

# THE VOICE

December 13, 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](http://stgeraldparish.org)

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### MASS SCHEDULE

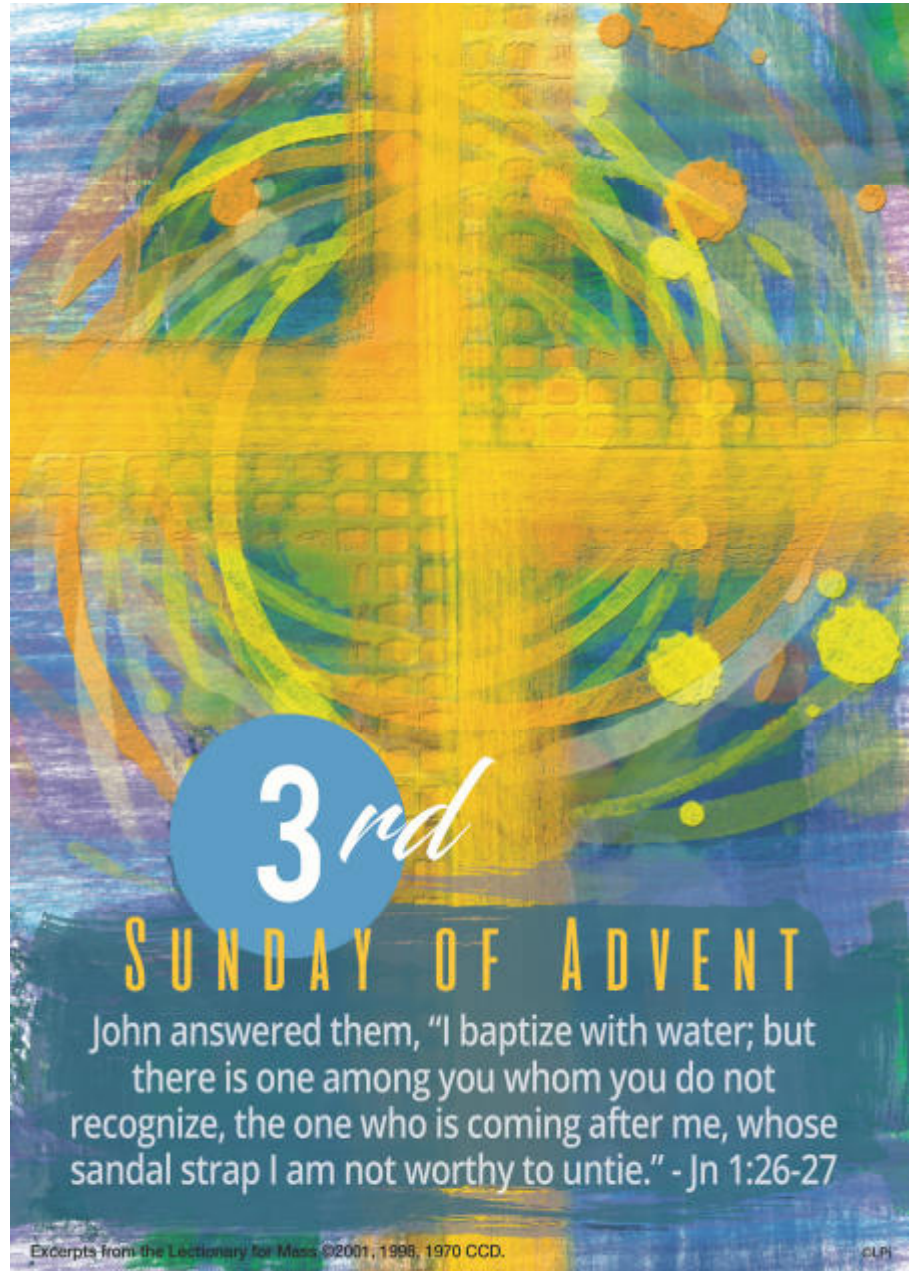
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:15 a.m.  
and 12:00 Noon

### WEEKDAYS

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

### RITE OF RECONCILIATION

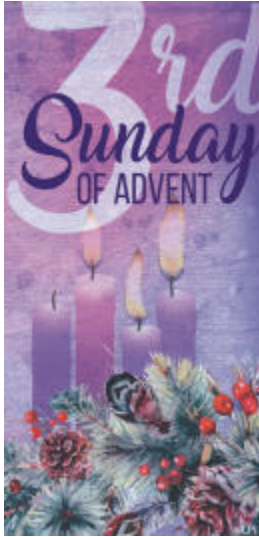
Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.



“Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven.”

