



## 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.

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 6, 2015

Studies of human perception have shown that we hear many sounds that we do not understand, such as an unknown foreign language. But sometimes we do not understand what we are hearing because we are not listening. We often do not know what we are hearing on television because our minds are a thousand miles away. Understanding requires listening.

### First reading – Isaiah 35:4-7a

Listening is a vital reality in the faith of ancient Israel. Listening, expressed in the Hebrew word “shema” (“hear”), pertains to the covenantal bond between God and Israel. The prophet Isaiah promised that God would eventually vindicate the righteous and bless the penitents. But his hopeful words fell on deaf ears if the people were not listening.

### Second reading – James 2:1-5

James warned against drawing invidious distinctions between the rich and the poor. He had no tolerance for people who were honored solely because of their wealth or fame. James insisted that people who hear and respond to the word of God are all blessed and equal in the eyes of God.

### Gospel – Mark 7:31-37

No problem was too great for the Lord Christ to solve. Jesus cured leprosy, cast out demons, and raised the dead. One of his most important healing miracles was restoring hearing to the deaf, many of whom were unable to speak. Through this miracle of healing a new world was opened for people who knew only silence.

If you can remember your childhood, you may recall an experience like this. Your mother or father is giving you words of chastisement and correction, telling you in no uncertain terms precisely what you must stop doing or start doing. Suddenly your parent stops talking, looks at you sternly and curiously, and asks, “Are you listening?” It’s a good question, because even in childhood we learn how to hear what we want to hear and tune out the rest. This isn’t a trait that ends with childhood, however. Listening seems more and more to be a lost art, and we often hear only what we want to hear.

Our hearts go out to the man in today’s Gospel reading. He could not hear. Because he could not hear, his ability to speak was impaired. His story, however, has a happy ending. Friends brought him to Jesus, and Jesus healed him. He was able to hear clearly and speak plainly. Whatever we make of the miraculous element in this story, we might consider what a miracle it would be if our own hearing problem could be healed. This man’s deafness was apparently physical in nature. Our deafness is more often spiritual in nature. Something is wrong in our hearts and minds. The main reason most of us do not hear is because we do not listen. There is more to hearing than having good ears. Elderly people sometimes tell us that the only way they can hear any more is to pay very close attention. This is understandable. But the truth is that the only way for any of us to hear is to pay attention. This is the explanation of deafness from which many of us suffer. Hearing involves more than sound waves coming into contact with auditory nerves! Communication is one of the primary building blocks of human relationships. It is also the glue that holds the building blocks together. When people try to explain the break-up of their marriages, one of the most frequently cited reasons is a lack of communication. Usually it does not mean that one partner in the marriage has stopped talking, but that one or both partners have stopped listening. Notice the sequence in the story for today. First, Jesus opened the man’s ears. Then, he was healed of his impediment and he began to speak plainly. This is how it always is: first the hearing, then the speaking. Have a Blessed Week! Fr. Festus

# ST. GERALD

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Servant Church Of  
 The Archdiocese of Detroit

21300 Farmington Road  
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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  
SEPTEMBER 7 - SEPTEMBER 11



Monday 9:15 AM  
**Anthony and Carol DeBrincat and Al and Mary Diedo**  
Requested by Diedo Family

Tuesday 9:15 AM  
**For All Our Parishioners**

Wednesday 9:15 AM  
**For All Our Parishioners**

Thursday 7:00 PM  
**Linda Frevik**  
Requested by Diane Petter

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: COL 1:24--2:3/LK 6:6-11

TUESDAY: MI 5:1-4A OR ROM 8:28-30/MT 1:1-16, 18-23 OR 1:18-23

WEDNESDAY: COL 3:1-11/LK 6:20-26

THURSDAY: COL 3:12-17/LK 6:27-38

FRIDAY: 1 TM 1:1-2, 12-14/LK 6:39-42

SATURDAY: 1 TM 1:15-17/LK 6:43-49

NEXT SUNDAY: IS 50:5-9A/JAS 2:14-18/MK 8:27-35

Liturgical Publications Inc

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



Juice 64 oz.  
Laundry Detergent  
Dish Detergent  
Large Cans of Soup  
Cake Mixes

Please put donations in the wooden chest in gathering space of the church



**Monday, September 7th**  
**Parish Offices will be closed in observance of Labor Day**

**Parish Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00 PM**

**followed by Commission Meetings at 8:30 PM**

**Please join us!**



**St. Alexander Church Estate Sale will be held September 25 through September 27. More information to come!**

## SEPTEMBER 13, 2015 TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 PM September 12 Fr. Festus

For <b>Kathy Steck</b> Requested by Delphine Midura	Servers	
	Lector/ Ushers	Diane Blankenship 5:00B

