THE VOICE

February 28, 2021

ST. GERALD

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
A Servant Church Of
The Archdiocese of Detroit

21300 Farmington Road
Farmington, Michigan 48336

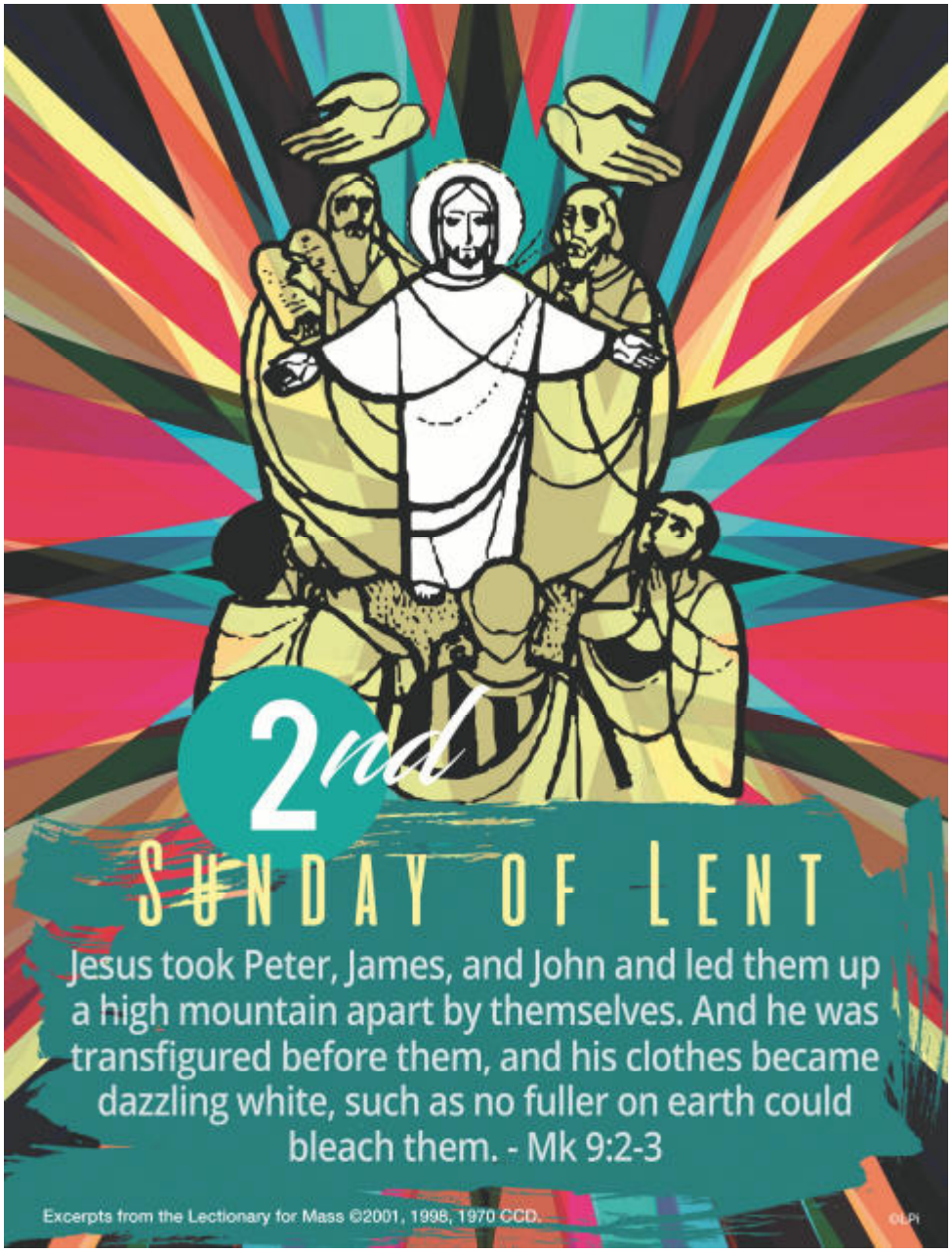
Phone: 248-477-7470
Fax: 248-477-3878
Website: stgeraldparish.org

