

The St. Gerald Voice



Roman Catholic Church

DECEMBER 17, 2023

Third 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

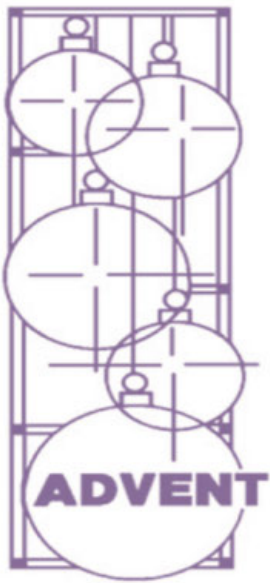
St. Gerald Roman Catholic Church is a welcoming, inclusive parish striving to be a reflection of Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we are dedicated to strengthening our faith through reverent and uplifting worship, serving those in need, and living the fullness of the Gospel with all God's people.



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21300 FARMINGTON ROAD, FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN 48336

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



DECEMBER 18—DECEMBER 22

Monday 9:15 AM

Ida Picano

Requested by: Julee Berger

Tuesday 9:15 AM

Bill Croitori

Requested by Family

Thursday 7:00 PM

Fr. Kris and the Dobbs, Kemp, Trayer, Robrecht and Goderman Families

Requested by: C. Kemp

Friday 9:15 AM

Gina and Patrick Hesper

Requested by: Bonacchi Family

Readings for the Week

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
 Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
 Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
 Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
 Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
 Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk

Please remember in your prayers

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

Offertory Snapshot as of 11/26/23	
Actual Offertory	\$ 8,540
Budget Offertory	\$ 8,105
Year-to-Date Actual Offertory	\$ 160,703
Year-to-Date Budget Offertory	\$ 178,321

**“The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white host.”
 -Archbishop Fulton Sheen**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dec 23 5:00PM Fr. Sal

Edward Weberlein

Requested by Dennis and Sharon Weberlein
 Lector: Sharon McCarthy

Dec 24 8:30AM Fr. Kris

Fr. Thomas Puzio

Memorial Mass

Lector: Rosa Russenberger

Dec 24 10:15AM Fr. Henry

Sofia Weiland

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Dec 24 4:00PM Fr. Kris

Pavco and Kaye Families

Requested by Joe Pavco

Lector: Candy Rosowski

Dec 24 6:00PM Fr. Kris

All Our Parishioners

Lector: Angela McLoughlin

Dec 24 12:00AM Fr. Kris

Cambianica Family

Requested by Family

Lector: Hannah Smith

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Dec 25 9:00AM Fr. Kris

Josephine & Enrico Soave

Requested by Russenberger Family

Lector: Mark Cieslak

Dec 25 11:00AM Fr. Henry

Morelli and Rotondo Families

Requested by Josephine Rotondo Family

Lector: Caron Kott



Third Sunday of Advent

Reading 1

Is 61:1-2A, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

Responsorial Psalm Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

Reading 2

1 Thes 5:16-24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.



Gospel

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said."

Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me,



**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

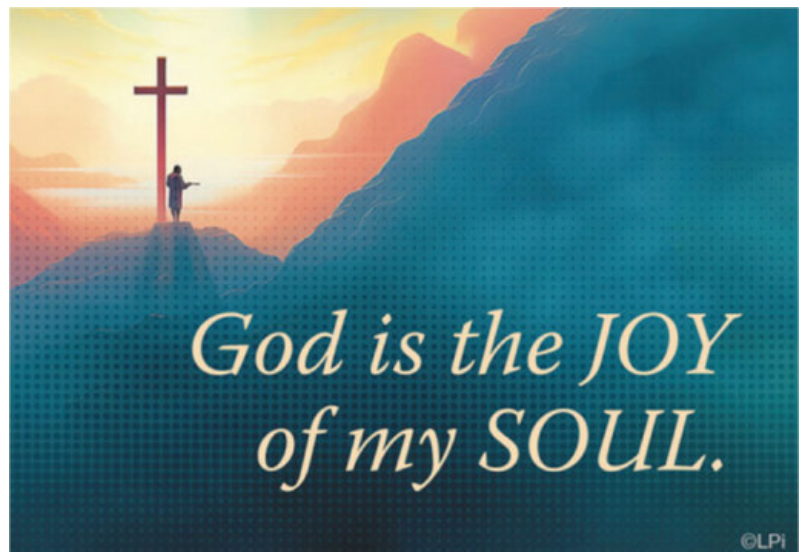


**OPLATEK OR “CHRISTMAS
WAFER”**

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 18, 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.



WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

BRIAN BENNER

JULIE ANUMBA AND FAMILY

MARY ROSE

**FRANK AND KATHLEEN
WENDT**



Job Opening

If anyone is interested or knows of anyone available for the position of Church Secretary here at St. Gerald Church, please contact Fr. Kris. 248-477-7470

The story behind the Pink Advent Candle JOY

.....By Susan Klemend

As the commercial world is already saturated with red and green, it's easy to lose sight of the true colors of the season—the Advent season. This week the color pink represents joy. It turns out, the Church has a good reason for putting one pink candle in the Advent wreath.

To discover the story of the pink candle, we first have to look at the origins of the season and the wreath. Until Advent was instituted toward the end of the fifth century, the only season Christians observed was Lent. As preparation for Christmas, the Church established Advent in the spirit of Lent—as a season of reflection and penance.

A wreath of hope The custom of the Advent wreath originated with pre-Christian Germanic peoples whose evergreen wreaths and fires signified hope in the darkness of December. Christians maintained the tradition and by the 16th century German Catholics and Protestants used the wreath to symbolize hope for Christ's coming. The practice spread through the Christian world. By one interpretation, the wreath's four candles represent the first Advent before Christ's birth, with each week commemorating 1,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Nativity. Purple candles stand for prayer, penance, and sacrifices and good works done during the Advent season, as we also wait for the Lord's second coming. Another view is that the candles in the wreath have specific names which we can reflect on as we light them and pray: the first is hope, the second peace, the third joy and the fourth love. The color for joy ...A pink candle that signifies joy makes sense since it is lit on Gaudete Sunday—named for the entrance antiphon for that Sunday's Mass: "Rejoice (gaudete) in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice." The joy is subdued, however, as the penitential violet of the other weeks lessens to rose as we move closer to Christmas. As Advent is patterned in part after Lent, Gaudete Sunday is similar to the Lenten Laetare Sunday, which also represents joy and falls at the midpoint of Lent.

And that finally leads to the explanation for the pink candle. In the ancient Church on Laetare Sunday in Lent, the Pope gave a citizen a pink rose. The tradition has continued, as popes bestowed golden roses on Catholic rulers and now more commonly, on places of devotion. Following the papal rose custom, bishops and priests began wearing rose-colored vestments on Laetare Sunday. The Church then brought the Lenten practice of rose vestments to Advent on Gaudete Sunday. As a result, the pink candle gained a place in the Advent wreath. Although the culture tells us it's already Christmas, the Church reminds us through the pink candle of Advent that there is an appointed time for everything (Eccl. 3:1). The time now is for rejoicing—because the Lord is coming soon!



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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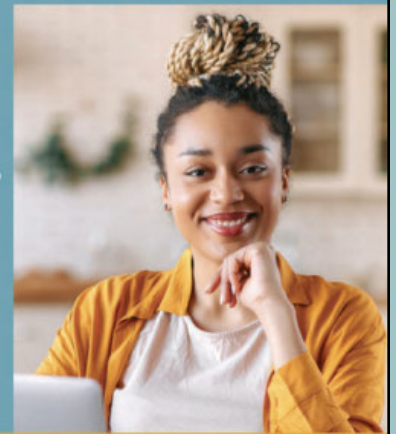
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