8:30 AM September 13 Fr. Festus

For <b>Anthony Camilleri</b> Requested by Family	Servers	Sofia Mansoor
	Lector/ Ushers	Candy Rosowski 8:30C

10:15 AM September 13 Fr. Roodbeen

For <b>Rose &amp; Stan Galica</b> Requested by Joan & Ken Galica	Servers	Sarah Weber Luke Horsburgh
	Lector/ Ushers	Mary Power Nancy Stone 10:15A

12:00 Noon September 13 Fr. Festus

For <b>Emil Salem</b> Requested by Diane Petter	Servers	Rob Gulick
	Lectors/ Ushers	Chris Greig Fernando Guerra 12:00B

## Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks

September 11 and September 12 Team #6    September 18 and September 19 Team #1



Msgr. Baldwin  
Alex Smith  
Aaron Kosmowski  
Erin Malloy-Sidaway  
Rita Knight  
Joan Margarite Preston  
Joseph Vandervennet  
Shirley Murray  
Debby Marsh  
Sandy Hayman  
Suzanne Kroll  
Pat Sockow  
Gene Kerwin  
Ella Mae Konitsney  
Suzanne Kroll

Robert Duemler  
Susan Robinson  
Monica Noch  
Nancy Kolliker  
Carol Diehr  
Jerry Kopasz  
Jim Malloy  
Elmer Diehr  
Douglas Allen  
Bob Johnston  
Joan Goniea  
Andre Foster  
Nadeen Ouellette  
Sarah Kerwin  
Kenneth Ott

## WORSHIP

### Tim's Tidbits, by Tim Westfall

I would just like to say how fortunate I feel to have been given the opportunity to serve the People of St. Gerald Parish in the capacity of Pastoral Associate. My hope, over the course of our journey together, is to come to know each of you.

I have been meeting since late August with Peggy about responsibilities and history of the parish community. I have met the warm and friendly staff and look forward to working with them. It will be a privilege to serve the people of this parish community under the guidance of Fr. Festus and the Holy Spirit.

I will only say a wee bit about myself at this time and will tell more as we journey together. My hobbies include collecting hand-wound clocks, some golf, decorating and working on my family genealogy. I have traced my family back to their country of origin – Poland, Germany and Prussia. I am thankful to have met two of my great grandfathers, as all of my great grandparents were in America. One set of great great grandparents, on my maternal side, came to America in 1889 and 1890 and were married at St. Francis D' Assisi Church in Detroit in 1891. Since that time, I have had a direct sacramental connection with that parish. Their eldest daughter was married there; my great grandparents in 1911. My maternal grandparents were married there in 1937, along with my parents in 1969. I was baptized there.

Since 2010, I was been working on the John Cardinal Dearden Legacy project, which is researching the work of the late Archbishop of Detroit in order to publish his writings and public speeches into a book. I leave you with a quote from the late Archbishop of Detroit. He said it in 1976.

"I can only say one thing with full assurance, and that is that there are no clear, ready-made answers to the problems of Church and society."

## FORMATION

### RELIGIOUS FORMATION CLASSES STARTING SOON

**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.**

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. **If you 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 Archdiocese of Detroit children of the parish are to receive two full years of religious formation before reception of a sacrament.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

It is time to get back into the groove!!! Youth group is starting out with a bang! We are having a sleep out. We will be pitching tents in the parking lot and playing capture the flag, having a fire, making s'mores and telling scary ghost stories!!!! We will be doing lots of great things here at St. Gerald so keep your eyes on the voice to keep you informed!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

September 12, 2015 at 6:00 PM **First Annual Youth Group sleep out!!!!**  
September 19, 2015 **St. Christine's Soup Kitchen** 11:00 AM -2:00 PM  
September 20, 2015 **Confirmation Session 1** - with 8th and 9th grade from 6:00 PM -8:00 PM  
September 27th **Pancake Breakfast**  
September 27th 6:00 PM -8:00 PM  
**Youth group**

## MUSIC MINISTRY

Hello! As the Music Director of St. Gerald Parish, I would like to welcome all new and returning Adult Choir members to another year of glorifying God with our music! We rehearse Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 PM and sing at the 10:15 AM Mass on Sunday mornings. Our first rehearsal will be Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> in the Music Office, located on the southwest side of the building. We welcome everyone from high school age to retirement age! We are in particular need of more male voices, but all are welcome! The ability to read music is not required. Please direct any questions you may have to me, Mary Zelinski. You can reach me by email at [mzelinsk@umich.edu](mailto:mzelinsk@umich.edu), or come say hello after Mass! I look forward to making music with new and returning members and praising God in song!

