



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.**

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME NOVEMBER 8, 2015

Mark Twain had one of his characters say, "Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example." On the other hand, one of the quickest ways to discover other people's value system is to find out who their heroes are. We are less influenced by abstract moral principles than we are by living examples of goodness and compassion.

First reading – 1 Kings 17:10-16

Leaders often make impossible demands of their followers. The prophet Elijah asked a widow to give everything she had to him. But she was rewarded for her sacrifice many times over. People often find the best in themselves when they accept daunting and heroic challenges.

Second reading – Hebrews 9:24-28

There is no sacrilege in calling Jesus "the hero of heroes." He fulfilled the high calling of the true hero – to bring great blessings to his people, although at great cost to himself. His story included his life, his death, and his resurrection. He suffered greatly but was triumphant in the end. This is the pattern of all heroic lives.

Gospel – Mark 12:38-44

In drawing a contrast between types of people, Jesus revealed unlikely heroes. On the one hand there were the scribes who were learned and powerful, but who used their authority for personal gain. On the other hand was the poor widow who only had two cents to put in the alms box. She was the true hero, because of her sacrificial gift.

One of the most important things in life for every person is to be acknowledged, accepted, and appreciated by other people. Some of us need it more than others, but we all need it. Imagine how impoverished life in this world would be if no one ever gave or received an expression of praise. Imagine a concert where people sat in stone silence, never rising to their feet, clapping their hands, or shouting their approval. Imagine athletic arenas filled with fans, but fans as lifeless and silent as a cemetery. A world without applause, without expressed appreciation, would die of boredom, or discouragement, or both. Surely all of us know how good it feels to be complimented or praised. Somewhere, sometime, someone has commended each of us for something. Probably not as often as we would like! Maybe not as often as we deserve. But we all know how it feels to receive a pat on the back. We also know that the worth of the compliment depends to a large degree on its source. The more highly we regard someone, the greater the value we place on his or her praise.

Our Gospel reading focuses on this dimension in Jesus' life. He and his disciples had gone to the temple in Jerusalem. While there, Jesus took a seat near the treasury and watched the people as they put money in the collection box. The amounts varied, of course. Some of the wealthy gave sizeable sums of money. But Jesus seemed not be impressed by these large gifts. He was not contemptuous of them, but neither was he overly impressed. Then a poor woman came by and made the most meager of gifts, dropping two copper coins into the box. Jesus was touched. He was so impressed that he stopped the woman and praised her with a beautiful tribute. He said to his disciples, "Please observe that this poor widow has contributed more to the treasury than all of the others, for they gave out of their abundance, out of their surplus wealth, while she gave all she had to live on."

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**

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 NOVEMBER 9 - NOVEMBER 12



Monday 9:15 AM
Marge LaBuda
Requested by Dolores Nowick

Tuesday 9:15 AM
Christopher Ejimadu
Requested by Brenda Hayes

Wednesday 9:15 AM
Christopher Ejimadu
Requested by D. Petter

Thursday 7:00 PM
John P. Smith
Requested by Monica Harley

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**MONDAY: EZ 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/1 COR 3:9C-11, 16-17/
JN 2:13-22**

TUESDAY: WIS 2:23--3:9/LK 17:7-10

WEDNESDAY: WIS 6:1-11/LK 17:11-19

THURSDAY: WIS 7:22B--8:1/LK 17:20-25

FRIDAY: WIS 13:1-9/LK 17:26-37

SATURDAY: WIS 18:14-16; 19:6-9/LK 18:1-8

**NEXT SUNDAY: DN 12:1-3/HEB 10:11-14, 18/
MK 13:24-32**

Liturgical Publications Inc

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

ADVENT TEA

Please join us on Monday evening, December 7, 2015 at 6 PM in the Social Hall. All are welcome at the Annual St. Gerald Advent Tea.

It has been a St. Gerald tradition for the women of the parish to come together in the season of advent to break bread with a group of their friends. Hostesses provide festive place settings for their table and a dessert to pass; St. Gerald's provides a seasonal program and a light supper with tea and coffee.



You may host a table or come as a single person and we will provide a place for you. The cost is \$11 per person.

Please contact Diane Gerometta at 248-763-3193 or diane.gerometta@aon.com to make your reservations or for any questions.

Tables fill up quickly; reserve your spot early so you are not disappointed!

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.

