

THE VOICE

DECEMBER 16, 2018

ST. GERALD

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
A Servant Church Of
The Archdiocese of Detroit

21300 Farmington Road
Farmington, Michigan 48336

Phone: 248-477-7470

Fax: 248-477-3878

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.
and 12:00 Noon

WEEKDAYS

Monday, Tuesday, Friday:
9:15 a.m.
Thursday Evening: 7:00 p.m.

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.



3rd SUNDAY of Advent

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming." - Lk 3:16a

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

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

“Where are all the Christmas decorations?” “I really like all of the lights and trees and how pretty the church usually looks at this time of the year”. Not yet, slow down, we have just begun Advent a time of preparation. A time to prepare our hearts and souls to welcome the Christ child. Maranatha, come Lord. Are you ready to welcome Him? Don’t do all of your decorating on the outside, start within yourself. Take these few weeks to look back over the past year, what have you done differently spiritually? If Jesus knocked on your door today, are you ready to let Him in?

MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 21



Monday 9:15 AM
Eloise Thibodeau
 Requested by Brenda Hayes

Tuesday 9:15 AM
Phyllis Albis
 Requested by Taylor Family

Wednesday - No Mass

Thursday 7:00 PM
For All Our Parishioners

Friday 9:15 AM
**Dobbs, Kemp, Trayer,
 Robrecht and Goderman Families**
 Requested by C. Kemp

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: GN 49:2, 8-10/PS 72:1-2, 3-4AB, 7-8, 17
 [CF. 7]/MT 1:1-17

TUESDAY: JER 23:5-8/PS 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19
 [CF. 7]/MT 1:18-25

WEDNESDAY: JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A/PS 71:3-4A, 5-6AB, 16-17 [CF. 8]/LK 1:5-25

THURSDAY: IS 7:10-14/PS 24:1-2, 3-4AB, 5-6
 [CF. 7C AND 10B]/LK 1:26-38

FRIDAY: SG 2:8-14 OR ZEP 3:14-18A/PS 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1A; 3A]/LK 1:39-45

SATURDAY: 1 SM 1:24-28/1 SM 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8ABCD
 [CF. 1A]/LK 1:46-56

NEXT SUNDAY: MI 5:1-4A/PS 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
 [4]/HEB 10:5-10/LK 1:39-45

LITURGICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC
 (FOR A LIST OF DAILY READINGS: GO TO [HTTP://WWW.USCCB.ORG/NAB](http://www.usccb.org/nab))

**DECEMBER 23, 2018
 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

5:00 PM December 22 Fr. Kris		
For Edward Weberlein Requested by Dennis & Sharon	Lector/ Ushers	Ellen Stacey 5:00B
8:30 AM December 23 Fr. Roodbeen		
For Joanne Wojnar Requested by Croitori Family	Lector/ Ushers	Ray Pisani 8:30C
10:15 AM December 23 Fr. Kris		
For Mary Andrews Requested by Jim & Sharon Zann	Lector/ Ushers	Gerryanna Luscri 10:15B
12:00 PM December 23 Fr. Kris		
For All Our Parishioners	Lector/ Ushers	Paul Radzilowski 12:00A

Team #2 is scheduled for Botsford Commons Sunday, December 23 following the 8:30 AM Mass.



**DECEMBER 24, 2018
 CHRISTMAS EVE**

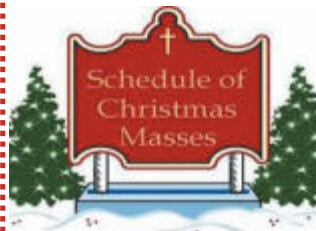
4:00 PM December 24 Fr. Kris		
For Pavco & Kaye Families Requested by Joe Pavco	Lectors	Ellen Stacey Jim Bergin
6:00 PM December 24 Fr. Kris		
For All Our Parishioners	Lectors	Monica Murone Sharon McCarthy
10:00 PM December 24 Fr. Kris		
For All Our Parishioners	Lectors	Diane Blankenship Ray Pisani
12:00 Midnight December 24 Fr. Kris		
For All Our Parishioners	Lector	Tim Westfall



**DECEMBER 25, 2018
 CHRISTMAS DAY**

9:00 AM December 25 Fr. Kris		
For Kevin Filary Requested by Karen Grossbart	Lectors	Rosa Russenberger Paul Borchert
11:00 AM December 25 Fr. Kris		
For All Living & Deceased Morelli & Rotondo Families Requested by J. Rotondo & Family	Lector	Caron Kott

Church Cleaning Schedule for Next Week
December 22 and December 23
 Team A



December 24 and 25

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Mass
 6:00 PM Children's Mass
 10:00 PM Choir Mass
 12:00 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9:00 AM Mass
 11:00 AM Mass





CHRISTMAS PROGRAM A SUCCESS!