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

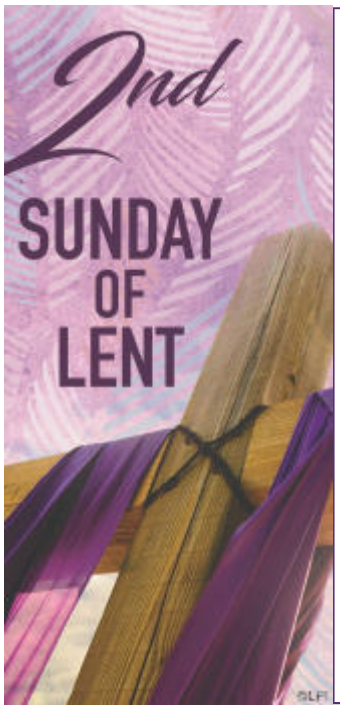
WEEKDAYS
Monday, Tuesday, Friday:
9:15 a.m.
Thursday Evening: 7:00 p.m.

RITE OF RECONCILIATION
Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.



The St. Vincent de Paul Truck will be here the weekend of March 20th and 21st for your donations. Just in time for Spring cleaning!

WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS



March 1 – March 6

Monday 9:15 AM
Theresa Myles
Requested by Rita Knight

Tuesday 9:15 AM
Agnes Valasek
Requested by Barbara Valasek

Wednesday NO MASS

Thursday 7:00 PM
Living and Deceased Petter, Beckes and Kasinec Families
Requested by Diane Petter

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

Saturday 9:15 AM
Special Intention
Requested by N. Battel

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9 11 and 13 [cf. 103:10a]/Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday:	Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday:	Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16 [17b]/Mt 20:17-28
Thursday:	Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [40:5a]/Lk 16:19-31
Friday:	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18 -19, 20-21 [5a]/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday:	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 [8a]/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Next Sunday:	Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25 or Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

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

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.**

7:00 PM
Every Friday Evening
During Lent

Third Sunday Of Lent

March 7, 2021

5:00 PM		**March 6**
For **Julia & Anthony Pavco** Requested by Joseph Pavco	**Lector**	Diane Blankenship
8:30 AM		**March 7**
For **John Pitera** Requested by Wojnar Family	**Lector**	Hannah Smith
10:15 AM		**March 7**
For **Eglandina Valente** Requested by Family	**Lector**	James Bergin
12:00 PM		**March 7**
For **All Our Parishioners**	**Lector**	Sharon McCarthy

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 call the Parish Office for instructions. Thank you for your continued support of St. Gerald Parish.

Offertory Snapshot

Actual Offertory for Weekend of February 21	$ 7,219.00
Budget Offertory for Weekend of February 21	$ 8,407.00
Year-to-Date Actual Offertory as of February 21	$273,947.00
Year-to-Date Budget Offertory as of February 21	$294,245.00

Donations To Central And Eastern Europe Through Simple Give

If you are giving your donations to St. Gerald online through Simple Give and would like to make a donation to **The Church In Central And Eastern Europe,** you can do so now through February 28th. Thank you!

First Friday, March 5,
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following the 9:15 AM Mass until 5 PM Benediction.
Adorers Are Needed.

CSA UPDATE . . .

We are still $2,800.00 short of our goal. If you have not made a donation to the 2020 CSA, it is still no too late.

Instructions for CSA 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 have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 248-477 -7470.

RIGHT TO LIFE - LIFESPAN BABY SHOWER

On March 13th and 14th, LIFESPAN will have its' annual Baby Shower. Each year multiple baby showers are hosted at area churches. New baby items that are donated at the showers are given to area pregnancy help centers to help in their efforts to be sure that women who have just delivered their precious babies or who are waiting to do so, have the necessary material goods to welcome them home. Due to the recent pandemic, St. Gerald will not be hosting a Baby Shower this year, however, you can still donate to another local shower location. For a list of locations, please call the LIFESPAN office at 248-816-1546.

THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

Pope Francis issued an apostolic letter, Patris corde ("With a Father's Heart"), for the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as patron of the universal Church. To mark the occasion, the pope proclaimed a year dedicated to Mary's husband, Joseph, foster father to Jesus. The special "Year of St. Joseph" will be held through December 8, 2021.

2020 St. Gerald Contribution Statement

If you need a copy of your 2020 contribution statement from St. Gerald, please send your request to stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com or call 248-477-7470. The Parish Office is open Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Thank you!

Joan Goniea	Sally Battishill
Deloris Macknosky	Chloe Lynn Roberts
Robert Retelle	Raymond Rudzki
Marlene Bergin	Mary Duemler
Bill O'Donohue	Frank Adams

NOTE FROM CHRISTIAN SERVICE

It is hard to believe that the Lenten season is already upon us. So often during this time we ask ourselves what should I do or what should I give up? It is also coming up on the time of year where we take a look at things around the house that we may want to get rid of. This Lenten season we would like to encourage you to take part in the project known as **40 bags in 40 days**. This is a project in which, beginning Ash Wednesday, you "declutter" a room of your house. If you choose to take part in this project, there will be a St. Vincent De Paul truck here in the parking lot this March that you may place your donated items in. After that if you collect things and are not sure where they could go, we can help you by finding a place to donate them to. If you would like more information on this project, please visit www.whitehouseblackshutters.com. Gods Blessings!
Matt

Donations of the following items are needed in our Food Pantry . . .

Canned Green Beans/Sweet Peas/Carrots
Jam/Jelly
Cereal
Non-refrigerated Microwavable Dinners

ST. GERALD EASTER MEMORIALS

Easter Season is fast approaching and as we celebrate the joy of the Resurrection, parishioners will have the opportunity to remember loved ones who have passed away.

Simply fill out the form below! Place your form in an envelope marked "Easter Memorial" and drop it in the collection basket on Sunday or bring it to the Parish Office no later than Tuesday, March 23rd.

The names of those remembered will be listed in our bulletin on Easter Sunday weekend.

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)

Today's Readings

Second Sunday of Lent

READING I **Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18**

God put Abraham to the test.
He called to him, "Abraham!"
"Here I am!" he replied.
Then God said:
"Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love,
and go to the land of Moriah.
There you shall offer him up as a holocaust
on a height that I will point out to you."

When they came to the place of which God had told him,
Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it.
Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son.
But the LORD's messenger called to him from heaven,
"Abraham, Abraham!"
"Here I am!" he answered.
"Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger.
"Do not do the least thing to him.
I know now how devoted you are to God,
since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son."
As Abraham looked about,
he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket.
So he went and took the ram
and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son.

Again the LORD's messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said:
"I swear by myself, declares the LORD,
that because you acted as you did
in not withholding from me your beloved son,
I will bless you abundantly
and make your descendants as countless
as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore;
your descendants shall take possession
of the gates of their enemies,
and in your descendants all the nations of the earth
shall find blessing—
all this because you obeyed my command."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM **116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19**

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; then from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. — Mk 9:7-8

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

READING II **Rom 8:31b-34**

Brothers and sisters:
If God is for us, who can be against us?
He who did not spare his own Son
but handed him over for us all,
how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?
It is God who acquits us, who will condemn?
Christ Jesus it is who died—or, rather, was raised—
who also is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL **Cf. Mt 17:5**

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
This is my beloved Son, listen to him.

GOSPEL **Mk 9:2-10**

Jesus took Peter, James, and John
and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them,
and his clothes became dazzling white,
such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.
Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses,
and they were conversing with Jesus.
Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,
"Rabbi, it is good that we are here!
Let us make three tents:
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified.
Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them;
from the cloud came a voice,
"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."
Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone
but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain,
he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone,
except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead.
So they kept the matter to themselves,
questioning what rising from the dead meant.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

A pregnant woman was walking in the store and met an old friend. Her friend exclaimed, "You are absolutely beaming!" The new life God placed in her womb radiated throughout her body. It was brightly visible on her face and in her eyes. Transformation and change usually happen from the inside out. It is very rare that simply imposing structure from the outside does any good. Yes, it is true that routines and habits can change when things are done differently. But, for this change to last there has to be an interior renewal and metamorphosis as well. Simply regulating behavior and bringing someone into conformity with accepted protocols doesn't mean their heart and soul come with them.

