



# THE VOICE

## ALL ARE WELCOME

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church;  
 No matter what your current family or marital situation;  
 No matter what your past or present religious affiliation;  
 No matter what your personal history, age, background, race, or color;  
 No matter what your self-image or esteem;  
 You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected at  
 St. Gerald Catholic Church.

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME AUGUST 16, 2015

What keeps the world from seeking and finding God? Part of the answer has to do with how we see God. If God is a stern and demanding Judge, we feel we will lose more than we gain by seeking God. If God is a gracious and forgiving Lord, we feel we do not deserve such forgiveness and acceptance. Where is your God? In a celestial law court, or in the midst of your life?

### First reading – Proverbs 9:1-6

A formal education these days is increasingly costly. Wisdom, however, is available without charge to all who seek her gifts. We can feast at the table of wisdom without paying a dime. All we need to do is open our minds and our hearts to the source of all wisdom and knowledge.

### Second reading – Ephesians 5: 15-20

The Apostle Paul never tired of thanking God for the gift of Jesus Christ. Paul had struggled throughout his life to achieve the rewards that came from obedience to the Law of Moses. But he found what he had been truly seeking in the sheer grace that God bestowed in Jesus Christ.

### Gospel – John 6:51-58

Jesus Christ gave himself for the salvation of the world. This gift is renewed each time we receive the bread and the wine. Receiving the gift of unmerited grace, however, is not easy. It means letting go of all claims to our own goodness and all efforts to provide salvation for ourselves.

Children often ask simple yet provocative questions. One such question is: “Where is God?” Ask yourself that question. Is God in heaven? But where is heaven? Is God “out there,” beyond time and space? No doubt it is true, but it makes God extremely remote. Or is God present in the lives of the saints and other chosen people? Yes, but where does that leave you? Consider: Isn’t the only God we can know in a personal way the God who lives within us?

Psalms 34 is helpful here. Instead of arguing for the existence of God, the psalmist issues an invitation to experience God: “Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.” Our Proverbs reading today has Wisdom saying, “Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed ... and walk in the way of insight.” We must open ourselves to experiencing God. Jesus said in today’s Gospel: “My flesh is real food, and my blood real drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood remain in me, and I in them.” He was saying that we can take his life into our lives. We can experience Christ on the inside, where we hurt and hope, laugh and cry.

To be sure, the Bible presents many different pictures of God. Some of them are mind-boggling in scope. Genesis presents God as almighty Creator, whose voice spoke all things into existence, the One who started with nothing and made everything. Exodus says Moses talked with God on a mountain that was capped with clouds and shaken by thunder, and Moses came down from the mountain with the Ten Commandments. Isaiah had a vision of God “seated on a high and lofty throne, with the train of his garment filling the temple.” These pictures come from the Old Testament, and they are valid in that we need to think big thoughts about God. But if we think of God only in such ways, how are we ever going to know God --- who seems so far away and unapproachable? Our deepest need is to know that we are loved and cared for by the One who is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the Creator and Redeemer of all things --- past, present, and future. May the God you experience be the One from whom and through whom and to whom are all things. Amen.

Have a Blessed Week! Fr. Festus

# ST. GERALD

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Servant Church Of  
 The Archdiocese of Detroit

21300 Farmington Road  
 Farmington, Michigan 48336  
 Phone: 248-477-7470

Rectory Fax: 248-477-3878  
 Ministries Fax: 248-381-5803  
 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.  
 12:00 Noon

### WEEKDAYS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, First Friday:  
 9:15 a.m.

Thursday Evening: 7:00 p.m.

### RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:30–4:30 p.m.

# A Week Ahead

WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS  
AUGUST 17 - AUGUST 21



Monday 9:15 AM  
For All Our Parishioners

Tuesday 9:15 AM  
Dobbs, Kemp, Robrecht,  
Trayer and Donarmen Families  
Requested by C. Kemp

Wednesday 9:15 AM  
For All Our Parishioners

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

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: JGS 2:11-19/MT 19:16-22  
TUESDAY: JGS 6:11-24A/MT 19:23-30  
WEDNESDAY: JGS 9:6-15/MT 20:1-16  
THURSDAY: JGS 11:29-39A/MT 22:1-14  
FRIDAY: RU 1:1, 3-6, 14B-16, 22/MT 22:34-40  
SATURDAY: RU 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/MT 23:1-12  
NEXT SUNDAY: JOS 24:1-2A, 15-17, 18B/EPH 5:21-32 OR  
5:2A, 25-32/JN 6:60-69

