

The St. Gerald Voice

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 18, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*A Servant Church
of the Archdiocese of Detroit*

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9:00 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.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve—Saturday, December 24

4:00 PM Mass, 8:00 PM Choir Mass,
and Midnight Mass

Christmas Day—Sunday, December 25

9:00 AM Mass and 11:00 AM Mass

New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31

5:00 PM Mass

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

Sunday, January 1

8:30 AM, 10:15 AM and 12:00 Noon Masses

Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday, January 7 - 5:00 PM

Sunday, January 8 - 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM & 12 Noon Masses

First Friday observance-adoration, Friday, January 6

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

First Saturday Mass

Saturday, January 7 - 9:15 AM Mass

There will be no 3:30 PM Confession on
Saturday, December 24 or Saturday, December 31

21300 FARMINGTON ROAD, FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN 48336

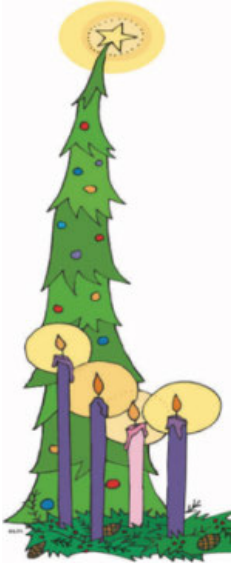
Phone: 248-477-7470

Fax: 248-477-3878

Website: stgeraldparish.org

WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS

December 19 - December 23



Monday 9:15 AM

Bill Croitori

Requested by Joanne Wojnar

Tuesday 9:15 AM

Nemesio Barreto

Requested by Blen Cardozo

Wednesday - No Mass

Thursday 7:00 PM

Stella Galea

Requested by Bill and Joanne

Friday 9:15 AM

Joanne Croitori

Requested by Croitori Family

Readings for Week

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Saturday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

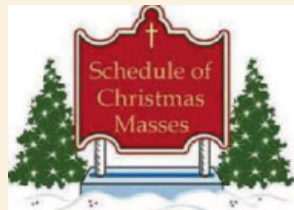
Next Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Liturgical Publications, Inc.

(For a list of readings and/or to have them sent to your email; go to <http://www.usccb.org/nab>)



December 24 and 25

Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 PM Mass

8:00 PM Choir Mass

12:00 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Masses

9:00 AM Mass

11:00 AM Mass

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)



December 25, 2022

4:00 PM

December 24

Fr. Kris

For
Pavco & Kaye Families
Requested by
Joe Pavco

Lectors

Candy Rosowski
Rosa Russenberger

8:00 PM

December 24

Fr. Kris

For
Angeline Ferracciolo
Requested by
Horsburgh Family

Lector

Scott Horsburgh

Midnight

December 24

Fr. Kris

For
**All Our
Parishioners**

Lector

Hannah Smith

9:00 AM

December 25

Fr. Kris

For
**Michela & Rosa Vettraino and
Rosa Soave DiPonio**
Requested by Family

Lector

Renetta Jacob

11:00 AM

December 25

Roodbeen

For
**All Living & Deceased
Morelli & Rotondo Family**
Requested by
Josephine Rotondo & Family

Lector

Caron Kott

**CHRISTMAS
OFFERING**

We give because He gave.

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.

If you wish to make an offering for Christmas through Simple Give on-line, you can do so December 18th through January 1st.

Those who wish to give online for the **Retirement Fund for Religious** you can donate online now through December 18th. Thank you for your generosity!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

READING 1

Is 7:10-14

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying: Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!" Then Isaiah said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

READING 2

Rom 1:1-7

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

ALLELUIA

GOSPEL

Mt 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly.

Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.



Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.



Many parishioners heard the beautiful voices of our Religious Education students as they sang before and after the Family Mass on November 20th.



**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.**

OPLATEK OR "CHRISTMAS WAFER"

Christmas Wafers (Oplatki) will be available on the table in the gathering space of the church this weekend. A freewill donation would be appreciated! Thank you.

2023 CALENDARS

2023 Calendars are here. Please pick one up as you leave church. They are located on the table in the main entrance of the church.

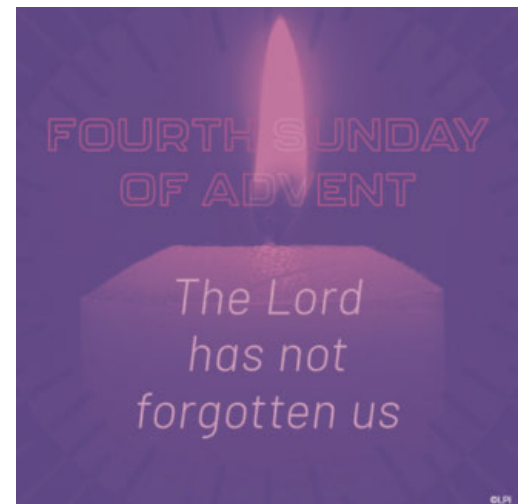
**"Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope,
where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven."**

Pope Francis



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 on the book shelf in the gathering space of the church 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. If you are moving from our parish, please let us know.