*Pope Francis*

**WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS**



**DECEMBER 14 – DECEMBER 18**

Monday 9:15 AM  
**Robert Adelhouser**  
 Requested by Steve Augustine

Tuesday 9:15 AM  
**Victoria Coville**  
 Requested by Family

Wednesday NO MASS

Thursday 7:00 PM  
**Doug and Janice Wishmeyer**  
 Requested by Croitori Family

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

**Readings for the Week**

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27  
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32  
 Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23  
 Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17  
 Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25  
 Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25  
 Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

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



To have the daily readings sent to your email, go to [www.usccb.org/nab](http://www.usccb.org/nab)



**DONATIONS FOR RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS THROUGH SIMPLE GIVE**

If you are giving your donations online through Simple Give and would like to make a donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious, you can do so now through December 20th.

**PRAYER REQUEST**

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

**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.



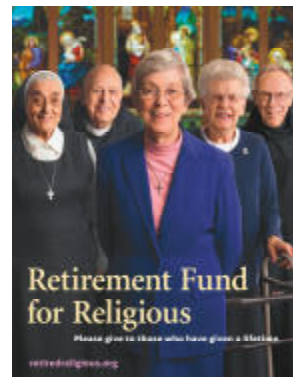
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

December 20, 2020

5:00 PM		December 19 Fr. Briffa	
For <b>Edward Weberlein</b> Requested by Dennis & Sharon Weberlein	Lector	Sharon McCarthy	
8:30 AM		December 20 Fr. Briffa	
For <b>David Weberlein</b> Requested by Barbara Valasek	Lector	Rosa Russenberger	
10:15 AM		December 20 Fr. Kris	
For <b>Edward &amp; Yolanda Fenech</b> Requested by Family	Lector	Caron Kott	
12:00 PM		December 20 Fr. Kris	
For <b>Claude Centers</b> Requested by Sue & Tim Wardle	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](http://stgeraldparish.org) and click on Online Giving to get started or call the Parish Office for instructions. Thank you for your continued support of St. Gerald Parish.



**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**

Make a difference. "Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses," says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these

communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Thank you for your support.

**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. 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.

**RIGHT TO LIFE - LIFESPAN CHRISTMAS CARDS**

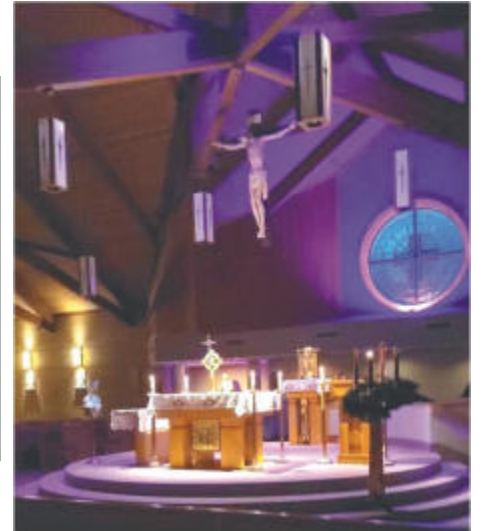
If you would like to purchase LIFESPAN Christmas Cards this year, please call one of the chapter locations listed below:



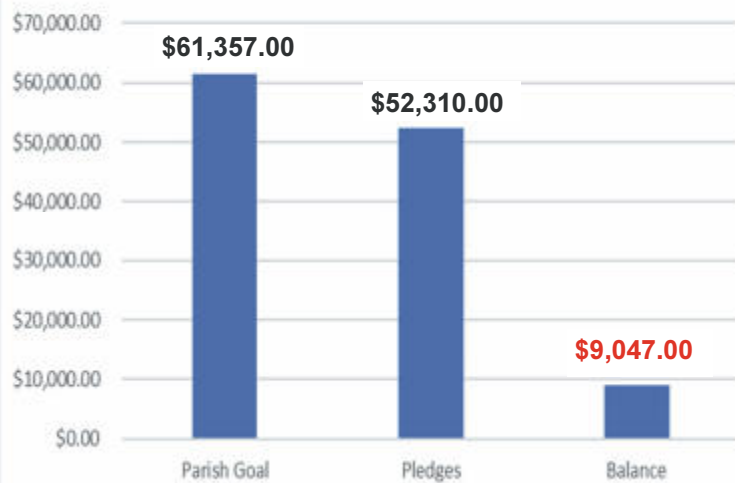
Oakland/Macomb County (248-816-1546)  
Wayne County (734-422-6230)

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

**A Beautiful evening of prayer and reflection was enjoyed by many at our Taizé Prayer service last Sunday.**



**St. Gerald CSA Pledge Update**



**NOTE: This year due to current restrictions, St. Gerald will not be offering an Advent Reconciliation Service as we have in past years, however, we do have individual Confessions every Saturday, except December 26th, at 3:30 PM.**

**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**

*Thank you for your donation!*



**WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF RALPH LAFAVE**

+  
NOVEMBER 6, 1929  
NOVEMBER 24, 2020

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO RALPH O LORD, AND MAY PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON HIM



**INTERESTED IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS?**

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For more information or to join, please contact Richard Smith at: 313-421-0204 or email [pollygirl219@aol.com](mailto:pollygirl219@aol.com).

