



THE VOICE

DECEMBER 25, 2016

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. &
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.

My Brothers and Sisters!

What blessed people we are to know and experience the providence of God and to be invited to remain in His midst forever!

As Christians and as Catholics, we celebrate the great feast of Christmas for the entire 8 days of the Octave of Christmas, for the 12 days between Christmas and January 6, the traditional day for Epiphany, for the entire Christmas Season, and in truth for every day of the year.

Unlike the secular world that starts the Christmas hype the day after Halloween and ends it sometime the evening of December 25, the Church really starts the celebration on Christmas Eve and continues for days and weeks. The mystery of the Incarnation, the fact that out of profound love for man God comes in the flesh as one of us to dwell with us and lead us to salvation, we celebrate every time we celebrate the Eucharist. It is a reality that influences every aspect of our existence.

This great gift prompts us in return to demonstrate our gratitude to God for all the blessings that have been bestowed upon us. Over the past year, many of you have offered special praise and thanks to God in a multitude of gracious and generous ways. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure shared with our parish family help us proclaim the presence of Christ in our midst. Your commitment and generosity help us to pray, work, grow and minister with and to one another. On behalf of the entire parish family of St. Gerald, I offer you my prayerful thanks!

May the mystery of God's Love in Christ raise you up and fill you with hope, joy, and peace throughout your days.

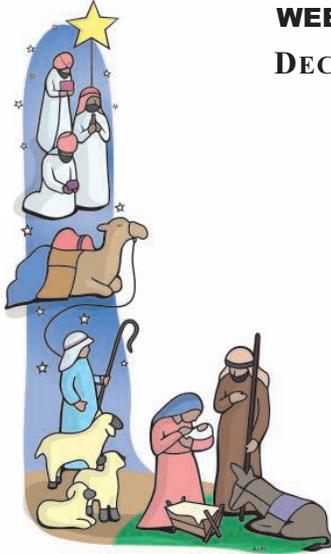
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I hope to meet each of you in the Church. May Christ abide in your hearts always!

Fr. Krzysztof Nowak

ALL ARE WELCOME

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church;
 No matter what your current family or marital situation;
 No matter what your past or present religious affiliation;
 No matter what your personal history, age, background, race, or color;
 No matter what your self-image or esteem;
 You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected at
 St. Gerald Catholic Church.



WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 30

Monday 9:15 AM
Eugene Wojnar
 Requested by Joanne Wojnar

Tuesday 9:15 AM
Aline Merlihan
 Requested by Family

Wednesday
NO MASS

Thursday 7:00 PM
Harry Brindsen
 Requested by Kathy Egbers

Friday 9:15 AM
Rev. Krzysztof Nowak
 Requested by Friend

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY: ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31/Mt 10:17-22
TUESDAY: 1 JN 1:1-4/Ps 97/JN 20:1A, 2-8
WEDNESDAY: 1 JN 1:5--2:2/Ps 124/Mt 2:13-18
THURSDAY: 1 JN 2:3-11/Ps 96/Lk 2:22-35
FRIDAY: SIR 3:2-6, 12-14 OR COL 3:12-21 OR 3:12-17/Ps 128/
 MT 2:13-15, 19-23
SATURDAY: 1 JN 2:18-21/Ps 96/JN 1:1-18
NEXT SUNDAY: NM 6:22-27/Ps 67/GAL 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
 LITURGICAL PUBLICATIONS INC
 (FOR A LIST OF DAILY READINGS: GO TO [HTTP://WWW.USCCB.ORG/NAB](http://www.usccb.org/nab))

JANUARY 1, 2017
MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER
OF GOD

5:00 PM December 31

For Matthew Boyer Requested by St. Gerald Ushers	Servers	Servers Needed
	Lector/ Ushers	Diane Blankenship 5:00A

8:30 AM January 1

For Victoria Pitera Requested by Joanne Wojnar	Servers	Servers Needed
	Lector/ Ushers	Ray Pisani 8:30A

10:15 AM January 1

For Christine and John Wojcik Requested by VanBelle Family	Servers	Servers Needed
	Lector/ Ushers	Caron Kott 10:15A