There are not words that can show our appreciation for the wonderful gifts and gift cards that were purchased for our Christmas Program this year. Your generosity will definitely help to bring joy into the lives of many in our community. Thank you again, we couldn't have done it without you!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OFFER

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS MAGNETS



St. Gerald Knights of Columbus members are kicking off their "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign after Masses this weekend. They are offering a 6 inch by 6-1/2 inch auto magnet of a manger scene bearing the legend "Keep Christ in Christmas". See a Knight at an exit door this weekend. Thank you for your support.

OPLATEK OR "CHRISTMAS WAFER"

The **Christmas wafer** is a Central European Christian Christmas tradition celebrated in Polish, Slovak, Lithuanian and Italian families during Wigilia (Christmas Eve Vigil). The unleavened wafers are baked from pure wheat flour and water, are usually rectangular in shape and very thin; they are identical in composition to the Host used during a Catholic mass however, they are not consecrated. Wafers are embossed with Christmas related religious images, varying from the nativity scene, especially Virgin Mary with baby Jesus, to the Star of Bethlehem. Family members and friends break off a small piece of the oplatek wafer and give it to one another along with a blessing. Breaking off and exchanging part of oplatek with someone is symbol of forgiveness between two people and is meant to remind participants of the importance of Christmas, God, and family. The tradition of sharing the wafer is one of the rich variety of traditions that Poles still celebrate during **Christmas Eve Supper**, which is the most elegant and pompous evening in the whole year. Why not start a new tradition this year. Oplateks are available in the Parish Office and are available after all the Masses this weekend. A Free Will donation is not required, but would be appreciated!



ADVENT TEA THANK YOU!

What a success! Many were here on December 5th at our annual Advent Tea. We could not have made this evening happen without our volunteers! A great big thank you to the Coordinators of the Advent Tea, Diane and Fred Gerometta and to the many others volunteers to gave of their time to help this tea happen! Thank you also to the Knights of Columbus for their support with the serving, clean up and hospitality. We couldn't ask for a more special evening!

LIBRARY REMINDERS . . .

Please come visit our library located in the southwest vestibule of the church building. You are welcome to take a book home to read, all we ask is that when you borrow a book to be sure to sign it out. Also, make sure to return your book when finished, so others can enjoy it as well.



ST. GERALD PARISH ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

The Advent/Christmas Mass Schedule

Daily Mass—**M, T, F-9:15 AM;**

First Saturday-9:15 AM; Th-7:00 PM

Weekend Mass—**December 22-23**

Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM, and 12 Noon

Christmas Eve—Monday, December 24

4:00 PM Mass, 6:00 PM Children's Mass, 10:00 PM
Choir Mass & Midnight Mass

Christmas Day—Tuesday, December 25

9:00 AM Mass & 11:00 AM Mass

New Year's Eve, Monday, December 31

9:15 AM Mass & 5:00 PM Vigil Mass

**New Year's Day, Feast of Mary,
Holy Mother of God**

Tuesday, January 1 - 10:00 AM Mass

First Friday observance-adoration,

Friday, January 4

Adoration begins after the 9:15 AM Mass and ends at
5:00 PM with Benediction

First Saturday Mass

Saturday, January 5—9:15 AM

Mass with Sacrament of Anointing

Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday, January 5 - 5:00 PM Mass,

Sunday, January 6 - 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM, & 12 Noon
Masses

The Advent Reconciliation/Confession Schedule
**Regular Reconciliation/Confession every Saturday at
3:30 PM**

**There will be no 3:30 PM Confessions on
Saturday, December 29**



SAVE THE DATES:

Keep posted for Super Bowl Sub Sale notices coming soon. Sales will begin the weekend of January 26th and 27th. Sub making day will be Saturday, February 2nd. Sub order pick up will be after all masses on February 2nd and 3rd.

Thursday, February 7th from 7 PM to 9:30 PM REBOOT! A high-energy 2 and 1/2 hour renewal event for teens. Cost will be covered by Youth Ministry Fund. Check out more details at RealLifeCatholic.com/reboot.

EVANGELIZATION

Sharing the Good News of the Gospel and living by example is our commission as baptized Catholics. We belong to a membership of faith. Our faith is in the Gospel, the Holy Trinity, and the mission of Jesus, our Savior. He was born to us as an ideal example to bring peace on earth.

We can improve our lives and be happy for all eternity if we follow Jesus' teachings. Share your love with others through charity, service and giving. Share a smile, a greeting, or a deed of kindness. Let's make this Christmas Season more like HEAVEN ON EARTH!