Kim Weigold
Marie Bolivar
Dan Murphy
Maria Amodeo

Maria Rea
Kimberly Plonka
Joan Goniea
Chloe Roberts
Pauline Plasencia

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

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

An entire town is wiped out by fire, a tornado rips through several neighborhoods, a bomb claims a maternity hospital and a sudden heart attack takes the life of a soul mate. Life is unpredictable and dramatic. Many buy into the sad illusion that the securities and familiarities we see around us today will remain forever: our homes, our friends, our spouses, our churches, and even our health. We are stunned and shaken by a sudden change, finding ourselves bewildered, mortified, and even embittered. We do not like change, especially change driven by sources beyond our control. Are there any guarantees in life? We often live as if our lives come with lifetime warranties. When they break, they can be fixed or replaced. Such is not the case. Many things are irreplaceable and unable to be fixed. During life's inevitable chaos, God says: "Do not be afraid." Seriously? How can one not be afraid when things are falling apart?

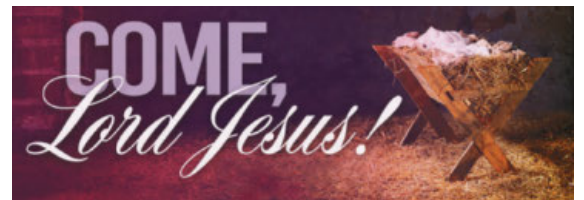
Fear is normal and it has a purpose. It is unrealistic, and somewhat unhealthy, to strive to live without any fear. Fear teaches us lessons and can be a catalyst to discovering more profound things. What we do with fear and how we understand it is critical. Fear can either cripple us or move us forward. God does not want fear to cripple us. If we look around at all that can change in our lives and consider what we might have to do, we can easily wallow in the mire of self-misery. Or we can step up to the challenge, as Mary did, and do what needs doing! We can stand tall, as did Joseph, and do the right and just thing! What gives us this courage? Faith.

God is with us. This is the focus of our Advent preparations. We need to be reminded that we are not in this alone. God not only made us and loves us, but God keeps us! In the person of Jesus Christ, God is the sign we need to persevere! Do not be afraid and do not be unbelieving! Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life's unpredictability. God has blessed us with the birth of His Son. Trust that He is with us and will not abandon us, even in death. ©LPi

INTERCESSORY PRAYER CHAIN

If you know someone who could use our prayers and would like them added to our prayer chain, please call the Parish Office at 248-477-7470 or email stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com.

The birth of the Messiah gives the church great hope. Although secular celebrations of Christmas ignore the significance of the holy day, the church gives us Advent to help us keep our focus. We reorient our hearts and minds to recall, once again, the mysterious glory of the Incarnation. In these weeks of yuletide preparation, we stop to remind ourselves what it means to be Christian, in case we have begun taking it for granted. To be Christian is to believe that God is truly with us, in the most personal, intimate way imaginable; he is one of us! "They shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" Through the Incarnation, God became human and lived among us to love us, to guide us, to heal us, and to strengthen us. It is the promise of a savior given through the early prophets, a promise that the faithful held dear as they waited. As that most beautiful of all anniversaries approaches, celebrate this season remembering the greatest gift ever given to every person--the gift of a Savior.



Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. The Savior of the world comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines here.

Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, "Light" has shown, bringing real, lasting deep joy to the hearts of the poor who live in dark places in our streets and neighborhood.



The Parish Offices will be closed beginning Friday, December 23rd through Monday, January 2nd and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3rd. If you have an emergency and you need to reach Fr. Kris, please call 248-987-6412. Thank You!



SWEATSHIRT DRIVE

Your Knights of Columbus completed another successful sweatshirt drive for Holy Cross Children's Services (Boysville). We delivered 72 gift wrapped sweatshirts to Holy Cross Children's Services this year. We are told this could be the only gift some of these young boys will receive. We can't thank St. Gerald's Parishioners enough for their generosity in making this effort a success!

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.

CASINO BUS TRIP

Join us on Wednesday, January 11, as we travel to the Firekeepers Casino in Battle Creek, Michigan. Bus will leave St. Gerald at 9 AM and is scheduled to arrive back at 6 PM. The cost is \$40.00 per person. At Firekeepers each person will receive a \$20 chip coupon and a \$5 food coupon. To reserve your seat on the bus, please call Rich Smith at 313-421-0204 or Bruce Roberts at 248-756-9257 or Richard Rosowski at 248-477-2511.




Alpha @ St. Michael the Archangel
Starts Sunday, January 22, 2023
Questions? Comments?
Email: alpha@livoniastmichael.org
Web: livoniastmichael.org/alpha

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Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of faith in an open, informal environment.

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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