



## THE VOICE

December 22, 2019

# 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](http://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.

Dear Parishioners,

On that first Christmas, the angels praised God, saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good will.” The shepherds came and adored the newborn Savior. St. Luke wrote, “And Mary treasured all of these things and reflected on them in her heart.”

We too need to pause and treasure the gift of Christmas in our hearts. And that gift is simply Jesus, true God who became true man, who came to reveal perfectly God’s truth and love to us, who died and rose for our salvation, and who founded a Church – a family – where His presence continues in both Word and Sacrament. Treasure and reflect on the gift of Jesus and the faith you share in Him as a member of the Catholic Church.

Moreover, we must not let Christmas just be a passing day. Live in the spirit of Christmas each day. Reflect upon how to better treasure this gift each day by making prayer a critical part of your day, by continuing to read Sacred Scripture and the teachings of our Church, by having a stronger devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Mass, by regularly making a self-examination of conscience and going to Confession, and doing those good works for those entrusted to our care and for those in need. May such reflection of the gift of Christmas, move us by God’s grace to an even more intimate relationship with our Lord this year. May our souls be like the stable in Bethlehem where Christ first made His dwelling among us.

Lastly as your pastor, I treasure the gift of you and the dedication, sacrifices, and hard work you have shown to make this parish a beacon of Christ’s love. In particular, I thank those who serve in the various ministries and organizations. On behalf of myself and all of the Staff at St. Gerald, I wish each of you a blessed and joyous Christmas and New Year! Please be assured of my prayers for your intentions and a remembrance at Holy Mass. May the peace, joy, and love of the Holy Family be present in your lives each day of the New Year of 2020!



May God bless you, Fr. Krzysztof Nowak

## WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS

**DECEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 27**

**Monday 9:15 AM**

**Joanne Wojnar**

Requested by Croitori Family

**Tuesday, Christmas Eve**

**4:00 PM**

**Pavco & Kaye Families**

Requested by Joseph Pavco

**6:00 PM**

**Frank Jacques**

Requested by  
Rich & Lynn Smith

**10:00 PM**

**For All Our Parishioners**

**Wednesday, Christmas Day**

**12:00 AM**

**For All Our Parishioners**

(Midnight Mass)

**9:00 AM**

**Jaelyn Ann Pouget-Body**

Requested by St. Vincent &  
Sara Fisher Center

**11:00 AM**

**For All Our Parishioners**

**Thursday 7:00 PM**

**Dobbs, Kemp, Trayer, Robrecht &  
Goderman Families**

Requested by C. Kemp

**Friday 9:15 AM**

**Charles Haddad**

Requested by Gjerding Family



### Lectors

#### December 24th

4:00 PM - Candy Rosowski and Ellen Stacey

6:00 PM - Jim Bergin and Sharon McCarthy

10:00 PM - Diane Blankenship and Ray Pisani

#### December 25th

Midnight Mass - Rob Seely

9:00 AM - Rosa Russenberger and  
Caron Kott

11:00 AM - Paul Radzilowski



### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

**Tuesday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/  
Lk 1:67-79

**Wednesday:** Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

**CHRISTMAS** Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/

Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

**Thursday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17  
[6]/Mt 10:17-22

**Friday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt  
2:13-18

**Next Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col  
3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

December 29, 2019

5:00 PM

December 28 Fr. Kris

For  
**Debbie Ponds**  
Requested by  
Bob & Diane Blankenship

Lectors/  
Ushers

Monica Murone  
5:00A

8:30 AM

December 29 Fr. Kris

For  
**Giuseppa DiPonio**  
Requested by  
Soave & Russenberger  
Families

Lector/  
Ushers

Ray Pisani  
8:30B

10:15 AM

December 29 Fr. Roodbeen

For  
**All Our  
Parishioners**

Lector/  
Ushers

Gerryanna Luscri  
10:15A

12:00 PM

December 29 Fr. Kris

For  
**Sofia Weiland**  
Requested by  
Thomas Weiland

Lector/  
Ushers

Rob Seely  
12:00B

### Church Cleaning Schedule for Next Week

**December 28 and December 29**

Team B

Team #1 is scheduled for Beaumont Commons Sunday,  
December 22 following the 8:30 AM Mass.