NOVEMBER 15, 2015 THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 PM November 14 Fr. Roodbeen		
For John F. Fea Requested by Bernadette Fea	Servers	Servers Needed
	Lector/ Ushers	Alice Sheehan 5:00A
8:30 AM November 15 Fr. Festus		
For Fr. Festus Ejimadu Requested by Monica Harley	Servers	Servers Needed
	Lector/ Ushers	Paul Borchert 8:30B
10:15 AM November 15 Fr. Festus		
For Giovanni Rotondo (25th Anniv.) Requested by Josephine Rotondo & Family	Servers	Sofia Mansoor Luke Horsburgh
	Lector/ Ushers	Nancy Stone 10:15A
12:00 Noon November 15 Fr. Festus		
For Irene Fiori Requested by Joan Fiori	Servers	Servers Needed
	Lectors/ Ushers	Maggie Kohler 12:00A

Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks

November 13 and November 14 Team #1 November 20 and November 21 Team #2

Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 10th at 7:00 PM followed by Council Meetings

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Parish Support

Offertory Snapshot

Actual Offertory for Weekend of October 25, 2015	\$ 9,306.00
Budget Offertory for Weekend of October 25, 2015	\$ 9,334.00
Actual Offertory July 1 - October 25, 2015	\$140,237.00
Budget Offertory July 1 - October 25, 2015	\$158,666.00

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

MONTHLY UPDATE FROM ST. ALEXANDER'S FOOD PANTRY

October was a very busy month for us as we served 185 families which was our highest total for the 2015 year thus far.

We are currently registering families for our upcoming Thanksgiving Distribution on November 21st and are checking lists from six other distribution sites to assure that there is no double dipping. Coordinating our efforts with other agencies is critical if we are to provide for all of the families who seek our assistance.

Thank you to all of the individual donors who have provided groceries or monetary support during the month. We are also grateful for the donations from St. Gerald's Parish, Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Fabian, First Presbyterian, St. John Lutheran, North Congregational Church, Nardin Park United Methodist Church, Faith Covenant Church, Starbucks in Downtown Farmington, the Senior Division at the Costick Center and the Farmington Village Co-op.

We recently received a very generous donation of 100 lbs. of popcorn chicken which was delivered to our doors by a St. Gerald parishioner who learned about us from our article in The Voice last month. Another gentleman who found our location totally by accident has been delivering bread and sweets from Costco twice a week for the past month.

St. Alexander's Food Pantry depends upon the community for support if we are to continue our outreach program, so please know how much we appreciate every donation. May God continue to bless each of you for your generosity.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED:



- Juice 64 oz.
- Canned Fruit
- Cookies
- Mac and Cheese
- Saltines
- Canned Chicken/Spam

- Lg. Cans of Soup
- Dish Detergent
- Paper Towels
- Laundry Detergent



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL BUNDLE DAYS

This weekend the St. Vincent de Paul truck is here for your donations! When making your donation, if there are no volunteers there to help you, please place your bag as far back as you can on the truck to allow for other donations. Thank You!



BOOK DRIVE TO BENEFIT JAIL MINISTRY AND OUTREACH

LAST WEEK TO DONATE

The **Education Commission** is again sponsoring a Book Drive to benefit the children of those incarcerated in our correctional facilities as well as the prisoners themselves.

All new books for toddlers to 18 years of age are greatly welcomed and distributed to children who have a parent in jail. These books are distributed to the children of the incarcerated at Christmas.



Jail Ministry and Outreach would welcome copies of The Life Recovery Bible. These bibles are given to the many people who pass through their doors and is the most popular book in the Chaplin's office. Any book that helps in working through grief and anger are particularly beneficial. Care Notes from Abby Press, comic books and magazines that are in good condition are also welcome as well as books on spirituality, theology and world religions. Please note that books staying at the jail need to be soft covered.

If you wish to support this Work of Mercy in a way other than books they can use regular bath size bars of soap in wrappers and stamps! Sr. Peggy, of Jail Ministry and Outreach, tells us that they "also need stamps for Christmas cards. We have had several thousand cards distributed but need the forever stamps."

First and foremost is our outreach to the children! Please consider picking up a book or two and placing your donation in the plastic bin located in the church vestibule or bringing your donation directly to the Education Office before November 15th.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Taylor at 248-476-7677, ext. 201 or taylor.mary04@yahoo.com.

Youth Group News



Now that we have moved onto daylight savings time, can the holidays be far behind? This Sunday night the Youth Group is having game night! We will be playing Human bingo, balloon stomp, apples to apples and many other awesome, and great games! As always, all high school teens, confirmation students, and their friends are invited! We will meet from 6-8 PM.



Great news!!!! St. Gerald Youth Group is having a Roller Skating Party!!! On November 22nd from 5 to 7 PM. The Party is at Bonaventure Family Skating Center in Farmington. Hills We got a great rate, the cost is \$5.00 per person, which will cover skating, skate rental and pizza and pop! We are going to have an epic time!

November 15 from 3-4:30 PM is Karing Kids! We will be playing floor hockey, making turkeys for Ashley Court and eating pumpkin pie or donuts. All 5th through 7th grade kids and their friends are welcome.