12:00 PM January 1

For All Our Parishioners	Servers	Servers Needed
	Lectors/ Ushers	Chris Greig 12:00B

Sacristan Schedule for Next Two Weeks

December 31
 Team A

January 7 and January 8
 Team C



MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
BLESSED NEW YEAR
FROM THE
ST. GERALD STAFF:

- Fr. Krzysztof Nowak*
- Sandra Brown*
- Nancy Carroll*
- Candy Desjarlais*
- Mary Hoots*
- Tom Kruger*
- Mary Melonia*
- Kim Shepard*
- Mary Taylor*
- Timothy Westfall*



Parish Offices will be closed from December 23 through January 2. If this in an emergency and you need to reach someone in the Parish Office, please leave a message on extension 212 and someone will return your call.

Please note that the list of those remembered with Poinsettias will be in our January 1st issue of the bulletin.



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

When you are looking for Mass Times or other special events at St. Gerald, please visit our website at www.stgeraldparish.org.

ELECTRONIC DEPOSIT OF DONATIONS IS AVAILABLE AT ST. GERALD. FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH OFFICE OR ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE

TIM'S TIDBITS

Whether you are here with us today for the first time or have been here for many years, welcome! We hope you will feel at home worshipping with us. And come back to worship with us.

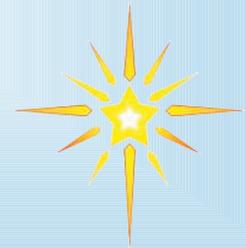
Christmas is a season where we receive Christ, who is the light of the world. This is a season of light. It is so much more than just a time for giving and receiving presents. When we see colorful lights on Christmas trees and on houses, we Christians see the light Jesus brings to the world. And this is a light that is meant to be shared. As you listen to the Scriptures today, see the light that Jesus is for you, a light that makes people radiate with love and joy.

The nativity story is filled with gift giving: Joseph gives his heart to Mary even though she is pregnant not by him; Mary gives her body to the Holy Spirit; the innkeeper gives Joseph and Mary the stable to use; the angels give God glory; the shepherds give the infant adoration; the magi give the infant gold, frankincense and myrrh. In our day families, relatives and friends give gifts to each other and the less fortunate. All this gift-giving is a reflection of the greatest gift-giver: God who has given us the greatest gift, the divine Son who dwells among us.

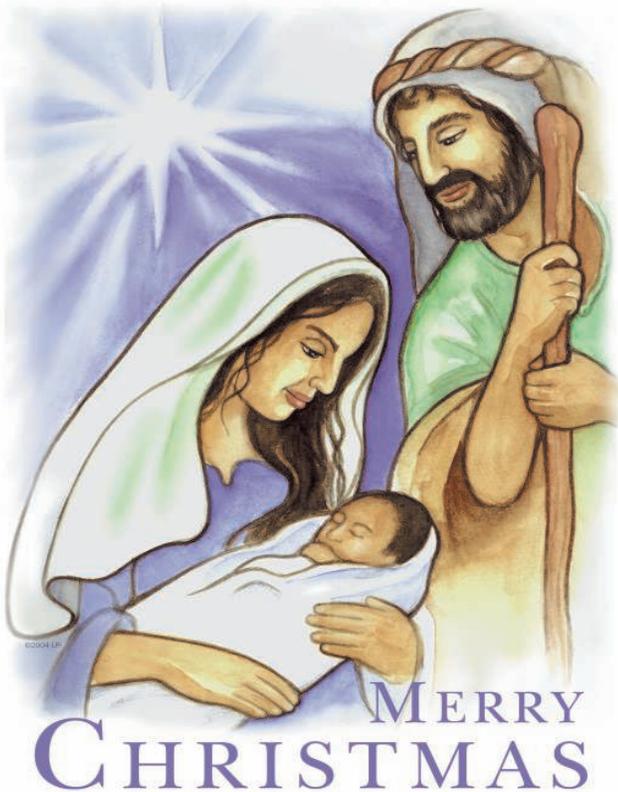
The most amazing Gift given to us at the first Christmas came wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. The Gift was more than a new baby. More even than a new human life. This Gift was Life itself. This Gift, by taking on human flesh, raised us up to share in the Gift of divine Life. This Gift we all receive this Christmas – and every day – is the Mystery of God’s love dwelling among us.

