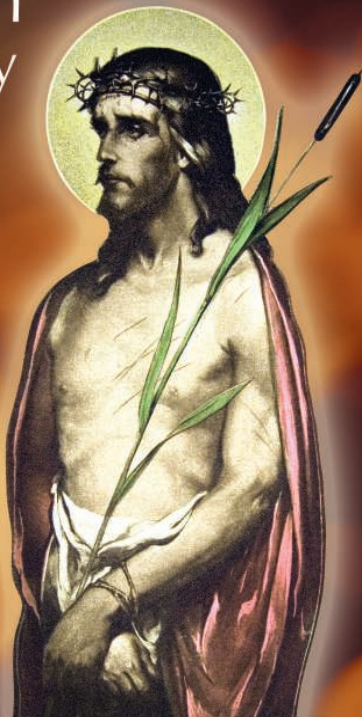


## Fourth Sunday of Lent



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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.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### A LOOK AT SOME OF THE NIGERIAN HEALTH SYSTEM

Every year I share with you the preparations we put together before we begin the medical mission ranging from announcements in the church to committing a Town Crier to disseminate the message. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with all the social media and technology available to us these days, some parts of the world communicate through primitive means. This year was no different. In fact, we have seen that each year, the crowd continues to exceed the previous years. We had over seven hundred patients in attendance as many presented health issues ranging from stiff necks, stiff backs, excruciating pain, diabetes, high levels of cholesterol, strokes to malaria. At one point, the seven doctors were overwhelmed by the swarm of patients as they were trooping in all day. Initially, it was thought that the medical mission would be for one day, but it lasted for three days. What was different this year was the unexpected number of infants and toddlers who presented cases of measles due to an outbreak. Malaria continues to be a deadly health crisis in Nigeria. Malaria is caused by mosquitoes that breed in stagnant waters and warm climates. Due to lack of education and poor hygiene, malaria continues to be unavoidable.

Among other things I did this year was a visit to the so-called Children's Hospital where I went to observe the ignominious care of children. It should be noted that the so called Children's Hospital was nothing to write home about. First, the smell that oozes in the hospital the moment you stepped into it is enough to nauseate your senses. Children lay in their urine, nurses feel like they are doing you a favor for doing their jobs. There is a poor customer service. No one directs you to anything or answers your questions. The hospital rooms have only the bedframe with only a sheet of cloth on top. Of course, patients feel the iron frame as they lay on the bed. If one needed additional cushion, they must bring their own beddings.

While I was there, I was able to meet with a couple of parents whose children were admitted in that hospital. They hopelessly watched their children deteriorate and die because doctors seldom visit the hospital because it is a government hospital. As a government hospital, it does not appropriately compensate doctors which gives them no incentive to care for their patients. As a result, the children become pawns in the system. For these parents who desperately needed assistance, I got permission from the government hospital management to move their children to a private hospital where they could be given an adequate treatment. Within days of transfer, there was a remarkable improvement. The children were able to speak and socialize with their siblings and parents. The parents went from hopelessness to hope. Moving the children from the government hospital was possible because I could pay the fees to transfer them.

Another place of interest for me was a visit to an orphanage. Like the government hospital, most orphanages are dilapidated and lack hygiene suitable for a habitable environment. Because there is no one to claim and care for the children, they are usually dumped and left at the mercy of the orphanage management. Most times it is a sorry sight to see what goes on there. Some of the rooms do not have doors or windows. The children do not have adequate clothing to keep them warm, or keep them from mosquito bites. So, I went and bought some clothes and toys for ten kids. I also gave money to fix two of the rooms so that it could be habitable.

Besides all this, I visited some hospitals in town to pay for the discharge of some patients who have been held against their will. Unlike the United States, there is no Health Insurance and so, one has to pay upfront before treatment, or in cases of emergency, a patient is held until he or she could pay for the cost of treatment. Most times, hospital visits and check-ups are delayed because of lack of funds and distance. The only time these patients go to the hospital is only in emergency situations. I went to four hospitals and released six patients and put a deposit down for some patients whose bills were high with promise to advocate for their release. Unfortunately, I was not able to complete their payment because my resources at that time had exhausted. Through a Nigerian Nun who has been assisting in her own limited way, I pledged to send money to rescue those patients that I have put a down payment on for their release when I return to the United States. Stay tuned for more stories. Have a Blessed Week! Fr. Festus

