

THE VOICE

December 8, 2019

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

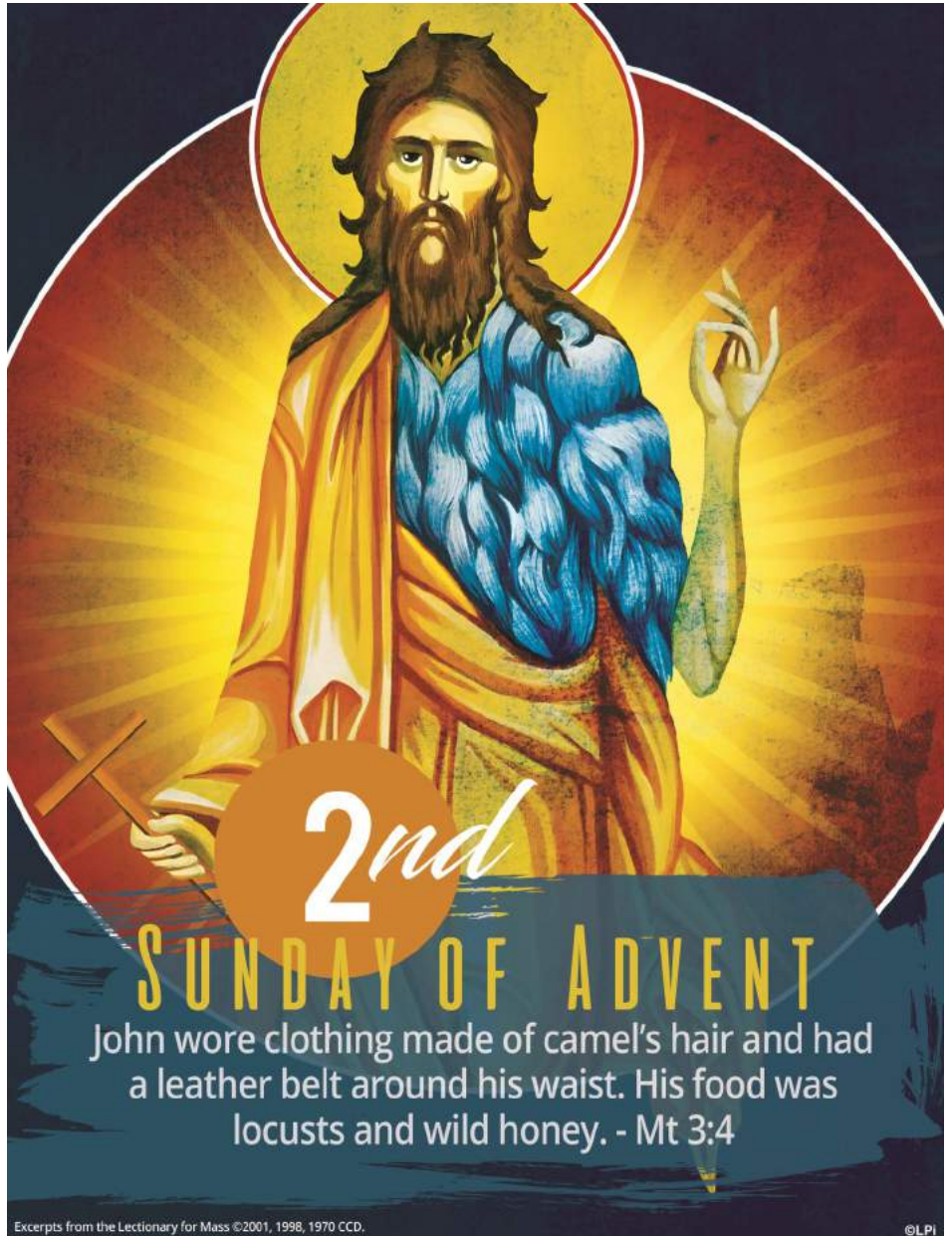
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:15 a.m.
and 12:00 Noon

WEEKDAYS

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

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.