ABOUT THE ADVENT WREATH



Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

At St. Gerald we welcome all and encourage anyone 18 years of age and older to become registered members of the Parish. Registration is a simple process that is done at the Parish Office during office hours 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday or by picking up a Registration form located on the book shelf in the gathering space of the church and sliding a completed form under the Parish Office door. **Keeping our records current is also important. If you have a change of address, phone number or email address, please call the information into the Parish Office at 248-477-7470. If you are moving from our parish, please let us know.**



Doug Foley	Sofia Weiland	Kimberly Thompson
Tim O'Brien	Thomas Jacques	Erin Malloy
Shel Levine	Jim Sockow	Wanda Reiner
Joyce LaMarra	Rose Hickey	Pat Fanilone
Ralph Wenski	Roberta Provenzano	Nancy Kolliker
Gerry Maxey	Yolanda Fenech	Pam Akey
Joan Goniea	Monica Koenig	Anna Iadipaolo
	Genevieve Browne	

DONATIONS TO RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS THROUGH SIMPLEGIVE

If you are making your donations to St. Gerald online through Simple Give and would like to make a donation for the Immaculate Conception or to the Retirement Fund for Religious, you can do so through December 16th. Thank you!

Week at a Glance

Monday, December 17
 8:40 AM Rosary
 9:15 AM Mass
 9:45 AM Divine Mercy
 5:30 PM Elementary Religious Formation

Tuesday, December 18
 8:40 AM Rosary
 9:15 AM Mass
 9:45 AM Mother of Perpetual Help/
 Divine Mercy
 5:00 PM Elementary Religious Formation
 7:00 PM K of C Membership Meeting

Wednesday, December 19
 7:30 PM Choir Practice
 No Mass

Thursday, December 20
 12:00 PM Pinochle
 6:20 PM Rosary
 7:00 PM Mass
 7:45 PM Holy Hour

Friday, December 21
 8:40 AM Rosary
 9:15 AM Mass
 9:45 AM Divine Mercy
 8:00 PM AA Meeting

Saturday, December 22
 3:30 PM Confessions
 5:00 PM Mass

Sunday, December 23
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Botsford Commons Visit
 8:30 AM Mass
 10:15 AM Mass
 10:15 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word
 10:15 AM Sunday School
 12:00 PM Mass

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE ON PAGE 2 OF THE VOICE



ST. GERALD ONLINE GIVING

Online Giving of Donations through Simplegive is available. Please visit our Parish Website at stgeraldparish.org and click on [Online Giving](#) to get started or pick up the instruction sheets on the bookcase in the gathering space of the church. Thank you for your continued support of St. Gerald Parish.

Events happening in and around our community



Need the perfect gift for your spouse this Christmas?

Give your spouse the gift of your time and love by taking your spouse on a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.**

- ◆ Next weekend: January 25-27, 2019 in Troy, MI
- ◆ See website or call to register or see additional dates.
- ◆ Use promotion code **GIFT2US** to save \$25 off the \$75 application fee on any 2019 weekend (expires Jan 6, 2019)

Call (888) 322-9963 www.encounter.org

(Cut out the gift card below, fill in a date and give to your spouse)



One of the greatest gifts I can give you is my time to make our relationship even better than it is today.

Please join me in attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on ____ / ____ / ____. You are special to me and I want to spend this time alone with you.

Merry Christmas!

CULTIVATING THE CALL REGIONAL VOCATIONS GATHERING

January 17, 2019 From 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, Royal Oak

Cultivating the Call is a night of prayer, testimony, and inspiration for those who work closest with our future vocations. Gather with others to receive the tools and inspiration needed to cultivate the call to the priesthood, religious and consecrated life. The night will include a light meal, praise and worship, and testimonies from seminarians, priests, religious, and others. For more information and for free registration, visit detroitpriest.com/programs/cultivating-the-call/

CATHOLIC TELEVISION NETWORK OF DETROIT

Each December, the Catholic Television Network of Detroit (CTND) features programming focused on the true meaning of Christmas, helping families throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit truly prepare for the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ.

Thanks to your CSA gifts, CTND has broadcast faith-filled programming since 1985 that informs, educates, inspires, and entertains to 900,000 homes in southeast Michigan. Since 2011, CTND has been an affiliate of Boston-based CatholicTV Network. CTND's program schedule can be found on the Archdiocese of Detroit website. For more information about CSA-funded ministries, programs, and services, go to aod.org.

CHARITY CASINO BUS TRIP

Firekeepers Casino in Battle Creek

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Tour leaves St Gerald Parish

at 9 AM and returns at 6 PM.

