

FIFTH 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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 13, 2016

Before I go further to share my musings, let me reiterate what I have said before regarding Nigeria. Nigeria is by no means a poor country when you put her side by side to other third world nations. In fact, Nigeria is the richest country in the continent of Africa. She is strangled not by poverty but by corruption. The wealth of Nigeria is concentrated in the hands of a few in power, leaving the masses to live in abject poverty. Even in a democracy, one does not dare to speak truth to power; otherwise, one will face a violent fate. For this reason, the masses are suffering in silence.

The events that took place while I was in Nigeria, as far as my mission, were exhausting and exciting. Last week I narrated a series of interventions that came about due to your financial support. While the medical mission was the main focus, we conducted assistance with the Soup Kitchen. From the time of my arrival to departure, warm meals were served to those who had not eaten in days and those who had not eaten any nutritious meals for a long time. There was a make-shift kitchen that served this purpose since the inception of this mission. Although, the kitchen was not in the best structure due to age and lack of maintenance, it was spruced up and cleaned out ready for the crowd. We served food for four days each week and offered uncooked food to large families who couldn't eat at the Soup Kitchen for the sake of shame, and those who wanted to have enough to save for another meal. I noticed that some parents would send their children to bring back food for the family because of shame of being labelled lazy and jobless. While we noticed what was going on, we served anyone who came to the Kitchen. The favorite and predominant foods in Nigeria are rice, beans and a native food; garri. Garri is a byproduct of Cassava. Before inflation, it used to be inexpensive and everybody could afford it, but these days, the inflation rate has made every commodity in Nigeria out of the reach of the ordinary person. Rice and beans on the other hand, while it has been the food of the well-to-do, with inflation, it has continued to be extremely expensive. The poor eat it once in a great while, especially on occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas and Easter. Those who eat rice and beans often are considered well off. Perhaps you can appreciate why people come to the Soup Kitchen for some of these delicatessens.

During this trip, I visited some elementary schools where I observed with dismay the condition of a lot of schools. Most schools are government owned. Like the hospitals that I reported about last week, the state of the school system in Nigeria is dismal. Some of the classrooms are infested with rodents and roaches, and many do not have doors. There are no school supplies of any kind. It is strictly up to the parents of the students to provide for the education of their children. Teachers who complain about lack of salary barely come to school, and when they do, they depend on the students to provide teacher's aide. The laissez-faire attitude of teachers is evident in the truancy and tardiness of students. As you walk into any of the classrooms, one cannot but notice uneven floors, walls with structural damage, students sitting on the floor, and some without writing materials like pens and books. School uniforms become dingy in a matter of days of first being washed because of dust and dirt.

With your assistance, I provided one school with twenty desks, paid for the flooring of the two classrooms and bought school supplies for one classroom. My visit was so unannounced that it surprised teachers and the principal of the one school. Because of this gesture, the Principal gathered the students and teachers to thank me by singing the Nigerian National anthem, and asked me to pray for Nigeria and its leaders. In return, I told them that the gesture was made possible in part by the good people of my parish in the United States.

(Article Continued on Page 4)

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 14 - MARCH 18**



Monday 9:15 AM
Dobbs, Kemp, Trayer, Robrecht and Donarmen Families
 Requested by C. Kemp

Tuesday 9:15 AM
Maureen K. Griffin
 Requested by Family

Wednesday 9:15 AM
Margaret LaBuda (1st Anniv.)
 Requested by Dolores Nowicki

Thursday 7:00 PM
Sr. Joann Gibbons
 Requested by Betty Tuz

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: DN 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 OR 13:41C-62/PS 23:1-6/JN 8:12-20
TUESDAY: NM 21:4-9/PS 102:2-3, 16-21/JN 8:21-30
WEDNESDAY: DN 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/DN 3:52-56/JN 8:31-42
THURSDAY: GN 17:3-9/PS 105:4-9/JN 8:51-59
FRIDAY: JER 20:10-13/PS 18:2-7/JN 10:31-42
SATURDAY: 2 SM 7:4-5A, 12-14A, 16/PS 89:2-5, 27, 29/ROM 4:13, 16-18, 22/MT 1:16, 18-21, 24A OR LK 2:41-51A
NEXT SUNDAY: LK 19:28-40/IS 50:4-7/PS 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24/PHIL 2:6-11/LK 22:14--23:56 OR 23:1-49
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 (For a list of daily readings: go to <http://www.usccb.org/nab>)