Peter was a homeless man who lived in a very remote and rudimentary tent community. He was happy to make his daily trip to McDonald's and always welcomed a gift card or two so that he could buy some coffee and something to eat. A generous advocate worked to secure him an apartment in hopes of moving Peter out of his makeshift housing and into something safer. Peter finally got the grand tour of his new "digs," received his own key, remarked how wonderful the place was, closed the door behind him when they left and never returned. He preferred his tent. No matter how much things changed on the outside, Peter was happy where he was. A poignant lesson was learned that day.

How is your Lent going? By now you ought to have a sense of whether you're really "into it" this year and something transformational is happening. For many, it's only the stuff on the outside that changes for a few weeks and then they return to business as usual. For others, there are some real inner changes happening that are deepening their relationships with God, others, self, and creation. If we are serious about moving to a new place and radiating with the presence of new life and joy, then we have to clear the way to listen for God's call. Then, there is God's request to change things up a bit and order our lives differently. After realizing we have been called and given a mission, we have to trust that this is where we need to be. And then, after all of this hard work we are asked to act. The fruit that is revealed will indicate whether our journey is authentic. The brilliance of conversion will begin to shine on our faces as we contemplate the One to whom we are asked to listen. ©LPi

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

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

When Sacrifice Becomes Mundane

It seems to happen every year, like clockwork: we drag a bit, as we enter into the second week of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we feel a bit like soldiers banging our shields, rushing into battle. "We're ready, God!" our hearts cry out. "Transform us through sacrifice! Your will be done!"

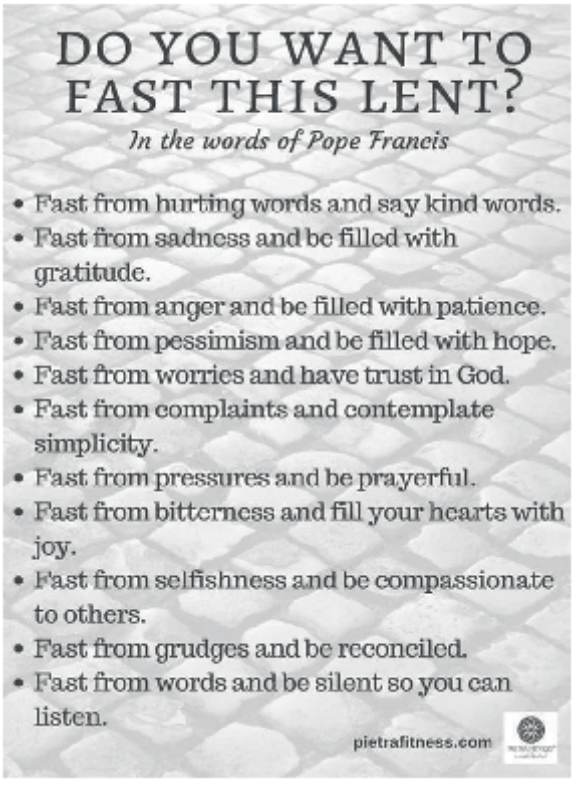
But by now, these Lenten resolutions are no longer novelties — they've joined the ranks of everyday inconveniences, which somehow are the hardest to bear. Because transformation, in real life, happens in inches, just as a battle is won slowly in the crash of one sword against another. It's not always a dramatic thing, to the naked eye. It's the perseverance in prayer despite weariness, or the continual denial of some pleasure even though there's that nagging voice in our minds saying: *go ahead, God doesn't really mind.*