Spread the good news that you heard here today – to all your neighbors and friends.

This is a season of miracles.
Let us give thanks and rejoice in this season!
God has come among us to dwell!
May God dwell in your heart forevermore!



Tim Westfall
Pastoral Associate



**All Religious Formation classes will break
for the Christmas Holiday beginning
December 21st and will resume on
Monday, January 9th.**



- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Wanda Reiner | Beth Croitori |
| Tony Wadrick | Bill Walker |
| Loretta Zahn | Carol Reinke |
| Dick Campbell | Erin Malloy-Tingle |
| Charles Minear | Andy Mosher |
| Rita Knight | Cyndy Fenech |
| John MacDougall | Emily Choike |
| Josephine Meyers | Dennis Hill |
| Corinne Wedge | Erin Malloy-Tingle |
| Wanda Johnson | Stephen Cleary |
| Ralph Wenski | Nancy Kolliker |
| Laurie Aldrich | Margaret Joyal |
| Mary Ann Alcala | Joan Preston |
| Andy Vermiglio | Gerry Makowski |
| Joan Goniea | Sue Kowzan |
| Bill Borchert | Gabbie Frey |
| Nadeen Ouelette | Megan Schroeder |



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

Pope Francis

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 and their name will be added to our prayers.



A LOOK AT SOME OUR MINISTRIES AT ST. GERALD

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Church Picnic



Christian Service is a vital part of St. Gerald Parish. Our Christian Service efforts reach out to the community to help those in need. We have a food pantry with food for emergency needs. Some of the areas we are involved in our parish include: funeral luncheons, parish picnic, Christmas

gift giving program, Thanksgiving food boxes, fellowship, mercy in action day, card ministry,

and providing a Communion Service to Botsford Commons residents. We also have an active St. Vincent de Paul Society. All of these areas can always use more volunteers. If you are looking for something to do, please do not hesitate to contact Candy Desjarlais, Christian Service Coordinator.



WORSHIP



At St. Gerald's we have lectors, those who proclaim God's word at Liturgy; Eucharistic Ministers, those who distribute the Eucharist to folks during Liturgy; Ushers and Greeters, who assist and greet people attending the Liturgy. Sacristans are usually behind the scenes preparing the vessels, bread and wine. Altar Servers, who assist the priest. Church cleaners,

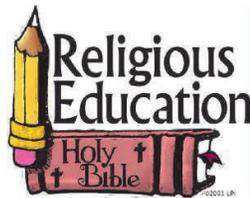
who keep God's house tidy. Altar linen washers, who wash and iron the various towels and linens for the Liturgy.

There are also the Church decorators, who arrange and prepare for each liturgical season. Ministry to the Homebound, those who take the Blessed Sacrament to the sick and shut ins. Communion Service Leaders who lead a prayer service at one of the nursing homes in our area. Prayer Leaders who lead the prayer services at funeral homes, at the Vigil for the deceased. If you are interested in any of these ministries, please contact Tim Westfall, the Pastoral Associate.



RELIGIOUS FORMATION

The St. Gerald Religious Formation program provides spiritual guidance for our children and strives to teach our children to become disciples of Jesus through prayer, reflection, catechesis and hands on activities. Through our teaching we prepare our children to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We strive to continue to strengthen their faith as they journey into young adulthood. Religious Formation classes are offered weekly from September to May for children in pre-school thru 8th grade. For more information contact Mary Taylor, Director of Religious Education.