St. Gerald Parish
Advent Reconciliation Service
with individual confession and absolution
7:00 PM, Monday, December 9

WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS



DECEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 13

Monday 9:15 AM
David Vaillancourt
 Requested by
 Tom and Kathryn Marshall

Tuesday 9:15 AM
Eglantina Valente
 Requested by Valente Family

Wednesday
 No Mass

Thursday 7:00 PM
James Mayotte
 Requested by Nowicki Family

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/
 Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14

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

Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

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

Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6A, 10/ Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 [Is 35:4]/
 JAS 5:7-10/MT 11:2-11

LITURGICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC
 (FOR A LIST OF DAILY READINGS: GO TO [HTTP://WWW.USCCB.ORG/NAB](http://www.usccb.org/nab))

Pray for our Sick:

Nicole Zapinski Victoria Angelosanto Yolanda Fenech
 Rick Stone Claire Marie Tuite-Yoder Jennifer Mondoux

If you would like a name to added on the prayer list, please email stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com or call the Parish Office at 248-477-7470. Thank you!

Children of the parish, preschool-5th grade, are invited to participate in the **St. Gerald Gospel Enactment** of the Christmas Story at the 6:00 Christmas Eve Mass.



There will be one rehearsal, Saturday, December 14th, 11:00 AM in church. Please contact Mary Taylor to sign up, 248 476-7677, ext. 201 or marytaylor.sgp@gmail.com.



December 15, 2019

5:00 PM December 14 Fr. Kris		
For Wilfred Jacques Requested by Lynn & Rich Smith	Lector/ Ushers	Diane Blankenship 5:00A
8:30 AM December 15 Fr. Roodbeen		
For Mario Rossi Requested by Flora Rossi	Lector/ Ushers	Candy Rosowski 8:30C
10:15 AM December 15 Fr. Kris		
For Victoria Coville Requested by Famly	Lector/ Ushers	Caron Kott 10:15B
12:00 PM December 15 Fr. Kris		
For All Our Parishioners	Lector/ Ushers	Teddi Williams 12:00B

Church Cleaning Schedule for Next Week
December 14 and December 15
 Team D

Team #3 is scheduled for Botsford Commons Sunday, December 8 following the 8:30 AM Mass.

ST. GERALD ONLINE GIVING

Online Giving of Donations through Simple Give is available. Please visit our Parish Website at stgeraldparish.org and click on Online Giving to get started or pick up the instruction sheets on the bookcase in the gathering space of the church. Thank you for your continued support of St. Gerald Parish.

Please help us keep our parish records up-to-date. If you move, have a change of phone number or any other change, please call the Parish Office at 248-477-7470.

Reminder: Our Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00 PM. All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS GIFT PROGRAM

Please note that gifts are due back this weekend. If you forgot to bring your gift, please return them as soon as possible as gifts will be distributed to families on **December 14th**. If you have any questions, please contact Christian Service at 248-476-7677, ext. 204.

ANNUAL SWEATSHIRT DRIVE FOR THE CHILDREN AT BOYSVILLE

The Knights of Columbus here at St. Gerald need your help by gifting a hooded sweatshirt to the children at Boysville (Holy Cross Children's Services). This may be the only Christmas gift these children will receive. Hooded sweatshirts (men's sizes large and extra large) are needed with sports, high school or college names printed on sweatshirts. Please drop them off no later than this weekend, Sunday, December 8th on the Knight's table in the social hall. Thank you for your generosity, Richard Smith, chairperson 313-421-0204 for additional information.

ST. GERALD PARISH ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

The Advent/Christmas Mass Schedule
Daily Mass—**M, T, F-9:15 AM; Th-7:00 PM;**
First Saturday-9:15 AM

Weekend Mass—**Dec. 14-15, 21-22**
Saturday, 5:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM,
12 Noon

Christmas Eve—Tuesday, December 24
4:00 PM Mass, 6:00 PM Children's Mass, 10:00 PM Choir
Mass & Midnight Mass

Christmas Day—Wednesday, December 25
9:00 AM Mass & 11:00 AM Mass

New Year's Eve, Tuesday, December 31
9:15 AM Mass & 5:00 PM Vigil Mass

New Year's Day, Feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God
Wednesday, January 1 - 10:00 AM Mass

First Friday observance-adoration,
Friday, January 3

Adoration begins after the 9:15 AM Mass and
ends at 5:00 PM with Benediction

First Saturday Mass
Saturday, January 4—9:15 AM Mass
with Sacrament of Anointing

Feast of the Epiphany
Saturday, January 4 - 5:00 PM,
Sunday, January 5 - 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM & 12 Noon

The Advent Reconciliation/Confession Schedule
Regular Reconciliation/Confession every Saturday at 3:30 PM
Monday, Dec. 9—Parish Reconciliation Service —7:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 28 no 3:30 PM Confession



OPLATEK OR "CHRISTMAS WAFER"

The **Christmas wafer** is a Central European Christian Christmas tradition 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 in the Parish Office and will be available after all the Masses this weekend and on December 14/15. A Free Will donation is not required, but would be appreciated!

