

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.

First Sunday of Lent



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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.

The VOICE

FIRST SUNDAY

February 14, 2016

OF LENT

The Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Lent is always the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Today we hear Luke's account of the temptation of Christ because we are in Year C. It is fitting at the start of the Lenten journey to reflect upon temptation—those areas in our lives that push us away from God and diminish our relationships with each other.

One of the basic tenets of our Christian faith is that Jesus was like us in all things but sin. This Christological doctrine finds its scriptural grounding in Hebrews 4:15 (“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been similarly tested in every way yet without sin”). Immediately following his baptism in the Jordan, the synoptic Gospel tradition speaks of Jesus' temptations by the devil at the end of his forty days in the desert. When Jesus was most vulnerable—in a state of significant hunger after forty days of eating “nothing”—the devil first tempted him with food: “command this stone to become bread.” Resisting this temptation, Jesus is then offered “power and glory ... if you worship me.” Withstanding the allure to serve someone other than God, Jesus is next offered the chance to prove God's providence to save and protect his Son (“He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you”). With each temptation, Jesus was able to defeat the devil and his temptations by relying on Scripture (Dt 8:3; 6:13, 16). The devil enticed Jesus with all things human: the need for food and sustenance, the attraction to power and praise, and the inclination to question and test God. For this reason, we Christians practice the spiritual exercises of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer during the season of Lent. The exercise of these virtues keeps us close to God and keeps us focused on service to others.

Luke closes his temptation narrative with an intriguing commentary: “When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time.” Within Luke's Gospel, this is likely a foreshadowing to Luke 22:3-4. In Jesus' final days in Jerusalem, Luke tells us: “Then Satan entered into Judas, the one surnamed Iscariot, who was counted among the Twelve, and he went to the chief priests and temple guards to discuss a plan for handing him [Jesus] over to them.” The devil could not succeed with tempting Jesus, but according to Luke, he did return and attempt to defeat Jesus through one of his own.

The first reading is from the Book of Deuteronomy. It is part of a longer speech in which Moses instructs the Israelites on how to celebrate a harvest festival in thanksgiving to God for their entry into the Promised Land. Today's reading offers a succinct summary of the Old Testament storyline from Abraham to Moses, about eight hundred years of biblical history. Moses taught the Israelites to be ever grateful to God for the first fruits of the harvest from the land upon which they were about to occupy. The harvest thanksgiving was an important reminder to Israel for their dependency on God. The lesson became part of Israel's cultic and ethnic identity. And Jesus relied heavily on the teachings from Deuteronomy to resist the devil's temptation. As the journey of Lent begins, the readings for today remind us to rely on both Scripture and tradition to find meaning in the journey. *Dr. Daniel J. Scholz*

A Week Ahead

WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS FEBRUARY 15 - FEBRUARY 18



Monday 9:15 AM

Gertrude and Frank Stralka
Requested by Family

Tuesday 9:15 AM

Beeler Family
Requested by Bill and Joanne Croitori

Wednesday 9:15 AM

Intentions of Jeannette Inamdar
Requested by Family

Thursday 7:00 PM

Ellen and Fred Rumball
Requested by Monica Harley

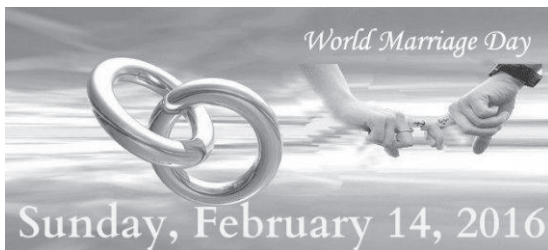
READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: LV 19:1-2, 11-18/PS 19:8-10, 15/MT 25:31-46
 TUESDAY: IS 55:10-11/PS 34:4-7, 16-19/MT 6:7-15
 WEDNESDAY: JON 3:1-10/PS 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/LK 11:29-32
 THURSDAY: EST C:12, 14-16, 23-25/PS 138:1-3, 7-8/MT 7:7-12
 FRIDAY: EZ 18:21-28/PS 130:1-8/MT 5:20-26
 SATURDAY: DT 26:16-19/PS 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/MT 5:43-48
 NEXT SUNDAY: GN 15:5-12, 17-18/PS 27:1, 7-9, 13-14/PHIL
 3:17--4:1 OR 3:20--4:1/LK 9:28B-36

