

# THE VOICE

December 1, 2019

## 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](http://stgeraldparish.org)

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### MASS SCHEDULE

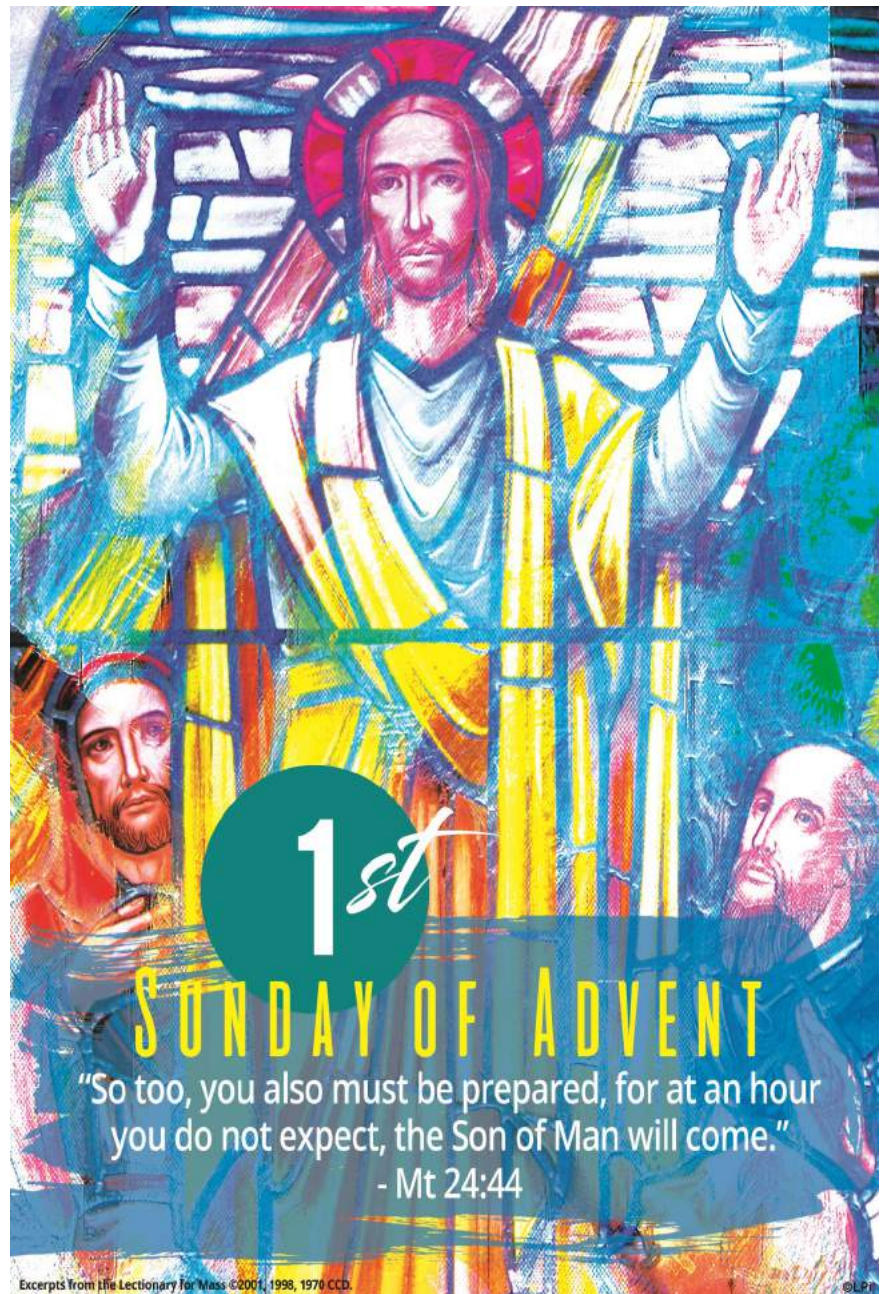
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:15 a.m.  
and 12:00 Noon

### WEEKDAYS

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

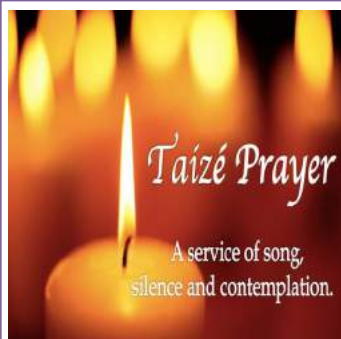
### RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.



## TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE AT ST. GERALD SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 AT 5:00 PM

Taizé Prayer is a meditative service in which one invites God's presence to penetrate one's innermost being. This form of prayer, from the Christian monastic community in Taizé, France, which wrote the music used, is a unique and deeply moving form of worship that is both a communal and yet largely individual activity. The service includes repetitive song and chant, scripture reading, and silent meditation. Dim light and candles are also part of the experience. Please join us!



**WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS**



**DECEMBER 2 - DECEMBER 7**

Monday 9:15 AM  
**Nancy Melia**  
 Requested by Gerry Meloche

Tuesday 9:15 AM  
**Pat Ratajski**  
 Requested by Monica and Alice

Wednesday  
 No Mass

Thursday 7:00 PM  
**Brent Taylor**  
 Requested by Friends

Friday 9:15 AM  
**Robert Gardner**  
 Requested by Eaton Family

Saturday 9:15 AM  
**Holy Souls in Purgatory**  
 Requested by Barbara Valasek

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Is 4:2-6/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: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8  
 Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/Rom 15:4-9/ Mt 3:1-12

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

**Pray for our Sick:**

Nicole Zapinski    Victoria Angelosanto    Yolanda Fenech  
 Rick Stone    Claire Marie Tuite-Yoder    Jennifer Mondoux

If you would like a name to added on the prayer list, please email [stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com) or call the Parish Office at 248-477-7470. Thank you!

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, Saturday, December 14th, 11:00 AM in church. Please contact Mary Taylor by December 4th to sign up, 248 476-7677, ext. 201 or [marytaylor.sgp@gmail.com](mailto:marytaylor.sgp@gmail.com).



December 8, 2019

5:00 PM		December 7	
For <b>Mary &amp; Julian Stachowski</b> Requested by Delphine Midura	<b>Lector/ Ushers</b>	Sharon McCarthy 5:00B	
8:30 AM		December 8	
For <b>Deceased Members of Soave Family</b> Requested by Russenberger Family	<b>Lector/ Ushers</b>	Ray Pisani 8:30B	
10:15 AM		December 8	
For <b>Sharon Bogden</b> Requested by Bonacchi & Hespem Families	<b>Lector/ Ushers</b>	Jim Bergin 10:15A	
12:00 PM		December 8	
For <b>All Our Parishioners</b>	<b>Lector/ Ushers</b>	Rob Seely 12:00A	

**Church Cleaning Schedule for Next Week**  
**December 7 and December 8**  
 Team C

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

**ST. GERALD ONLINE GIVING**

Online Giving of Donations through Simple Give is available. Please visit our Parish Website at [stgeraldparish.org](http://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.

Those who wish to give to Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan through **online giving**, can do so now through December 1st.

St. Gerald Parish  
 Advent Reconciliation Service  
 with individual confession and absolution  
 7:00 pm, Monday, December 9



**First Friday, December 6th**  
 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.

**FUN WAS HAD BY ALL AT THE FRUIT OF THE VINE WINE EVENT!**

The night was a great success! We brought in \$700 between entrance fees and raffles. Even the gentleman who won the 50/50 raffle donated back his portion. The money raised will cover the costs of the prayer cards for the 2020 Teen Evangelization Program.

We could not have had this event without the help of **Nancy Lacey, Ray and Chris Sobocinski, Lisa Shamie, Katy Baracco, Patrick Iadipaolo, Tony Iadipaolo and Frank Luscri**. Because of their help, the event ran smoothly. Our musical guests Donatella and Noah were a talented addition also. Thank you all again!

We are happy to have had such a good turn out and sharing of ideas. Everyone enjoyed themselves, gave to our cause and look forward to more social fundraisers. Keep your eye on the Voice bulletins for more upcoming events.



