



The St. Gerald Voice

Roman Catholic Church



DECEMBER 26, 2021 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Christmas is normally a time of the year when families and friends gather in a spirit of joy and hope. To be able to celebrate this year as we have in the past, will be difficult again, if not impossible.

This is another Christmas season when we face one of the most challenging crisis of modern times, a pandemic that has made millions ill and taken the lives of thousands of our fellow human beings. And so our natural response may be to ask how can one speak of joy and hope in the midst of so much suffering, so much isolation, so much anxiety and fear.

But it is the very Christmas message that gives us hope. Jesus came into a world where there was pain and suffering. God became one of us, took on our human form. In doing so, Jesus experienced the joyful moments of life but also the suffering that is part of our human state. In the end, He gave His life for us on the Cross.

He walked the journey that we walk, and in doing so He gave us all something to believe in and to have hope in. His life reminds us that suffering and even death is not the final word. The Gospel of Christmas day proclaims to us “what came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race, the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” Jesus continues to walk this journey with us, even now. He is the light that gives us direction.

In the midst of this most difficult moment in our history, let the Light of Christ be our light, let the joy and the hope of the Christmas message, give us the courage and strength to believe that things can get better and will get better.

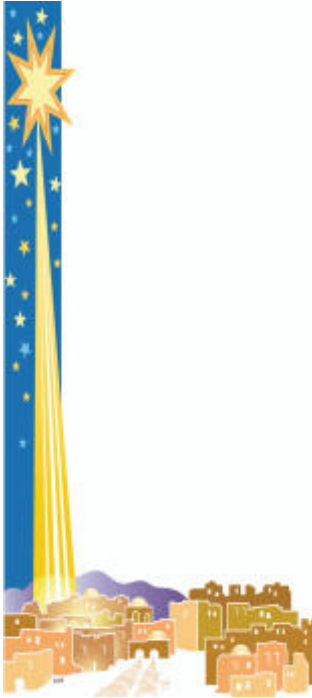
My thanks to all of you who have been faithful parishioners, for all you do even through the tough times. If you are returning to Church today from a long absence, or even a short one, let the joy of this celebration fill you. Let the light of Christ into your lives and into your hearts that your hearts may grow this day and return to the joy of celebrating the Eucharist today and every week of the year.

Finally, this Christmas let us give thanks for all those doctors, nurses, first responders, those in service work, all who are making incredible sacrifices, and taking great risks, to heal and help us through this moment. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. May the Lord Jesus bless you and your loved ones this Christmas Day.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May Christ abide in your hearts always!

Sincerely in Christ, *Fr. Kris*

WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS



DECEMBER 27 – JANUARY 1

Monday 9:15 AM

Michael Dombe

Requested by Jackie Pfalser

Tuesday 9:15 AM

Sofia Weiland

Requested by Tony Weiland

Wednesday

No Mass

Thursday 7:00 PM

Msgr. William Easton

Requested by Fr. Kris

Friday 9:15 AM

Dobbs, Kemp, Trayer,

Robrecht and Goderman Families

Requested by C. Kemp

Friday 5:00 PM

For All Our Parishioners

Saturday 10:00 AM

Fr. Kris Nowak

Requested by N. Battel

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 2, 2022

5:00 PM

January 1

For
Fr. Kris Nowak
Requested by N. Battel

Lector

Renetta Jacob

8:30 AM

January 2

For
Eglantina Valente
Requested by Family

Lector

Hannah Smith

10:15 AM

January 2

For
Mary Ritz Morelli
Requested by
Josephine Rotondo & Family

Lector

Caron Kott

12:00 PM

January 2

For
Joe Gonsalves
Requested by Blen Cardozo

Lector

Sharon McCarthy

Readings for Week

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

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

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

LITURGICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC

(FOR A LIST OF DAILY READINGS AND/OR TO HAVE THEM SENT TO
YOUR EMAIL: GO TO [HTTP://WWW.USCCB.ORG/NAB](http://www.usccb.org/nab))



If you wish to make an offering for Christmas through Simple Give on-line, you can do so now until December 31. If you wish to make an offering for New Year's you can do so December 29 through January 9. Thank you!

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.



Mass Schedule



Friday, December 31

**Vigil Mass Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
New Year's Eve**

5:00 PM

Saturday, January 1

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

10:00 AM

There will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on
December 31, New Year's Eve Day and on January 1,
New Year's Day there will be no confessions.

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.

**Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!
From the St. Gerald Staff:**

**Rev. Krzysztof Nowak
Norma Battel
Mary Hoots
Tom Kruger
Gerryanna Luscri
Mary Melonio
Kimberly Smith
Mary Taylor
Matthew Yokom**



CSA 2021 CAMPAIGN UPDATE

199 members have donated thus far. If you have not donated to CSA for 2021 and need a pledge card, please call the Parish Office as we have blank cards available.