Liturgical Publications Inc

(For a list of daily readings: go to <http://www.usccb.org/nab>)

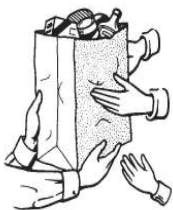


PLEASE RETURN YOUR  
PLEDGE CARD TODAY!

If you have not already turned in your pledge card, please consider making a donation. If you are unable to make a donation at this time, simply return your CSA card and indicate this on the front of the card. Thank you for your generosity in helping our parish meet its goal for programs we all benefit from through the Archdiocese of Detroit.

## Reception for Peggy Backus

Please join us after the 12 noon Mass on Sunday, August 30th for a Special Reception for Peggy Backus who is retiring after 30 years of service at St. Gerald Parish.



### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS . . .

Peanut Butter  
Juice 64 oz.  
Laundry Detergent  
Dish Detergent  
Sugar 1 lb. boxes  
Snacks

## AUGUST 23, 2015 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 PM August 22 Fr. Roodbeen

For <b>Bernice, Louis &amp; Dennis Kaye</b> Requested by Joe Pavco	Servers	
	Lector/ Ushers	Diane Blankenship 5:00A

8:30 AM August 23 Fr. Festus

For <b>James A. Meloche</b> Requested by Ron & Joan Fischer	Servers	
	Lector/ Ushers	Jim Bergin David Wells 8:30C

10:15 AM August 23 Fr. Festus

For <b>Nancy J. Corey</b> Requested by Bernadette Fea	Servers	
	Lector/ Ushers	Timothy Wardle 10:15A

12:00 Noon August 23 Fr. Festus

For <b>Jean Lopus</b> Requested by Fr. Festus & the St. Gerald Staff	Servers	
	Lectors/ Ushers	Chris Greig 12:00A

## Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks

August 21 and August 22  
Team #1

August 28 and August 29  
Team #2



Msgr. Baldwin	Robert Duemler
Alex Smith	Susan Robinson
Aaron Kosmowski	Monica Noch
Erin Malloy-Sidaway	Nancy Kolliker
Rita Knight	Carol Diehr
Joan Margarite Preston	Jerry Kopasz
Joseph Vandervennet	Ella Mae Konitsney
Jim Malloy	Shirley Murray
Elmer Diehr	Debby Marsh
Nadeen Ouellette	Douglas Allen
Sandy Hayman	Bob Johnston
Suzanne Kroll	Joan Goniea
Pat Sockow	Andre Foster

## WORSHIP

### THE PARISH LIBRARY NEWS—EVANGELIZATION BOOK LIST FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

The St. Gerald Parish Browsing and Borrowing Library has been kept up-to-date with current authors and historical books, videos and DVD's about the Catholic Faith. Some authors are Matthew Kelly, Scott Hahn, Mother Teresa and Henri Nouwen. We even have books for teens and children. It is just like a municipal library with a real librarian who keeps the books in order and prepares new books to put in circulation. Thank you to Geri Adams and Claudette Calka for all your work during the past few years in keeping the library inventory fresh and in order. Hello to Agnes Bongero who is the new librarian. She will continue to be assisted by Claudette Calka. Agnes periodically places books on a display cabinet as suggestions to read. There is a wooden book cart with DVD's and videos.

Mary Yageman, of the Evangelization Committee, has taken on a project of reading as many books as she can in order to recommend them to you to read. This month's recommendations are:

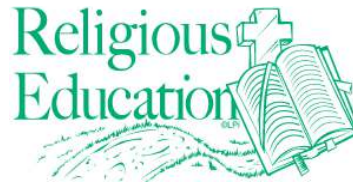
- Amazing Grace for the Catholic Heart by Cavins, Pinto and Armstrong
- The Joy of the Gospel by Pope Francis (a recommended read from our current Pope)
- Any Friend of God's Is a Friend of Mine by Patrick Madrid
- Praying with Therese of Lisieux
- Pope John XXIII by Thomas Cahill (a local author)
- The Best Catholic Writing (2004) by Brian Doyle
- The Mystery of the Transfiguration by Raniero Cantalamersa
- Jesus and You (Discovering the Real Christ) by James Finley and Michael Pennock
- The Case for Faith by Lee Strobel
- The Mother of God by Slaves of the Immaculate Herat of Mary