MUSIC MINISTRY



The music ministry at St. Gerald consists of an adult choir, a budding children's choir and hopefully a teen choir in the near future. Adult choir meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM for rehearsal and dubs at the 10:15

AM Sunday Mass. Children's choir meets at 11:30 AM on Sundays before the noon mass. Teen choir will begin after the first of the year and practice will be scheduled around the Sunday evening Confirmation prep classes. Additionally, a bell Choir will be formed in January to prepare for Easter. Remember, singing is praying twice. Who can't use the extra prayers; plus we have a fabulous time. Mary Melonio, Music Ministry





A LOOK AT SOME OUR MINISTRIES AT ST. GERALD

PARISH GROUNDS COMMITTEE



We had a busy year with clean-up of the grounds and preparing for the Winter months. Our group assists in keeping the grounds sparkling by trimming bushes, planting flowers, maintaining the gardens and ornamental shrubbery throughout the planting and growing season. We also prepare the planting beds for the Spring. We are always open to new members. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

EVANGELIZATION

Evangelizing our FAITH...

Another year has passed and our dedication continues. Our parish provides an engaging Bible Study, and fun Vacation Bible School, a Vicariate speaker presentation, a Mass of Explanation and numerous other activities and charitable events. We also assist in welcoming new parish members.



We are here, as disciples of Christ, to live and share the goodness of the Gospel. We encourage you to live like Jesus, to love one another, and to deepen your relationship with God.

1. Spend time in prayer and in the word of God.
2. Participate in a service to God and the church.
3. Work to improve yourself; know that God loves you and wants the best for you.

Come join us and be part of *His story*.

St. Gerald Evangelization Team meets on the first Monday of each month to promote evangelization among our parish community. Consider joining our team.



YOUTH MINISTRY



Our St. Gerald Youth Group will be participating in various events throughout the New Year. Come join us!

There will be social activities, charity events and teen topic discussion groups to participate in. Come bring a friend and make a difference for Christ.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



St. Gerald St. Vincent de Paul Conference is blessed to serve the poor and needy within the parish boundaries. Assistance with rent and utility bills is requested often. An emergency food pantry provides a generous bag of groceries to the hungry in our area. This assistance is only possible through the donations of parishioners who open their hearts to this work with a check or cash in the Poor Box or grocery and toiletry items in the vestibule food bins. Our neighbors facing hunger, eviction or utility shut-off thank you.

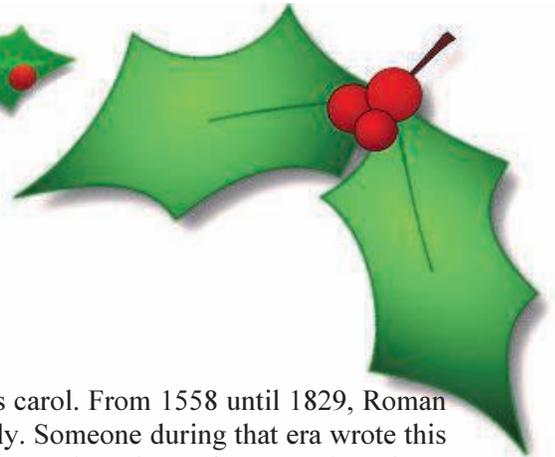
Clients are visited in their homes by a pair of Vincentians, which is unique to SVdP and based on the ministry of our founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam. We end each visit with an offer to pray with and for the client.

St Gerald Conference meets on the first and third Thursdays at 10:30 AM to foster friendship and spirituality within members, in addition to serving the needy. If you feel called to this ministry, please leave a message on our line, 248-476-7677, ext. 220, or come to a meeting. There are a variety of ways to serve.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:

Amidst the beautiful readings at the Christmas Masses is a reading from a small New Testament letter from Saint Paul to his protégé, Titus, read at Midnight Mass. Saint Paul reminds Titus that God has given us a gift in the person of Jesus Christ. This gift represents God's active presence in our lives and in our world. This gift redeems us from evil and death.

This gift purifies us as God's people. This is a gift that also comes with an expectation: that we receive it with thanksgiving, allow it to transform us into Christ's image; and from it, learn how to live a life "eager to do what is good." Take time the next few days to reflect on the marvelous gift we celebrate at Christmas, and how we might become better stewards of this gift.



