

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



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The VOICE

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.

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.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 3, 2015

The solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord is one of four feast days celebrated during the short season of Christmas along with Holy Family, Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and Baptism of the Lord. Epiphany Sunday celebrates the universal salvation offered by God through the birth of his Son, Jesus.

The first reading from the prophet Isaiah is taken from the final section of the Book of Isaiah, chapters 56–66. Scholars date the composition of this section of Isaiah sometime soon after the end of the Babylonian Exile, post-538 BC. Today's reading provides some evidence that the prophetic traditions of post-exilic Israel envisioned God's plan to unite all people. It is very likely that Matthew was well aware of this Isaiac prophecy as he told the story of the visit of the Magi, since numerous details align: the "nations" (the Magi from the East) came and gathered around the newborn Jesus; the Magi were "radiant" ("overjoyed") at what they saw; "gold and frankincense" were brought as gifts to the newborn and in praise of the Lord. It is apparent that Matthew saw the prophecies of Isaiah fulfilled in the visit of the Wise Men.

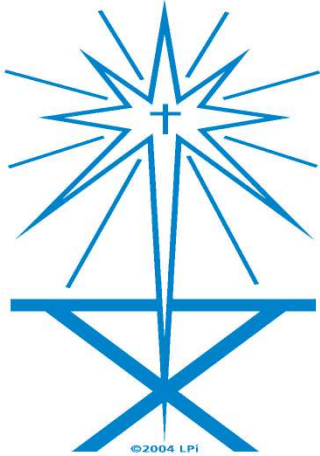
We hear from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians for the second reading. Paul speaks of the mystery "made known to me by revelation." He mentions this "revelation" in other letters as well (see, for example, Col 1:26). Paul's conviction that the Gentiles are "coheirs" and "copartners" with the Jews "in the promise in Christ Jesus" was rooted in his experience of the growth and success of his missionary work with the Gentiles. God's master plan for salvation history was no longer a mystery to Paul: through faith in Jesus, all people were coheirs of God's gift of Jesus. Given the amount of persecution Paul personally experienced in preaching this Gospel message (see 2 Cor 11:23-28), it is obvious that others found Paul's message offensive. Many of Paul's Jewish contemporaries were educated and formed in the religious conviction that one was clean and holy in God's presence by being separated from the Gentiles. Paul defended this apparent new direction for God in the course of salvation history by telling his fellow Jews that this revelation "was not made known to people in other generations" and was, in fact, "given" to him for their "benefit."

The Gospel reading is Matthew's story of the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. In addition to fulfilling prophecy, the story also foreshadowed the contrasting reactions to Jesus and his public ministry: people were either threatened by Jesus or they were attracted to him. On the one hand, there is the reaction of the Jewish leadership in Jerusalem—they rejected Jesus. Rather than rejoice at the prophecies being fulfilled, the religious leaders and "all Jerusalem" were "greatly troubled" by the prospects of the birth of the Messiah. The people and religious leaders in Jerusalem were not open to the gift that God was offering the world. But for others, like the Wise Men from the East, representing the other nations of the world, the news of the birth of the Christ brought them great joy. And so too, the words and deeds of Jesus brought joy to many who experienced him in his public ministry. Many rightly paid "homage" to Jesus in his public ministry like the Magi.

The readings for Epiphany Sunday reveal to us that God's mercy and salvation knows no bounds. This is a challenging message for contemporary believers to be open to God's mysterious plan of salvation.

Dr. Daniel J. Scholz

A Week Ahead



WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS JANUARY 4 - JANUARY 7

Monday 9:15 AM
For All Our Parishioners

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

Wednesday 9:15 AM
Ernest Zawisa
Requested by Friend

Thursday, 7:00 PM
For All Our Parishioners

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: 1 JN 3:22--4:6/PS 2:7-8, 10-12/

MT 4:12-17, 23-25

TUESDAY: 1 JN 4:7-10/PS 72:1-4, 7-8/MK 6:34-44

WEDNESDAY: 1 JN 4:11-18/PS 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/
MK 6:45-52