**ST. GERALD PARISH  
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

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

Weekend Mass—Nov. 30-Dec. 1, Dec. 7-8, 14-15, 21-22  
Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM,  
12 Noon

**Christmas Eve**—Tuesday, December 24  
4:00 PM Mass, 6:00 PM Children's Mass, 10:00 PM Choir  
Mass & Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day**—Wednesday, December 25  
9:00 AM Mass & 11:00 AM Mass

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

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

**First Friday observance-adoration,**  
Friday, December 6 & January 3  
Adoration begins after the 9:15 AM Mass and  
ends at 5:00 PM with Benediction

**First Saturday Masses**  
Saturday, December 7- 9:15 AM Mass  
January 4—9:15 AM Mass with Sacrament of Anointing

**Feast of the Epiphany**  
Saturday, January 4 - 5:00 PM,  
Sunday, January 5 - 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM & 12 Noon

**The Advent Reconciliation/Confession Schedule**  
Regular Reconciliation/Confession every Saturday at 3:30 PM  
Monday, Dec. 9—Parish Reconciliation Service —7:00 PM  
Saturday, Dec. 28 no 3:30 PM Confession

**CHRISTMAS GIFT TAG WEEKEND**

Christmas tags are available this weekend. Everyone is welcome to take one or more tags to help the needy in our community. **Please note the gifts are due back the weekend of December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.** The tags are located on a table in the social hall. As in prior years, when you take a tag, please sign your name on the sheet indicated so we may know who has the gift should we need to call you. I would like to thank you for your generosity and continued support for the needy of our community. God Bless Matt Yokom!!

**DONATIONS OF SOCK AND UNDERGARMENTS NEEDED**

In past years for the Christmas gift giving we have asked for donations of hats and mittens. Due to generous donations last season, we now have an ample amount of hats and mittens to be distributed to the families this year and will not be having a hat and mitten tree. Instead, I ask that you bring in socks and undergarments for men and women and children. These gifts will be given to St. Aloysius Parish in Downtown Detroit and distributed to the homeless. There will be a bin located in the entrance way of the church that you may drop your items in. I thank you for your continued support of our Christmas ministry here at St. Gerald.



### THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKET THANKS!

A huge thank you to all the parishioners of St. Gerald who helped make our Thanksgiving basket drive such a huge success. We, as a parish, were able to help many families this Thanksgiving with the food they needed to have a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner. Thank you again, you are all such a blessing!

### 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 8th on the Knight's table in the social hall. Thank you for your generosity, Richard Smith, chairperson 313-421-0204 for additional information.



Amazing Possibilities  
God Sees Them All.

It's Time You See Them Too!

Join Matthew Kelly, and the Dynamic Catholic team for BEST ADVENT EVER - a free email program that will help you enjoy a few minutes of peace and prayer each day during the hectic Holidays!

Take the first step toward discovering your amazing future at [BestAdventEver.com](http://BestAdventEver.com)

### 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 7/8 and December 14/15. A Free Will donation is not required, but would be appreciated!

### ANOTHER WAY PREGNANCY CENTER CHRISTMAS

On Monday, December 16, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM at Farmington Hills Church of God, located at 25717 Power Road in Farmington Hills, Another Way is celebrating Christmas with their clients and their families. Would you like to help us make this season extra special? We're asking for donations as well as volunteers to serve at the event.

Donation Requests are: 35 dozen Christmas cookies; refreshments (cheese and crackers, chips, small water bottles, juice boxes); door prizes (small gift baskets, holiday DVDs, etc.); giveaway items for babies and also giveaway items for moms and dads. We also need 30 volunteers to help at the event. Please call 248-471-5858 if you can help or email [clientservices@awpc4life.com](mailto:clientservices@awpc4life.com)

### Week at a Glance

#### Monday, December 2

8:40 AM Rosary  
9:15 AM Mass  
5:30 PM Religious Formation and Confession

#### Tuesday, December 3

8:40 AM Rosary  
9:15 AM Mass  
9:45 AM Mother of Perpetual Help  
2:00 PM Nursing Home Mass  
5:00 PM Religious Formation  
**6:00 PM Advent Tea**  
7:00 PM K of C Officers' Meeting

#### Wednesday, December 4

No Mass  
7:00 PM RCIA  
7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Meeting  
7:30 PM Choir Practice

