



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.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE NOVEMBER 22, 2015

Religious faith is not a matter of abstract principles or even of moral ideals. True faith has to do with power - - with the power that sustains the universe, the power that moves history, the power that gives life, the power that evokes love. God is not a remote being somewhere beyond the starry skies. God is a real and active source of power in our lives.

First reading – Daniel 7:13-14

The Bible talks about God in terms of power. We are so accustomed to hearing God described as the ruler of the universe that we lose sight of the power implied in that lofty title. God has control over all things. God’s commandments are law. God’s will is sovereign. God’s decisions are final.

Second reading – Revelation 1:5-8

We see some measure of the power of Christ by the role that was assigned to him in salvation history. Christ is the one who has conquered death. Christ is the one who has dominion over the earth. Christ is the one who has freed us from sin. Christ is the Almighty One, the unique incarnation of God.

Gospel – John 18:33b-37

Jesus did not establish his power through physical strength or physical cleverness. His power lay in his ability to reveal the truth about us and our universe. He showed us in word and deed that God’s power is at work in our world and that his power can be ours for asking.

Of all of Jesus’ remarkable traits, few are as impressive as his ability to “keep his head” in the most turbulent of situations. His entire public life was a storm center of controversy. People all around him kept losing their heads, and, more often than not, they blamed it on him. Still, he managed to face every challenge with a serenity that defies description. This dimension of his character can be seen most clearly in the last week of his life. In a twenty-four hour period he was betrayed, beaten with a whip, crowned with thorns, ridiculed, and finally crucified.

However, throughout the entire tragic ordeal, he never lost his composure. Others did. His disciples scattered in fear. One of them became so distraught that he took his own life. Another was so fearful that he publicly disavowed any association with Jesus. Caiaphas, the high priest, became so enraged that he tore his own garments. Members of the Sanhedrin lost all sense of dignity and spit in the face of the man who stood before them. Pilate, the Roman governor, became almost frantic in his attempts to remain neutral. And a crowd of ordinary people turned into a blood-thirsty mob, shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

In the midst of all this turbulence stood Jesus. The only composed person in the entire picture was the one who had the most reason to be disturbed. He was the victim of a false arrest. He was deserted by all his friends and left utterly alone. Imagine yourself in such a situation and think how you would feel. He was tried and convicted on trumped-up charges. He was condemned to death by individuals who lacked the authority to carry out the sentence. What a calmness and fearlessness that is almost beyond belief. 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 23 - NOVEMBER 26



Monday 9:15 AM
Mass of Thanksgiving
for favors received

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

Wednesday 9:15 AM
Thank you, St. Jude

Thursday 9:15 AM
Gert Scholten
Requested by Diane Petter

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: DN 1:1-6, 8-20/LK 21:1-4
TUESDAY: DN 2:31-45/LK 21:5-11
WEDNESDAY: DN 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/LK 21:12-19
THURSDAY: DN 6:12-28/LK 21:20-28
FRIDAY: DN 7:2-14/LK 21:29-33
SATURDAY: DN 7:15-27/LK 21:34-36
NEXT SUNDAY: JER 33:14-16/1 THES 3:12--4:2/
LK 21:25-28, 34-36

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..



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!



If you had your picture taken for the Parish Pictorial Directory and never received your directory, please check the social hall this weekend.

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 29, 2015 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 PM November 28 Fr. Festus

For Michael Stec Requested by Milkiewicz Family	Servers	Isabelle Gerhart Eli Gerhart
	Lector/ Ushers	Tim Westfall 5:00A

8:30 AM November 29 Fr. Festus

For Christopher Ejimadu Requested by Rose Pierce	Servers	Need Servers
	Lector/ Ushers	Candy Rosowski 8:30A

10:15 AM November 29 Fr. Festus

For Rose & Stan Galica Requested by Joan & Ken Galica	Servers	Sarah Weber Luke Horsburgh
	Lector/ Ushers	Ray Pisani Angela McLoughlin 10:15C

