

The St. Gerald Voice



Roman Catholic Church

DECEMBER 10, 2023



Second 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

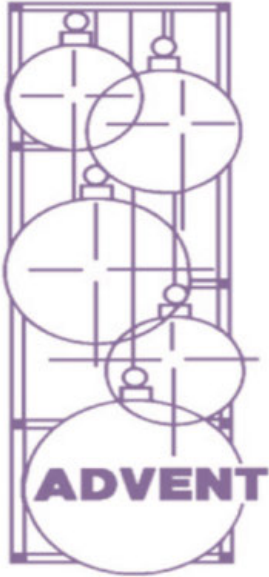
St. Gerald Roman Catholic Church is a welcoming, inclusive parish striving to be a reflection of Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we are dedicated to strengthening our faith through reverent and uplifting worship, serving those in need, and living the fullness of the Gospel with all God's people.



21300 FARMINGTON ROAD, FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN 48336

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

WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS



DECEMBER 11—DECEMBER 15

Monday 9:15 AM

Dombe Family

Requested by Phyllis Dombe

Tuesday 9:15 AM

Mary Martin

Requested by Blen Cardozo

Thursday 7:00 PM

Gina and Patrick Hespen

Requested by Bonacchi Family

Friday 9:15 AM

Victoria Coville

Requested by Family

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13 1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Please remember in your prayers

Joan Goniea

Winifred Maguire

Marie Bolivar

Josie Boore

Maria Rea

Leonard Lemanski

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!

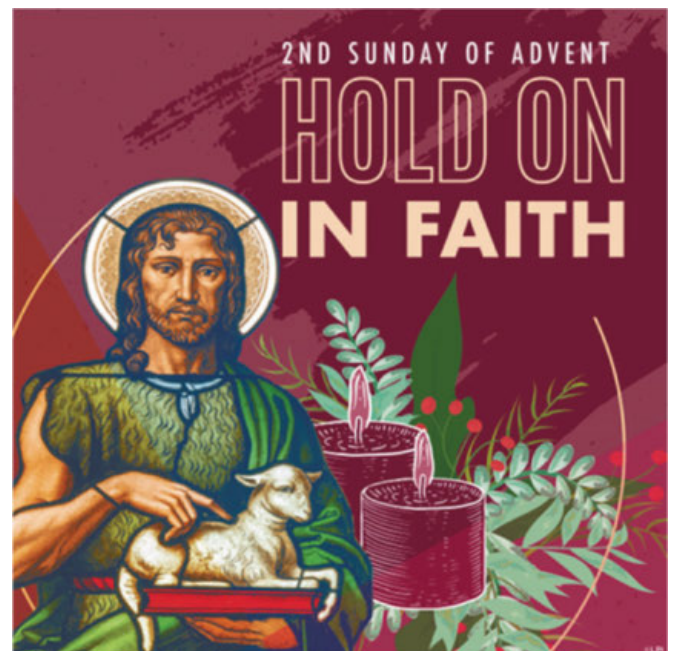
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dec 17, 2023

5:00 PM			DEC 16	Fr. Kris
For Jim and Joan Mellnick Requested by: Phyllis Dombe	Lector	Diane Blankenship		
8:30 AM			DEC 17	Fr. Sal
For Charlotte Campbell Requested by: Mullen Family	Lector	Paulette Mullen		
10:15 AM			DEC 17	Fr. Kris
For All Our Parishioners	Lector	Jeff Antoun		
12:00 PM			DEC 17	Fr. Kris
For Ralph J. Schwalm Requested by Theresa Schwalm	Lector	Paul Radzilowski		

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



Second Sunday of Advent

Reading 1

IS 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

Responsorial Psalm PS 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14

Reading 2

2 PT 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

Gospel

MK 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”



**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



**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!



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.



THE CANDY CANE

THE SHAPE IS LIKE THE SHEPERD'S STAFF. FLIP IT AND IT IS A "J" FOR JESUS. RED REMINDS US OF THE BLOOD JESUS SHED FOR US. WHITE IS PURITY AND

HOW HE WASHED AWAY OUR SINS AND MADE US WHITE AS SNOW. CANDY IS HIS SWEET LOVE FOR US. PEPPERMINT IS LIKE THE HYSSOP PLANT IN THE BIBLE USED FOR PURIFYING.

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*

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

2024/2025
Preschool, Young 5's,
& Kindergarten

Enrollment Opens on
Sunday, January 28

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OR LEARN MORE, SCAN
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Your **Knights of Columbus Chapter 13673** have been busy this fall. There is, however, one more bit of news to report from our last year. Once again, we qualified for the Star Council Award, which we have received several consecutive years. The Star Council Award recognizes Councils who meet or exceed certain benchmarks for service to community, recruiting new members, and support of other Catholic initiatives. Our Council has earned this coveted award a total of 8 times! Thanks in particular go to Program Director Scott Horsburgh, Grand Knight Terry Grabinski, and Membership Director Rich Smith. Pictured below from left to right are District Deputy Gary Malia, Grand Knight Terry Grabinski, Membership Director Rich Smith, and Program Director Scott Horsburgh.



Congratulations to all! We look forward to another successful year.

Sweatshirt Drive for Holy Cross Childrens Services

We had another successful Sweatshirt Drive this year. Led once again by our own Jolly Elf, Membership Director Rich Smith, we collected over 70 Sweatshirts for Holy Cross Childrens services. Thanks once again to the generous parishioners of St. Gerald. **Trunk or Treat** Your Knights cooked up 100 hot dogs for this annual event, and by all accounts, a good time was had by all! **Keep Christ in Christmas** Once again, we are accepting donations for various “Keep Christ in Christmas” items, such as lapel pins or refrigerator magnets. Knights will be posted at the main entrance to the church the next few Sundays. Want to know more about the Knights of Columbus or how to become a Knight? Please call Rich Smith, our Membership Director, at (313) 421-0204.



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

Norma Battel x 202
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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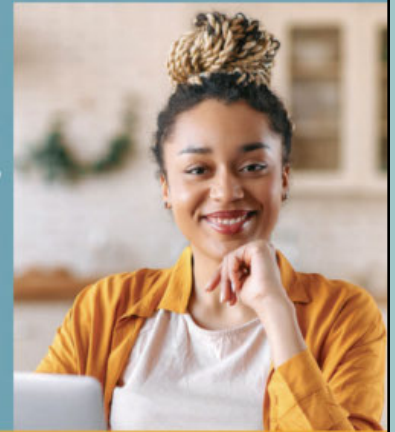
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