

The St. Gerald Voice



Roman Catholic Church

DECEMBER 3, 2023

| First Sunday of Advent

*A Servant Church
of the Archdiocese of Detroit*

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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.

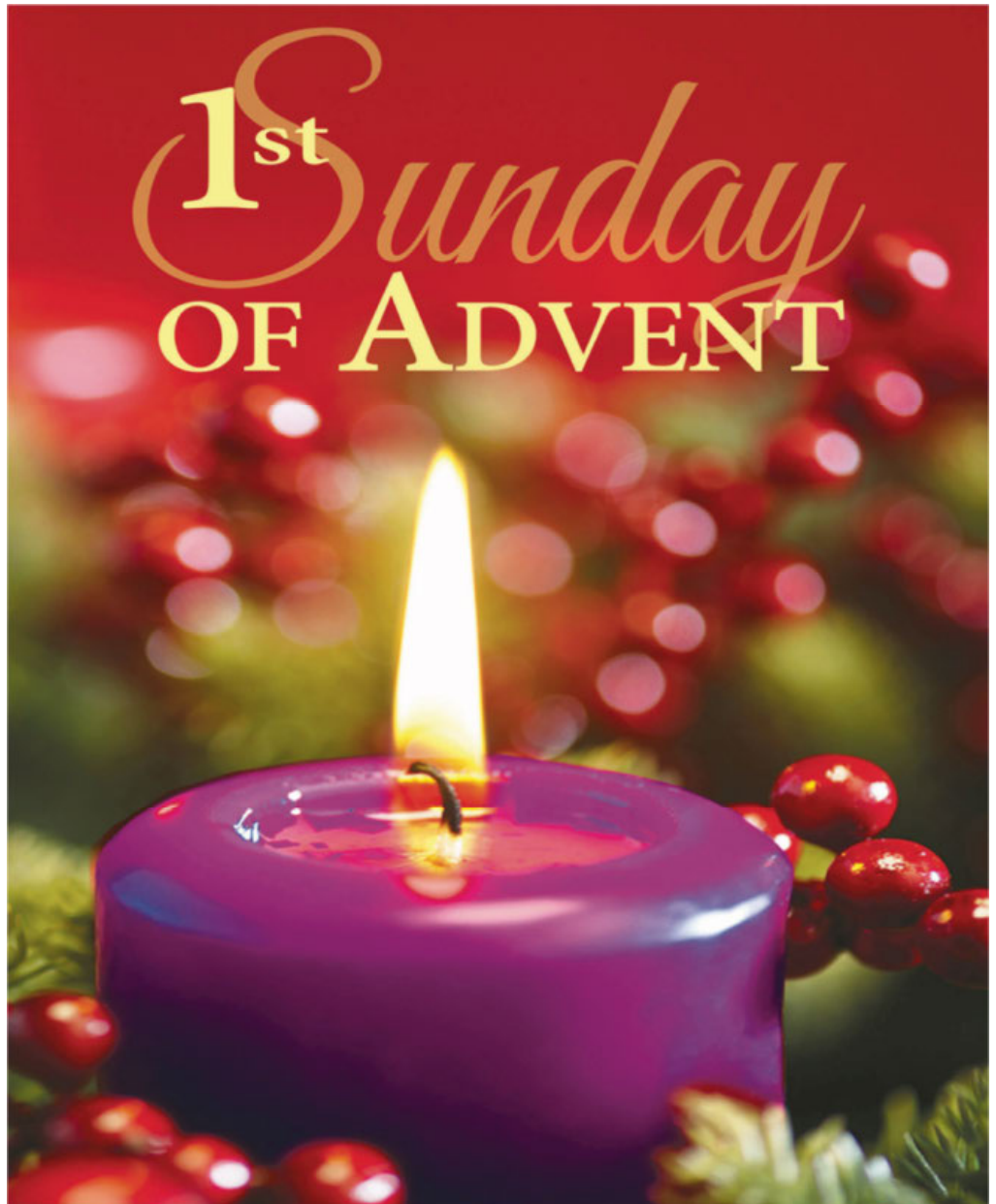
RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.