12:00 Noon November 29 Fr. Roodbeen

For Isabelle Novak Requested by Mary Lou Olschansky	Servers	Fernando Guerra
	Lectors/ Ushers	Chris Greig 12:00A

Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks

<u>November 27 and November 28</u> Team #4	<u>December 4 and December 5</u> Team #6
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FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED:

Juice 64 oz.	Laundry Detergent
Canned Fruit	Kleenex
Cookies	Cereal
Mac and Cheese	Lg. Cans of Soup
Saltines	Canned Chicken/Spam

Offertory Snapshot

Actual Offertory for Weekend of November 8, 2015	\$ 9,617.00
Budget Offertory for Weekend of November 8, 2015	\$ 9,334.00
Actual Offertory July 1 - November 8, 2015	\$159,283.00
Budget Offertory July 1 - November 8, 2015	\$177,334.00

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING TAG WEEKEND

Christmas Tags are available after all the Masses this weekend in the Social Hall. 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 Dec. 12th and 13th. Thank you!

GIFT CERTIFICATES FROM GROCERY STORES NEEDED!

We are accepting food cards from Kroger and Meijer to give help during the holiday and throughout the year. Just drop your donation in the Sunday collection basket or bring to the Christian Service Office. Thanks!

RIGHT TO LIFE/LIFESPAN CHRISTMAS CARDS

Lifespan Christmas cards will be available for purchase after all the Masses this weekend.

FORMATION

Children of the parish in grades **Preschool-6** are invited to participate in the **St. Gerald**

Gospel Enactment of the Christmas Story at the 6:00 Christmas Eve Mass

There will be one rehearsal on Saturday, December 19th at 11:00 AM in the church.

Please contact Mary Taylor by December 7th to sign up, 248 476-7677, ext. 201 or taylor.mary04@yahoo.com.



Youth Group News

With Thanksgiving less than a week away, now is the time to think about what we are grateful for. We need to take time out of our hyper busy schedules, and count our blessings. This accomplishes two things, first it will make you happy and it prepares you for the big question at Thanksgiving dinner!



Sunday night at 5:00 PM is our skating party. We welcome all teens and their friends! We will meet at Bonaventure Skating Rink on Halstead and Grand River, the cost is \$5.00. This gets you in, your skates, and pizza and pop! We are going to have a great time!

Calendar of upcoming events:

December 6 Confirmation Session 5
 December 8 Immaculate Conception Mass at 7 PM
 December 13 Youth Group, and Karing Kids at 3:00 PM for gift sorting ad pizza
 5:30 PM Taize Prayer
 December 20 Confirmation Session 6

WORSHIP

Tim's Tidbits

With the upcoming Advent Season, next weekend you will notice a different processional cross in use. We will utilize this cross for Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time 1 and Lent. We will make a return to the Resurrected Jesus processional cross during the Easter Season and parts of Ordinary Time 2.

There are two events of interest that are coming up. The first is the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service this Monday, November 23rd at 7:30 PM at Trinity in the Woods Episcopal Church, which is located at 26880 La Muera St. in Farmington Hills. People of Faith will come together that evening to give thanks for what God has given to us. It is sponsored by the Farmington Area Interfaith Association. All are welcome!

Sr. Nancy Sylvester, IHM will be with us on Wednesday, December 2 at 7:00 PM to speak on the Pope's encyclical, "Laudato Si." Her talk is entitled, "Laudato Si – a call to contemplation" and will take place in the social hall. You are encouraged to attend.

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!



Please join us for Christmas Caroling on Saturday, December 12 at 2 PM at Ashley Court, located on the Northeast corner of 7 Mile and Farmington Roads in Livonia. More voices are needed! Please contact Theresa Smith at 248-476-7677, ext. 203 for more information.



WE PRAY FOR THE
 REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF
 FRANCES ROGALA

+
 JUNE 30, 1917
 NOVEMBER 13, 2015

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO
 FRANCES O LORD, AND MAY
 PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON HER

THANKSGIVING AND GIVING THANKS

As we look forward to our Thanksgiving weekend, the parish staff would like to “Give Thanks” to the many excellent volunteers who give so generously of their time and talents every week here in our Religious Formation and Worship Programs.

