# THE VOICE

**DECEMBER 9, 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.

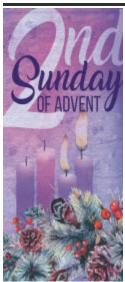
## RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.





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



# **MASS INTENTIONS**

DECEMBER 10 - DECEMBER 14

Monday 9:15 AM For All Our Parishioners

Tuesday 9:15 AM
Barry McAskin
Requested by Sharon McAskin

Wednesday - No Mass

Thursday 9:15 AM
For All Our Parishioners

Friday 9:15 AM
For All Our Parishioners

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: IS 35:1-10/PS 85:9AB AND 10, 11-12, 13-14 [IS 35:4F]/LK 5:17-26

TUESDAY: IS 40:1-11/PS 96:1-2, 3 AND 10AC, 11-12, 13 [IS 40:10AB]/MT 18:12-14

WEDNESDAY: ZEC 2:14-17 OR RV 11:19A; 12:1-6A, 10AB/ JDT 13:18BCDE, 19 [15:9D]/LK 1:26-38 OR LK 1:39-47

THURSDAY: IS 41:13-20/PS 145:1 AND 9, 10-11, 12-13AB [8]/MT 11:11-15

FRIDAY: IS 48:17-19/PS 1:1-2, 3, 4 AND 6 [JN 8:12]/ MT 11:16-19

SATURDAY: SIR 48:1-4, 9-11/PS 80:2AC AND 3B,

15-16, 18-19 [4]/MT 17:9A, 10-13

NEXT SUNDAY: ZEP 3:14-18A/IS 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/PHIL 4:4-7/LK 3:10-18

4:4-1/LK 5:10-16

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

# Light a candle, preferably on your Advent wreath if you have one, and reflect on what it means to have the light of Christ inside of you.



We have placed a comment/suggestion box on the table at the main entrance of the church for parishioners to share their thoughts about our parish. These comment sheets will be read by the Pastor and then, if needed, forwarded to the

appropriate Area Representative for action. It is important that you put your contact information on these sheets so that we can respond to your comment or suggestions. We truly value your input!

# DECEMBER 16, 2018 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 PM December 15 Fr. Kris		
For  Mary & Julian Stachowski  Requested by  Delphine Midura	Servers	Isabelle Gerhart Adrianna Gerhart
	Lector/ Ushers	Alice Sheehan 5:00A
8:30 AM December 16 Fr. Kris		
For All Our Parishioners	Servers	
	Lector/ Ushers	Rosa Russenberger 8:30B
10:15 AM December 16 Fr. Kris		
For <b>Ed Fenech</b> Requested by  Yolanda Fenech	Servers	
	Lector/ Ushers	Caron Kott 10:15A
12:00 PM December 16 Fr. Roodbeen		
For <b>Helen Wrukowska</b> Requested by Grandparents	Servers	
	Lector/ Ushers	Teddi Williams 12:00B

# Church Cleaning Schedule for Next Week December 15 and December 16 Team D

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



## **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 the office at stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com and their name will be added to our prayers.

## **OPLATEK OR "CHRISTMAS WAFER"**



The Christmas wafer is a <u>Central</u> European <u>Christian Christmas tradition</u> celebrated in <u>Polish, Slovak, Lithuanian</u> and <u>Italian</u> families during <u>Wigilia</u> (*Christmas Eve Vigil*). The <u>unleavened</u> wafers are baked from pure <u>wheat</u> flour and water, are usually rectangular in shape

and very thin; they are identical in composition to the <u>Host</u> used during a <u>Catholic mass</u> however, they are not consecrated. Wafers are embossed with Christmas related religious images, varying from the <u>nativity scene</u>, especially <u>Virgin Mary</u> with baby <u>Jesus</u>, to the <u>Star of Bethlehem</u>. Family members and friends break off a small piece of the <u>oplatek wafer</u> and give it to one another along with a <u>blessing</u>. Breaking off and exchanging part of <u>oplatek</u> 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 are available after all the Masses this weekend 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 his weekend, <u>Sunday</u>, <u>December 9th</u> 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.