**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.

# A Week Ahead



**WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS  
 MARCH 7 - MARCH 10**

Monday 9:15 AM

**Mike Scharnweber**

Requested by Sally Bolda

Tuesday 9:15 AM

**Ceserina and Alessio Zanotti**

Requested by Peter Zanotti

Wednesday 9:15 AM

**Thank You for favors received**

Thursday 7:00 PM

**Dobbs, Kemp, Trayer, Robrecht and  
 Donarmen Families**

Requested by C. Koenig

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**MONDAY: IS 65:17-21/PS 30:2, 4-6, 11-13/JN 4:43-54**  
**TUESDAY: EZ 47:1-9, 12/PS 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/JN 5:1-16**  
**WEDNESDAY: IS 49:8-15/PS 145:8-9, 13-14, 17-18/JN 5:17-30**  
**THURSDAY: EX 32:7-14/PS 106:19-23/JN 5:31-47**  
**FRIDAY: WIS 2:1A, 12-22/PS 34:17-21, 23/JN 7:1-2, 10, 25-30**  
**SATURDAY: JER 11:18-20/PS 7:2-3, 9-12/JN 7:40-53**  
**NEXT SUNDAY: IS 43:16-21/PS 126:1-6/PHIL 3:8-14/JN 8:1-11**

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

**Offertory Snapshot**

Actual Offertory for Weekend of February 28	\$ 8,562.00
Budget Offertory for Weekend of February 28	\$ 9,334.00
Actual Offertory July 1 - February 28	\$278,493.00
Budget Offertory July 1 - February 28	\$326,662.00



**Stations of the Cross**  
**Fridays during Lent at**  
**9:15 AM and**  
**7:00 PM**

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.

**March 13, 2016  
 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

5:00 PM March 12 Fr. Festus

For <b>Helen Winiarski</b> Requested by Victor Winiarski	Servers Jackie Hoerner
	Lector/ Ushers Tim Wardle 5:00A

8:30 AM March 13 Fr. Roodbeen

For <b>Nancy Croitori</b> Requested by Bill & Joanne Croitori	Servers Servers Needed
	Lector/ Ushers Yvonne Nemeth 8:30A

10:15 AM March 13 Fr. Festus

For <b>Onesta, Antonio, Neil &amp; Giuseppe Morelli</b> Requested by Lisa Morelli & Family	Servers Grace Pagnucco Ashley Grabinski Claire Pagnucco
	Lector/ Ushers Caron Kott 10:15B

12:00 Noon March 13 Fr. Festus

For <b>Irene Fiori</b> Requested by Joan Fiori	Servers Emma DuLong Jack DuLong Carter Cannon
	Lectors/ Ushers Fernando Guerra 12:00B

**Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks**

**March 11 and March 12**  
 Team #4

**March 18 and March 19**  
 Team #6

**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  
 Mary Ann Alcalan  
 Lorrie Aldrich  
 Joan Miele  
 Joan M. Preston

**UPCOMING FOOD  
 COLLECTION FOR  
 EASTER**

Grocery bags with a short shopping list attached are available for pick up this weekend. *All grocery bags need to be returned by Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup>.



## Tim's Tidbits

Our first soup supper on February 25, found us with 8 different soups and homemade breads and muffins. A *thank you* goes out to all who prepared soups, breads and to those who braved the weather to come out! A special treat was the variety of breads brought over by the **Sunflour Bakehaus** in Downtown Farmington. Thank you for your donation!. And Fred's secret recipe split pea soup! The next **Soup Supper** is on **Thursday, March 10th**, from 5:30 to 6:45. It is followed by Mass at 7:00 PM with Fr. Richard Leliaert, presiding. Fr. Richard will offer an extended Homily on "Covenant". Please join us!

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 x 202 or email [timwestfall.sgp@gmail.com](mailto:timwestfall.sgp@gmail.com). We look forward to you sharing your favorite soup with us. 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.

**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, at the above.

Two Lenten events coming up are "*An Afternoon of Praise and Worship*" at St. Edith Church on Newburgh and Five Mile. It is this Sunday, March 6 at 4:00 PM. And, Theodore DuBois' "*The Seven Last Words of Christ*." That is taking place on Sunday, March 13 at 7:00 PM at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Redford at West Chicago and Inkster Rds. Have a prayerful week.

### CHURCH GROUNDS:

#### CLEAN-UP, GARDENING AND MAINTENANCE

Many hands make lighter the load.  
Consider helping...in one way or another.



Donations of yard waste bags, and occasional work time is needed to help maintain our church grounds and garden areas. Please drop off bag donations in the large box in our social hall. And, consider adopting a small garden area to help maintain.

Check out the plot board for areas that still need a volunteer.