**St. Gerald Parish
 Communal Penance Service
 with the opportunity
 for individual confession and absolution
 Monday, March 21 at
 7:00 PM**



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



**March 20, 2016
 PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S
 PASSION**

5:00 PM March 19 Fr. Roodbeen		
For Wilda McAskin Requested by Bob & Diane Blankenship	Servers	Servers Needed
	Lector/ Ushers	Diane Blankenship Tim Westfall 5:00B
8:30 AM March 20 Fr. Festus		
For Joseph Westfall Requested by Tim Westfall	Servers	John Smith Gabe Smith
	Lector/ Ushers	Paul Borchert Ray Pisani 8:30B
10:15 AM March 20 Fr. Festus		
For Alessandra, Michael, Maria, Nik & Giovanni Rotondo Requested by Josephine Rotondo & Family	Servers	Luke Horsburgh
	Lector/ Ushers	Nancy Stone Angela McLoughlin 10:15C
12:00 Noon March 20 Fr. Festus		
For Leonora Valente Requested by Cosimo Valente & Family	Servers	Fernando Guerra Angie Guerra
	Lectors/ Ushers	Christine Greig Paul Radzilowski 12:00A

Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks

<u>March 18 & 19</u>	<u>March 20 & 21</u>	<u>March 24</u>
Team #6	Team #1	Team #2



**BEGINS SUNDAY,
 MARCH 13TH. DON'T
 FORGET TO TURN YOUR
 CLOCKS UP ONE HOUR!**

Offertory Snapshot

Actual Offertory for Weekend of March 6	\$ 10,433.00
Budget Offertory for Weekend of March 6	\$ 9,334.00
Actual Offertory July 1 - March 6	\$288,926.00
Budget Offertory July 1 - March 6	\$335,996.00

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

We are excited to provide funeral luncheons here at St. Gerald. However many hands are needed to provide these services to our parishioners. If you would like to volunteer a couple hours to help with serving and clean up when there are funeral luncheons please call Christian service at 248-476-7677 ext. 204 and leave a message with your name and phone number and I will return your call. Thank you.

St. Gerald is forming a group to participate in the Crop Walk on April 1st here in our area. The Crop Walk is an organization where different ages, races and faiths come together to walk and raise funds to help end world hunger. They have an impact locally and globally. Their website is crophungerwalk.org. More information will be provided in the voice soon.

FORMATION

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.

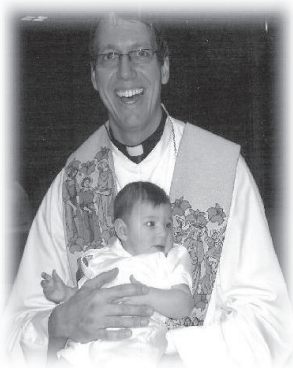
YOUTH MINISTRY

Our 9th grade confirmation students are winding up their program and can see the finish line for their Confirmation. I ask that you join me in praying for them. Pray that their faith is strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit which they will receive when the Bishop makes the sign of the cross on their forehead. Confirmation Mass is April 16, 2016 at the 5:00 PM mass. Please keep them in your prayers.

Tonight youth group is meeting at Zap Zone for lazer tag!!! We will meet at 6:30-8:15 PM. The cost is \$8.00, and that covers pizza, dessert, and 2 games of lazer tag! Join us and bring a friend!

Calendar for March:

- March 13: Family Mass @ noon
- March 13: Youth Group to Meet at Zap Zone @ 6:30 PM –8:15 PM
- March 20: Practice for Stations of the Cross @ 5:00 PM
- March 20: Confirmation 6:00pm-8:00 PM
- March 21: Mass with Explanation @ 5:30 PM
- March 25: Confirmation candidates @ Stations of the Cross @ 12:30 PM
- March 27: Happy Easter!!!!!!!



