

Voice

December 3, 2006

St. Gerald Family
Farmington - Livonia, Michigan

We, the community of St. Gerald, guided by the Holy Spirit continue the mission of Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, education, prayer and service to others.



Father Browne's Beat

Advent and Christmas Season Schedule December 8th (Friday) The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (a holyday of obligation) – Masses at 9:15 AM, 5:00 and 7:00 PM.
December 16th (Saturday) Individual Confessions – 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM.
December 18th (Monday) Communal Reconciliation Service with Individual Confession and Absolution – 7:15 PM.
December 20th (Wednesday) Individual Confessions – 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM.
December 24th (Sunday) Christmas Eve – Masses at 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM (Children's Mass) and 8:00 PM (Choir Mass).
December 25th (Monday) Christmas Day – Masses at 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM and 12 noon.
December 31st (Sunday) New Year's Eve: The Vigil of the Feast of Mary, Mother of God – Mass at 11:30 PM.
January 1st (Monday) – Masses at 10:00 AM and 12 noon.

Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus! - Happy New Liturgical Year! We leave Ordinary Time and enter Advent beginning the fourth Sunday prior to Christmas (December 3rd). In reflecting on the importance of properly observing this season, Pope John Paul II once said, "it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an 'advent,' a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ. To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously." What an incredible challenge it is for us to keep the true spirit of Advent in this day and age!

As Christians, we live historically between the two great "arrivals" of our Lord. On the one hand we have the historical reality of Christ's birth; His entering time in poverty and humility as a child some 2000 years ago. On the other hand we have the historical promise that He will come again in a cloud of glory to judge the living and the dead. Between these two arrivals our Lord continues to come to us in intermediary ways. He comes to us continuously in His word, the poor, and most especially the Sacraments. The reality of Christ among us (past, present, and future) is so central to our Christian identity that the Church, in her wisdom, emphasizes this whenever she begins a new year. She asks us to remember our past as a way of focusing our future. Thus, Advent is a season when Catholics slow down (contrary to what the world tells us) and ponder Christ's presence in time and in eternity.

Over the coming weeks I hope to offer some thoughts on Advent, since its meaning and purpose have been thoroughly lost to much of the modern world. It is sad to say that we now have entire generations of Catholics who have grown up believing the season is synonymous with Christmas. It is not. Advent and Christmas are related, but distinctly separate seasons, as the liturgical color change from violet (penitential) to white (celebratory) indicates. For now, let us briefly consider those characteristics most basic to the season that *precedes* the Solemn Feast of the Nativity.

Advent is a time of **waiting**. In our gospel reading today, Jesus warns his disciples that no one will escape his final judgment (cf. Lk 21:25-28, 34-36). During Advent we look at how well we are awaiting that very real day. We ask ourselves if it is truly our hearts desire to be judged worthy of the kingdom of God. Are we willing to forgo the temptations of this world in order to secure eternity with Jesus? This willingness can range anywhere from the ability to "wait" until marriage -- to the ability to "wait" to shop until Monday (keeping holy the Sabbath). There is just no denying that our ability to wait now determines where we will "wait" later. Chances are if we are running around, over-spending, over celebrating, and generally living for the moment, we have not really interiorized the promise that Christ will come again. As the great John Paul II said, "the whole of our life must be an 'advent,' a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ".

Advent is a time of **hope**. This is not earthly hope: hope bound to a lucky shirt or rabbit's foot or falling star. This is profound anticipatory hope rooted in the promise of a God who keeps His promises! As Advent ends and the Christmas Season begins the genealogy of Jesus according to the Gospel of St. Matthew is proclaimed. Many of us tend to endure the long list of fantastical names as something folksy or sentimental. What a reduction of salvation history! These people are part of the heritage of Jesus Christ, True God and True Man! Their names go directly back to a promise God made to Abraham (Gen 12:1-3; 22:17-19, CCC 706.) We hope in God with confidence and unshakable certainty because He promised us a Savior. . . and he sent One! Let us use this time to ask ourselves if we are truly a people of hope. Are we able to endure the trials and tribulations of this life with great peace, secure in the knowledge that Christ is, was, and will be with us? If we are prone to succumb to the "anxieties of daily life" (Lk 21:34), now is the time to ponder our remarkable history with a God who keeps his word.