## FAMILY MASS MARCH 13TH FEAST OF ST. GERALD OF MAYO

The Tuesday Religious Formation classes are sponsoring a Family Mass next Sunday to celebrate the Feast of St. Gerald of Mayo at the 12:00 PM Mass. Children have written the Prayers of the Faithful which will be read by a representative of each class. Children have also been selected to serve in the ministry of greeter, gift bearer and ushers. All parishioners are invited to come and bring their families.

Everyone in the family is asked to bring a non-perishable food item, gift card or paper product to Mass, which will be brought to the altar during the presentation of the gifts and donated to our Food Pantry. There will be no Sunday School classes or Children's Liturgy during the 10:15 Mass on March 13th.



**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.

**We need Easter Egg Donations!**



### 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:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE LEGIBLY PRINT NAME OF DECEASED)

**REMEMBERED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(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

Lent is about Forgiveness, Redemption and Renewal;  
of our spirit in relationship with Christ, and others.

A question to reflect on ..

*Do I focus on things that pull me away from Christ?*

*...from my family? ...from being the best version of myself?*

Join us for a **LENTEN DAY RETREAT**  
**Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 5:00 PM**

*~ refreshment donations provided ~*

**Connect, confirm and renew your spirit of believing in God, and yourself.**

Reconfirm your faith with "The Best Way to Live" by Matthew Kelly.

Come enjoy prayerful reflection, discussion and activities designed to improve our role and relationship with Jesus Christ.

Invite friends and family to be part of this day retreat.

It will prove to be enlightening for all.

RSVP's encouraged but not mandatory

Call Tim Westfall at 248-476-7677, ext. 202 for details and questions.

**Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 PM ~ Mass of Explanation with Fr. Jack Baker**

*Come enjoy the celebration of Mass while you learn about Catholic practices and principles.*

**Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM ~ Good Friday ~ Living Stations of the Cross**

Reflection and prayer of Christ's powerful journey and crucifixion.

Good Friday Liturgy begins at 1:15 PM

Our Game Night was a success! Over 20 people came to play a variety of games (Catch Phrase, Word on the Street, Pinochle, Taboo and more) and had lots of snacks to share. We plan to meet on the first Saturday of even months (April 2, June 4, August 6, & Oct. 1). So mark your calendars for "Every-Even Game Night".

A look ahead: We're looking for volunteers to promote St. Gerald Church and services at the Founder's Festival. Thurs-Sat. July 14, 15, 16. Call Gerryanna at 248-477-5098.

Share your ideas for events and functions with our Evangelization Chairperson at 248-477-5098. Or consider joining the Evangelization Committee, we meet the first Monday of each month. Stop by and share your input.

See YOU at church!

## 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!



Please place your donations in the boxes located at the entrance of the church. Thank you!

Tea Bags 48 ct.  
Tuna or 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



The Catholic Relief Services Collection works at home and abroad to give aid to struggling, poor, and underrepresented families. The six worldwide organizations supported by the collection provide humanitarian aid, pastoral support, and disaster relief to our suffering brothers and sisters around the globe. This collection offers an opportunity for each of us to help Jesus in disguise. Please give generously to The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Thank you!

**We welcome to the Body of Christ**

*Haven Perez*

*Leila Perez*

*Max William Loyer*

*Asher Michael Shrake*




*baptized Sunday,*

*February 28, 2016*

*by Rev. Festus Ejimadu*



*A Look ahead*

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<b>7</b> 8:40 am Rosary 9:15 am Mass  5:30 pm Elementary Religious Formation Classes  7:00 pm Evangelization Committee Mtg.	<b>8</b> 8:40 am Rosary 9:15 am Mass 9:45 am Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions 5:15 pm Elementary Religious Formation Classes 7:00 pm Parish Council Mtg. 8:30 pm Commission Mtgs.	<b>9</b> K of C Casino Bus Trip  8:40 am Rosary 9:15 am Mass 7:00 pm Vicariate Bible Study  	<b>10</b>  5:30 pm Soup Supper  7:00 pm Mass with Fr. Richard Leliaert  	<b>11</b> 9:15 am Stations of the Cross 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross 7:30 pm Holy Hour 8:00 pm AA Meeting  	<b>12</b> Return Food Pantry Donation Bags  10:00 am Funeral Mass (Diane Czarnomski)  3:30 pm Confessions  5:00 pm Mass	<b>13</b> 5th Sunday of Lent Return Food Pantry Donation Bags Fellowship Sunday 8:30 am Mass 10:15 am Mass 12:00 pm Family Mass 1:30 pm Lenten Talk "The Best Way to Live" 6:00 pm Youth Group