**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.

ALL ARE WELCOME !

**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.



HEALING SERVICE

Emmanuel Healing Ministry invites you to come to a Healing Service on Thursday, March 17th, at the National Shrine of the Little Flower from 7-9 PM. Confessions will be available at 6:20 PM Mass with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be offered followed by the opportunity to be prayed over for *any* intention. Fr. Alex Kratz will preside. Call Margaret Williams (248) 477-0767 for information.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK...

Wanda Reiner
Beth McLaughlin
Bill Walker
Robin Kafkas
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

2015 ST. GERALD CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

If you need a copy of your contribution statement, please send your request to stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com or call 248-477-7470. Thank you!

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.

(Fr. Festus' article continued from front page of bulletin)

While I am still on the subject of schools, I visited a Catholic University whose facility was a lot better than most government schools but not without its own challenges. There was a visible difference on the façade of the campus. The grass was manicured; bushes and trees trimmed, but the external optics did not reflect the internal experience. School tuition by the Nigerian standard was expensive and most parents could not afford it. A lot of promising students were sent home for tuition delinquency. Teachers in this Catholic University complained they had not been paid their salaries for five months because students had not paid their tuition. Again, because of limited resources, I offered to pay tuition for five students. These students were selected as the president of the school shared stories of struggling parents who want the best for their children. More stories to come!

Have a Blessed Week! Fr. Festus



Food Pantry Needs

Tea Bags 48 ct.
Canned Ham, Chicken or Spam
Pasta/Pasta Sauce
Baked Beans
Canned Vegetables (except green beans)
Dish Detergent
Tuna Fish
Snacks for children
Sugar - 1 lb.

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

FOOD COLLECTION FOR EASTER

Grocery bags *need to be returned by Sunday, March 13th and should be placed in the Social Hall.* Food collected will be included in Easter boxes which will be distributed to needy families in the community on March 19th.

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. Due by March 21st.

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

COME CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

When you are looking for Mass Times or other special events at St. Gerald, please visit our website at www.stgeraldparish.org

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 13th 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 21st 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 25th 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.

A look ahead

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
14 8:40 am Rosary 9:15 am Mass 5:30 pm Elementary Religious Formation Classes	15 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 K of C Membership Meeting	16 8:40 am Rosary 9:15 am Mass 10:00 am Sophia Sisters 7:00 pm Vicariate Bible Study 	17 10:30 am SVDP Meeting 7:00 pm Mass 	18 9:15 am Stations of the Cross 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross 7:30 pm Holy Hour 8:00 pm AA Meeting 	19 Distribute Easter Food 3:30 pm Confessions 5:00 pm Mass	20 Palm Sunday 8:30 am Mass 10:15 am Mass 10:15 am Children's Lit. of the Word 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am 7th grade Religious Formation 12:00 pm Mass 6:00 pm 8th and 8th grade Confirmation


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.

**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.

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

Holy Week Schedule

March 24 - Holy Thursday
 Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7 PM
 Night Watch
 At the Garden of Repose from 8:30 PM until
 Night Prayer at 10:30 PM

March 25 - Good Friday
 Stations of the Cross at 12:30 PM
 Good Friday Services at 1:15 PM
 3:00 - 5:00 PM Private Veneration of the Cross

March 26 - Holy Saturday
 Morning Prayer with Blessing of Easter Baskets and Easter Foods at 10:30 AM
 NO 3:30 PM CONFESSIONS OR 5 PM MASS
 Easter Egg Hunt beginning with Prayer and Blessing of Butter Lambs and Bread in church at 11:30 AM

March 26- The Easter Vigil
 Celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord
 Saturday 8:30 PM

**March 27
 Easter Sunday
 The Resurrection of
 Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**
 Masses: 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM, 12 Noon





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).

Anyone interested in going to a Tiger game this year call Rich Smith PGK at 248-747-6817. We have been thinking of going in smaller groups and also having dinner at one of the downtown restaurants. Some of the restaurants will shuttle us to and from the game to our car.

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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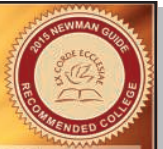
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