Advent is a time of **preparation**. Unfortunately, the secular world has reduced Advent to temporal preparation; we deck
(continued on page 3, column 1)

Christian Service

By Mary Hoots

Christmas Gifts Due This Weekend

This weekend is gift giving weekend at St. Gerald. **It is very important that if you took a tag, that your gift is returned by Sunday, December 3rd.**

Take a look around the altar and in the Social Hall to see all the gifts that were purchased to help out those in need this holiday. Thanks to all who participated in this program. Your generosity will touch the lives of many!

If you are available, we still could use some help after the 12 noon Mass this weekend to sort the gifts. You did not need to sign up to help.

Hat and Mitten Tree

Please bring in a pair of mittens, gloves, hats or socks to help us decorate the tree in the church gathering space. These items will be given out to those in our area who could use something to keep them warm during this winter season.

Arden Court Christmas Caroling

 Please join us on Saturday, December 16th, at 2PM at Arden Court, located at 32500 Seven Mile Road in Livonia, to sing Christmas Carols and socialize with the residents. What better way to enjoy the holiday season than reaching out to others in our community. Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions or would like to attend, please call the Christian Service Office at 248-477-9485. You do not have to be a great singer to join in on the fun!

Calling All Mom's!

Please join St. Gerald's MOMS group for our annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 16th at 7 PM. The party will be held at Liz Jarvis' home in Livonia and will be our December gathering in lieu of our monthly dinner out. We will resume our dining out in January. Please call Liz at 248-473-1548 for details about the party and to RSVP. All are welcome.

If you would like more information about the MOMS Group or to join, contact Mary Hoots in the Christian Service Office.

Gift Certificates for the Needy

We will continue to accept gift certificates from Kroger's, Farmer Jacks and Meijer's to give help during the holiday and throughout the year

St. Vincent de Paul

As we begin Advent we are called to "await" in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. Wherever you live in our parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they come in for help. They are, in effect, coming to see you. Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, located in the gathering space of the church, will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas.

Charity with help from IRS

I recently received some news from my CPA, not that I had a big tax refund due, but great news for everyone 70 1/2 years and older. It seems that the federal government just passed a law called the Pension Protection Act of 2006, which, in addition to many other things, allows us to be charitable minded. When we reach 70 1/2 years young, the IRS says we have to start taking minimum income (called Required Minimum Distributions) from our IRA accounts. For some of us who do not need the income to live on, they cause us to pay more taxes and might expose more of our Social Security benefits to taxes. My CPA told me that those Required Minimum Distributions can now be directly paid to your favorite charity (Fr. Browne reminded me of St. Gerald's needs with his great homily this month). This eliminates the Federal and State income taxes that would be due on those minimum distributions because you never received them, the charity did. My CPA also reminded me that you cannot take a charitable deduction on your gift.

If you are thinking of ways to help your favorite church, this is a painless way of doing so, but remember the transfer must be directly from your IRA Trustee to the church or charity. This tax law change applies only through the end of 2007, so take advantage of the IRS' generosity and help St. Gerald's and your other favorite charities. Fr. Browne reminded me not to practice accounting without a degree, so check with your own CPA/accounting advisor to confirm to the provisions of this new law.

My son Nick reminded me that God challenges us to help others through service, love, prayer and gifts of charity. Since he has no income he can only provide service but does it willingly. I think we can learn much from the young people around us.

Rich Bringardner, LUTC, Financial Advisor, St. Gerald Parishioner.

National Night Of Prayer For Life

Again this year St. Gerald's parish, along with churches across the nation, will participate in this evening of continuous prayer before the Blessed Sacrament on December 8, 2006. We will be saying all 20 decades of the rosary, as well as other prayers and hymns. Silent adoration will also be available. It will start at 9PM, and continue until 1AM, with the last hour being the Hour of Unity across America. Please come help us pray for an end to the scourge of abortion in our country.

7th & 8th Grade Youth Group meeting at St. Gerald Parish

St. Gerald Parish 7th & 8th Grade Youth Group will be having its next meeting on Tuesday, December 5th, from 7:00-8:30 PM in the rectory basement youth room. Participants will be able to further enrich their Catholic faith in a fun, social setting. You don't need to have attended a previous session to join us and please feel free to bring a friend. For further information, contact Eddie Lowen at (248)476-7677 ext 203.

Come for the pizza...stay for the prayer.

Men's Bible Study

The St. Gerald's Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday except the second Tuesday of the month. This is open to all men whether or not they are members of the parish. You may still join us. We are studying "Acts of the Apostles." Bring your bible and pen and paper for notes.