We work closely with many adults, and young adults, who plan, teach, pray and work with the Preschool, Elementary, Middle School and Confirmation Religious Formation Programs as well as the Worship Ministries. We know how impossible our jobs would be without their dedicated commitment to these programs, and we cannot thank them enough. If you know some of these wonderful individuals, please share with them your thankfulness for their work and service to the youth of our parish.

Elementary and Sunday School Catechists and Aides

Michelle Plichota, Tracey Connolly, Marisa Ferrari, Sandi Liwak, Susan Hill, Carol Ferguson, Joyce Kopp, Carolyn Arlen, Shirley Murray, Theresa Smith, Mary Power, Gail Bierschbach, Michelle Ficyk, Kelly DuLong, Steven Koponen, Roman Plichota

Middle School Catechists, Confirmation Catechists and Youth Ministry

Bob Kuhr, Sherry Kuhr, Gerryanna Luscri, Gina Horsburgh, Crystal Flood, Shatomi Kerbawy, Tiffany Genter, Allie Smith and all the Teen Facilitators

Children’s Liturgy of the Word Facilitators

Nancy Gilbert, Katy Baracco, Jennifer Weber, Chris Wiatr and Daniel Cernak.

Education and Worship Ministries

All ushers, greeters, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, altar servers, Worship Commission members, cross bearers, sacristans, decorators, choir members, choir director, Education Commission members, those who assist at fellowship, and those who assist at the Religious Formation Masses. Mary Taylor, Theresa Smith and Tim Westfall

HALF-TON OF FOOD COLLECTED!

The inaugural Neighborhood Food Drive during Nov 14/15 weekend was a success. Led by the St. Gerald Knights of Columbus, forty-eight volunteers of all ages gathered 1,010 pounds of food and paper goods from 425 homes in the Alta Loma neighborhood. All items will go directly to needy local families via the Community Food Pantry at St. Al’s and to the St. Vincent de Paul food closet at the parish. A BIG thank you to all the volunteers who donated their time and energy...and inspired out neighbors in the community (see note of thanks below). Onward and Upward!



Note from a grateful neighbor that was attached to a bag of donated food:

Thank you very much impressive great group of young people - for your participation in such an important cause: providing and encouraging some tangible support to our weary neighborhood community. Keep up your commendable fine work. "In God we Trust"and One for all and all for one."-MRJ

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

This weekend we will have a special collection for Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan. This collection helps thousands in the Archdiocese of Detroit to overcome life challenges through several programs including adoption and foster care, programs for seniors, family counseling, refugee resettlement, Hispanic outreach, All Saints Soup Kitchen, and numerous other services. This organization helps those in need move from dependence to a healthy, self-sustained life . Thank you for your generosity!

ST. GERALD CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS 2015

This Christmas Season the church will once again be decorated with memorial poinsettias in gold metallic pot covers.



Parishioners have the opportunity to remember loved ones who have passed away through donations toward the purchase of these poinsettias and other festive greenery.

Suggested donation this year is \$10.00 per name.

Just fill out this form! Place your form and donation in an envelope marked “Poinsettias” and drop it in the collection basket at weekend Masses or bring it to the Parish Office. If you have more than one name, then just make your list and submit that with your name and phone number. Thank you. A list of the donors and memorial names will appear in the bulletin for our Christmas Edition.