This weekend on Saturday the 9th Grade Confirmation students are having their Mass of Enrollment. We pray for them as they continue on their way to Confirmation.

WORSHIP

Tim's Tidbits

During the month of November, as we wind down the Liturgical year, our readings usually focus on the end of time. Traditionally in the month of November the Church focuses on prayer for the dead. We have recently celebrated All Souls' Day and we customarily keep all of November as a month when we remember the dead. I remember, as a child growing up, I would write down a deceased loved one's name in a journal and would pray for that person on a given day of November. I had kept all the prayer cards that one receives at the funeral home and would go through them and make a list for each day. We remember that one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy is to pray for the dead.

We, as Catholic Christians, believe that at the Eucharistic Liturgy we are united to the Heavenly Liturgy. So, in a way, we are united with our loved ones who have gone before us marked with the sign of Faith and sleep in the peace of Christ. At every Liturgy I attend, I always remember my deceased loved ones, especially my parents and grandparents.

We need more Eucharistic Ministers at all the Masses. I would encourage you to think about giving the Body of Christ to your fellow parishioners. No matter what age you are, as long as you are confirmed, you may be a Eucharistic Minister. Training is provided and consists of a two hour session in which we go over some Theology and a practicum. Please email or call me if you are interested at 248-476-7677 Ext 202 or email me at timwestfall.sgp@gmail.com.



I am also looking for interested individuals to form an Art and Environment Committee to plan for the Christmas décor. If you have done so in the past or are new to the parish please consider becoming involved.

If you have an eye for detail or a flair for color, please consider it. If you are into interior design or love to decorate, please contact me. We are looking for new ideas and new people to become involved. Call or email me at the above contact info. Have a good week!

FORMATION



CONFIRMATION CLASS
 SPRING 2016
 MASS OF ENROLLMENT
 Saturday, November 7th
 5:00 PM

Please keep the following Confirmation Candidates, their Sponsors and their families in your prayers. **Grace Bednarski, Luke Braska, David Buckley, Justin Bugeja, Rosemarie Burn-Pavlik, Kenneth Davis, Matthew Dennison, Eleanor Gagner, Isabelle Gerhart, Troy Gieteck, Elaine Girback, James Hanrahan, Davis Harrison, Jaclyn Jose, Jenna Keeney, James Neuhaus, Emily Pace, Grace Pagnucco, Maria Piasentin, Elliot Smith and Matthew Williams.**

FALL SCRIPTURE STUDY – THE GOSPEL OF 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.

Location: **St. Gerald's Church hall**
 Time: Wednesday evenings 7:00 to 8:30PM
 Now thru **November 18, 2015**

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

HOLY HOUR FOR CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Archbishop Allen Vigneron is inviting the faithful of the Archdiocese of Detroit to join him and our brothers and sisters of Eastern Rite Catholic Churches for "Prayers for Christians in the Middle East." Your gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal help make possible this holy hour to entrust the Christians of the Middle East to the prayer and protection of the Holy Mother of God Help of Christians and Queen of Peace. It will be held at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral at 7 PM on Friday, November 20. For more information about CSA-funded ministries, programs, and services, please go to www.AOD.org.

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p>9</p> <p>9:15 am Mass 5:30 pm Elem. Religious Formation Classes 7:00 PM CPR/AED Training 7 PM Evangelization Committee Meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:15 am Mass 9:45 am Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions 5:15 pm Elementary Religious Formation 7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting followed by Commission Meetings</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:15 am Mass 7:00 pm Vicariate Bible Study</p> <p>VETERANS DAY</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 pm Mass</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30 pm Holy Hour 8:00 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Christmas Gift Giving Tags available for pick up Food Pantry Food Donation Bags due back 3:30 pm Confessions 5:00 pm Mass</p>	<p>15</p> <p>33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Christmas Gift Giving Tags available for pick up Food Pantry Donation Bags due back Blood Pressure Screenings after all Masses 8:30 AM Mass 10:15 am Children's Lit. of the Word 10:15 am Mass 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am 7th Grade Religious Formation 12 pm Mass 3 pm Karing Kids 6 pm 8th and 9th Grade Confirmation</p>



St. Gerald keeps a Book of Remembrance in our gathering space during the month of November. We invite you to write the names of your deceased loved ones in this book at any time during the month of November. The deceased listed in the Book of Remembrance are remembered during the Prayers of the Faithful at each of our weekend Masses in November.

We realize that this time following the death of your loved one has been a difficult time for you and your family and we pray that you might find comfort in our Lord and our Blessed Mother, Mary. Please know that you are remembered in the prayers of our Parish community.