Christmas  
Schedule

### 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 Office Hours

Parish Offices will be closed from December 24 through January 1st. If you have any emergency and you need to reach someone in the Parish Offices, please leave a message on extension 212 and someone will return your call. If you need to reach Fr. Kris, please call 248-987-6412.

**The Marian Peace Center of Detroit presents  
Fr. Ronan Murphy  
Saturday, January 25  
St. Gerald Parish**

Tentative Schedule:  
8:00 AM Registration  
8:30 AM Rosary  
9:00 AM Holy Mass

Talk will follow Mass and ends at approximately 1:30 PM. Brunch is included. Registration fee: \$20.00.

Fr. Ronan will be speaking on Devotion to Mary - Sign of Predestination and Our Lady Star of the Sea.

Fr. Murphy hails from Dublin, Ireland and is a priest of the Camden Diocese. Ordained on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13th in the Jubilee Year 2000. Father has served as Parochial Vicar in St. Mary's Parish, Gloucester City, St. Peter's in Merchantville and St. Teresa's Church in Runnemede. He also served at All Saints, Perth City in Australia for three years and has given missions and conferences in many countries. He has returned to the United States and is presently chaplain to a Carmelite Monastery in New York and giving retreats and International Conferences.

To register, or for more information, please see the flyer on the board in the main entrance of the church.

#### ANGEL TREE

As you enter church this weekend please take notice of the beautiful Christmas tree in the gathering space covered in angels. Memorial names will be included in the Voice on the weekend of December 28 and 29. Thank you to the wonderful volunteers who hung all of the angels on the tree!



## Winter Solstice

Prayer for the Coming of the Light  
In a world so often filled with darkness and sin,  
Jesus, You are the rising Son!  
When the night of our lives feels longer  
than we can bear,  
Jesus, You are the hope of a new dawn!  
When we are anxious for what the future holds,  
Jesus, You are the morning star that never sets!  
In all our confusion and division,  
Jesus, You are the light of the world!  
Heavenly Father, in this Advent season,  
we await Your Son's coming with anticipation.  
Send Your Spirit to sustain and carry us  
through these final days of Advent preparation,  
as we await the dawning of the Light of the World!  
Amen.

*All Religious Formation classes will break for  
the Christmas Holiday.  
Classes will resume Monday,  
January 6, 2020  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

## Pray for our Sick:

Jennifer Mondoux    Rick Stone    Claire Marie Tuite-Yoder  
Nicole Zapinski    Victoria Angelosanto    Yolanda Fenech

**Merry  
Christmas**

From the Staff at St. Gerald:

Rev. Krzysztof Nowak  
Norma Battel  
Mary Hoots  
Tom Kruger  
Gerryanna Luscri  
Mary Melonio  
Kim Shepard  
Mary Taylor  
Matthew Yokom



Just a reminder that the Christmas collection is the one collection that the entire dollar amount remains directly here at St. Gerald Parish. The rest of the donations to the parish throughout the year are subject to a 7% assessment by the Archdiocese of Detroit. As always, thank you for your generous support and consideration.

### DONATIONS TO ST. GERALD FOR CHRISTMAS THROUGH SIMPLEGIVE

If you are making your donations to St. Gerald online through Simple Give and would like to make a donation to the parish for Christmas, you can do so now through January 1st.  
Thank you!

**GOSPEL MEDITATION  
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

Each Advent season, we prepare to welcome Jesus into the inns and stables of our hearts. But Jesus' coming wasn't welcomed by everyone with choirs of angels. For St. Joseph, the first coming of Jesus was a bit more complicated. "When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit." For Joseph, opening his heart (and home) to Jesus meant, at best, appearing to all the world like a man who had impregnated his wife out of wedlock. At worst, he appeared a cuckold, raising the child of another man. God doesn't always appear the way we expect.

