

Second Sunday of Lent

In a world such as ours there seems to be more and more times when life closes in on us, limiting our freedom and darkening our path. Walking through almost any day we find ourselves exposed to all manner of conflicts and threats. Simply living has become a dangerous matter. We pray that in Christ we may see light in the midst of darkness and find hope to go forward.

First reading – Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Abraham was called out of the darkness of idolatry to establish a new people of faith. He had no idea how God would fulfill his promises but he had confidence that God would lead the way. Though he stumbled in the dark, the stars overhead guided him on his way.

Second reading – Philippians 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1

Christians are not left to stumble along through life without a sense of direction and a promise of arrival. We have the companionship and counsel of the heroes of our faith like Paul to show the way. They make straight the path through the darkest night.

Gospel – Luke 9:28b-36

The transfiguration marked a turning point in the public ministry of Jesus. He had suffered the temptations of Satan, the doubts of John the Baptizer, and the anger of critics. But on the mountaintop he was bathed in the light of God's affirmation of his message and mission.

Everyone needs a mountain. Living on a flat plain is mere existence. William Blake wrote: "Great things are done when men and mountains meet." Mountains are inspiring symbols. They cause us to lift our heads and hearts in anticipation of transcendent hopes or promises. Mountains are significant throughout the biblical drama, and especially in the life of Jesus.

The Gospel of Luke records a unique event in the life of Jesus. It is known as the "transfiguration" of our Lord. Both Matthew and Mark use the word "transfigured" in their narratives. It took place on some unnamed mountain, and was witnessed by Peter, James, and John. Jesus had gone up the mountain with the three disciples to pray. Luke's presentation of the story shifts like scenes in a drama. In the first scene, the tired and drawn face of Jesus becomes suddenly radiant. His clothing, probably just a peasant's robe, becomes beautifully white. In the second scene, Moses and Elijah appear and carry on a conversation with Jesus. In the third scene, a cloud overshadows the mountain and God speaks from the cloud saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him." Then the cloud is gone. The heavens are silent. Moses and Elijah are gone. Jesus stands alone, appearing as he did moments before.

This story is told in three of the four Gospels. It was obviously very important to the early church. It was a story with a message. The message was that Jesus had received the stamp of divine approval. His life and death would be the fulfillment of the work God had been doing for centuries, in and through the nation of Israel. The early disciples needed to hear this. And they would need to hear it over and over again. The transfiguration of Christ was an event to which they could return to in their minds. When days were dark and hope was almost gone, they could look back to that day and have their courage renewed. It was an hour of inspiration and vision they could trust. It was a blessed touchstone that could restore their faith and strength. Have a Blessed Week! Fr. Festus



While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." - Lk 9:34-35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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.

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 FEBRUARY 22 - FEBRUARY 25

Monday 9:15 AM

Intentions of Jeannette Inamdar
Requested by Family

Tuesday 9:15 AM

Msgr. Edward Baldwin
Requested by Joe Pavco

Wednesday 9:15 AM

Intentions of Jeannette Inamdar
Requested by Family

Thursday 7:00 PM

Sister Joanne Gibbons
Requested by Tuz Family

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: 1 PT 5:1-4/PS 23:1-6/MT 16:13-19