# 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 15/16. They are offering a 6 inch by 6-1/2 inch auto 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.

## **CHRISTMAS GIFT PROGRAM**

If you took a gift tag and have not returned your gift to church, please be sure to bring them to church this Sunday by 1 PM. Please note that the gifts will be distributed to the families on December 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Christian Service at 248-476-7677, ext. 204.



**Volunteers Still Needed:** We are still in need of people to help on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> for the distribution of the gifts for Christmas. If you are available and are able to give some of your time, please call the above number. We will be distributing gifts from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM that day. Awaiting the Lord, Matt

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

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, 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

<u>The Advent Reconciliation/Confession Schedule</u>
Regular Reconciliation/Confession every Saturday at
3:30 PM

Monday, December 10—
Parish Reconciliation Service —7:00 PM

# 2018 NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING SUPPORT & EDUCATION SERIES: DEEPER REFLECTIONS

December 18th at Sacred Heart Major Seminary – Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

We find ourselves at the end of the calendar year and the beginning of the Liturgical year once again! During Advent we focus on the hope, peace, joy and love. NFP can bring all of this to our marriages and more. Let's reflect on the ways NFP has nurtured these gifts in our lives. RSVP to nfp@aod.org and visit www.aod.org/nfp for upcoming dates and more information!



All are welcome to join us in roadside caroling on Saturday, December 15th from 11:00 AM -12:00 PM. We will be caroling and handing out candy canes at the intersection of Farmington and Colfax. Hot chocolate and cookies will be provided for carolers. Meet in social hall at 11 AM.

## **SAVE THE DATES:**

Keep posted for Super Bowl Sub Sale notices coming soon. Sales will begin the weekend of January 26th and 27th. Sub making day will be Saturday, February 2nd. Sub order pick up will be after all masses on February 2nd and 3rd.

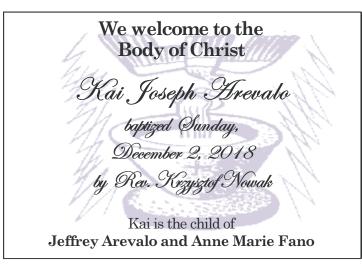
Thursday, February 7th from 7 PM to 9:30 PM REBOOT! A high-energy 2 and 1/2 hour renewal event for teens. Cost will be covered by Youth Ministry Fund. Check out more details at RealLifeCatholic.com/reboot.

### **EVANGELIZATION**

Sharing the Good News of the Gospel and living by example is our commission as baptized Catholics. We belong to a membership of faith.

Our faith is in the Gospel, the Holy Trinity, and the mission of Jesus, our Savior. He was born to us as an ideal example to bring peace on earth. We can improve our lives and be happy for all eternity if we follow Jesus' teachings.

Share your love with others through charity, service and giving. Share a smile, a greeting, or a deed of kindness. Let's make this Christmas Season more like HEAVEN ON EARTH!





## RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.

# 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 the Immaculate Conception or to the Retirement Fund for Religious, you can do so now through December 16th. Thank you!

# Week at a Glance

Monday, December 10 8:40 AM Rosary

9:15 AM Mass 9:45 AM Divine Mercy

5:30 PM Elementary Religious Formation 7:00 PM Parish Reconciliation Service

Tuesday, December 11

8:40 AM Rosary 9:15 AM Mass

9:45 AM Mother of Perpetual Help/ Divine Mercy

5:00 PM Elementary Religious Formation 6:00 PM Worship Commission Mtg.

Wednesday, December 12

7:30 PM Choir Practice No Mass

Thursday, December 13

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

Friday, December 14

8:40 AM Rosary 9:15 AM Mass 9:45 AM Divine Mercy 8:00 PM AA Meeting

Saturday, December 15

9:00 AM Christmas Gift Distribution 11:00 AM Christmas Caroling 11:00 AM Enactment Rehearsal 3:30 PM Confessions 5:00 PM Mass

> Sunday, December 16 Third Sunday of Advent Sunday Fellowship

Blood Pressure Screening

8:30 AM Mass 10:15 AM Mass 10:15 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word

12:00 PM Mass 7:00 PM Confirmation Class



# St. Gerald Online Giving

Online Giving of Donations through Simplegive is available. Please visit our Parish Website at stgeraldparish.org and click on Online Giving 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.