For some of us, the birth of Christ is a bit relationally complicated. Perhaps over the past few months, a loved one has died. This Christmas, you're taking it upon yourself to keep up the traditions and hold the family together. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming grief. Perhaps it's a difficult relative (or two or three) and it's all you can do to bite your tongue and swallow your pride while they're under your roof. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming strife, discord, and tension.

Yet "do not be afraid," the angel says. Do not be afraid. Why? Because we celebrate the birth of "Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" Before Jesus' earthly ministry would begin, Jesus would lose his father, Joseph. God is with us in our grief. Wherever Jesus went, he stirred up controversy and faced down challenging personalities. God is with us in our stress. The trick is, like Joseph, to allow supernatural grace to prevail. Joseph was a good man, filled with natural virtue in that he didn't want to "expose [Mary] to shame." Yet he was prepared to "divorce her quietly" all the same. Our natural abilities only take us so far. Where is receiving Jesus complicated this Christmas season? Are you relying on your own strength to get you through, or are you truly ready to accept the grace of Emmanuel, God with us? ©LPI

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS**

A common theme linking today's Scripture passages is the prophecy of Emmanuel, whose name means "God is with us." Both readings from the Prophet Isaiah and St. Matthew's Gospel proclaim this prophecy about Jesus Christ. In the Gospel, the evangelist recounts the story of an angel visiting Joseph in a dream, assuring him that Mary conceived a child by the Holy Spirit and encouraging him to not fear taking her as his wife. Joseph fully trusts in God and brings Mary into his home. As Christian stewards, we strive to model Joseph's trust in our Lord and serve as His disciples. During this busy Advent season, set aside a few quiet minutes daily to listen to our Lord so He becomes personal in your life.

**We welcome to the  
Body of Christ**

*Chimaraobim Uzoma Otti*

*baptized Sunday,  
December 8, 2019*

*by Rev. Krzysztof Nowak*

Chimaraobim is the son of  
**Rogers and Chioma**

*Upcoming Events*

**Monday, December 23**

8:40 AM Rosary  
9:15 AM Mass  
No Religious Formation Class

**Tuesday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve**

4:00 PM Mass  
6:00 PM Family Mass  
10:00 PM Choir Mass  
12:00 AM Midnight Mass

**Wednesday, December 25**

**Christmas Day**

9:00 AM Mass  
11:00 AM Mass

**Thursday, December 26**

No Pinochle  
6:20 PM Rosary  
7:00 PM Mass  
7:45 PM Holy Hour

**Friday, December 27**

8:40 AM Rosary  
9:15 AM Mass  
8:00 PM AA Meeting

**Saturday, December 28**

**\*No Confessions\***  
5:00 PM Mass

**Sunday, December 29**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

8:30 AM Mass  
10:15 AM Mass  
12:00 PM Mass

**Please note there will be no  
3:30 PM Confession on  
Saturday, December 28**

**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.



## RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

### Afraid, Yet Never Alone

I did not end up being the great parent I had hoped I would be. I am not saying I was bad, but I was not the cool dad who did all things right and led my children by the example of my endlessly good actions. I messed up a bunch. Sometimes I was afraid. I was afraid of decisions I had to make and the possible repercussions. At times, I was afraid that I was not strong enough to lead my family. The fear occasionally led me toward inaction or eventual mistakes. The only thing that got me through the tough times and allowed me to see it was okay, was Jesus. Without Jesus, I would never have been half of the father and husband I have been through the years.

When we try to tackle life alone, we can find ourselves in a very lonely position. Just like Jesus' parents, we need God to assist us and provide us with the strength for what lies ahead. Joseph needed God to be with him as he took Mary as his wife and became a father. Every parent needs God to become more than they can be on their own.