**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

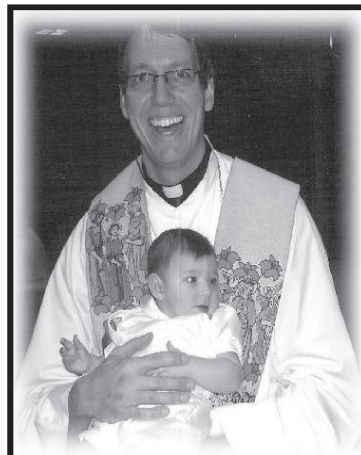
Dates: **March 2 – May 4, 2016**

**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.

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE  
 OF  
 THE SOULS OF  
 DOUGLAS JOHN ANTISHIN  
 +  
 AUGUST 24, 1962  
 FEBRUARY 28, 2016  
 HAROLD BARR  
 +  
 MARCH 31, 1918  
 FEBRUARY 26, 2016  
 DIANE CZARNOMSKI  
 +  
 MARCH 1, 1949  
 FEBRUARY 25, 2016



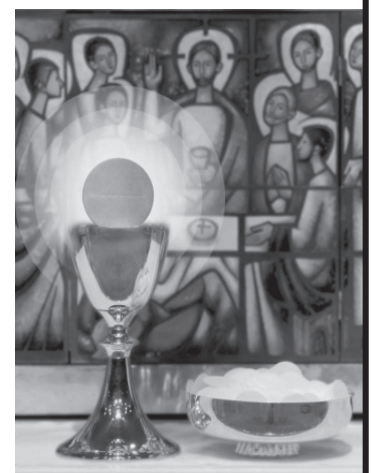
ETERNAL REST GRANT  
 UNTO DOUGLAS,  
 HAROLD AND DIANE  
 O LORD,  
 AND MAY PERPETUAL  
 LIGHT  
 SHINE UPON THEM



**Mass of Explanation**  
*Fr. Jack Baker will “walk us through” the ritual prayers and actions of the Eucharist to examine why we do what we do at Mass.*

**St. Gerald Church**  
**Monday**  
**March 21, 2016**  
**5:30 PM**

**All children in elementary, middle school and confirmation classes are expected to attend this celebration of the Mass in addition to their regularly scheduled class**





**KNIGHTS CORNER**

**Parish Picnic Moved to June 5, Corn Toss Tourney Needs Manager**

Council members meet next on the third Tuesday of the month – March 15. Among the issues to be discussed is finding an event manager for the corn toss tournament that is being planned as part of the parish picnic. The picnic, originally scheduled for May 22, has been moved to Sunday, June 5 when good weather is more likely. Early discussions about the corn toss tournament focused on it being a team event open to men of the parish. An event manager is needed to organize the tournament. More details from Program Director, Tom McPhail (248-875-1185).

Also up for discussion is a Council sponsored trip to a Detroit Tiger game. PGK Rich Smith, who is organizing the night, expects that better seats and a smaller bus than last year will be available. Last year, we discovered that “mezzanine seats” was the baseball club’s term for nose-bleed seats. If interested, give Rich a call at 313-421-0204.

With spring just around the corner, the new, lightweight nylon Council jacket is the perfect fit at \$25. It has a light fleece lining to ward off those night chills and a roomy inside pocket, perfect for your phone or wallet. See PGK Bruce Roberts to purchase yours. A major degree night is planned for Monday, May 9 at nearby Our Lady of Sorrows, home of the St. Francis Council. Our Council has 18 members who lack their second and third degrees, meaning that they have not reached full knighthood. There is no cost other than a couple hours of your time while you learn more about our order and what it means to be a Knight of Columbus. Membership Director Shatomi Kerbawy will arrange your participation. Call him at 248-434-7561.

Next month is April, a time when the Council will be nominating officers who will lead us in the 2016-17 fraternal year. Under a schedule adopted last year, nominations will open at the April 19 membership meeting and the elections held at the May 17 meeting. To be eligible, you must be in good standing and hold a third degree. Candidates can nominate themselves or have a fellow member do it. All terms, except that of the single trustee position, are for one year starting July 1.

Keep Aware of our Council’s News, Read the Knights Corner in The Voice Sundays

**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**

- Candy Desjarlais: Christian Service Coordinator ..... x 204  
Email: desjarlais.candy@gmail.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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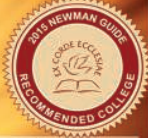
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