Our CSA goal for 2021 is **\$70,574.00**. Please consider making a donation. We are asking each family to contribute **\$285.00** this year to meet our goal, **but whatever you are able to donate would help us get closer to our goal.**

It is also important to remind you that any shortfall to the goal of \$70,574.00 has to be made up from our savings account. Your generous support of past CSA efforts at St. Gerald have been most appreciated.

Please note the new address on the return envelope is directed to Minnesota. Also, all checks should be payable to *The Archdiocese of Detroit-CSA*. If you choose to give on-line, go to <http://stgerald.aodcsa.org>

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office at 248-477-7470.



2021 CSA Pledges To Date



Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and so we can celebrate that we all belong to the holy family of God which makes us brothers and sisters to each other.

At Christmas this year, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring joy and hope to our “brothers and sisters” who are poor by assisting many families with food and gifts. Thank you for your help!



Sharmella Kerbawy Kimberly Plonka Art Mikkola

Anna D’Orazio Ida Picano Karen Bayer Pat Centers

Joan Goniea Patricia Hayes Robert Bliss

My dear precious Jesus,
 I did not mean to take your place, I only bring toys and things and you bring love and grace. People give me lists of wishes and hope that they came true; But you hear prayers of the heart and promise your will to do. Children try to be good and not to cry when I am coming to town; But you love them unconditionally and that love will abound. I leave only a bag of toys and temporary joy for a season; But you leave a heart of love, full of purpose and reasons. I have a lot of believers and what one might call fame; But I never healed the blind or tried to help the lame. I have rosy cheeks and a voice full of laughter; But no nail—scarred hands or a promise of the hereafter. You may find several of me in town or at a mall; But there is only one omnipotent you, to answer a sinner's call. And so, my dear precious Jesus, I kneel here to pray; To worship and adore you on this, your holy birthday.

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.



BANNS OF MARRIAGE 2ND BANN

Let us pray for Rachel Hume and William Reichardt as they prepare to be joined in Holy Matrimony at St. Gerald Parish on January 8, 2022.

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY
MOMENTS**

All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

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 in the hallway rack in the education section of the building 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.



Christmas Gift Giving



Thank you to everyone who so kindly donated items for our Christmas program this year. Your generosity has filled the hearts of many who received these donations as it helped make their Christmas a little more special. We could not have done it without your help!



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 **January 1 and 2.**



Thank you again to the wonderful volunteers who hung all of the angels on the tree!



Parish Offices will be closed through January 2nd. If you have any emergency and you need to reach Fr. Kris, please call 248-987-6412. Thank You!

The **Man of the Shroud Touring Exhibit** will be here at St. Gerald Church on Saturday and Sunday, March 19 and 20.



CHARITY CASINO BUS TOUR

Join us at Firekeepers Casino in Battle Creek on Wednesday, January 12th. The bus leaves St. Gerald parking lot at 9 AM and returns at 6 PM. For information and to sign up call: Richard Smith (313-421-0204), Bruce Roberts (248-756-9257) or Richard Rosowski (248-477-2511).



Invite a friend to

think
chat
eat
laugh
connect
explore
question

learn more at
livoniastmichael.org/alpha

Invite a friend to Alpha

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith.

Each session looks at a different question and is designed to create conversation. There's no pressure, no follow-up, and no charge; it's an open, informal, and honest space to explore and discuss life's big questions together

On Sunday, January 23, St. Michael the Archangel will host a Come & See luncheon for those who may be interested in attending

WIDOWED FRIENDS BREAKFAST IN LIVONIA

All widowed men and women are welcome to come and enjoy good food, good conversation and meet new friends at Archie's Restaurant located at 30471 Plymouth Road, Livonia, on Monday, January 3rd at 10:00 AM. Call Tom at 586-216-1454 to reserve a spot and for more information.



The priesthood: you were made for this. Accept God's calling! Visit: www.detroitpriestlyvocations.com.

If you're going to listen to something, let it be GOOD!

Catholic and Christian Radio Station options:

- 990 AM Ave Maria Radio (avemariaradio.net)
 - 94.3 FM Family Life Radio ((myflr.org)
 - 103.5 FM The Light (WMUZ)
 - 106.3 FM KLOVE (klove.com)
- Take a listen; learn and grow in faith.*

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.

CHRISTMAS

Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. We have lighted four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world.

Let us pray...

God,
you became human through the obedience of a simple young woman named Mary.
Mary is our model of faith.
May we be faithful to your word as Mary was.
Give us the courage to face each day with the yes that Mary gave to you.
We ask this through the incarnate God, who comes to us again during this Christmas season.
Amen.



We joyfully announce the union of:

Jennifer Kopeck and Joseph Russell

Jennifer and Joseph exchanged vows on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at St. Gerald Parish

May your days be blessed!

St. Gerald Church

*A Servant Church
of the Archdiocese of Detroit*

21300 Farmington Rd.
Farmington, MI 48336

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Mass

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

Weekday Mass

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

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.



COMING BACK TO CHURCH

Question:

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

Answer:

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be. ©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 Smith

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.

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