Dennis Beiting
Beth McLaughlin
Bill Walker
Robert Sikorski
Ralph Wenski

Wanda Reiner
Corinne Wedge
Wanda Johnson
Robin Kafcas
Bernie Fox

Prayer for Veterans

Heavenly Father,
on this day, help us remember those
who gave of themselves to keep us safe and secure.
Enkindle in our consciences a desire
to serve those who served their country selflessly.
Give us the grace to aid those
who have given aid and protection to us and others
both here and overseas.
Let us never forget the causes for which they fought
or the bravery they showed on the battlefield.
May we be always be mindful of those
who paid the price for our freedom,
just as your Son gave his life
to free us from the bondage of sin.
Amen.



Remember our Veterans
November 11

EVANGELIZATION

SHARING GOD WITH OTHERS

The Evangelization Committee of St. Gerald is committed to our parish community. The aim is to transform our culture and provide conversation about our Catholic faith. It is a call to holiness. Please share the invitation with others.

Mark your calendar for upcoming activities:

Friday, November 20th - 8 to 10 PM Theology on Tap where adults meet to ask questions about faith. We will have a guest to answer questions and share perspectives. BYOB, and a dish to pass. Our first meeting will be held at Frank and Gerryanna Luscri's home at 36778 Kenmore Drive, FarmingtonHills RSVP to luscridfamily@hotmail.com

Wed. Dec. 2nd at 7:00 PM **Advent Speaker**, Sr. Nancy Sylvester, IHM, President of Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue, will speak on "Laudato Si – A Call to Comtemplation"

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

We encourage you to listen to **Ave Maria Radio AM 990**; you'll be surprised at how interesting our faith is. Listen and be informed. It isn't your grandmother's Catholic Church.

EVANGELIZATION THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Evangelizing is the Church's mission. It is not the mission of only a few, but it is mine, yours, and our mission. The apostle Paul exclaimed, "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!" We must all be evangelizers especially with our lives! Paul VI stressed that "evangelizing is . . . the grace and vocation proper to the church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize." Pope Francis



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
SPELLING BEE
Saturday, December 5, 2015
St. Gerald Classrooms**



**11:00 AM
For all Children in Grades 4 - 9**

Level 1 (Grades 4-6) and Level 2 (Grades 7-9)
Winner and runner-ups from each level will advance to
Regional Tournament

Entries must be received by Friday, November 20
Registration form and world lists can be downloaded from the
Parish website.

NOVEMBER
Month of the Holy
Souls in Purgatory

Please help us keep our parish records up-to-date. If you move, have a change of phone number or any other change, please call the Parish Office at 248-477-7470.

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.



Food Drive Set for Nov. 14-15, Still Time to Sign Up for Life-Saving CPR Training

Food for others and kids testing their spelling skill are the focus of the Council's attention in November. In keeping with our Order's first principle – charity – the Council will be presenting \$1,000 in gasoline and food cards to the Parish Council Nov. 10 for distribution by the Christian Service Commission to needy in the parish.

Brothers Shatomi Kerbawy and Michael Rometty have organized a food drive to gather unperishable food from homes in the Atla Loma neighborhood of Farmington over the Nov. 14-15 weekend. This food will be turned over to the parish pantry and to the St. Alexander's food pantry. Members of the current Confirmation class will be joining the Knights and any parishioners who want to help in this pilot project. To volunteer, contact Shatomi at kerbs47@gmail.com or 248-434-7561.

Shatomi and brother Frank Gariepy are also conducting another Spelling Bee this year. All students, grade 4 through grade 9 and from any school, are eligible to participate in the Dec. 5 event. Participants do not need any connection to the Council or the K of C. Registration forms can be downloaded from the parish website. Entries must be received by Nov. 20.

There still are slots open for the two CPR training classes being organized by brother Thom Seabolt and his wife Barbara who leads the parish health ministry. One class is from 7 to 10 PM Monday, Nov. 9; the other on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 9 AM to Noon. The sessions are limited to 12 persons. There is a \$5 fee to cover costs. This is training that any able-bodied adult should have since it is a life-saving skill. Pre-registration with Parish Secretary Mary Hoots (248-477-7470) is required.

If you plan to provide an item to our annual Sweatshirt Drive, the deadline is Nov. 14. Please wrap a team-logoed hooded sweatshirt (Large to X-Large), mark the size on the outside of the box and drop it off at the Knights table in the Social Hall.

Make a note right now that another Family Communion Mass will be Nov. 29. Join your fellow Knights and their families at the 10:15 AM Mass. Send a message to other men of the parish that being a Knight means being a prayerful, family man.

For news about the Michigan and National K of C, go to www.mikofc.org and www.kofc.org

Keep Informed of Council doings; Read The Knights Corner in *The Voice!*

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