**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—**Dec. 19-20**  
**Saturday 5:00 PM; Sunday 8:30 AM,**  
**10:15 AM & 12 Noon**

**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

**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 *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 on the table in the gathering space during Advent. A Free Will donation is not required, but would be appreciated!

**FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS  
ST. FABIAN CHURCH  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16  
7:00 PM**

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer.

The Carols will be led by the Parish Choir and Cantors with our St. Fabian family of musicians. Music selections will include well-known carols and choral music to help all of us remember why Christmas has the name “Christ” as its root. The program will last about an hour. You are welcome to bring family and friends to enjoy the devotion!

**Don't forget to pick up your 2021 calendar.  
They are located on the table in the main  
entrance of the church.**



**GOSPEL MEDITATION****ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I find myself living in my incompleteness and with my profound sorrow and grief. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves me.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow. ©LPi



**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.**

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP****A Constant Companion**

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

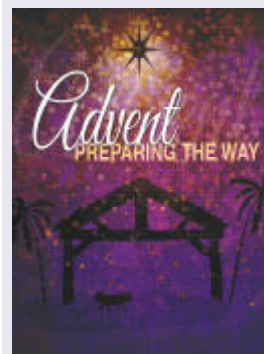
During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

**PRAYER FOR ADVENT**

Dear God,  
as an Advent candle is lit  
in joyous anticipation of  
your Son's nativity,  
remind us always of the  
reason for our joy.  
As the purple of the  
candles stand for both  
penance  
and atonement for sin,  
give us the grace to do  
penance for our wrongs,  
and to love Christ,  
whose sacrifice atoned



for the sins of the whole world.  
But just as the rose candle stands for joy in  
the midst of suffering and expectation,  
give us the joy of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who came into a world that had so longed  
for its Savior,  
and made the angels themselves sing with  
joy at his birth. Amen.



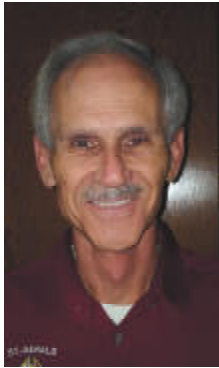
## Knights' Corner

### Tuesday's ZOOM Only Meeting to Feature Voting to Replace a Guard, Okay of 2021 Action Calendar

Tuesday's Membership Meeting will see the Council restoring its full line-up of officers with the election of a replacement Outside Guard. It will also involve the consideration of the 2021 Action Calendar. The Guard vacancy arose last month with the election of Brian Gulick as Warden, replacing Scott Horsburgh who accepted appointment as Program Director. At press time, Armin Russenberger and Dennis Weberlein were the nominees for the Guard position. Additional nominees will be sought prior to voting at the meeting.



Horsburgh



Gariepy

Election Committee member Scott Horsburgh will conduct the election, which will be held via Zoom because of the social gathering restrictions. There will be no physical meeting in the hall. Directions for using Zoom will be relayed to members via email. Those without email can participate by phoning into the meeting on their cell phone. Call GK Gariepy (248-982-7782) prior to the meeting for directions.

Horsburgh will also be presenting the 2021 Action Calendar, which lists most of the Council activities for the coming year. How many of the activities will take place will depend how rampant the Covid-19 virus is at the time of the event. Most of our 2020 events had to be canceled due to the pandemic.

One big success during 2020 was the sweatshirt drive for Holy Cross Services, the former Boysville. At last count, parishioners and Knights donated 63 shirts for the at-risk kids at HCS. For many it will be their major Christmas present. "With our reduced Mass attendance, 63 shirts exceeds our wildest expectations", said PGK Rich Smith, the drive coordinator. "The generosity of our parishioners is just awesome. Thank You!"

By now you should have received a 2021 dues statement from Financial Secretary Bob Kuhr, either via email or the U.S. mail. If any member is in the midst of a financial crisis and payment of the dues would impose a hardship, discuss the issue with Bob (248-888-9395) or GK Gariepy. If you failed to get a statement, give Bob a call so we can correct the Council records.

**Be Pro Life; Protect Others and Yourself by Wearing a Face Mask!**

## 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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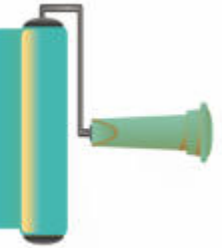
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