The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is an English Christmas carol. From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the Church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember. To fit the number scheme, when you reach number 9, representing the Fruits of the Holy Ghost, the originator combined 6 to make 3, taking the 6 fruits that were similar: the fruit in each parenthesis is the that was not named separately. There are actually Twelve Fruits of the Holy Ghost.

The "True Love" one hears in the song is not a smitten boy or girlfriend but Jesus Christ, because truly Love was born on Christmas Day. The partridge in the pear tree also represents Him because that bird is willing to sacrifice its life if necessary to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators.

According to Ann Ball in her book, HANDBOOK OF CATHOLIC SACRAMENTALS:

The two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments

The three French hens stood for faith, hope, and love.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The five golden rings rerepresented the first five books of the Old Testament, which describe man's fall into sin and the great love of God in sending a Savior.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit-----Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit-----Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience [Forbearance], Goodness [Kindness], Mildness, Fidelity, Modesty, Contineny [Chastity].

The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful Apostles.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in The Apostles' Creed.

Original Source: Fr. Calvin Goodwin, FSSP, Nebraska

May 10 – 20, 2017 The Pilgrimage to Poland

11 days, 10 nights of beautiful journey to the most famous, and most beautiful places in Poland.



With Father KRZYSZTOF NOWAK
of St. Gerald Catholic Church , Farmington, MI
Ph. 248-477-7470 ext 203

Price \$2,499.- Land only
For details or to make reservations
Contact Amerpol Travel at (248) 743-2660

DAY 1 May 10 Wednesday USA - WARSAW

Depart from the USA on an overnight flight to Warsaw. Dinner and breakfast onboard./D.B./

DAY 2 May 11 Thursday WARSAW

After arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Afternoon a walking tour of Old Town followed by very elegant welcome dinner./D./

DAY 3 May 12 Friday WARSAW - WILANOW

After breakfast a sightseeing tour of Old Town, beautifully rebuilt after World War II, with the impressive Royal Castle with its 300 rooms (will visit the Canaletto Room with 23 of his paintings, the Throne Room, the magnificent Knight's Hall and the Royal Ballroom). Afternoon we drive to Wilanow to the beautiful Baroque royal residence park and gardens build in 1674-96 by King Jan III Sobieski. Over the centuries the palace belonged to many Polish noble families like: Sienawskis, Czartoryskis, Lubomirskis, Potockis and Branickis. Dinner in Wilanow. Overnight in Warszawa./B.D./

DAY 4 May 13 Saturday WARSAW - NIEPOKALANOW - CZESTOCHOWA

Morning departure for Czestochowa to visit the Jasna Gora Monastery and the Black Madonna Shrine. On the way we visit and attend the Mass at the Monastery in Niepokalanow, established by St. Maksymilian Kolbe in 1927, who gave his life in exchange for the life of another man in Auschwitz concentration camp in August 1941. Afternoon we arrive in Czestochowa. Short tour of Jasna Gora. Overnight in Czestochowa./B.L./

DAY 5 May 14 Sunday CZESTOCHOWA - ZAKOPANE

Holy Mass at the Virgin Mary Shrine housing the icon of Black Madonna, Jasna Góra's most precious treasure to which miraculous powers are attributed. Founded in 1382 by Pauline monks from Hungary. From here we continue to Zakopane. Enjoyable evening drive-through sightseeing of breath-taking Zakopane. Overnight in Zakopane./B.L./

DAY 6 May 15 Monday ZAKOPANE

Today we explore Zakopane. Beautifully situated at the foot of the Tatra Mountains, in the valley between Gubalowka and Giewont. It is the most popular resort and one of the most beautiful places in all of Poland. You will have a chance to admire Zakopane from the top of the Gubalowka mountain. Afternoon we continue our excursion to Morskie Oko, the largest and most majestic lake in Tatras. Dinner with folkloric show at one of Highlander's famous restaurant. Overnight in Zakopane./B.D./

DAY 7 May 16 Tuesday ZAKOPANE - KRAKOW - LAGIEWNIKI

City tour including Jaszczurowka Chapel and St. Mary's of Czestochowa Church, the oldest wooden church in Zakopane built between 1847-1851. We continue to Lagiewniki to visit the Divine Mercy Sanctuary associated with life of St. Sister Faustyna Kowalska, and the cult of Divine Mercy. Overnight in Krakow./B.D./