I am adding books about theology (knowledge of God):

- The Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. A short summary in Q and A form about the Catechism of the Catholic Church. In the same style as the old Baltimore Catechism
- The Catholic Source Book – Everything little detail about the Catholic Faith and Culture. If ever ask yourself or others: "Why do Catholics genuflect?", "What's a holy day of obligation?", "Why is there a purple altar cloth on the altar today?", then this book will make you an expert in these things. Enjoy our library!!! Peggy

**Have you considered putting St. Gerald Church in your Will? Please call Fr. Festus at 248-477-7470. He would be happy to discuss this with you.**

## FORMATION



### DEADLINE FOR RELIGIOUS FORMATION CLASSES AUGUST 20TH!

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 [taylor.mary04@yahoo.com](mailto:taylor.mary04@yahoo.com) and a registration form will be mailed to you.

Return these forms as soon as possible so we may accommodate your choices. Students in the 7th grade pre-Confirmation program will attend classes on alternate Sundays following the 10:15 AM Mass beginning September 20th. 8th and 9th grade students will attend formation classes on alternate Sunday evenings in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. These classes will also begin on September 20th but they will gather from 6:00 PM –8:00 PM. Students in grades 1-6 may choose to attend classes either on Mondays from 5:30 PM –6:45 PM or Tuesdays from 4:45 PM-6:00 PM, beginning on September 28th. The Preschool and Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds) class will be held during the 10:15 AM Mass beginning Sunday, September 20th. **Registration forms are due August 20th. If you had children in the program last year and *did not* receive a registration form, or have any questions, contact Mary Taylor at 248-476-7677 or [taylor.mary04@yahoo.com](mailto:taylor.mary04@yahoo.com).**

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

### FALL SCRIPTURE STUDY

#### THE GOSPELS OF LUKE AND MATTHEW

Father David Santoro, O.P., Chaplin at the Blessed Sacrament Monastery in Farmington Hills will lead the study using the Ignatius Bible Study Guide. The study will continue with Luke moving into Matthew.

Location: **St. Gerald's Church hall**

Time: Wednesday evenings 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Dates: **September 16 – November 18, 2015**

**All are Welcome to this Inter-Parish Scripture Study.** Bring your Bible and/or Ignatius Study guides. No need to register.

Contact Diane Blankenship ([dlb882@gmail.com](mailto:dlb882@gmail.com)), Sharon Weberlein ([shrweber@aol.com](mailto:shrweber@aol.com)) if you have questions or 248-477-7470.

### THE CATHOLIC LEAGUE FOR RELIGIOUS ASSISTANCE TO POLAND AND POLONIA

This weekend at the end of the pews are donation envelopes for Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia. Please take an envelope home with you and return it next weekend in the second collection basket. Your donation will assist the education of Polish priests and help in the missionary work of Polish religious across the world.





## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

### Meeting Tuesday; Still Time to Register Your Dish for Saturday's Pot Luck

Tuesday's membership meeting kicks off a busy week for St. Gerald's Knights. Wednesday will see another excursion to the FireKeepers Casino outside Battle Creek and Saturday we will gather for our annual Pot Luck dinner. Included on Tuesday's agenda is a rundown of the Council's various projects and programs, providing members an opportunity to get involved as a leader, an assistant leader or participant. The meeting will start at 7 PM in the social hall.

A few seats remain available for the Casino bus trip. The cost is \$35 which nets out to \$10 when bus riders receive \$25 worth of gaming and food chips. Contact PGK Rich Smith at 313-421-0204 for a ticket for the bus which will leave the St. Gerald parking lot at 9 AM and return about 6 PM.