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

What does it mean to be worthy? There are a few different ways to approach this question. Today's Gospel highlights two: the way of the Pharisees and the way of John the Baptist. Our faith values good works and discipleship. Perhaps, then, we "earn" our worth by adhering to the right doctrines and following the right pious practice. The Pharisees thought they were worthy. Due to their religious pedigree and proper procedures, they were self-satisfied. John the Baptist's words to them are strong. *"Do not resume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'"* Of course, Jesus (and John) don't omit the responsibility for moral behavior. John gives the Pharisees quite a strong warning in that regard. *"Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance ... every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."*

It's a question of attitude. Of disposition. It's a matter of the heart. If anyone would be worthy in this scenario, it's John the Baptist. Jesus himself will name him the greatest of prophets and a great man. John, however, recognizes his own lowly place in the grand scheme of things. *"The one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals."* The Pharisees take pride in being "better" than others. John embraces humility in Christ being "better" than him. We don't self-generate our own worthiness. We receive it as a gift from God.

In a few short weeks, we'll celebrate the birth of Christ. Bishop Ven. Fulton Sheen wrote about the Nativity in his "Life of Christ": "Because [Jesus] was born in a cave, all who wish to see Him must stoop. To stoop is the mark of humility. The proud refuse to stoop and, therefore, they miss divinity." God invites us to prepare our hearts this Advent. When you consider your own life, where are you looking for your worth? This Christmas, are you prepared to stoop?

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ADVENT TEA

Our 2019 Advent Tea was a wonderful success. We filled the social hall at St. Gerald with prayer, smiles, good camaraderie and yummy food. Thank you to the Knights who again served the food and the Youth Group who helped with bussing and clean up and our choir for singing. A special thank you to Diane and Fred Gerometta for all of their work and to Tom Kruger for setting up the social hall. A shout out to the Worship Commission and everyone who came and made it a memorable evening for all.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

In St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, he asks this community, and us as well, to be Christian stewards of God's gifts through two powerful messages: welcome one another in the spirit of Christ, and then, glorify God *with one heart and voice*. With a spirit of evangelization, a true stewardship parish is inviting to both parishioners and visitors alike. The importance of this ministry cannot be overemphasized, especially during this joyous season of Advent. Many parishes have ministers of hospitality whose mission is to welcome parishioners and guests warmly as they enter the church before weekend Masses. Others ask those gathered to introduce themselves to their neighbors before Mass begins. Also, the "sign of peace" before we receive Holy Communion offers another opportunity for greeting those seated around you. Hospitality is truly a gift. To help confirm your God-given talents, make time to take the St. Austin Spiritual Gifts Inventory at www.staustin.org/spiritual-gifts-inventory.



Holy Land Pilgrimage

Terra Sancta Pilgrimages with Franciscan friar Fr. Alex Kratz will be leading a Catholic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from **April 20-May 4, 2020**. This life-changing experience walking in Jesus' footsteps includes daily Mass and Rosary, biblical readings on site, time for prayer and spiritual guidance, and meeting local Christians. Cost is \$4,299 (all expenses included, round trip from Detroit, 3 daily meals, all tips and taxes). \$500 deposit due at registration. **Orientation Meeting** is **February 9** at St. Joseph Chapel our headquarters (400 South Blvd. West, Pontiac, MI 48331). Next pilgrimage: November 30-December 14, 2020. For information, contact Fr. Alex: (313) 727-9784 or abunaalex@yahoo.com.

Week at a Glance

Monday, December 9 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (not a Holy Day of Obligation)

8:40 AM Rosary
9:15 AM Mass
5:30 PM Religious Formation and Confession
7:00 PM Parish Reconciliation Service

Tuesday, December 10

8:40 AM Rosary
9:15 AM Mass
9:45 AM Mother of Perpetual Help
5:00 PM Religious Formation
7:00 PM Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 11

No Mass
7:00 PM RCIA
7:30 PM Choir Practice

Thursday, December 12

12:00 PM Pinochle
6:20 PM Rosary
7:00 PM Mass
7:45 PM Holy Hour

Friday, December 13

8:40 AM Rosary
9:15 AM Mass
8:00 PM AA Meeting

Saturday, December 14

Gift Distribution Day
11:00 AM Gospel Enactment Rehearsal
3:30 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Mass

Sunday, December 15

**Third Sunday of Advent
Fellowship Sunday
Blood Pressure Screening**
8:30 AM Mass
10:15 AM Mass
10:15 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word
12:00 PM Mass

BEST

Advent

EVER

Amazing Possibilities
God Sees Them All.
It's Time You See Them Too!