God's blessings always,

Mary Zelinski  
Music Director  
[mzelinsk@umich.edu](mailto:mzelinsk@umich.edu)

**Join  
The Fun!**





### HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

**A look ahead:** Starting in 2015-2016, we will be offering CPR classes, a Flu Clinic in October, Blood Pressure Screenings, and Blood Drives two times a year. Our Health Ministry table is set up in the social hall near the offices. We will provide educational material monthly, and a suggestion box for ideas you would like to see offered. I am also looking for people to help with these endeavors, Nurse's, EMT's, Health Care Professional's, or anyone just interested in the Health Care Field. I can train you in many areas; I can also train you on how to take a blood pressure. We will be offering Blood Pressure screenings starting in September and need volunteers to help after each Mass. Please contact Barbara Seabolt at 248-477-4752.



WE PRAY FOR THE  
REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF  
DOMENIC CORDISCO

+  
NOVEMBER 28, 1920  
AUGUST 23, 2015

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO  
DOMENICO LORD, AND MAY  
PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON HIM

### 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), Sharon Weberlein (shrweber@aol.com) if you have questions or 248-477-7470.

## EVANGELIZATION...SHARING GOD WITH OTHERS

St. Gerald Evangelization Committee has created a schedule of events for parish members, and their family and friends, to participate in.

Upcoming events to put on your calendar:

**Saturday, September 19 - Fr. Michael Dwyer** will be here to lead Rosary, Mass, healing service and share his life changing story. Book sale and refreshments will be available. \$12, or freewill offer greatly appreciated. Pre-registration is encouraged; go to [www.marianpeace.org](http://www.marianpeace.org) or call 248-559-4544.

Sponsored by the Marian Peace Center of Detroit and St. Gerald Evangelization Committee.

**Sunday, September 20 - Festival of Ministries & Fellowship**  
All representatives are encouraged to wear your St. Gerald badge to be recognized for your area of service for our church.

**Friday, November 20 - Friday Fellowship (theology on tap, Q & A)** where adult parish members meet to share reflections of Bible passages and how they impact on our daily lives and perspectives. First held at Gerryanna & Frank Luscri's home at 36778 Kenmore Drive, Farmington Hills.

**Saturday, January 9, 2016 - Movie Night** (13+ and adult)  
We will be showing the film *For Greater Glory* starring Andy Garcia & Eva Longoria. Sponsored by St. Gerald Youth Group

**Sunday evening Jan. or Feb. - Fr. Jack Baker - Mass in Slow Motion** Fr. Baker is invited to provide a Mass of explanation where he gives an entertaining and informative presentation and celebration of Holy Mass. Feel free to invite others to join this enjoyable evening.

**Saturday, February 27 - Date Night** for married and single couples. Pot luck & BYOB night of friends and fellowship. Options of Euchre, Bunco or other games for large or small groups. Come join us for some downtime adult time.

**Spring 2016 - Living the Resurrection in your family** - It's more than the Easter Bunny - Speaker TBD.

See The Voice for details and more information as dates approach.

Feel free to invite others to these events and enjoy the hospitality of our church. Please consider joining the Evangelization Committee and sharing your ideas for our parish.



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.



**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!



My head is still spinning from last weekend’s events. Giving special notice to a retirement is (hopefully) a once in a lifetime occasion – much like a wedding. I am not used to having the spotlight on me. But I felt nothing but love last weekend – at all the Masses and especially the Noon Mass, plus the wonderful reception afterwards in the social hall. The spirit of St. Gerald Parish was alive!! I felt humbled by all of the attention.

I thank God for insisting that I say “Yes” to a job offer 30 years ago and for the support, love, forgiveness, fortitude, strength, understanding, courage, humility and the sense to judge situations with love rather than with pride. I thank my husband, Chuck, for his support and patience and my children, Jeff and Julie Backus, and Melissa and Keith Beale, for their steadfastness and love and sense of humor. I love them! I thank my family – my mom, Joan FitzGerald, and my dad, Bob FitzGerald (deceased) for their love and counsel. Words cannot express my heartfelt feelings for them. I thank my awesome siblings and their spouses. I thank my in-laws – the Backus Family – for their support and loving example.

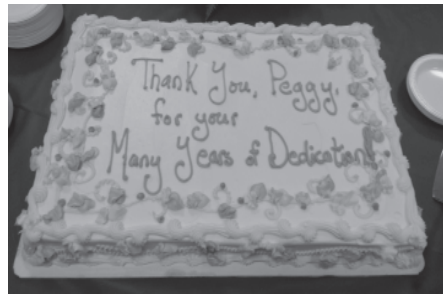
I thank Fr. Decker (deceased), Fr. McEnhill for taking a chance with me and hiring an inexperienced musician, and Fr. Browne for his trust and insight in growing the Evangelization Committee.