For information and to sign up call:

Rich Smith 313-421-0204

Bruce Roberts 248-756-9257

Richard Rosowski 248-477-2511

Sponsored by the St. Gerald Knights of Columbus

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 16, 2018 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent

In Christianity, we hear often about the "Good News." We might often associate it with Jesus' compassion to the poor, his healings and miracles, and the salvation he won for us. In today's Gospel, we read of John the Baptist. "Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people." Yet as we examine the rest of the reading, we see examples of John's preaching. If you have two cloaks, give one away. Don't cheat others out of their money, extort, or lie. And, of course, the warning that the Messiah is on the move and "his winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Merry Christmas? Not only do John's listeners enjoy his message, but they seem to think he might be the awaited Messiah! To understand today's Gospel, it's important to understand the Jewish people. For most of their history, God's chosen people had been under someone else's heel. They were slaves in Egypt. Their kingdoms were ravaged first by the Assyrians, then the Babylonians. Now they were under the yoke of the Roman Empire. Familiar with being strangers in a strange land, welcoming the stranger, caring for the vulnerable, and enacting justice was incredibly important to them as a people. While John's words may seem odd or strong to our modern ears, this call to justice was welcome, even if it was directed at the hearer. The truth is, no one is exempt from John's call to repentance. We all have further to go in the Christian life. We can all grow in virtue and love our neighbors more generously. The Church gives us the Advent season to examine our own hearts. Did any of John's warnings resonate with you? That could be a great thing to bring to Jesus this week!

DAILY

ADVENT CHALLENGE

Make a plan NOW to do something to develop your spiritual life AFTER the New Year begins. Allow Advent to become the start of something greater all year long.



Knights Corner

Members Meet Tuesday; 2020 Super Bowl Trip and \$8,500 Cash is State Raffle's Top Prize

Members meet for the final time this calendar year at 7 PM Tuesday. The major agenda item will be what to do with the net proceeds from the upcoming January 27 pancake breakfast. Council Officers unanimously agreed to split the net proceeds between the Supreme K of C Council plea for funds to help victims of California's wild fires and a shower/laundry project at a soup kitchen in Detroit's Corktown area.

Financial Secretary Bob Kuhr reports that he has either emailed or snail mailed the 2019 dues statements to members. If you failed to get a statement, it isn't an early Christmas gift. It is the result of you not having valid contact information on file with the Financial Secretary. Give Bob a call at 248-888-9335 and provide the right information. If you know of a member who is suffering a financial hardship, let Bob know privately. We are a charitable organization.

A big "Atta Boy" to the Knights and parishioner Caetano DeMello who staffed the serving line at the Advent Tea. Led by PGK Fred Gerometta, the Knights who served up very tasty Chicken Piccata, pasta, green beans, roasted potatoes and salad were GK Dave Bednarski, Len Lemanski, PGK Rich Smith, Thom Seabolt, Bob Kuhr, Brian Gulick, Bill Croitori and Tom McPhail. A special tip of the hat to Bill Croitori who led the dishwashing effort until closing.

The State Council's Charity Raffle Sale is well underway. You should have received a packet of 12 tickets by now. If not, contact PGK Bruce Roberts who is leading the sale for our Council. The top prize for the raffle is a deluxe trip for two to the 2020 Super Bowl in Miami. In addition of airfare, tickets to the game, 3 nights in a hotel and admission to a game day VIP tailgate party, the winner will receive \$8,500 cash. The drawing will be April 24. Be sure to write your name and "Council 13673" on the stub of every ticket you sell. The Council receives \$1 for every sold by a member.



The raffle is a big deal for the State K of C since it provides the dollars the State Council provides to nearly 50 charities and programs throughout the year. That giving effort is also supported by the \$10 for Charity program that is referenced in your recent 2019 dues notice.

Keep Informed of Council activities – Read the Knights Corner in The Voice every Sunday

ST. GERALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

Office Hours

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday thru Thursday. Closed Friday.
(secretary at lunch 12:00 pm—12:30 pm)

STAFF

Parish Office (248) 477-7470

Reverend Krzysztof Nowak, Pastor x 203
Mary Hoots, Administrative Assistant x 212
Email: stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com

All other offices dial (248) 476-7677

Christian Services
Matthew Yokom: Christian Service Coordinator x 204
Email: myokom.sgp@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul x 220

Education
Mary Taylor: Director Religious Education x 201
Email: marytaylor.sgp@gmail.com

Music Ministry
Mary Melonio: Director of Music x 222
Cell: 734-578-4179 or Email: mmelonio@aol.com

Worship Ministry x 202
Norma Battel
Email: stgeraldworship@gmail.com

Youth Ministry
Gerryanna Luscri x 208
Email: gerryanna.youthministry@gmail.com

Maintenance
Tom Kruger
Accountant
Kim Shepard

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. Kris after Mass or call the Parish Office. Registration forms are located on the shelf in the classroom hallway and the gathering space of the church for your convenience. After you fill it out, just give it to Fr. Kris 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? Please call Fr. Kris (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. Kris can work with you to find a favorable solution.

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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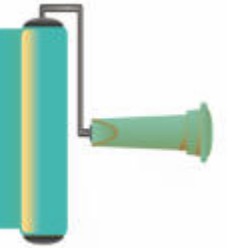
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