MISSION STATEMENT

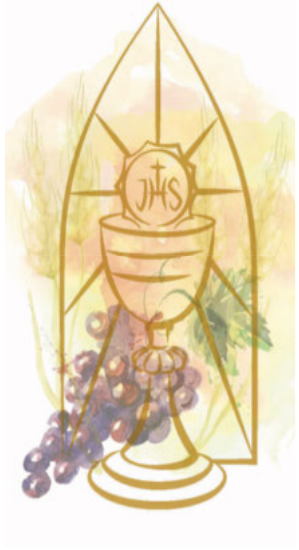
St. Gerald Roman Catholic Church is a welcoming, inclusive parish striving to be a reflection of Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we are dedicated to strengthening our faith through reverent and uplifting worship, serving those in need, and living the fullness of the Gospel with all God's people.



**The Advent Reconciliation/
Confession Schedule
December 4, 2023; 7:00PM**

21300 FARMINGTON ROAD, FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN 48336
Phone: 248-477-7470 | Fax: 248-477-3878 | Website: stgeraldparish.org

WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS



DECEMBER 4—DECEMBER 8

Monday 9:15 AM
Fr. Kris, The Dobbs, Kemp, Trayer, Robrecht and Goderman Families
 Requested by C. Kemp

Tuesday 9:15 AM
Joazinho Proenca
 Requested by Blen Cardozo

Thursday 7:00 PM
Peggy Sikorski
 Requested by Murray Family

Friday 9:15 AM
Dorothy Turowski
 Requested by Blaszczyk Family

Friday 7:00PM
Gina Bonacchi Hesperen
 Requested by Family

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Please remember in your prayers

Joan Goniea Winifred Maguire
 Marie Bolivar Josie Boore
 Maria Rea Leonard Lemanski

We Pray for the Repose of the Soul of

Robert Lee Koenig

+

January 12, 1933
 November 21, 2023



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Robert, O Lord,
 and May Perpetual Light Shine Upon Him.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dec 10, 2023

5:00 PM DEC 9 Fr. Henry		
For Suzanne Stepham and Michael Kantor Request by: Debbie Kantor	Lector	Isabelle Gerhart
8:30 AM DEC 10 Fr. Kris		
For Eglantina Valente Requested by: Cosimo	Lector	Candy Rosowski
10:15 AM DEC 10 Fr. Henry		
For All Our Parishioners	Lector	Caron Kott
12:00 PM DEC 10 Fr. Kris		
For Gina Bonacchi Hesperen Requested by Family	Lector	Sharon McCarthy

Offertory Snapshot as of 11/19/23

Actual Offertory	\$ 6,251
Budget Offertory	\$ 8,105
Year-to-Date Actual Offertory	\$ 152,163
Year-to-Date Budget Offertory	\$ 170,215

Bans of Marriage

“We publish the bans of marriage between Joseph Nguyen Hoan Son and Mary Nguyen Vu Thuy Dziem Chi. This is the Third time of asking. If any of you know cause or just impediment why these two persons should not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, you are to declare it.”

First Sunday of Advent

Reading 1 IS 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7

You, LORD, are our father,
our redeemer you are named forever.
Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your
ways,
and harden our hearts so that we fear you not?
Return for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your heritage.
Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come
down,
with the mountains quaking before you,
while you wrought awesome deeds we could not
hope for,
such as they had not heard of from of old.
No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any
God but you
doing such deeds for those who wait for him.
Would that you might meet us doing right,
that we were mindful of you in our ways!
Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful;
all of us have become like unclean people,
all our good deeds are like polluted rags;
we have all withered like leaves,
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.
There is none who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to cling to you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us up to our guilt.
Yet, O LORD, you are our father;
we are the clay and you the potter:
we are all the work of your hands.