THURSDAY: 1 JN 4:19--5:4/PS 72:1-2, 14-15, 17/
LK 4:14-22A

FRIDAY: 1 JN 5:5-13/PS 147:12-15, 19-20/
LK 5:12-16

SATURDAY: 1 JN 5:14-21/PS 149:1-6, 9/JN 3:22-30

NEXT SUNDAY: IS 40:1-5, 9-11 OR IS 42:1-4, 6-7/
PS 104:1B-4, 24-25, 27-30/TI 2:11-14; 3:4-7
OR ACTS 10:34-38/LK 3:15-16, 21-22

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

JANUARY 10, 2016 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

5:00 PM January 9 Fr. Roodbeen		
For Betsy Rastello Requested by Diane Nix	Servers	Need Servers
	Lector/ Ushers	Tim Westfall 5:00A
8:30 AM January 10 Fr. Kaiser		
For All Our Parishioners	Servers	Molly Swaine Clarisa Russenberger
	Lector/ Ushers	Yvonne Nemeth 8:30A
10:15 AM January 10 Fr. Medina		
For Mary Ann Yates Requested by Robert Yates	Servers	Emma DuLong Jack DuLong
	Lector/ Ushers	Caron Kott Nancy Stone 10:15B
12:00 Noon January 10 Fr. Morris		
For All Our Parishioners	Servers	Fernando Guerra Angela Guerra
	Lectors/ Ushers	Tim Wardle 12:00A



Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks

January 8 and January 9

January 15 and January 16

Team # 1

Team #2

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.



**All Religious Formation
Classes will resume on
Monday,
January 4, 2016**

Have a Happy New Year!

Parish Support


Offertory Snapshot

Actual Offertory for Weekend of December 14,	\$ 9,387.00
Budget Offertory for Weekend of December 14	\$ 9,334.00
Actual Offertory July 1 - December 14	\$201,302.00
Budget Offertory July 1 - December 14	\$223,998.00

VOCATIONS AND THE CALL TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

Sister Barbara Beesley, IHM, from Marygrove College in Detroit will discuss vocations and her call to Social Justice. Sister Barb says, “Although my fingerprints undoubtedly remain with the FBI, I am saddened to report that my petty crimes of yesteryear no longer exist on record. You’ll just have to trust my honesty and vivid imagination about my exploits.”

Sunday, January 31, 2016
4:00 PM
St. Gerald Parish Social Hall



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK. . .

Wanda Reiner	Kimberly Plonka
Beth McLaughlin	Corinne Wedge
Bill Walker	Wanda Johnson
Robert Sikorski	Robin Kafcas
Ralph Wenski	Bernie Fox
Erin Malloy-Sidaway	Daron Tilburt
Sofia Weiland	Gina Riggi
Frank Adams	Nancy Kolliker
Christopher Gogola	Andy Mosher
Emily Choike	

Food Pantry Items needed:

Tuna Helper	Canned Spam/Canned Chicken
Canned Ham	Spaghetti Sauce
Cookies	Laundry Detergent
Big Cans Soup	Snacks
Dish Detergent	

Place donations in bins located in main entrance of church. Thank you!

PARISH NURSE MINISTRY

The Archdiocese of Detroit is hosting a workshop on Tuesday, January 12, for pastors and parish staff interested in learning more about starting a parish nurse ministry in their parishes. Your gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal support the parish nurse ministry, which is vital in many of our parishes. Parish nurses are registered nurses who provide our faithful with information, services, and support through every phase of life. Their volunteer ministry may include organizing flu shot clinics and cancer support groups to blood drives and health screenings. Highlights of the workshop, to be held at Sacred Heart Major Seminary from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for \$5 a person, include a talk on the value of the parish nurse ministry and its Christian service ministry connection, as well as a witness from a parish nurse and the perspective of a pastor. For more information about CSA-funded programs, services, and ministries, go to www.AOD.org.

Tim’s Tidbits

“Today, we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. We celebrate that the child born in the darkness of night in a lowly manger is revealed as the manifestation (the meaning of epiphany) of God. Christ is revealed in many ways: as King, as the one in whom God is present and acts. All of these manifestations are “lights” that shine on Christ, revealing a deeper understanding of who he is. All the readings for today reveal, in a way, a different manifestation of who Christ is for all who believe. Traditionally, three events in the life of Christ are remembered today as manifestations of God’s presence and action through Christ: the visit of the Magi, the wedding feast of Cana, and the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River.” (Soucebook for 2016)

Let each of us consider and ponder how Christ is present in our lives and daily living, as we journey along our path of faith. And how we can be “Christ” to others whom we encounter along the way.