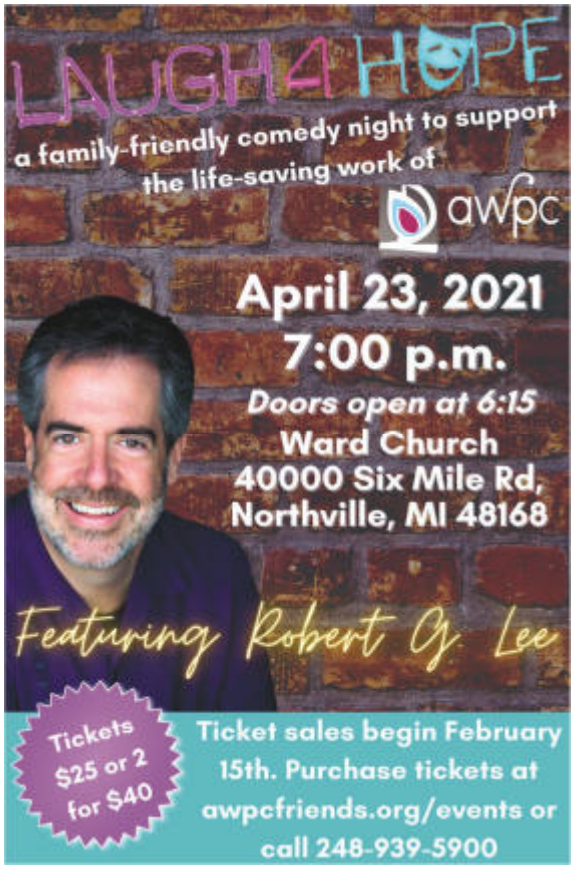
It's a week when we all need a shock to the system — and wouldn't you know it, this Sunday God gives us a double-whammy of dramatic sacrificial scenes. We picture Abraham, who also cried "Ready!" when God called, never imagining what He would ask: the surrender of his long-awaited son. We see Christ himself transfigured, as God shows us what He is ready to give up for love of us.

We must remain committed, persevering daily in acknowledging that everything belongs to God. What we sacrifice, we simply give back to Him.

If God is for us, who can be against us? Can we still reply, "Ready!" when we hear the call of God?

— *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS* ©LPi





Why Use Incense?

Question:
Why do we use incense at Mass?

Answer:
The use of incense in religious ceremonies and worship is a practice that predates Christianity, and which is also found in many other religious traditions today.

Incense, which is made from resin infused with aromatic spices and oils, is one of those fundamentally human symbols that incorporates more than one of our senses, helping us to reflect on realities that transcend the everyday details of our lives.

The use of incense in the Church's liturgy — in the Mass, as well as in devotions to the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours — is inspired by the use of incense in the Jewish tradition. In the writings of the Old Testament, we hear about incense being used in the worship of the temple, and Psalm 141 asks, "Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering" (vs. 2). The image here is that, as the incense gently rises to heaven, our prayers also rise to God as something sweet and pleasant.

Another ancient use of incense that has also become part of our Catholic tradition is the idea that when we incense something, it's because it is something special or sacred. This is why the Book of the Gospel is incensed during the Liturgy of the Word and the bread, wine, priest celebrant, and congregation are incensed at the presentation of the gifts. To this, we can also add the incensing of the Blessed Sacrament during eucharistic adoration and benediction, and the body of the deceased at the end of the Mass of the Resurrection (the Funeral Mass). ©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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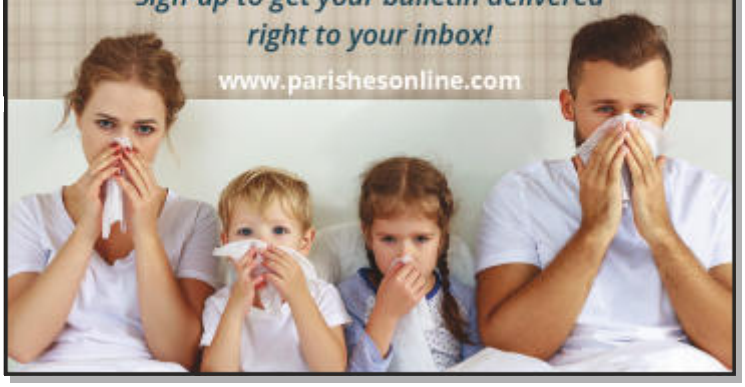

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