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



**Fraturdays during Lent at 9:15 AM and
 7:00 PM, except for First Friday, March
 4th, following the 9:15 AM Mass**



Offertory Snapshot

Actual Offertory for Weekend of Jan. 31 ... \$ 7,494.00
 Budget Offertory for Weekend of Jan. 31 ... \$ 9,334.00
 Actual Offertory July 1 - Jan. 24 \$260,391.00
 Budget Offertory July 1 - Jan. 24 \$289,325.00

Calendar for the week of parish events on Page 5

FEBRUARY 21, 2016 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

| | | |
|--|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 5:00 PM February 20 Fr. Roodbeen | | |
| For Jean Lopus Requested by Bob & Diane Blankenship | Servers | Servers Needed |
| | Lector/ Ushers | Diane Blankenship 5:00B |
| 8:30 AM February 21 Fr. Festus | | |
| For Bly Family Requested by Bill & Joanne Croitori | Servers | John Smith Gabe Smith |
| | Lector/ Ushers | Paul Borchert 8:30A |
| 10:15 AM February 21 Fr. Festus | | |
| For Iolanda D'Agostino Requested by Josephine Rotondo & Family | Servers | Zachary Morden Ashley Grabinski |
| | Lector/ Ushers | Caron Kott 10:15B |
| 12:00 Noon February 21 Fr. Festus | | |
| For Angie Petro Requested by John Petro | Servers | Fernando Guerra Angie Guerra |
| | Lectors/ Ushers | Tim Wardle 12:00A |

Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks

February 19 and February 20 Team # 6
February 26 and February 27 Team #1

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK...

Wanda Reiner
 Beth McLaughlin
 Bill Walker
 Robin Kafcas
 Daron Tilburt
 Frank Adams
 Andy Mosher
 John MacDougall
 Emily Choike
 Corinne Wedge
 Wanda Johnson
 Ralph Wenski
 Erin Malloy-Sidaway
 Sofia Weiland
 Nancy Kolliker
 Margaret Joyal
 Joan Miele
 Joan M. Preston



Food Pantry Items needed:

Tea Bags 48 ct.
 Tuna/Chicken Helper
 Peanut Butter
 Saltines
 Canned Ham or Chicken
 Pasta
 Cookies
 Baked Beans
 Snacks for children
 Coffee 11 oz.
 Laundry Detergent 50 oz.
 Dish Detergent

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.

Tim's Tidbits

We begin the season of Lent, as you entered the church today you probably noticed the stark environment. Lent calls us to enter the desert of repentance. The Cross is the central symbol of Lent and is our focus. In the Gathering Space we find the Cross, with a pedestal of rock and purple sash on this First Sunday of Lent. As we pass by it, we are reminded of what it symbolizes for us. When you pass by it, feel free to touch it, as you enter or exit the church proper. Let it serve as a reminder to you of the season. This is the Cross which we will use throughout the season and one that we will venerate on Good Friday. Throughout the season of Lent, let our Cross be our guide as we move towards the most sacred time of the Church Year – the Paschal Triduum.

A few years ago, I became acquainted with the Crosier Fathers and Brothers. I served on the staff at a parish ministered by a Crosier Father, a priest friend. I learned about the religious community and their charism. The following is an explanation of their charism taken from their website:

Spirituality of the Cross

An essential element of our charism is expressed in our name, the Order of the Holy Cross. Our spirituality of the cross is rooted in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus (the Paschal Mystery). We recognize that there is much suffering and pain in the world, but we also believe the resurrection of Jesus guarantees that in our suffering and pain there is hope and healing. Because of this, we emphasize the glorious, or triumphant cross.