DAY 8 May 17 Wednesday KRAKOW - WIELICZKA

Today we visit the famous St. Mary's Basilica, Cloth Hall and Old Market Square built in 1349. Next we drive to Wieliczka, the oldest salt mine in Europe. We explore the underground world of salt chambers, monuments and fabulous St. Kinga Chapel with its beautiful chandeliers, a masterpiece carved in salt by generations of Polish miners. Overnight in Krakow./B.D./

DAY 9 May 18 Thursday KRAKOW - AUSCHWITZ - WADOWICE

After breakfast, we leave for Auschwitz, the site of the former Nazi Concentration Camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. In the afternoon, we return to Krakow via Wadowice, the birthplace of Pope John Paul II. You will visit the house where he was born and grew up and the Basilica where he was baptized. We attend the Holy Mass. Overnight in Krakow./B.L./

DAY 10 May 19 Friday KRAKOW

Today we tour the magnificent Wawel Castle. This most priceless complex was a home of three Polish royal dynasties of Piasts, Jagiellonians and Wazas for six centuries. After tour we drive to Warszawa. Dinner in Warszawa. Overnight in Warszawa./B.D./

DAY 11 May 20 Saturday WARSAW

Transfer to airport for the return flight home. Breakfast and dinner onboard./B.D./

Included in Tour:

Deluxe air-conditioned minibus coach transportation
Service of English speaking host and local tour guides
First class hotel accommodation in double room
Comprehensive sightseeing program and entry tickets
Airport/Hotel transfers and 2 pcs. p/p luggage handling
Elegant meals (breakfast daily - 4 lunches - 8 dinners)
Single supplement: **\$490.-**

PILGRIMAGE to POLAND

May 10 - May 20, 2017

11-day journey to the most holy, most famous, and most beautiful places in Poland

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS / PAYMENTS: To make a reservation, please complete coupon below and mail it with a deposit of \$500.- per person. The balance is due no less than 90 days prior to departure (February 10nd, 2017). All checks should be made to Amerpol, Inc.

TOUR COST: Tour price is based on lowest airfares, tariffs and foreign currency exchange levels in effect at the time of printing. It is subject to adjustment in the event of any significant changes in these tariffs.

TOUR ARRANGEMENTS: Hotel accommodations will be provided in twin bed rooms with private bath. A limited number of single rooms are available at the additional supplement price. While every effort will be made to provide sharing of accommodations for persons booking alone, when requested, it cannot be guaranteed and payment of single supplement must be paid before departure. Triple rooms are not available. Unused hotel accommodations or any other unused features of this tour are neither refundable nor exchangeable for other services. The right is reserved to substitute hotels and sightseeing features if it becomes necessary.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST: Airfare, cost of passports, optional travel insurance, visas for non US citizens, items of a personal nature; phone calls, laundry, additional meals and beverages, gratuities to guides and drivers.

BAGGAGE: The free allowance is 1 carry-on and 1 checked luggage per person. The maximum weight of each checked luggage may not exceed 50 lbs. Combined overall dimensions of a single suitcase must not exceed 62 inches. The charge for second luggage is \$100.- (subject to change by airlines). Baggage is carried at owner's risk.

CANCELLATIONS and REFUNDS: All deposits are non-refundable. All cancellations must be made in writing to Amerpol Inc. no less than 100 days prior to departure. No refund will be made for cancellations received less than 100 days prior to departure.

INSURANCE: Passengers are strongly advised to purchase insurance to cover trip cancellation/interruption, baggage and accident coverage.