A day or two ago, the Church celebrated the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. One of the most outstanding characteristics of Mary is her willingness to know and do God’s will. While we would like to follow her example, we wonder how she was so sure of it. The Gospel from that day gives a clue. She reflected on events that happened and were happening. She meditated. Let us take some time out of our busy lives to meditate on how God is acting in our life and in those whom we encounter.

May we all welcome Christ in our life this season.

CORE NIGERIA UPDATE

As Father Festus is preparing to start his mission trip to Nigeria, we would like to thank everyone for their prayers and very generous financial support. St. Gerald Parishioners contributed more than \$18,000, providing Father Festus with the strongest financial position he has ever had to begin his Mission!

We are often asked if Father Festus and his non-profit corporation have a budget. The best answer to this question is that we believe whatever financial support Father receives is the budget God determined was appropriate for his mission. The needs of Father Festus’ Nigerian community are so great – we know that he could never receive enough financial support to address all the hunger, medical and educational needs presented to Father Festus during his Mission and throughout the year.

Thanks again for your contributions and prayers. Father Festus needs both forms of support to effectively carry-out his Mission. Continued prayers and contributions will be greatly appreciated!

As a reminder, all donors who identified themselves via check information or request will receive a tax receipt from CORE Nigeria in early January, recognizing their donation to a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit contributions.



Gift Distribution Day was a HUGE success! Many thanks to these ladies who gave their time to help this holiday season. They are (from left to right): **Susan and Gina Horsburgh, Sharon Zann, Diane Roberts, Janet and Lynne Schulz, Karen Goheen, Maryann O'Donohue, Natalie and Elaine Girbach, Laurel Hoetger, and Pat Hixson (not pictured)**

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE
2ND BANN**

Let us pray for Lauren Vogrin and Jamie Foust as they prepare to be joined in Holy Matrimony at St. Gerald Parish on January 16, 2016



I want to thank our quilters group a thousand times over. We gave a shout for help for the Farmington Nursing Care Facility, for lap robes. These ladies came through with some beautiful creations! Thank you again for your thoughtfulness in this matter! The ladies at the nursing home were thrilled! God Bless you!



We welcome to the
Body of Christ
Samuel Chidubem Ode

baptized Sunday,

December 27, 2015

by Rev. Festus Ejimadu

Samuel is the son of
Eugene Ibekwe Ode

&

Jane Ngozika Ekwueme

Godparents are

**Paulinus Sunday Ngwu and
Esther Amala Iwuoha**

To the Parish Family of St. Gerald:

As Fr. Festus had mentioned a couple weeks ago during the weekend masses, we are trying to update our parish data system and are encouraging registered members to use their contribution envelopes each week when attending Mass. If you contribute electronically, we understand that you do not use parish envelopes, and we will not take you off St. Gerald as a registered member. If you are going through financial difficulties, please put your empty envelope in the collection basket, so we know you are practicing your faith as a parishioner at St. Gerald. Thank you for your cooperation!

EVANGELIZATION

EVANGELIZATION...What's your role?

It is our commitment to act justly, protect human dignity, and to share God's love with others. That is evangelization. That is our role in the community. Share by invitation; if you're here, bring a friend to share it with you.

Mark your calendar for upcoming activities: **2016** (all events held in the Social Hall, unless specified)

Saturday, January 9th 6:30 PM (following 5:00 PM Mass) - **Movie Night** (13+ and adult) We will be showing the film *For Greater Glory* starring Andy Garcia & Eva Longoria. Enjoy pizza, pop and popcorn. Sponsored by St. Gerald Youth Group

Friday, January 15th any time after **7:30 PM - Theology on Tap** (21 & up) at Peterlin's Restaurant 9 Mile & Farmington Rds. Adults gather for friendly discussion of current events and the impact on our lives and spirituality. Need not be Catholic to attend.

Saturday, February 27th @ 8:00 PM - Adult Date Night Couples are invited to attend a night of adult fellowship, games and music. Euchre, charades, and other games are planned. BYOB, and a snack to share. Feel free to bring your own game preference.