If you have any questions, please send an email to DeaconJoe@stgerald.net or call Deacon Joe at 248-477-07470 ext. 213. Next meeting is December 4 at 7PM.

Christmas Shopping

An opportunity to do your Christmas Shopping is coming to St. Gerald Parish Social Hall. There will be a wide array of Catholic items available for sale (books, t-shirts, sweatshirts, jewelry, videos, music, etc.) before and after all of the Masses on the weekend of December 16 - 17.

This is an opportunity to support local Catholic small business owners and save on the hassle, hustle and bustle, not to mention shipping and handling that is associated with the season. If you have any questions, please call Seeds of Faith at (734) 416-7050.

(continued from page 1, Fr. Browne's Beat)

the halls and shop until we drop at the expense of the deeper meaning of the season. This is principally meant to be a time of **spiritual** preparation for Catholics. Though not solemn in the Lenten sense of the word, Advent is indeed penitential. We are to be devout, but joyful in our preparedness. Thus, it is very appropriate that we take account of our sinfulness now—that we look at how sin separates us from the One who is coming. During these next four weeks we would do well to make a good Sacramental Confession, to enjoy our opportunities for almsgiving, and to eliminate the spirit of excess that plagues this holy season.

Sadly, many Catholics do not know or have absolutely forgotten that Advent is not Christmas. We begin decorating ad nauseum the day after Thanksgiving, and hit the food-and-drink circuit not long after. Glorious visual signs and symbols of celebration are more in keeping with the great season of Christmas, not Advent (there is some decorating done in Advent, like an Advent wreath or a manger scene, but more intense decorating does not occur until the Christmas Season; this is the reason why the baby Jesus is not placed into the crèche until Christmas has actually arrived). Christmas begins December 25th and ends on the Feast of the Epiphany. If the truth be told, most of us are completely “partied out” by the first true day of celebration. We put the tree to the curb December 26th and restrict any further festivities to New Years Eve—a secular holiday, and one that is typically far from Christ-centered. The whole course of events has become functionally backward. I pray that this year we can do something to slowly reverse the trend of celebrating Christmas during Advent. May our parish spend these next four weeks well. May we wait, hope and prepare with great joy and temperance. Let us take the words, “Come Lord Jesus” and hold them deeply within our hearts, so that these days of grace may be, as Pope John Paul II said, “*an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously.*”

In other parts of the world there is the tradition of having a special blessing of the infant Jesus that is placed in a families' Nativity scene (crèche/manger display) in their home. Thus, at the conclusion of each of the Masses on the weekend of December 23rd – 24th there will be a blessing of the baby Jesus that goes in your family Nativity scene. So, please bring the baby Jesus from your Nativity scene to Masses on the 23rd and 24th.

You will read in another part of the bulletin about Mr. Jerry Schiffer. Jerry is studying to be a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of Detroit. As part of the diaconate program, a deacon candidate must do an internship in a parish where he is placed under the mentorship of a permanent deacon and the pastor of the parish. The Archdiocese of Detroit has assigned Jerry to St. Gerald parish under the supervision/mentorship of Deacon Joe Lennon and myself. So, please extend a warm welcome to Jerry Schiffer when you see him here at the parish.

St. Gerald Parish March for Life – There will be a bus leaving from St. Gerald parking lot on Sunday, January 21, 2007 to attend the Annual March for Life in Washington D.C. The March takes place on Monday, January 22nd, and we will return back to St. Gerald on the morning of Tuesday, January 23rd. For those interested in taking part in the March for Life the cost is \$135 per person for 4 people per room, \$145 per person for 3 people per room and \$170 per person for 2 people per room. The prices include bus fare, one night's lodging at Embassy Suite's hotel, and breakfast before the March. If you are interested in going please call St. Gerald Rectory at 248-477-7470 before January 1, 2007. Do not miss this peaceful and inspiring opportunity to let your voices be heard for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Reminder – The next Parish Council Meeting is Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 PM in the parish social hall.

May God bless you and keep you in His loving embrace.

*Peace,
Fr. Browne*

Family Advent Craft Event

Next Saturday, December 9 from 11 AM-2 PM in the Social Hall. Ages: 5-12 years old. Free of charge. Lunch provided. Registration forms must be turned in to the Youth Ministry Office no later than Thursday, December 7.