Join Matthew Kelly, and the Dynamic Catholic team for BEST ADVENT EVER - a free email program that will help you enjoy a few minutes of peace and prayer each day during the hectic Holidays!

Take the first step toward discovering your amazing future at BestAdventEver.com

ANOTHER WAY PREGNANCY CENTER CHRISTMAS

On Monday, December 16, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM at Farmington Hills Church of God, located at 25717 Power Road in Farmington Hills, Another Way is celebrating Christmas with their clients and their families. Would you like to help us make this season extra special? We're asking for donations as well as volunteers to serve at the event.

Donation Requests are: 35 dozen Christmas cookies; refreshments (cheese and crackers, chips, small water bottles, juice boxes); door prizes (small gift baskets, holiday DVDs, etc.); giveaway items for babies and also giveaway items for moms and dads. We also need 30 volunteers to help at the event. Please call 248-471-5858 if you can help or email clientservices@awpc4life.com



Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Support aging religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Please be generous.

Those who wish to give to Retirement Fund For Religious through online giving, can do so now through December 15th.

ST. GERALD 2019 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 9, 2019)

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
SHEPHERD'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.

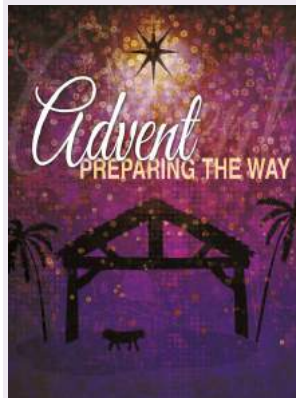
CANDY IS HIS SWEET LOVE FOR
US.

PEPPERMINT IS LIKE THE
HYSSOP PLANT IN THE BIBLE
USED FOR PURIFYING.



PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Dear God,
as an Advent candle is lit in joyous anticipation of your Son's nativity, remind us always of the reason for our joy. As the purple of the candles stand for both penance and atonement for sin, give us the grace to do penance for our wrongs, and to love Christ, whose sacrifice atoned for the sins of the whole world. But just as the rose candle stands for joy in the midst of suffering and expectation, give us the joy of your Son, Jesus Christ, who came into a world that had so longed for its Savior, and made the angels themselves sing with joy at his birth. Amen.



Welcome



My Church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. Its' pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship, if I invite and bring them. It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things. Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all of the things that I want my church to be. Amen



KNIGHTS CORNER

Meeting Chow for December 17 Meeting is a Pot Luck; Bring a Dish to go With Council Provided Ham

Meeting Chow for the December 17 Membership Meeting will have a new wrinkle. It will be a pot luck affair with the Council providing the meat entre --- baked ham. Members are asked to bring a dish for eight to pass. Hospitality Chair Ken May said the dish can fall into one of four categories: starch such as potato or rice, vegetable, green or fruit salad and dessert.



“Please let me or Program Director Tom McPhail know what you are bringing so we can have a great dinner and aren’t eating just ham and pie.” May said. He said that a hot dish should be brought as close to 6:20 PM as possible so it can be ready to serve at 6:30 PM, the usual dinner time. “If you need to warm something up, please allow enough time to warm it and make sure dish is in an oven-proof container,” he said. “I plan on arriving around 5:30 PM to get the oven up to temperature, if needed.”

This is the first time a pot luck has been tried by the meeting chow program which May has headed since it began in mid-2018. “It is important to clear the dish you are going to pass with either Tom or me since we need to have a balance”, he said. May can be contacted at 248-763-4589. McPhail can be reached at 248-875-1185.

Christmas, a helping hand and a bus ride will be among the items on the December 17 agenda. PGK Rich Smith will report on the gift sweatshirts collected for the kids at Holy Cross Services and Brother Brian Gulick will report on the Keep Christ in Christmas manger magnet sales. Smith also will report on the length of the wait list he has been building for the next Casino bus trip which will depart January 8.

The helping hand is in the form of the Council’s participation again this fraternal year in the RSVP program. Members are being asked to approve a \$500 cash grant to a seminarian at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. Young men studying for the priesthood are required to pay tuition. The RSVP program is an effort by the Supreme Council to generate support for vocations. The State Council is building a \$1.25 million endowment fund for Sacred Heart Seminary.

Heading to The Sun? Read the Knights Corner in The Voice at www.stgeraldparish.org

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
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.