We are now in the season of Advent. On Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the Immaculate Conception with morning mass. As Mary prepared herself for the birth of her son, we too need to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Messiah.

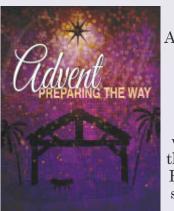
We will have our parish reconciliation at 7:00 PM on Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Did you take the book "*The Father's Love*" that is in the gathering area? If so, take a few moments to read and discuss each day's passage and message. Maybe you can make it to a weekday mass or do a random act of kindness for someone. Don't let the commercialism take away the beauty of the true meaning of the season. Remember: "Jesus is the reason for the season".

We are in need of Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers and Altar Servers. You are already at Mass, think of how *rewarding* it would be to participate in one of these roles/ministries. If you are interested or have any questions, please call 248-476-7677 ext. 202.

# PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Dear God,

as an Advent candle is lit in joyous anticipation of your Son's nativity,



remind us always of the reason for our joy.
As the purple of the candles stand for both penance and atonement for sin, give us the grace to do penance for our wrongs, and to love Christ, whose sacrifice atoned for the sins of the whole world. But just as the rose candle stands for joy in the midst of suffering and expectation.

give us the joy of your Son, Jesus Christ, who came into a world that had so longed for its Savior, and made the angels themselves sing with joy at his birth. Amen.

# ST. GERALD 2018 CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL ANGEL TREE

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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.

# (Please legibly print name of deceased) Remembered by: (Your Name) Your phone number: (In case we need to verify the spelling of a name)

Please make checks payable to St. Gerald Church.



## **Knights Corner**

## Supreme Council Webinar Dec. 11 Focuses on the Faith in Action Program

Members and officers are urged to take part in a new webinar being offered December 11 by the Supreme K of C Council. The hour long webinar will discuss "how The Faith in Action program is your plan to let the parish community know that your council are men of faith and of action and is geared to every council member and officer." The webinar will be available live at 8:30 PM on December 11. Pre-registration is required at www.kofc.org. If that time is not convenient, it is available on demand at any time through the Supreme website at no cost.

The Supreme Council's Faith in Action manual notes that Pope Francis has invited "Christians everywhere ... to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ". The manual notes "The Faith in Action program model extends the same invitation to Knights of Columbus members and their families. It is a renewed personal invitation to live out the calling of their faith, the call to service of their neighbor and to answer the age old question, 'Am I my brother's keeper?"

As Supreme Knight Carl Anderson has said, "If we can't meet young Catholic men where they are, they will go somewhere else. And, in this era, it is too easy to go somewhere else when we need them to be home. Home in the Catholic Church, home in their parishes and home with their families."

The manual notes "The Faith in Action model is a realization of the changing needs of men in the twenty-first century. It seeks to balance all our key priorities with theirs - Faith, Family, Community and Life - and present them in a way that is clear to our leaders, members and prospective Knights." You will hear more on this theme as the fraternal year unfolds.

In case you haven't noticed, your TV and car radio drone on about wishing you "Happy Holidays." All very neutral and inoffensive. But Christmas is a religious holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus. As Catholics and Knights it is our duty to remind the world of that fact. This year we are offering a magnetic car decals showing a manger and bearing the legend "Keep Christ in Christmas." Brother Brian Gulick is leading this effort. If you can spare 15 minutes after your Sunday mass to help him at one of the church exits, give him a call at 248-615-1636.

# 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: Director of Music
Worship Ministry
Youth Ministry Gerryanna Luscri
Maintenance Accountant

Kim Shepard

**Tom Kruger** 

# **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.

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

# 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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