Epiphany Mass for Children January 8 at 10:00AM

We Celebrate the Light of Christ: A Light Has Shown – Go Out Into the World Advent. Christmas. Epiphany. Our Christmas season is celebrated as a period of time; it is not just a day. During Advent we wait in anticipation and hope. On Christmas Day we celebrate with great joy the birth of Christ. And on Epiphany the church looks ahead to its mission in light of the Nativity.

The term *epiphany* means "to show" or "to make known" or even "to reveal." In Western churches, it remembers the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who by so doing "reveal" Jesus to the world as Lord and King. To observe this "little Christmas" of Epiphany, we will offer an **Epiphany celebration for children at the 10:00AM Mass on Jan. 7**. This Mass will have the opportunity for involvement of children in the liturgical ministries (see below). Fr. Browne will offer a homily for children.

Since part of Epiphany Sunday reflects the wise men and their gifts, we invite the parish members to bring non-perishable food items to offer as our own gifts.

We would like to have many people involved in this vibrant celebration. Here are the volunteer opportunities available:

(1) *Students who would like to read the Prayers of the Faithful;* (6) *Elementary, middle, or high school students to be usher helpers during the offertory collection and distribution of The Voice;* (2) *Families to be gift bearers;* (2) *Children with a parent or teens to help at the baskets during the non-perishable food offering.* Please call Peggy Backus (248-476-7677 x202) or email worshipmusic@stgerald.net if a volunteer opportunity interests you.

"A Christmas Concert" Saturday, December 16 7PM St. Gerald Church

Featuring Karen White, Soprano,
Quinto Milito, Baritone, Jeanne Marie
Muraski, Pianist Accompanist.

Performing the most famous
Christmas Carols and religious music
by composers such as Gounod,
Handel, D'Adolphe, Gruber, Yon,
Mascagni, Berlin, Franck.

Free admission, donations are
welcome.

For more information call
313-582-0997

Remember Your Deceased Loved Ones With A Christmas Poinsettia Memorial

This Christmas season, you have an opportunity to remember family members and relatives and friends who have passed away. The church will be decorated with poinsettias in gold-foiled-covered 8 inch to 10 inch pots. You may donate toward the purchase of the poinsettias in memory of someone who has died. The suggested amount of donation is **\$12.00 per name**. Each donation can be made in memory of a loved one. The name of your loved one will be displayed in the church vestibule on the 4th Sunday of Advent and during the Christmas season.

To donate \$12.00 or more toward the poinsettia purchase, fill out **one coupon**. Place the coupon(s) and the money in an envelope marked "Poinsettias" and place it in the collection basket, or leave it at the rectory. Checks should be made out to ST. GERALD CHURCH. Additional coupons and envelopes are available in the gathering space of the church. Individual pots will not be labeled with names. The names of the donors and the persons being memorialized will be published in the VOICE on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, for orders received before Dec. 18. For more information call Sr. Ellen Ann Gardner or Peggy Backus at (248) 476-7677.

St. Gerald Christmas Poinsettia Memorial

In memory of:

(Please type or print name of deceased)

Remembered by:

(Your name)

Order number: _____
(For office use only)

**December 10, 2006
Second Sunday of Advent**

Readings:

**Bar 5:1-9 Ps 126:1-6
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Lk 3:1-6**

Our Liturgical Ministers

5:00 PM December 9
Celebrant: Fr. Ssozi
Servers: Team 4
Greeters: Parents of Team 4 servers
Lector: Larry Miller
Ushers: 5A
Sacristan : Team 3

8:30AM December 10
Celebrant: Fr. Browne
Servers : Team 1
Greeters: Parents of Team 1 Servers
Lector: Paul Borchert
Ushers: 8:30C

10:00 AM December 10
Celebrant: Msgr. Baldwin
Servers: Team 2
Greeters: Parents of Team 4 servers
Lector: Ted Quinter
Ushers: 10:00 B

12:00 Noon December 10
Celebrant: Father Browne
Servers: Team 4
Greeters: Parents of Team 4 servers
Lector: Alex Thibodeau
Ushers : 12:00A

Children of the parish, grades K-6 invited to be in St. Gerald Gospel Enactment of the Christmas Story

At the 6:00 Christmas Eve Children's Mass, the children will enact the Gospel story of the birth of Jesus. Angels and shepherds are especially needed. This is not a play. It is an enactment of the story of the birth of Jesus. Fr. Browne will read the gospel story while children act the different parts.

There will be one rehearsal on Saturday, December 16th at 9:30 AM, in the church, costume distribution will follow. Please sign up by December 11th! Call Mary Taylor at 248.476.7677 or email at mtaylor@stgerald.net to indicate that you want your child to participate in the Gospel Enactment, also, please give us your child's grade and height!