RESPONSIBILITY: Travel Designers of Poland and/or Amerpol, Inc. and/or it's agents act only as an agent in making arrangements for hotels, sightseeing tours, and transportation or any other service in connection with the itineraries of individual tour members who by acceptance thereof, acknowledge that the sponsoring organization and/or its agents and suppliers shall not be liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, liability or expense to person or property due to act or default of any hotel, carrier or other company or person providing or rendering of services included in the tours. Further, the sponsoring organization and/ or its agents accept no responsibility for any sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, government restraints, wars, whether declared wars or not, riots, theft, weather condition, defect in any vehicle of transportation or for any misadventure or casualty or any other causes beyond their control. Travel Designers of Poland and/or Amerpol, Inc. reserves the right to cancel, change, substitute any service and to decline to accept or retain any tour member at any time for any reason including insufficient number of participants. Airlines and other carriers are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their planes or conveyances.

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Please cut and return this section with your deposit

Please reserve ____ seats departing on _____ returning on _____ Enclosed is my check payable to Amerpol, Inc. as deposit (\$500.- for each passenger). I/We wish to participate in "Pilgrimage to Poland" trip and have read the "Terms and Conditions", understand and accept the contents of this brochure, including cancellation policy.

I/We have chosen to accept () / decline () this additional cost of travel insurance.

Last Name First Name Address Ph. Number

Signature Signature

Room Occupancy (circle) Single Double Share Double Room

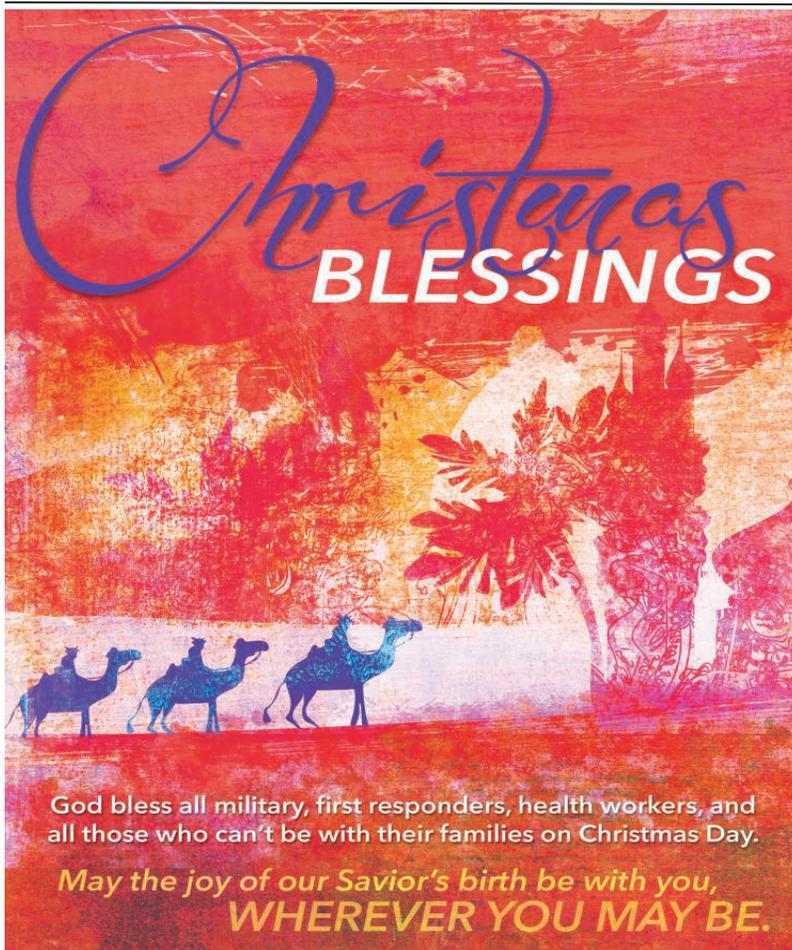
Please mail your check to: AMERPOL, Inc 2920 E. Maple Rd. Troy, MI. 48083 (Thank You)
Updated: December 10th, 2016



Knights Did a Lot of Giving This Year to Parish and to Others With Your Help

May the Blessings of Christmas be upon the families of St. Gerald's Knights. During 2016 the Knights again have proven faithful to one of the attributes of their order: charity. Some of giving in 2016 included these projects:

- * Provided more than 2,000 pounds of food and paper products to the St. Al and St. Gerald pantries through the Council's Red Bag program and a neighborhood food drive.
- * Gave \$1,000 to the Parish St Vincent de Paul Society to support its aid to the poor.
- * Donated \$300 to Rebuilding Together of Oakland County.
- * Cooked two pancake breakfasts for the parish, one of them producing net proceeds of \$1,000 toward a memorial for Msgr. Ed Baldwin at St. Anne Mead Center.
- * Purchased two sets of pads for the parish's AED machines, emergency devices used in the case of a heart attack.
- * Sponsored 5 bus trips for parishioners to the FireKeepers Casino near Battle Creek.
- * Manned the grills at the Parish Picnic plus leading the setup and tear down crews. Other Knights and spouses helped with other picnic chores.
- * Helped the Vacation Bible School with a \$300 donation.
- * Provided the manpower to revamp the Church sound system and extend it to the Social Hall.
- * Joined with six other K of C Councils in providing manpower and funds to a major remodeling project at a Farmington Hills cloistered nuns facility.
- * Conducted a Baby Bottle Program that raised more than \$1,800 from parishioners for the Mothers and Unborn Babies Pregnancy Center.
- * Donated hundred of volunteer hours as ushers, lectors, kitchen help, Eucharistic ministers and members of parish committees and commissions.
- * Supported the Parish Fall Festival by staffing a food booth and working at the spaghetti dinner.
- * Hosted a Memorial Mass and receptions for families of deceased Knights.
- * Promoted "Keep Christ in Christmas" by making lapel buttons available to parishioners.
- * Raised more than \$500 for the mentally impaired through a Tootsie Roll sale.
- * Sponsored an entrant in the annual St. Vincent de Paul Walk for the Poor who raised more than \$1,000.
- * Assisted at the 2016 Ladies Advent Tea.



NEWS FROM THE ST. GERALD WOMEN'S CLUB

The St. Gerald Women's Club is a group for women of all ages - from young adults through seniors! We get together for fellowship, fun and more!

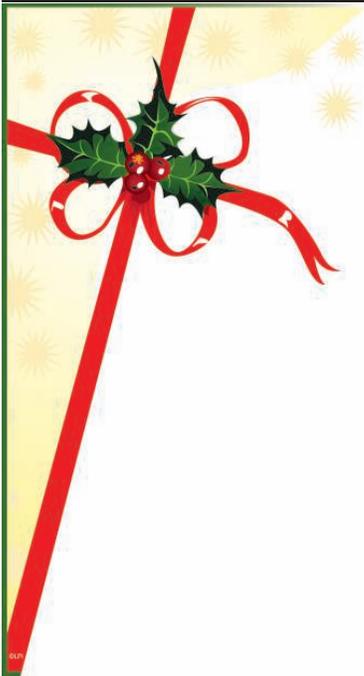
Our next outing will be on Sunday, January 8th. We will start the day by going to 12:00 PM Mass, then will meet for lunch in downtown Plymouth at the Box Bar, after that we will go to the ice carving show in Plymouth. Feel free to choose any or all of these options. You can show up to any of these events on your own, with a friend, with a spouse, or with the family. You will probably see some of us at the ice show any time between the hours of 1:00 and 5:00 PM. We hope to see many of you there. Dress warm.

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.

"Jesus understands our weaknesses and sins; and he forgives us if we allow ourselves to be forgiven." Pope Francis



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.



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, Administrator x 203
- Timothy Westfall: Pastoral Associate x 202
Email: timwestfall.sgp@gmail.com
- Mary Hoots, Administrative Assistant.....x 212
Email: stgeraldsecretary@yahoo.com

All other offices dial (248) 476-7677

Christian Services

- Candy Desjarlais: Christian Service Coordinator x 204
Email: desjarlais.candy@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul x 220

Education

- Mary Taylor: Director Religious Education x 201
Email: taylor.mary04@yahoo.com

Music and Youth Ministry

- Mary Melonio x 222
Email: mmelonio@aol.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 office. Registration forms are located on the shelf in the classroom hallway 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 Tim Westfall (248) 476-7677 x202 or 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.

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