If you haven't called Lynn Smith, PGK Smith's wife, by now to register the dish you are bringing to the Pot Luck, do so today. Lynn is coordinating the appetizers, sides and desserts. The Council is providing the entrée – chicken which host Fred Gerometta will grill. There will be hot dogs for the kids. By now you should have received directions to the dinner site, the home of DGK Fred and Diane Gerometta. If not, give Tom McPhail a call at 248-875-1185. He e-mailed or snail-mailed directions last week to members at their address of record. The dinner also is a BYOB event which means that you should bring the drinks you and yours expect to consume throughout the night. The Council is providing ice, water, tea and coffee. A new feature this year will be the addition of a mini corn toss tourney. It is an opportunity for you to learn how to play the game, also known as "Bags."

Next week, brother Larry Swanson will be leading a squad of Knights and their spouses in providing dinner to the guests at the South Oakland Shelter at the North Congregational Church (NCC) on 12 Mile east of Drake. Larry has enough help but other opportunities to help are listed on the big bulletin board in the Church gathering space. NCC has taken over the hosting slot held by St. Alexander in past years.

### CASINO BUS TRIP



It is still not too late to join the Knights of Columbus on a bus trip to Firekeepers Casino outside Battle Creek on Wednesday, August 19. The cost is \$35.00, which you receive \$25 in gaming and food chips. The bus leaves St. Gerald parking lot at 9 AM and returns at 6 PM. Please call Rich Smith at 248-747-6817, Bruce Roberts at 248-756-9257 or Rich Rosowski at 248-477-2511 if you would like to go on this trip.

### NORTHWEST SUBURBS FIRST FRIDAY, FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

First Friday, is a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and First Saturday is a devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In the northwest suburbs we have a 24 hour prayer Vigil, with 24 hours of Eucharistic Adoration. Adoration begins at 10 AM Friday after the 9:15 AM Mass. **Evening Mass is at 7 PM with confessions before and after Mass;** the Reparation Prayer Vigil begins after the 7 PM Mass. Saturday morning Benediction with Reposition 9 AM followed by Mass for Life at 9:15 AM. All are welcomed. **This is every month** at St. Gerald at 21300 Farmington Road, in Farmington, just north of 8 Mile.

### SOUTH OAKLAND SHELTER SIGN UPS

#### North Congregational Church, August 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

South Oakland Shelter (SOS) provides homelessness prevention, sustainable housing and career development strategies and programs for homeless and at-risk people seeking stabilization and self-sufficiency.

North Congregational will be hosting this year with the assistance of the combined St. Alexander and St. Gerald Catholic Churches the week of August 23, 2015. Combined we will provide transportation, meals, housing, entertainment and hospitality for 30 to 35 clients for a week from Sunday evening through the following Sunday morning. Monday through Saturday, guests spend their days at work or at SOS training and counseling in Lathrup Village before returning to North Congregational in time for dinner. Every task will have a coordinator who will direct and guide each process.

Sign up sheets are on the board located in the gathering space. The sign up sheets ask what you'd be willing to help with, how many times you'd like to do them and which days you are available. We will use these sheets to fill in open slots in coordination with the two churches. Danny Hawkins will confirm your final assignments this week. If you have any questions you may contact him at [NCC.BusinessManager@gmail.com](mailto:NCC.BusinessManager@gmail.com) or 248 -217-1750.

### PERMANENT DIACONATE

Those discerning a call to the diaconate ministry are invited to attend an information night — with their wives, if they are married — at Livonia's St. Genevieve-St. Maurice Parish on Thursday, August 27. The evening will begin at 6:30 PM and will provide information on the application process and requirements for entering formation for the permanent diaconate.

Gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal fund the work of the archdiocesan Office for Clergy and Consecrated Life and the Permanent Deacon Formation Team, which coordinate diaconal ministry and formation. In addition, the CSA supports men studying for the permanent diaconate at Sacred Heart Major Seminary.

For more information on CSA-funded programs, ministries, and services, please go to [www.AOD.org](http://www.AOD.org).

**SINGING AND ROARING OUR THANKS**

The Serengeti Trek Vacation Bible School was a huge success thanks to all who gave so unselfishly of their time and talents particularly **Gerryanna Luscri** who took leadership of this year's Vacation Bible School.



Special thanks to all the "Station Leaders" on our trek to know God better, they are: **Chris Wiatr** – Pre-school Cubs; **Julie Poisson** – Watering Hole Snacks; **Amy Gerhart** – Critter Crafts; **Theresa Smith** – Wild Games and **Ronette Chojnacki**– Registration.

