THE VOICE

November 29, 2020

ST. GERALD

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
A Servant Church Of
The Archdiocese of Detroit

21300 Farmington Road
Farmington, Michigan 48336

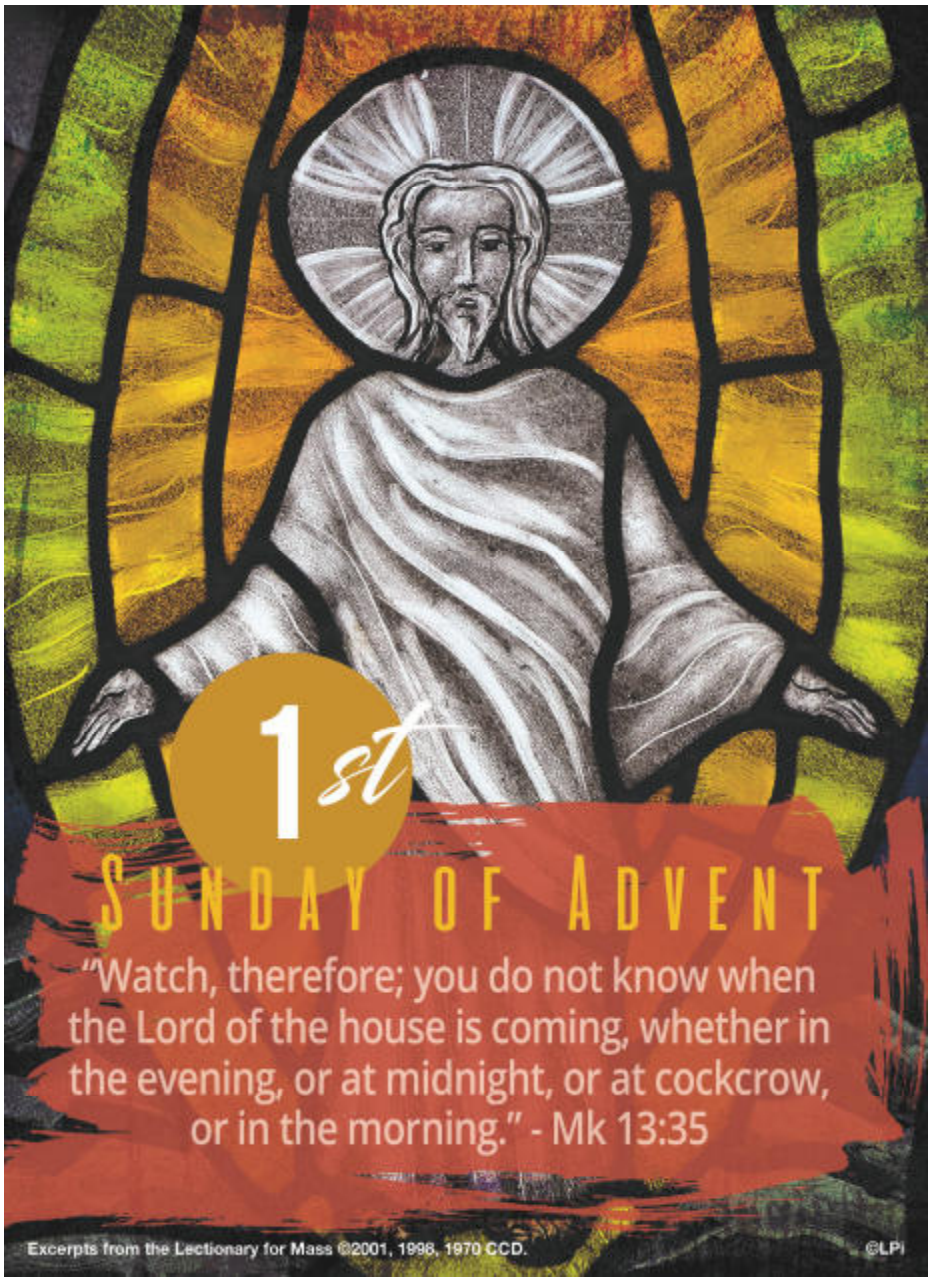
Phone: 248-477-7470
Fax: 248-477-3878
Website: stgeraldparish.org

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.



The Advent/Christmas Mass schedule is on Page 4 of the bulletin.

WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS

November 30– December 5

Monday 9:15 AM
Mary and Anne Folich
Requested by Croitori Family

Tuesday 9:15 AM
Peter Zanotti
Requested by Piera Boldrin

Wednesday NO MASS

Thursday 7:00 PM
Kas Nemanis
Requested by Diane Bonadeo

Friday 9:15 AM
Jerry and Mark Mellondorf
Requested by Croitori Family

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

Readings for the Week

Monday: Rom 10:9-18/ Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Liturgical Publications, Inc
(For a list of daily readings: go to http://www.usccb.org/nab)

To have the daily readings sent to your email, go to www.usccb.org/nab

Donations For Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan Through Simple Give

If you are giving your donations online through Simple Give and would like to make a donation for the **Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan,** you can do so now through November 29th.

Raymond Rudzki
Jim Bergin
Joan Goniea
Deloris Macknosky
Robert Retelle
Sally Battishill
Chloe Lynn Roberts

Mass Intentions

If you would like to request a mass intention for a loved one deceased or living, please come to the Parish Office or call 248-477-7470.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

5:00 PM	December 5	
For **Robert Brennan** Requested by Bob & Diane Blankenship	**Lector**	Diane Blankenship
8:30 AM	December 6	
For **All Our Parishioners**	**Lector**	Rosa Russenberger
10:15 AM	December 6	
For **Barry McAskin** Requested by Sharon McAskin	**Lector**	Caron Kott
12:00 PM	December 6	
For **Angie Ferracciolo** Requested by Horsburgh Family	**Lector**	Paul Radzilowski

St. Gerald Online Giving

Online Giving of Donations through Simple Give is available and simple to use. 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.

First Friday, December 4th, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following the 9:15 AM Friday morning Mass ending with Benediction at 5:00 PM. Scheduled adorers needed. Please see sign-up sheet in the narthex for times.

Feeling Ill?

If you have a fever or cough or are not feeling well, please stay home until you feel better. Remember it is not a sin to miss Mass because you are ill. **We are asking that you wear a mask when you come to church.**

CSA UPDATE . . .

We appreciate your support of the CSA Program here at St. Gerald. Every donation, no matter how big or how small, helps us to reach our goal of **$61,357.00**. Our suggested giving amount per family this year is **$205.00,** which would help us reach our goal. We know there are some families who can afford more and some families who cannot afford anything. That is why we say *it is not an equal gift, it is an equal sacrifice*. Please prayerfully consider your donation amount.

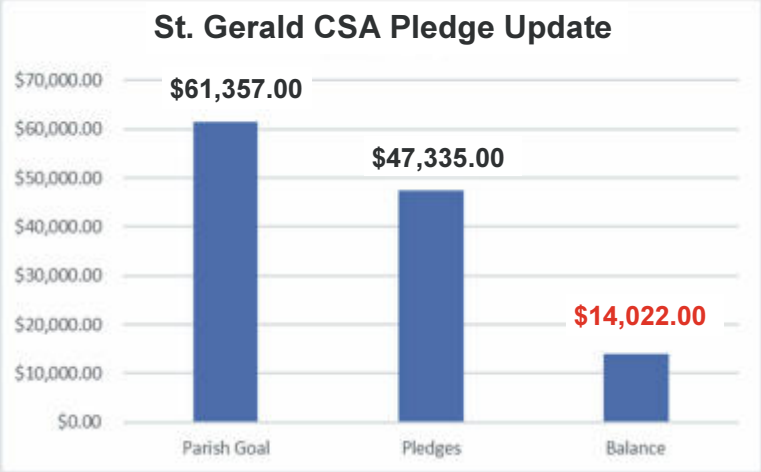
You should have received your pledge card by now. It was mailed to you directly from the Archdiocese of Detroit. If you have not, please call the Parish Office.

Instructions for On-line Giving:

- You can donate on-line by going to **give.aod.org**.
- Click on "**Make a Gift to CSA 2020**".
- Log in or click on "**quick give"**.
- Fill out your information.
- Make sure to indicate the fund is for **CSA 2020** and select **St. Gerald - Farmington** for the parish.

If you are sending a check in to the Archdiocese of Detroit for payment, please be patient, as they are processing the payments as quickly as they can.

If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 248-477-7470. Thank you for your generosity to the CSA, and for helping us reach the above goal.



THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKET THANKS!

A huge thank you to all the parishioners of St. Gerald who helped make our Thanksgiving basket drive such a success. We were able to help 23 families with a holiday meal and provide them with store cards to purchase their meat, pies, rolls and potatoes. Thank you again, you are all such a blessing!

TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29
5:00 PM

Taizé Prayer is a meditative service in which one invites God's presence to penetrate one's innermost being. This form of prayer, from the Christian monastic community in Taizé, France, which wrote the music used, is a unique and deeply moving form of worship that is both a communal and yet largely individual activity. The service includes repetitive song and chant, scripture reading, and silent meditation. Dim light and candles are also part of the experience. Please join us!

In a special way, our Book of Remembrance is placed out for the month of November as a way to remember our loved ones. You may fill in names of your beloved dead. We pray that they enjoy the Heavenly Banquet Christ has prepared for them.

RIGHT TO LIFE - LIFESPAN CHRISTMAS CARDS

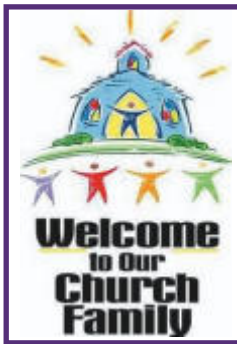
If you would like to purchase LIFESPAN Christmas Cards this year, please call one of the chapter locations listed below:

Oakland/Macomb County (248-816-1546)
Wayne County (734-422-6230)

Your support helps with pro-life activities, education and materials offered during the coming year.

MASS TIMES ANYWHERE

Need a Catholic parish out of town? Look on the web at massfinder.org. It's easy. Churches can be located by zip code, area code, Mass time, or language.



Let us welcome our newest member to St. Gerald:

Patricia Niedbala

Welcome Patricia, we are glad you are here!

For Right-to-Life information, please visit the Archdiocese website at www.aodonline.org

ST. GERALD PARISH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
2020-2021

The Advent/Christmas Mass Schedule
Daily Mass—**M, T, F-9:15 AM; Th-7:00 PM;**
First Saturday-9:15 AM

Weekend Mass—**Nov. 28-29, Dec. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20**
Saturday 5:00 PM; Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM & 12 Noon

Taize Prayer Service
5:00 PM Sunday, November 29

Christmas Eve—Thursday, December 24
4:00 PM Mass, 6:00 PM Mass, 10:00 PM Mass & Midnight Mass

Christmas Day—Friday, December 25
9:00 AM Mass & 11:00 AM Mass

New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31
5:00 PM Vigil Mass

New Year's Day, **Feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God**
Friday, January 1 - 10:00 AM Mass

First Friday observance-adoration,
Friday, Dec. 4
Adoration begins after the 9:15 AM Mass and ends at 5:00 PM with Benediction

First Saturday Mass
Saturday, December 5- 9:15 AM Mass
No First Saturday Mass January 2

Feast of the Epiphany
Saturday, January 2 - 5:00 PM
Sunday, January 3 - 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM & 12 Noon

***Confession* Schedule**
Regular Reconciliation/Confession
Saturdays at 3:30 PM
Saturday, Dec. 26 no 3:30 PM Confession

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 *opłatek* wafer and give it to one another along with a blessing. Breaking off and exchanging part of *opłatek* 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 on the table in the gathering space during Advent. A Free Will donation is not required, but would be appreciated!

Knights Again Offer Keep Christ In Christmas Magnets

The St. Gerald Knights of Columbus will make Christmas auto bumper magnets available this weekend and next weekend after all the masses to remind everyone that Christmas is a religious holiday. The 5 inch plastic coated magnets display the baby Jesus in a manger and carry the legend "*Keep Christ in Christmas*." The Knights are asking a $5 donation for parishioners acquiring the magnets. Proceeds help underwrite the Knights charitable efforts. They recently announced a $1,000 donation to help the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society with its holiday food program.

Retrouvaille has helped troubled marriages for 44 years. 175,000+ marriages helped worldwide. Only one matters; YOURS. Let us help. Next program begins January 15, 2021. HelpOurMarriage.org or call 800-470-2230.

Gospel Meditation
Encourage Deeper Understanding Of Scripture

You are at the eye doctor and it's time for the peripheral vision test. You know the one. It's where you put your head up to a contraption and have to click a switch every time you see a squiggly line. If you don't concentrate and maintain optimal focus, you will miss them and skew the outcome of the test. You can easily find yourself with a diagnosis that really isn't accurate! Concentration and focus are key to succeeding with this evaluation. They are also key to developing a healthy, vibrant spiritual life. If we do not bring our full consciousness to the task, concentrate with all our might, be watchful and vigilant, we are not going to see God's loving presence flashing before our eyes!