Responsorial Psalm

.....PS 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Reading II 1 COR 1:3-9

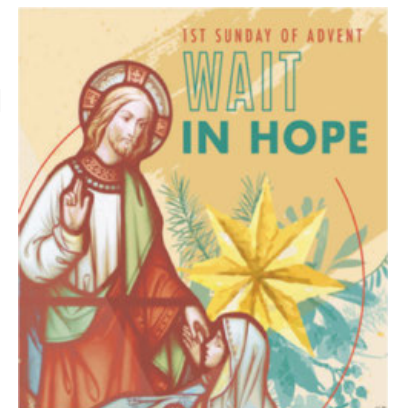
Brothers and sisters:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my
God always on your account for the grace of
God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him
you were enriched in every way, with all dis-
course and all knowledge, as the testimony to
Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are
not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the
revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep
you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of
our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful,
and by him you were called to fellowship with his
Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel Mt 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of
Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with
him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all
the nations will be assembled before him.
And he will separate them one from another,
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the
goats. He will place the sheep on his right and
the goats on his left. Then the king will say to
those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed
by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for
you from the foundation of the world. For I was
hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and
you gave me drink, a stranger and you
welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill
and you cared for me, in prison and you visited
me.'

Then the righteous will answer him and say,
'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed
you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did
we see you a stranger and welcome you, or
naked and clothe you? When did we see you
ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will
say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you,
whatever you did for one of the least brothers
of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to
those on his left, 'Depart from me, you
accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the
devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you
gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave
me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no
welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing,
ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'
Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did
we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or
naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your
needs?'

He will answer
them, 'Amen, I say
to you, what you did
not do for one of
these least ones,
you did not do for
me.' And these will
go off to eternal
punishment, but the
righteous to eternal
life."



**ST. GERALD PARISH
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

Daily Mass – M, T, F-9:15AM;
Th – 7:00PM
First Saturday-9:15AM

Weekend Masses – Dec. 2-3, 9-10,
16-17
Saturday, 5:00PM; Sunday, 8:30AM,
10:15AM, 12 Noon

Sunday, December 24: 8:30AM,
10:15AM

**Christmas Eve – 4:00PM, 6:00PM,
12:00Midnight**

**Christmas Day–Monday, December 25
9:00AM Mass and 11:00AM Mass**

The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph

Saturday, December 30 ; 5:00PM
Sunday, December 31
8:30AM Mass, 10:15AM Mass, & 12
Noon

New Year's Day, Feast of Mary,
Holy Mother of God

Sunday, December 31; 5:00PM
Monday, January 1 – 10:00AM Mass

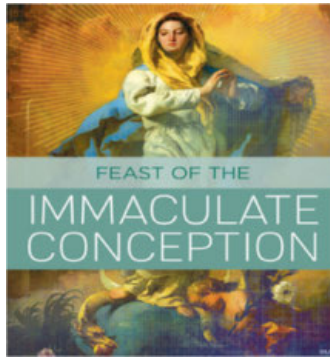
Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday, January 6 – 5:00PM
Sunday January 7 – 8:30AM, 10:15AM
and 12 Noon Mass

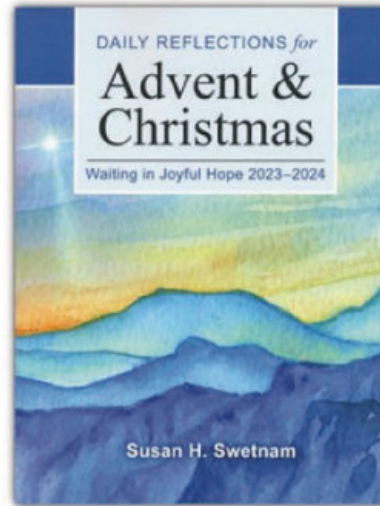
**First Friday Observance – Adoration
Friday, December 1 and January 5
Adoration begins after the
9:15AM Mass and
Concludes with Benediction at
5:00PM**

**First Saturday Masses
Saturday, December 2 and
January 6 – 9:15AM**

**The Advent Reconciliation/Confession
Schedule
December 4, 2023; 7:00PM
along with
Regular Reconciliation/Confession**



**DECEMBER 8TH, FEAST
OF THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
HOLY DAY OF
OBLIGATION ... MASSES
ARE FRIDAY AT 9:15AM
AND 7PM**



**Daily Reflections
for Advent &
Christmas Books
are available in the
Gathering Space
(Narthax)
of the Church this
weekend.
A small donation would
be
appreciated!**

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.