(DEADLINE FOR DONATIONS IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 14)

In Memory of: _____
(Please legibly print name of deceased)

Remembered by: _____
(Your name)

Your phone number: () _____



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
Erin Malloy-Sidaway
Daron Tilburt
Gina Riggi

Wanda Reiner
Corinne Wedge
Wanda Johnson
Robin Kafcas
Bernie Fox
Pat Centers
Sofia Weiland
Frank Adams

JAIL MINISTRY UPDATE

The Education Commission would like to thank everyone who contributed new books, stamps, and toiletries to our Jail Ministry book drive. We were very excited by the response. The long reaching effects of your participation are incalculable. Your kindness will help bring joy to family members of the incarcerated. In addition, your gifts will provide comfort and support to people going through the grieving process associated with having a loved one in prison. Finally, as they leave prison to reenter society, many of the rehabilitated people will take with them the gift of scripture with their own copy of *The Life Recovery Bible*.

As you know, good works increase exponentially, and this was evident in the Jail Ministry drive. Someone from St. Gerald shared information about the project with St. Kenneth Parish. We were blessed with a large cash donation from St. Kenneth which we used to purchase 51 young adult books, a large supply of postage stamps, and 35 copies of *The Life Recovery Bible*. Sr. Peggy from the Chaplain's Office said that bible is the most popular book in her office. It ties the 12 step addiction process to scripture.

**Thanksgiving Day Mass,
November 26th, is at 9:15 AM.
There will be no 7:00 PM Mass**

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:

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 Contemplation"

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

EVANGELIZATION THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Charitable Works and Social Justice Bring Us Closer to Christ

"Additionally, the works of charity and justice as well as the promotion of solidarity, justice, peace and stewardship of creation build up the kingdom of God. Increasingly, we recognize that generosity of spirit and commitment to charity and justice are vehicles to bring people into relationship with Jesus and his church. Social justice and direct service opportunities provide powerful experiences with the person of Jesus, especially for adolescents and young adults. Service, when understood as serving Christ in others and as a means to share the Gospel, has the ability to bring the server and the one being served closer to Christ."

- *U.S. Catholic Bishops*, Disciples Called to Witness: The New Evangelization

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 in the gathering space during Advent. A Free Will donation is not required, but would be appreciated!





Knights' Alta Loma Neighbor Drive Nets More than a Ton of Food for Parish Pantries

Best wishes to all our Knights and their families as we celebrate Thanksgiving later this week. It is a time to be thankful for the blessings we enjoy. And it is time for giving to others, something our members have been doing lately. The latest giving was the food drive last weekend in Farmington's Alta Loma neighborhood, the blocks south of the library, organized by brothers Shatomi Kerbawy and Michael Rometty. Assisted by some of Shatomi's neighbors, some Knights and some members of the St. Gerald confirmation class, 1,010 pounds of food and paper goods were collected for the St. Alexander and St. Gerald pantries. A few days before that Grand Knight Darren Losey presented \$1,000 in food and gas gift cards to Fr. Festus for distribution by the Christian Service Commission in the Thanksgiving baskets given to the needy in the parish area. Our Council has donated similar amounts in the past few years.

You should have received a book of raffle tickets this week from the Michigan K of C for its big annual fund raiser. The raffle is the major source of funds for the many charities supported by the State Council. Our Council benefits as well for every ticket sold because \$1 comes back to our treasury if you remember to note "Council 13673" on the ticket stub. The drawing is in April, 2016.

A bit of a milestone was reached by Michigan Knights last month. The 35th ultrasound machine purchased by the Knights was dedicated at a pregnancy crisis center in Big Rapids. Our Council has been involved in purchasing two machines in the last three years.

Don't forget that next Sunday – Nov. 29 – Council members and their families will pray together at the 10:15 mass. It is a fifth Sunday and by custom a family communion Sunday. Be sure to wear your Council shirt and/or badge.

If any Knight or spouse would like to learn how to bake bread, send Program Director a note at pd13673tomcp@gmail.com Bakers will be asked to provide some loaves at the Christian Service Soup Sale in February. **Keep Informed of Council doings; Read The Knights Corner in *The Voice!***



Grand Knight Darren Losey of St. Gerald's Knights of Columbus presented food and gasoline gift cards to Fr. Festus at the November Parish Council meeting. The \$1,000 in cards will be distributed by the Christian Service Commission to the needy in the parish.

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: 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 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.

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