With Lent, always let our focus be on the glorious, redemptive act, of the triumphant cross. Our focus is always to be on the Resurrection, what we all await and hope for.

Two items to note on our parish calendar are the Soup Suppers. The first one is on Thursday, February 25 from 5:30 to 6:45. It is followed by Mass with Fr. Stephen Rooney presiding. Fr. Rooney will offer an extended Homily about the spirituality of St. Therese of Lisieux. He earned a Licentiate in Rome in Spirituality. His dissertation topic was what he will talk about. Fr. Stephen has served at a number of parishes in the Archdiocese. His recent Pastorates include St. Michael in Monroe, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Temperance and his current assignment of Our Lady on the River in Marine City. Father incardinated into the Archdiocese from the Cistercian Community in Ireland, his native home. He was ordained in 1985 and can speak four languages. He has been in the US since 1986 and became a citizen a few years ago.

The second will be on Thursday, March 10th, from 5:30 to 6:45. It is followed by Mass with Fr. Richard Leliaert, presiding. Fr. Richard will offer an extended Homily on "Covenant". He has a PhD from Berkley, CA in American Religious History and has served on the faculty of Nazareth College in Kalamazoo, Director of Spiritual Support Services at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn and more recently, as Pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in Redford. Father incardinated into the Archdiocese of Detroit from the Crosier Community. He was ordained in 1967. He speaks Spanish fluently.

We invite parishioners and friends to attend these Lenten events. For the soup suppers, I invite you to consider bringing in a crock pot of your favorite recipe of soup to share with our community. It should be enough to serve folks. Please call me to let me know what soup you will bring. You can reach me either by phone at 248-477-7470 ext. 202 or email timwestfall.sgp@gmail.com. We look forward to you sharing your favorite soup with us. I have seen this done in other parishes and thought it would be a good idea to bring to the St. Gerald Parish Family. If you bake bread, feel free to bring a loaf to share. Fresh bread and freshly made soup to feed your body and the Eucharistic Liturgy to feed your soul. Come for the soup and stay for the Mass. You will be refreshed in mind/ spirit and body. Have a prayerful week.

ST. GERALD EASTER FLOWERS

This Easter Season the church will once again be decorated with memorial flowers. Parishioners have the opportunity to remember loved ones who have passed away through donations toward the purchase of these Easter flowers. Suggested donation this year is \$10.00 per name.

Just fill out the form below! Place your form and donation in an envelope marked "Easter Flower Donation" and drop it in the collection basket on Sunday or bring it to the Parish Office.

If you wish to donate to this cause but do not want any memorialization, please submit your donation in an envelope marked "Easter Flower Donation."

A list of the donors and memorial names will appear in the bulletin for our Easter Edition.

IN MEMORY OF:

REMEMBERED BY:

(Please legibly print name of deceased)

(Your name)

YOUR PHONE NUMBER: () _____

(in case we need to verify the spelling of a name)



Please make checks payable to St. Gerald Church

EVANGELIZATION

EVANGELIZATION...is on the MOVE!

Actions of kindness

Speaking truth

Listening thoughtfully

Reading God's Word

Writing notes of love and thankfulness, like Saint Valentine.

How do you actively evangelize? Do others know you are Christian by your LOVE? Make this a Valentine's Year and begin a habit to actively evangelize. Invite others to join you in some of our events throughout the year.

Saturday, February 27th at 8:00 PM - Adult Date Night. Enjoy dinner out first, or order pizza at the church. (your call) Games, fun and music. Euchre, charades, and more. BYOB and a snack to share.

Friday evening, March 4th Theology on Tap at The Italian-American Club of Livonia. Located on 5 Mile east of Haggerty, on the lower club level. Family friendly venue; foosball, bocce and pool table available.