That's why we need Advent. Let's face it. We can easily get distracted, focus on nonessential and superficial things and lose touch with what really matters. Our attentions wander. We daydream and even become a bit overwhelmed and tired. All of the stresses and demands of life consume us and we find ourselves constantly trying to play catch up rather than relishing the moment of the now. "Now" moments are so fleeting. They flash before us like those squiggly lines on a screen. Present moments go as quickly as they come but it is important to discover them and rest in them as often as we can. Though gone in a flash, these now moments of encounter with God teach powerful lessons and offer a grounding in truth that can be found nowhere else. It's the grace of Advent to become watchful and attentive because we are never sure when God will surprise us.

God loves surprises and love thrives on them! God's now moments of surprises come as tender instants of intimate connection where I find profound peace, experience joy, and rest in love. These are Advent times reflective of the now moments when Christ first was born, when God surprises us during every time we care to watch and when the great surprise of Christ's second coming dawns upon us all. But, to discover the grandeur and experience the awe of these now times, we have to be ready. We have to want to be there. We have to believe. And, we have to have the desire to soak in as much as we can in the time we have before us. ©LPi

Everyday Stewardship

In the Unexpected

"What could happen next?" How many times have you asked yourself that question in the past year? Though we most often use that expression when things don't seem to be going our way, this year it has been an expression of the constant changes to our world which the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought. But we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things, when the stars seem to align just right.

No matter what, we can say with certainty that tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world around us is increasingly complex. Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected. Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.

This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on Him to be there with you. He is now and forever, Emmanuel, "God with us." He is the expected in all things unexpected. — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS* ©LPi

PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel.

~~WATCH~~	COME	MIDNIGHT
READY	MASTER	DAWN
TIME	EVENING	MORNING

U W A T H O W Y S W U
M O R N I N G T I E L
A T Y U T K U A G V P
S U N H A Y C O M E Y
T I M E W I H P A N D
E C B W U E W I E I A
R E A D Y L A N O N L
Y H O A E I T E H G E
S A R W L S C P Y H W
M I D N I G H T W O R
A T E K U A O U S F I

MISSION

Play a quick game of baseball. Cheer for one another. End the game with a prayer that you will keep your eyes on Jesus.

LPi BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

Advent Wreath And Candles

The first Advent wreath was from a Lutheran minister working at a mission for children in Germany in 1829. He used a wheel from a cart and placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The small candles were lit on weekdays and the white candles on Sundays.

Today the Advent wreath is often made of evergreens to symbolize everlasting life. The circle, like a ring, reminds us of God's unending love and eternal life. The candles used today are *usually* three purple/violet with the third Sunday being rose-colored/pink. Purple symbolizes repentance and fasting but is also the color of royalty. The sovereignty of Christ and our anticipation of the coming King. Rose represents joy, moving us away from repentance towards rejoicing.

The first candle is the Prophecy Candle or Candle of Hope. The second, is the Bethlehem Candle or Candle of Preparation. The third, lit on Gaudete Sunday is the Shepherd Candle or Candle of Joy. And the fourth is the Angel Candle or Candle of Love. Sometimes a White Candle is placed in the center of the wreath representing purity and light and lit on Christmas Day. It is the Christ Candle, the sinless, spotless, pure Savior. Those who receive Jesus as Savior are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow.

Strike Our Chest: Penitential Act

Question: When we say the Penitential Act at Mass, why do we strike our chest three times?

Answer:
Our rituals and liturgical celebrations are filled with a variety of symbols, some of which also relate to our gestures and physical postures (e.g. kneeling, sitting, processing, making the Sign of the Cross). The custom of striking our breast three times during the "I Confess" of the Penitential Act of the Mass is one of those gestures that is loaded with symbolism.

The tradition of Christian's striking the breast (above the heart) is rooted in the image of Sacred Scripture, especially texts like Psalm 51 which speak of a "humbled contrite heart" or how God heals broken hearts, binding up our wounds (see Psalm 147:3). Early Christian writers like Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Jerome also refer to this custom in their writings.

Ultimately, this practice is an expression of our sorrow for those times when we have been guilty of faults and a sign that we are willing to take responsibility for our sins and failings. That we all perform this gesture together is also an act of solidarity, recognizing that none of us, regardless of where we are on our journey of faith, is without fault and the need for grace and forgiveness. ©LPi

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
Cell: 313-205-8633
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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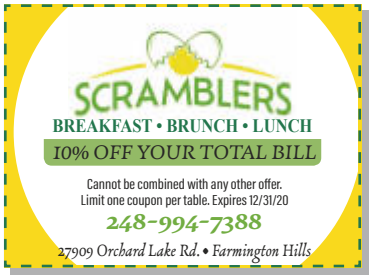

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