#### Thursday, December 5

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

#### Friday, December 6

##### First Friday with Adoration

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

#### Saturday, December 7

##### First Saturday Indian Catholic Association Event

##### Gift Return Weekend

9:15 AM Mass  
3:30 PM Confessions  
5:00 PM Mass

#### Sunday, December 8

##### Second Sunday of Advent Gift Return Weekend

8:30 AM Mass  
10:15 AM Mass  
10:15 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word  
12:00 PM Mass  
1:00 PM Baptism

### ST. GERALD PARISH

### ADVENT TEA

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 6:00PM  
PARISH SOCIAL HALL  
\$12 PER PERSON**

Entire tables can be reserved. Round tables seat 8 or rectangles seat 10. You may also join us as a single individual and we will find you a seat. All are welcome!

White tablecloths, coffee, tea, sugar, cream, water and a dinner are provided by St. Gerald.

Hostesses provide place settings, cups, silverware, water glass, four candles and a dessert to be shared with your table. How you set your table is entirely up to you.

There will be a short Advent Reflection.

Please call Diane Gerometta for additional information and to hold your table or make your individual reservation at 248-763-3193.

## ST. GERALD 2019 CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL ANGEL TREE

This year St. Gerald will once again have a special 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 9, 2019)**

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
(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.**

### The word Advent means coming.

In the early church Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of the Epiphany. Christians would spend 40 days in penance prayer and fasting in preparation of this celebration. It wasn't until the 6th century, that Roman Christians tied Advent to the coming of Christ. Not the first coming in Bethlehem, rather his second coming. It wasn't until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas.

This year Advent begins on December 1st and lasts for four Sundays. Let's not get "wrapped up" in the commercialism of the holiday season, rather let's be a part of the CHRISTmas season.



### RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Give in thanksgiving. "The nuns left lasting impressions on me," writes a donor. "I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education."

Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. Next weekend is the collection for Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. Please take an envelope located at the end of the pews home and return it next weekend in the collection basket. Thank you!

**Those who wish to give to Retirement Fund For Religious through online giving, can do so now through December 15th.**

### 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.



**KNIGHTS CORNER**

**Knights Serve Dinner At Advent Tea Tuesday Then Officers Meet For Regular December Session**

Some of our Knights will be serving dinner Tuesday at the annual Advent Tea. Later in the evening the Council officers will hold their monthly meeting. Serving at the Tea is one of several times during the year that Knights help other parish organizations with their projects.

We also cook at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, at the Lenten Soup Supper, the Parish Picnic and Halloween's Trunk 'n' Treat. Knights also serve the parish as ushers, Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors and on various commissions and committees. Service to others and charity is what we do. Our Order sums it up with the motto "Service to One, Service to All."

The deadline for the Holy Cross Services Christmas sweatshirts is just a week away. PGK Rich Smith who is coordinating the drive warned that the last day to provide a gift sweatshirt is December 8. "If possible, please giftwrap the shirts and mark the size on the outside as well as indicating if the shirt is for a boy or a girl - Sizes XL and up are preferred.

Smith also announced the 2020 schedule for the Knights sponsored bus trips to the Fire Keepers casino outside of Battle Creek. The trips are scheduled for January 8, March 11, June 17, August 12 and November 11. The current cost is \$35 per person which is offset by a \$5 food credit and a \$20 playing credit. That results in a net cost of \$10 for a roundtrip ride in a comfortable coach. The bus leaves the church parking lot at 9 AM and returns at 6 PM or so.

Congratulations to Thom Seabolt on his selection as November's Knight of the Month and to Tom and Arlene McPhail as November's Family of the Month. Brother Seabolt was cited for his consistent help on many Council projects and on assisting with the work of the parish Health Ministry, headed by wife Barbara. The McPhails have been active in the Council and parish for years. Arlene sings in the choir, has served as a cantor at Mass and is the behind-the-scenes support for many of Tom's Council activities. He is our Program Director, the author of this weekly *Knights Corner* article and producer of the monthly meeting agendas and the yearly Action Calendar.

*The Knights of Columbus is made up of good men doing good works!*

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

- Worship Ministry ..... x 202

Norma Battel  
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.