Monday, March 21st at 5:30 PM Mass of Explanation with Fr. Jack Baker. Come enjoy Eucharist celebration with an engaging informative presentation by Fr. Jack. You don't want to miss this.

Good Friday, March 25th at 12:15 PM Stations of the Cross Reenactment. Come for contemplative reflection of Christ's journey to the cross before Liturgy at 1:00 PM.

FIESTA!! Adults and teens will be needed for our Annual Vacation Bible School that will run M-F July 25 to 29. Please notify Mary Taylor if you can help out with planning and preparing or the week of the program. Our theme is Fiesta! Getting fired up about Jesus!

Future Movie Night suggestions and dates will be determined. Contact Gerryanna Luscri with your ideas.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S YEAR!

Consider joining the Evangelization Committee; come share your ideas and input. Call Mary Hoots at 248-477-7470 for information and next meeting date.



YOUTH MINISTRY

YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| February 14 | Farmington Winter Break no Classes |
| February 21 | Karing Kids 3-4:30 PM |
| February 21 | 8 and 9 grade Confirmation |
| February 28 | Retreat for 8 and 9 Grade Confirmation at St Paul of the Cross |

ELECTRONIC DEPOSIT OF DONATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT ST. GERALD. FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH OFFICE.

LENT/SPRING SCRIPTURE STUDY – THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Father David Santoro, O.P., Chaplain at the Blessed Sacrament Monastery in Farmington Hills will lead the study using the Ignatius Bible Study Guide. The study will continue the Gospel of Matthew.



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

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

Dates: **March 2 – May 4, 2016**

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.

2015 St. Gerald Contribution Statement

In an effort to reduce expenses, the 2015 St. Gerald Contribution Statements will not be mailed out. If you need a copy of your contribution statement, please send your request to stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com or call 248-477-7470. The Parish Office is open Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. With a prior request, statements will be available for pick up in the Parish Office during the hours indicated above. Please allow one week to process your request. Thank you!

THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

The Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe illuminates the way for the people of the region by helping Catholic organizations provide affordable shelter and training to seminarians, in addition to providing pastoral care and catechesis. Your donation today helps restore the Church and build the future in the aftermath of Soviet rule. Please be generous to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Visit www.usccb.org/ccee.

RIGHT TO LIFE-LIFESPAN DROP OFF BABY SHOWER

St. Gerald, in cooperation with Right to Life-Lifespan, will be accepting donations of new and gently used baby items, clothes, furniture and maternity clothes on the weekend of March 5 and 6. Your donations may be placed in the playpen located in the social hall that weekend. Monetary donations will also be appreciated.



Don't give up Chocolate this Lent!

Do something life-changing! Sign up for Dynamic Catholic's Best Ever Lent. Each day you'll receive an email with a short video featuring Matthew Kelly. They guide you through the 40 chapters of Matthew's new bestseller *Rediscover Jesus* and share simple ways to bring Jesus into your everyday life. It's free! All you have to do is sign up at: DynamicCatholic.com/Lent.



St. Vincent de Paul, Detroit, has received a 4 Star rating “for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency” from Charity Navigator for the fourth year in a row, which only 9% of rated charities received. A four star rating indicates that an organization “adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way” and “demonstrates to the public that it is worthy of its trust.” To check out a charity with this top-rated evaluator, go to www.charitynavigator.org.

MOMS GROUP

COME JOIN IN ON THE FUN! Please call the Parish Office if you are interested in joining our parish MOMS Group. We are planning to meet as a group very soon. Don't miss out. This group is open to moms of ALL ages. Call the Parish Office at 248-477-7470 and leave your name and contact information and someone will get back with you regarding a meeting date.

Join Us!

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY
 Vatican City, 1 February 2016 (VIS) – The Holy Father's universal prayer intention for February is: “That we may take good care of creation – a gift freely given – cultivating and protecting it for future generations”.

His intention for evangelisation is: “That opportunities may increase for dialogue and encounter between the Christian faith and the peoples of Asia”.