Become **RADIO-ACTIVE**: listen to *Ave Maria Radio AM 990*; you'll enjoy learning more about faith and practices. Listen, be informed...and **PASS IT ON!**

If you, or someone you know is interested in joining the Evangelization Committee, please call our parish secretary at 248 -477-7470 for next meeting date.

EVANGELIZATION THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

One of the earliest Christian hymns had a phrase concerning "sleepers who wake from the dark." Christians are people who have awakened from the sleep of inaction and indifference. In Jesus we see what it means to be truly alive. Life is only alive when it is motivated by love. Selfishness is another word for death. Life means other people and it means living for others. We wake up to the needs of our fellow men. We meet these needs because we are thankful. Our need for meaning has been met in Jesus Christ. The only adequate response we can make consists in sharing our joy with others. *Richard Chilson*



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

A few names were submitted for the Poinsettias, however, they were received after the Christmas Bulletin had been printed. Let us also remember:

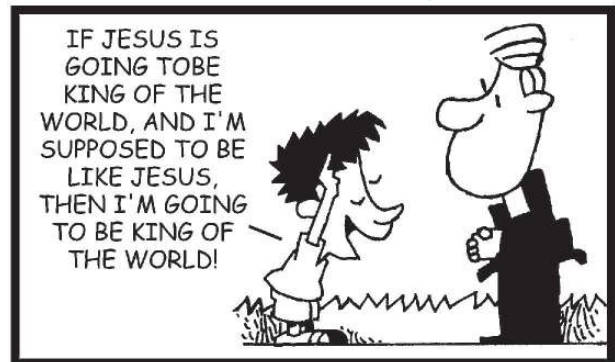
In Memory Of
Irene Fiori
Annie & Augie Mikkola
Giuliano Soave

Remembered By
Joan Fiori
Art & Pam Mikkola & Family
Mafalda Soave



Widowed Friends a "Peer" support group in the Archdiocese of Detroit are inviting all widowed men and women to join us for a special Widowed Mass followed by luncheon and fellowship at St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan, on Sunday, January 17. Check in by 2:15 PM and Mass at 2:30 PM. Come worship together and meet new friends in a safe, friendly, and supportive setting. For more information, please call Gerry at 734-259-5024.

EPIPHANY



Welcome



I am the gate.
Whoever enters through me
will be safe.

My Church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its' pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all of the things that I want my church to be. Amen.



KNIGHTS CORNER

Red Tote Bags are New Twist on Council's Food for Families Program

The Council's Food for Families program will get a boost later this month. At our Jan. 19 membership meeting brother Larry Swanson will pass out a sturdy two-handled tote in the Council colors. Knights who normally donate food items to the parish pantry on Sunday will be asked to put the items in the red tote and bring them to church on Sunday or bring them to a Council meeting. Either way the items will be weighed and recorded.



Larry Swanson with food tote

The purpose behind the bags is to allow the Council to get credit for the donations made by its members under a program pushed by the National K of C. For each 1,000 pounds of food and 100 hours of time the Council earns a \$100 credit on its dues. A successful Food for Families also earns credits for the prestigious Star Council award.

More details on the program will be made available in the next week or two, Swanson said. He noted that St. Gerald Knights have been busy in the Food program for several years. "We supply food cards at Thanksgiving and Christmas, help unload trucks at the St. Al's pantry, donate the net proceeds of our pancake breakfasts to the St. Gerald Pantry and individual Knights bring food to Church," he said. "We also did a food drive in a Farmington neighborhood that provided over 1,000 pounds of food."

Two group winners and four runners up from last month's St. Gerald's Spelling Bee will return to action Jan. 10. They will compete against spellers from other Councils in the metropolitan area at St. Linus Council in Dearborn Hgts.

PGK Rich Smith reports that six seats are available on the Jan. 6 bus to the Fire Keepers casino outside Battle Creek. The bus leaves the Church parking lot at 9 AM and returns around 6 PM. The cost is \$35 which is reduced to a net of \$10 by food and chip chits from the Casino. You can reach Rich at 313-421-0204. January is the time your yearly dues are due. Also this month is our membership meeting on Jan. 24 and a Family Communion Mass at 10 a.m. Jan. 31. **Check out State and National K of C activities at www.mikofc.org**

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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