How do you treat those who you love? Who is there to help you when a relationship faces an obstacle? We are called to love others as our Father in heaven loves us. That is really an unreachable goal. Yet with God, all things are possible. As this Advent ends, may your Christmas be about more than presents and decorations. May the most profound gifts you give and receive be that of each other, and may your lives be decorated with the fruits of that love.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS©LPi

### St. Gerald Parish

### Women's Euchre Tournament

**When:** February 8, 2020  
6:30 PM Arrival Time  
(7:00 PM Tournament Begins)

**Where:** St. Gerald Parish Social Hall

**Why:** To bring together women from St. Gerald Parish and women from other parishes and/or faiths to share Christian fellowship in the form of a friendly Euchre Tournament.



The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is an English Christmas carol. From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the Church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember. To fit the number scheme, when you reach number 9, representing the Fruits of the Holy Spirit the originator combined 6 to make 3, taking the 6 fruits that were similar: the fruit in each parenthesis is the that was not named separately. There are actually Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The "True Love" one hears in the song is not a smitten boy or girlfriend but Jesus Christ, because truly Love was born on Christmas Day. The partridge in the pear tree also represents Him because that bird is willing to sacrifice its life if necessary to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators.

According to Ann Ball in her book, HANDBOOK OF CATHOLIC SACRAMENTALS:

The two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments

The three French hens stood for faith, hope, and love.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The five golden rings rerepresented the first five books of the Old Testament, which describe man's fall into sin and the great love of God in sending a Savior.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit-----Prophesy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit-----Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience [Forbearance], Goodness [Kindness], Mildness, Fidelity, Modesty, Continency [Chastity].

The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful Apostles.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in The Apostles' Creed.

Original Source: Fr. Calvin Goodwin, FSSP, Nebraska



**Knights Corner**

**Merry Christmas to You and Yours from Your Council Officers**

The Council 13673 Officers wish you and yours a Blessed and Merry Christmas. It is a time for families, for strengthening – or in some cases restoring – bonds with siblings and friends. With all the hype and advertising on TV and social media, it is easy to think Christmas is a time for receiving presents and partying. That is why the K of C campaign to “Keep Christ in Christmas” is so important.

St. Gerald’s Knights again did their part in that campaign. Brother Brian Gulick led our program, overseeing the Council’s involvement with other area Knights in the display of billboards throughout the Detroit Metro area that carried the K of C logo and the message “Keep Christ in Christmas.” Brian also led the successful sale of magnetic magnets with that message at the church doors for three weekends.



PGK Rich Smith (shown at left) led the other part of a Christmas drive. He led the annual collection of gift sweatshirts for the at-risk kids at Holy Cross Services, the successor of Boysville. A total of 96 sweatshirts were donated by parishioners and Knights. “A big thank you is due our parishioners,” Smith said. “Their generosity is appreciated.” The total of 96 shirts is a one-third increase over 2018 and is a qualifying element for the Supreme K of C’s Columbia Award.

Congratulations to Brother Gulick and to Patrick and Geri McDonald who were named Knight of the Month and Family of the Month respectively for December. Gulick was cited for his leadership of the *Keep Christ in Christmas* effort. The McDonalds were cited for their consist support of our Family Communion Mass while Patrick was cited for his frequent involvement in Council activities.

Two year end “gifts” already have been dispatched to members. If you have failed to receive either a booklet of tickets for the 2020 State Charity Raffle or statement for 2020 Council dues, complain immediately to Financial Secretary Bob Kuhr. Don’t feel that you are being neglected. There is a problem with your address/email with the State Council or Council 13673. If you give him a call at 248-888-9335, he will straighten out the situation.

**Keep Up with Council News, Read the Knights Corner Every Sunday in *The Voice!***

**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 208
- 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** ..... **Accountant**
- Tom Kruger ..... 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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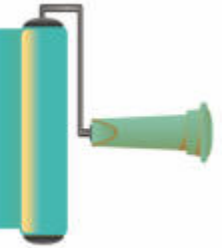
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