We are especially grateful for the enthusiastic and constant support of the following who volunteered wherever they were needed: **Pam Panagos, Diane Roberts, Karen Goheen, Laurel Hoetger, Carol Bandy and Marisa Ferrari.**

One of the most exciting aspects of our Vacation Bible School was the number of young people who volunteered to help either as crew leaders, assistant crew leaders, drama, snack, craft and game helpers, decorators, or where needed – they were wonderful role models for the younger children – thank you to: **Hanna Anderson, Eli Gerhart, Gina Horsburgh, Claire Pagnucco, Daniel Cernak, Steven Ihm, John Smith, Daniel Heffron, Francesco Luscri, Kallie O'Keefe, Joel Taylor, Anne Koziara, Rosie Burns-Pavlik, Chris Ihm, Grace Pagnucco, Isabelle Gerhart, Alec Panagos, Emma DuLong, Kellie Weigold, Julia Szwarc, Kevin Szwarc, Dana Buckhave, Emma O'Connel, Hannah Smith, Katie Christiansen, Mackenzie Stark, Kenny Davis, Ben Weber, Madison Bandy, Alexis Bandy, Tristin Krause, Melvin Joseph, Giselle, Gabriella and Angelina Kassab.**

Special thanks to our Knights of Columbus for their generous donation to help cover some of the cost of Vacation Bible School.

Thank you for making this such a "Spirit" filled experience for all who participated in the Serengeti Trek where kids are "wild about God!"



**FUN HAD BY ALL**





**ST. GERALD CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Office Hours**

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday thru Thursday. Closed Friday.  
(secretary at lunch Noon—12:30)

**STAFF**

Reverend Festus Ejimadu, Pastor .....(248) 477-7470  
Mary Hoots, Administrative Assistant..... 248-477-7470.....x 212  
Email: stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com

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

**Christian Services**

Laura Meier, Christian Service Coordinator ..... x 204  
Email: csstgerald@yahoo.com

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

**Education**

Mary Taylor: Director Religious Education ..... x 201  
Email: taylor.mary04@yahoo.com

Peggy Backus: Coordinator of Worship/RCIA/Evangelization..... x 202  
Email: stgeraldworship@live.com

**Youth Ministry**

Theresa Smith..... x 203  
Email: stgeraldm@gmail.com

**Music Ministry**

Mary Zelinski, Director of Music ..... 734-516-0133

**Maintenance**

Mark Koss Accountant  
Kim Shepard

**Ministries Assistant - Purchaser**

Cathy Long . . . . X 222 Email: clong123@gmail.com

**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. Ejimadu after Mass or call the office. Registration forms are located on the shelf in the classroom hallway for your convenience. After you fill it out, just give it to Fr. Ejimadu 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? The St. Gerald RCIA group meets each week on Thursdays. Please call Peggy Backus (248) 476-7677 x202 or Fr. Ejimadu (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. Ejimadu can work with you to find a favorable solution.

**St. Alexander Food Pantry Contact Information**

Phone: 248-474-8231

Calls taken Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 AM - to 11:00 AM

**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.

**ST. GERALD LITURGICAL VESSELS BLESSED**

Various liturgical vessels were sent “into the shop” to be re-plated and they came back looking like new.

The six communion chalices, the luna of the Monstrance, the Monstrance and the chalice that the late Fr. Jim Wright used at St. Alexander. Also re-plated were the holy water bucket and sprinkler. Fr. Festus performed a very short blessing ceremony in the sacristy. Thank you to generous donors who provided the funds for this work.

**What is a monstrance?** “A receptacle, usually made of gold or silver, with a transparent container in which the consecrated host is exposed for adoration. Word origin: from Latin: *Monstrare*—to show. The luna is the round, transparent container which hold the consecrated host for adoration. It is placed in the center of the circle where it is visible for all to see. On the first Fridays and other events, the monstrance is used for Eucharistic Adoration.

monstrance. Dictionary.com. *Collins English Dictionary - Complete & Unabridged 10th Edition*. HarperCollins Publishers. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/monstrance> (accessed: August 11, 2015).

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