ST. GERALD 2023 CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL ANGEL TREE

This year St. Gerald will once again have a special CHRISTmas Tree with colored glass angels. These angels will be a memorial gift to the families who would like to contribute towards our CHRISTmas decorations. After CHRISTmas, the families who have contributed will be able to take an angel home as a remembrance of their loved one(s).

If you would like to contribute, the suggested donation is \$10.00 per name. Just fill out this form. Place your form and donation in an envelope marked "Angels" and drop it in the collection basket at weekend Masses or bring it to the Parish Office.

Please, clearly print your name, phone number and each memorial name. A list of the donors and memorial names will appear in the New Year's edition of the Voice.

(Deadline for donations is Monday, December 17, 2023)

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)

Please make checks payable to St. Gerald Church.



OPLATEK OR "CHRISTMAS WAFER"

The Christmas wafer is a **Christian Christmas tradition** from Central Europe 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!



Christmas Eve Gospel Enactment

Families, if you plan to attend the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass at St. Gerald, we invite your children to participate in our annual tradition of the Children's Gospel Enactment of the Christmas Story during Mass. All children, preschool through 6th grade are invited; they do not have to attend St. Gerald for Faith Formation to participate. The roles do not require a lot; we will meet in the week prior for a quick rehearsal and distribution of costumes. Please contact Emily Long at 248.476.7677 x 201

Christmas Gift Program Volunteers Are Needed

Volunteers are needed to sort and pack Christmas gifts immediately after the noon mass on Sunday, December 10th. We also need volunteers to help on gift distribution day, Saturday, December 16th, between 9:00 am. and noon. Please call the Christian Service Office at 248-476-7677 ext. 204 if you can assist us. Your gift of time and effort is much appreciated!

Hats and Mittens Donation Tree

You can warm the hearts and hands of the needy! Please bring hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks to decorate a tree in the gathering space of the Church. Your much appreciated donations will be accepted through December 10th and will be given to local individuals and families in need.



Christmas Gifts Are Due Back Next Weekend

Just a reminder that if you picked up Christmas tags, please return your gifts next weekend by **Sunday, December 10th**. Also, some Christmas gift tags still need to be selected and will be available after all Masses this weekend so we can provide gifts for each person who requested holiday help.



The KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Will be at the doors of the Church with their Keep Christ in Christmas ornaments, etc. A free will donation is appreciated.

ST. GERALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

Office Hours

8:00 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 Melonio, Administrative Assistant. x 212
Email: stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com

All other offices dial (248) 476-7677

Christian Services x 204

St. Vincent de Paul x 220

Education

Emily Long: Coordinator of Faith Formation x 201
Email: Faithformation.sgp@gmail.com

Music Ministry

Mary Melonio: Director of Music x 222
Email: dulcemusika@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.

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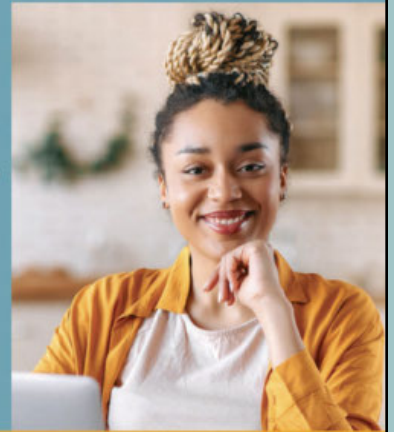
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