**TUESDAY: IS 1:10, 16-20/PS 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23/
MT 23:1-12**

**WEDNESDAY: JER 18:18-20/PS 31:5-6, 14-16/
MT 20:17-28**

THURSDAY: JER 17:5-10/PS 1:1-4, 6/LK 16:19-31

**FRIDAY: GN 37:3-4, 12-13A, 17B-28A/PS 105:16-21/
MT 21:33-43, 45-46**

**SATURDAY: MI 7:14-15, 18-20/PS 103:1-4, 9-12/
LK 15:1-3, 11-32**

**NEXT SUNDAY: EX 3:1-8A, 13-15/PS 103:1-4, 6-8, 11/1
COR 10:1-6, 10-12/LK 13:1-9**

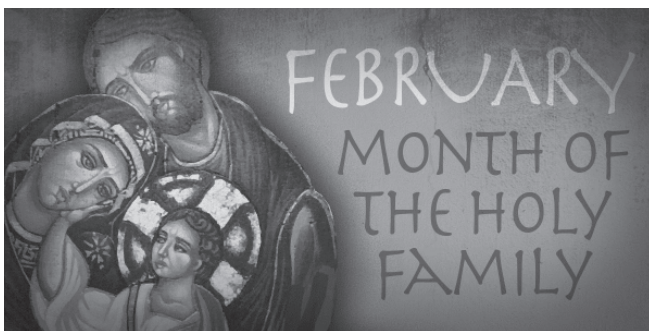
**1ST SCRUTINY: EX 17:3-7/PS 95:1-2, 6-9/ROM 5:1-2, 5-8/
JN 4:5-42 OR 4:5-15, 19B-26, 39A, 40-42**

Liturgical Publications Inc

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



Fr. Festus Fridays during Lent at 9:15 AM and 7:00 PM, except for First Friday, March 4th, following the 9:15 AM Mass



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.

Calendar for the week of parish events on Page 5

FEBRUARY 28, 2016 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00 PM February 27 Fr. Festus		
For Paul Paster Requested by Frank & Mary Ritz	Servers	Servers Needed
	Lector/ Ushers	Tim Westfall 5:00A
8:30 AM February 28 Fr. Festus		
For Aline Merlihan Requested by MaryAnne Crawley	Servers	Servers Needed
	Lector/ Ushers	Candy Rosowski 8:30B
10:15 AM February 28 Fr. Roodbeen		
For Onesta, Antonio, Giuseppe & Neil Morelli Requested by Josephine Rotondo & Family	Servers	Luke Horsburgh Mandy Millaf
	Lector/ Ushers	Mary Power 10:15C
12:00 Noon February 28 Fr. Festus		
For Bernadette Grix Requested by Sharon & Roy Steinbock	Servers	Grace Pagnucco Claire Pagnucco
	Lectors/ Ushers	Fernando Guerra 12:00B

Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks

February 26 and February 27

Team #1

March 4 and March 5

Team #2

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK...



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

UPCOMING FOOD COLLECTION FOR EASTER

Grocery bags with a short shopping list attached will be distributed on the weekends of Feb. 27/28 and March 5/6 by members of the Christian Service Commission. *All grocery bags need to be returned by Sunday, March 13th and should be placed in the Social Hall.* Food collected from this effort will be included in Easter boxes which will be distributed to needy families in the community on March 19th.



Tim's Tidbits

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 Second 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. 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.



We need to focus on a major component of our Liturgies here at St. Gerald. There is an extreme need for Liturgical Ministers in various capacities at all of our Liturgies. A few Lectors are needed to add to the schedule. Eucharistic Ministers are desperately needed, especially at the Sunday Noon Mass. For both of these ministries, it is required that you have received the sacrament of Confirmation. For Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, training will consist of one two hour session. Some theology and a practicum will enable you to minister effectively. If you would like to become a Lector, please email me or call and we can set up a meeting time for a one to one training. If you would like to become a Communion Minister, please contact me as well. Please call me at 248-477-7470 x 202 or email me at timwestfall.sgp@gmail.com.

We invite parishioners and friends to attend our 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 x 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. 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.

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!



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

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

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.

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 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

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.



MONTHLY UPDATE FROM ST. ALEXANDER'S FOOD PANTRY

2016 has arrived, and we have gotten off to a great start by completing the recertification process for 120 families during the month of January. Recertification requires that every family provide the necessary documents to prove their need for food assistance and each of these families has done so in order to continue their eligibility for monthly assistance.

During the month, our volunteers also participated in the Kroger/Gleaners/St. Alexander's Food Pantry project on the weekend of January 9/10. For a total of 14 hours over the two day period, our volunteers collected an amazing 16 grocery carts of food along with \$514.00 in cash which was credited our account at Gleaners.

Donations have continued at a steady pace throughout January (which usually is a slow time), and we are grateful to all those who have responded to our need. In addition to all of the individual donors, we are also most appreciative of Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Fabian, St. Gerald, First Presbyterian, Faith Covenant, St. John Lutheran, Nardin Park United Methodist, North Congregational, Costco, Starbucks of Downtown Farmington, Welding Technology Corporation, the Senior Division at the Costick Center, Heartfelt Harvest and the Detroit Burger Bar and Grand Tavern restaurants who are sponsoring food drives for St. Alexander's Food Pantry during the months of January and February.