Lastly and certainly not least – I thank Fr. Festus Ejimadu for his example of loving kindness and humility and for his forgiveness of my many flaws which turned into a deeper commitment and faith – a priest with a gift of inspired preaching and living in holiness. Thank you for your kind words yesterday, Fr. Festus.

I thank all of the parishioners for their support and involvement throughout the 30 years plus. Without your participation with your time, talent and treasure, the parish would not be a great at it is today. I will miss working with you.

I thank the staff throughout the years, and especially the current staff, for your support and friendship -Mary Taylor, Mary Hoots, Theresa Smith and Laura Meier. I also thank them for organizing such a wonderful reception. I thank Marianne O'Donohue for her part in coordinating the event and reminding me to relax and enjoy the day. I thank the custodians throughout the years for their teamwork in moving ladders, repairing items and other things all with one minute notice. Mark Koss, the current custodian, you are a gem.

I shall remain a member and supporter of the parish, coming to ONE Mass per weekend and occasionally bringing my two little grandchildren. I continue to teach music at two Catholic schools part-time. I shall see you all soon. All Will Be Well with faith in God. Much love, Peggy Backus



**Many came to the reception following the 12 Noon Mass last weekend to wish Peggy and long healthy happy retirement.**



**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
- Timothy Westfall: Pastoral Associate ..... x 202  
Email: timwestfall.sgp@gmail.com
- Mary Hoots, Administrative Assistant..... 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

**Youth Ministry**

- Theresa Smith..... x 203  
Email: stgeraldym@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 Tim Westfall (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.**



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS**

**Thanks to Fr. Festus, Fr. Roodbeen for Their Help in Landing 11 Prospects at Last Sunday's Recruiting Effort**

A Big "Atta Boy" to Membership Director Shatomi Kerbawy for his presentation at last weekend's masses and for his leadership in a recruiting drive that netted 11 solid prospects. Shatomi gave a short but inspiring talk at the tail end of the masses, recounting how membership in the K of C has affected his life. The prospects will be contacted. Fr. Festus, our Chaplain and the celebrant at three of the four weekend masses, gave the Council a solid plug as did the other Sunday celebrant, Fr. Henry Roodbeen who is a member of St. Colette Council. **Thank you, brother Knights.** We had a solid turnout for our Family Communion mass, filling five pews. Knights also filled two of the five usher spots, carried the cross to the altar and presented the gifts. A strong showing and a fine example for the parish.

Members at the Aug. 18 meeting approved a donation of \$200 to aid Chaldean Catholics fleeing the ISIS. One of the attendees at the District 12 summer meeting last month recounted how his brother, a priest, fled his small Syrian village steps ahead of ISIS gunmen intent on capture. The speaker is a member of Council 9154, affiliated with St. George Church in Shelby Twp., a Chaldean parish. The national K of C also is conducting a drive to provide aid to middle eastern Christians fleeing ISIS. It was disclosed at that meeting that the February dinner held the last four years to support pregnancy crisis centers will not take place in 2016. Instead the six area councils were urged to conduct their own drives to assist the centers. **How our Council will do that is being discussed by your officers.**

Brother Larry Swanson has agreed to lead the Food for Families program, an effort emanating from the national K of C. In addition to boosting our local pantries, the program will earn our council a rebate of \$100 in national dues if we collect 1,000 pounds of food and provide 100 man hours collecting and distributing food for the needy. For the most part we already are reaching those goals, but no one is tracking the effort. More details in later articles.

**We again will be cooking pancakes for the parish after the 8:30 and 10:15 AM masses Sept. 27.** Brother Dave Bednarski, the manager for this event, will be circulating a sign up sheet at the Sept. 15 membership meeting. However, be sure to reserve that date now. About 30 Knights are needed from 8 a.m. to Noon to provide a pancake breakfast, the single biggest usage of our manpower during the year.

If you have an e-mail address and are NOT receiving messages from the Council or officers, give Program Director Tom McPhail a call at 248-875-1185 or e-mail to tandamcphail@att.net. If your spouse uses e-mail but you don't, ask her to send us a note with her address so you can keep informed. **Keep in Touch With Your Council, Read the Knights Corner Sunday in The Voice!**

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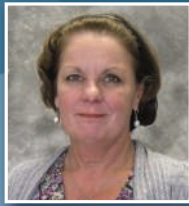
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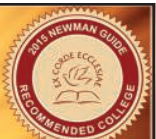
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