detroit.

A BIG thank you to all the volunteers and entire families who donated their time and energy...and inspired our neighbors in the community (see note of thanks below). Onward and Upward!

Note from a grateful neighbor that was attached to a bag of donated food: *Dear Neighbors – Thank you for helping to make the world a better place. CW & TC*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !!!



Knights Of Columbus Offer Keep Christ In Christmas Magnets

St. Gerald Knights of Columbus members are kicking off their "*Keep Christ in Christmas*" campaign after Masses this weekend and December 8/9 and 15/16. They are offering a 6 inch by 6-1/2 inch auto manger scene bearing the legend "*Keep Christ in Christmas*" See a

magnet of a manger scene bearing the legend "*Keep Christ in Christmas*". See a Knight at an exit door this weekend. Thank you for your support.

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.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Support the Retirement Fund for Religious. A donor writes, "Your flyer touched my heart-seeing the retired religious, such memories surfaced." Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious order priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Please take an envelope located at the end of the pews home and bring it back next weekend and place in the collection basket.

DONATIONS TO RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS THROUGH SIMPLEGIVE

If you are making your donations to St. Gerald online through Simple Give and would like to make a donation for Immaculate Conception or to the Retirement Fund for Religious, you can do so beginning December 2nd through December 16th. Thank you!

Week at a Glance

Monday, December 3 8:40 AM Rosary 9:15 AM Mass 9:45 AM Divine Mercy 5:30 PM Elementary Religious Formation

Tuesday, December 4 8:40 AM Rosary 9:15 AM Mass 9:45 AM Mother of Perpetual Help/ Divine Mercy 2:00 PM Nursing Home Mass 5:00 PM Elementary Religious Formation 7:00 PM K of C Officers' Meeting

> Wednesday, December 5 6:00 PM Advent Tea 7:00 PM Youth Group No Mass

Thursday, December 6 12:00 PM Pinochle 6:20 PM Rosary 7:00 PM Mass 7:45 PM Holy Hour

Friday, December 7 First Friday with Eucharistic Adoration 8:40 AM Rosary 9:15 AM Mass 9:45 AM Divine Mercy 8:00 PM AA Meeting

Saturday, December 8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 9:15 AM Mass Indian Catholic Association Christmas Gifts due back 3:30 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Mass

Sunday, December 9 Second Sunday of Advent Christmas Gifts due back Botsford Commons Visit

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

ST. GERALD ONLINE GIVING

Online Giving of Donations through Simplegive is available. Please visit our Parish Website at stgeraldparish.org and click on <u>Online Giving</u> to get started or pick up the instruction sheets on the bookcase in the gathering space of the church. Thank you for your continued support of St. Gerald Parish.

ADVENT WREATH AND CANDLES

The first Advent wreath was from a Lutheran minister working at a mission for children in Germany in 1829. He used a wheel from a cart and placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The small candles were lit on weekdays and the white candles on Sundays.



Today the Advent wreath is often made of evergreens to symbolize everlasting life. The circle, like a ring, reminds us of God's unending love and eternal life. The candles used today are *usually* three purple/violet with the third Sunday being rose-colored/pink. Purple symbolizes repentance and fasting but is also the color of royalty. The

sovereignty of Christ and our anticipation of the coming King. Rose represents joy, moving us away from repentance towards rejoicing.

The first candle is the Prophecy Candle or Candle of Hope. The second, is the Bethlehem Candle or Candle of Preparation. The third, lit on Gaudete Sunday is the Shepherd Candle or Candle of Joy. And the fourth is the Angel Candle or Candle of Love. Sometimes a White Candle is placed in the center of the wreath representing purity and light and lit on Christmas Day. It is the Christ Candle, the sinless, spotless, pure Savior. Those who receive Jesus as Savior are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow.

(Some Churches use Blue Candles in place of Purple to distinguish Advent from Lent.)



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

YOU KNOW.

ST. GERALD 2018 CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL ANGEL TREE

This year St. Gerald will have a special live CHRISTmas Tree with colored glass angels. These angels will be a memorial gift to the families who would like to contribute towards our CHRISTmas decorations. After CHRISTmas, the families who have contributed will be able to take an angel home as a remembrance of their loved one(s).

If you would like to contribute, the suggested donation is \$10.00 per name. Just fill out this form. Place your form and donation in an envelope marked "Angels" and drop it in the collection basket at weekend Masses or bring it to the Parish Office.

Please, clearly print your name, phone number and each memorial name. A list of the donors and memorial names will appear in the New Year's edition of the Voice.

	(Deadline for donations is Monday, December 10, 2018)	11.40.7
In Memory of:		
	(Please legibly print name of deceased)	Series -
Remembered by:		
	(Your Name)	
Your phone number:		
	(In case we need to verify the spelling of a name)	2
	Please make checks payable to St. Gerald Church.	



Knights Corner Officers to Meet Tuesday; Christmas Sweatshirt Drive and Keeping Christ in Christmas Magnet Sale Underway

Officers will be looking at how best to implement the remaining requirements for a Star Council Award Tuesday when they convene their regular monthly meeting. The major hurdle of six new members was cleared last month. Three of those new Knights were warmly welcomed at the November 13 Membership Meeting. Welcomed were Mike Huskey, Bob Beiting and Greg Pochmara. Huskey, a Purdue University grad and an engineer at Ford Motor Company is our youngest member at age 23. Beiting is a long time parish member and a Ford retiree. He is an active parish volunteer, serving as a lector and Eucharist Minister. Pochmara also is an active parish member, serving as an usher at the Sunday Noon mass. He is an engineer for FCA, the automaker.



Pictured above from left to right are Bob Beiting, Greg Pochmara and Mike Huskey

Our annual sweatshirt drive is underway to provide a Christmas gift to the at-risk youngsters at Holy Cross Services (HCS), the former Boysville. If you purchased a sweatshirt and wrapped it, be is sure that the size is marked on the outside of the package. Put your gift on the Knight's table in the Social Hall before December 9. PGK Rich Smith, the project coordinator, will deliver the shirts to HCS.

Also underway is our drive to promote the idea of "*Keeping Christ in Christmas*." Again this year, we are making available manger magnets bearing that phrase at the Church entrances. A \$5 donation would be appreciated for the vinyl magnets which can be displayed on the trunk of your auto. Project Coordinator Brian Gulick could use some help at the a call at 248-615-1636.

Church doors for about 15 minutes after Mass. Give him a call at 248-615-1636.

On Vacation? Keep in Touch at www.stgeraldparish.org

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 Coord Email: myokom.sgp@gmail.co	
St. Vincent de Paul	x 220
Education Mary Taylor: Director Religious Educatio Email: marytaylor.sgp@gmail.o	and the second se
Music Ministry Mary Melonio: Director of Music Cell: 734-578-4179 or Email: m	
Worship Ministry	- I A A
Youth Ministry Gerryanna Luscri	
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.