Our focus now turns to our Easter Distribution which is scheduled for Saturday, March 19th. During this holy season of Lent, keep in mind that Pope Francis has declared 2016 to be the Year of Mercy. Ministering to the hungry of our community is a wonderful way to show our mercy towards those in need.

**St. Gerald
Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, March 26th,
starting with blessing in church at 11:30 AM.**



Donations of wrapped candy and plastic Easter Eggs filled with wrapped candy are needed in order to make this a successful event.

Please place your donation of Easter Eggs in the plastic bins located in the vestibule of the Church.

First Friday, First Saturday Devotion - First Friday, is a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and First Saturday is a devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In the northwest suburbs we have a 24 hour prayer Vigil, with 24 hours of Eucharistic Adoration. Adoration begins at 10 AM Friday after the 9:15 AM Mass. Evening Mass is at 7 PM with confessions before and after Mass; the Reparation Prayer Vigil begins after the 7 PM Mass. Saturday morning Benediction with Reposition 9 AM followed by Mass for Life at 9:15 AM. All are welcomed. This is every month at St. Gerald.



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.

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

22 Monday	23 Tuesday	24 Wednesday	25 Thursday	26 Friday	27 Saturday	28 3rd Sunday of Lent
8:40 am Rosary	8:40 am Rosary	8:40 am Rosary	5:30 pm Soup Supper	9:15 am Stations of the Cross		Food Pantry Donation Bags available for pickup
9:15 am Mass	9:15 am Mass	9:15 am Mass	Bring a crock pot of soup to share!	7:00 pm Stations of the Cross	3:30 pm Confessions	8:30 am Mass
5:30 pm Elementary Religious Formation Classes	9:45 am Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions			7:30 pm Holy Hour	5:00 pm Mass	10:15 am Mass
	5:15 pm Elementary Religious Formation Classes		6:20 pm Rosary	8:00 pm AA Meeting		10:15 am Children's Liturgy of the Word
	7:00 pm Emergency Preparedness Training		7:00 pm Mass			10:15 am Sunday School
						12:00 pm Mass
						1:15 pm Baptisms

LENT/SPRING 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. 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.



KNIGHTS CORNER

Tuesday's Presentation by Farmington Public Safety Chief to Cover Emergency Situations.

Circle Tuesday, Feb. 23 on your calendar. That is the night of an important presentation at 7 PM to Council members and parish ushers by Director Frank Demers of the Farmington Public Safety Department. The Director will be discussing how to respond to an emergency – natural, personal and otherwise – while we are on the parish grounds. Given the events in recent months in Paris, this will be an interesting evening.

The new Red Bag Food program is off to a good start. However, more Knights need to pick up red bag from either the Knights table in the Social Hall or in the room where the extra tables and chairs are stored. Then fill the bag with nonperishable food items and bring it back to Church on Sunday or on a meeting night. Leave the filled bag in the store room and take another bag home. The food will be weighed and recorded and then put in the St. Gerald pantry.

 Six brother Knights celebrated a birthday this month, Already a year older are PGK Bob Brown, Pat McDonald, Matt Barrett, Patrick Distelrath, Dan Meier and Dan Murphy.--- Congratulations, guys!

Euchre players are in demand. If you are a good enough player to teach the game, give a call to Program Director Tom McPhail (248-875-1185) or GK Daren Losey (248-921-3763). The Council is exploring the possibility of a euchre night with the parish teens. Non teaching players will be welcome as well. Also, a couple of major degree ceremonies are scheduled for next Sunday by councils in Grosse Pt. Park and Westland. If you are one of the 18 lacking those degrees, give a call to Membership Director Shatomi Kerbawy (248-434-7561) and arrange participation.

Make Someone a Lucky Someone by Selling Them at Winning Ticket in the State K of C Charity Raffle

Please help us update our parish data system. We 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!

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:

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 **Accountant**
 Mark Koss 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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