COME, ENCOUNTER CHRIST!

Sunday, February 21, 2016 to

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

7:00 PM-8:30 PM

Our Lady-Sorrows Catholic Church
 23815 Power Rd Farmington, MI 48336

The event features inspirational preaching, live music, Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions. For more information go to aod.org/Encounter



Lent provides us with time to reflect on the temptations we face and remember we rely on God for all things. Through our participation in Operation Rice Bowl, we put our faith into actions and our prayers and alms help people in need around the world. Please take home a Calendar and Rice Bowl for your family and follow the suggested activities during Lent. These supplies are available on the table at the entrance of the church.

A Look ahead into February

| 15 Monday | 16 Tuesday | 17 Wednesday | 18 Thursday | 19 Friday | 20 Saturday | 21 2nd Sunday of Lent |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| 9:15 am Mass MID WINTER BREAK NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES | 9:15 am Mass 9:45 am Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions 7:00 pm K of C Membership Meeting MID WINTER BREAK NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES | 9:15 am Mass 10:00 am Sophia Sisters 7:00 pm Baptism Prep. | 10:30 am SVDP Meeting 7:00 pm Mass | 9:15 am Stations of the Cross 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross 7:30 pm Holy Hour 8:00 pm AA Meeting | 3:30 pm Confessions 5:00 pm Mass | Sunday Fellowship Blood Pressure Screenings after all Masses Food Pantry Donation Bags available for pickup 8:30 am Mass 10:15 am Mass 10:15 am Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am 7th Grade Religious Formation 12:00 pm Mass 3:00 pm Karing Kids 6:00 pm 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation |



Soup Suppers During Lent

February 25- 5:30 PM Soup Supper followed by 7:00 PM Mass with guest president, Fr. Stephen Rooney (Homily topic-The Spirituality of St. Therese of Liseaux)

March 10 - 5:30 PM Soup Supper followed by 7:00 PM Mass with guest president, Fr. Richard Leliaert (Homily topic-Covenant)



Bring a crock pot of soup to share!





KNIGHTS CORNER

New Lightweight Council Jackets Available at Tuesday's Membership Meeting

The new lightweight Council jackets will be available at Tuesday's membership meeting. Perfect for spring and fall, the nylon jackets have a light lining, an inside pocket, two outer pockets and display the Council logo. The cost is \$25. For your jacket, see PGK Bruce Roberts who manages the wearables program. Also available are Council shirts and caps.

If you still owe your 2016 dues, bring a check and contact Treasurer Bob Kuhr. If there is problem with meeting that obligation, discuss the matter with him or Grand Knight Darren Losey, both are understanding men.

Membership Director Shatomi Kerbawy and Program Director Tom McPhail soon will be contacting the 18 brothers who have yet to attain full Knighthood in our order. Participating in the second and third degree ceremonies brings a greater understanding of what it means to be a Knight. Several degree ceremonies will be conducted in area Councils in the weeks ahead. Participation is free, requiring only a few hours of your time. Seven of those brothers have worked on enough projects to earn a free Council apron but do not qualify since they lack the advanced degrees.

Knights are urged to participate in a disaster training class being conducted Feb. 23 by the Farmington Public Safety Department. The class will start at 7 PM in the Social Hall. More details next week.

A tip of the cap to PGK Bob Brown and to Mike and Milbia Rometty who are Knight and Family of the Month for February. Bob is active in the Casino bus project and Mike and Milbia provided valuable help in organizing the Alta Loma neighborhood food drive last November.

Old ham bones never go to waste. The bones from the ham served at last month's pancake breakfast will be the basis of a big pot of split pea soup that Deputy Grand Knight Fred Gerometta will be cooking for the Feb. 25 Parish Soup Supper. He'll be assisted by Trustee Bill Croitori, an experienced peeler and chopper.

Please keep our ailing brothers and their family members in your prayers

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

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.

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