Blessings to all at St. Gerald!



My name is Jerry Schiffer and I have been asked to introduce myself to you, the members of St. Gerald Parish. I am a candidate for the permanent diaconate and, God willing, I will be

ordained a deacon of the Church next October. But prior to ordination, each candidate is required to spend several months as an intern, learning from an active pastor and deacon just what it means to serve as an ordained minister of the Church. Your pastor, Father Ronald Browne, and your deacon, Deacon Joe Lennon, have graciously assented to fill those roles for me. So, I will be participating in some of the liturgies, meetings and activities here at St. Gerald from the First Sunday of Advent through the end of next August.

When I am not at St. Gerald (or studying at the seminary), I will likely be either at my home in Southfield or at St. Linus Church in Dearborn Heights. At home, I am the husband of Kathy (for 30 years) and the father of three grown children, two of whom – Jennifer and Jerry – still live in the Detroit area. Our oldest son, Jeff, is a resident of South Carolina. At St. Linus, I serve as Pastoral Associate and Christian Service Director. Between the two, I keep pretty busy focusing on both of my "families."

I am looking forward to adding St. Gerald to that list. I hope to meet many of you in the coming months and get to know you as new friends – as brothers and sisters in Christ. It is my hope that I will grow closer to the Lord through my association with all of you at St. Gerald in the coming year.

My God bless and keep all of you!
In Christ,
Jerry Schiffer

Knights Corner

December 31st at noon will be the next Corporate Communion Mass. The Knights next general meeting will be on December 14th at 7:45PM and the next officers meeting will be on December 21st at 7:45PM. Please visit <http://kofc13673.org> for more information on the St. Gerald Knights of Columbus.

St. Vincent de Paul Annual Report

The St. Gerald Conference of St. Vincent de Paul works year round to help people who are needy. The conference consists of 10 active members, as well as many people who volunteer for special projects such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. Below is the financial report for the year October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006.

The financial report indicates that income for the conference comes primarily from parishioners through donations in the Sunday collections and in the St. Vincent de Paul boxes located in the Gathering Space of our church. We also would like to thank the Religious Formation students and parish members who baked and purchased items from the bake sales throughout the year, and the parish for their donation from the special needs collection. This money helps many families who are experiencing financial difficulties.

Not included in the financial report are the many groceries that are donated by parishioners each week to our food pantry along with the grocery gift card donations. We estimated that about 2,300 pounds of food were distributed this year. The grocery expenditure in the report is money spent for fresh foods and meats that don't come from our food pantry or additional grocery gift cards. Also, we estimate that over \$1,500 in grocery gift cards were donated.

Opening cash balance	\$4,343.74
Income	
Contributions from St. Gerald Parish Donations	\$11,318.01
Contributions from Church Poor Boxes and secret collections	14,205.41
Religious Education Bake Sale	1,298.50
SVDP Twinning with other Parishes	2,029.50
Matchen Fund Reimbursements	4,396.64
Interest Earned	2.10
Total Receipts	\$33,250.16
Expenditures	
Groceries and other food expenses	\$ 1,726.05
Clothing	795.00
Rent/Rooms/Lodging	16,660.78
Utilities	2,846.58
Transportation	1,234.62
Medical Care and Medicines	820.16
Contributions to District, Archdiocesan, and National Councils (includes scholarships, camp and food depots)	95.00
Fair share Contribution 2005	,679.65
Contributions to other Conferences	1,550.00
Total Expenditures	\$27,407.84
Ending Cash Balance	\$10,186.06

During this Holy season, let us remember those who are less fortunate than ourselves. This annual report indicates our willingness to give. May we always reach out to those in need.

Young Adult Group Meetings Thursdays at 7:45 PM

Are you a young Catholic adult looking for friends and fellowship? The St. Gerald's Young Adult Group meets on Thursday evenings starting at 7:45PM in the rectory basement. College-aged to thirty-something singles, couples and parents from all parishes are welcome. Fellowship time includes scripture reading, prayer intentions, and the Rosary or the Divine Mercy Chaplet starting at around 9PM. For more information, or to be added to the email list, please email shellymoreland@hotmail.com or call 248-427-9670.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

What is the secret of a happy and fulfilling life in the short time on earth? How do you really live in true freedom? The answer to these questions and more will be addressed in our upcoming class, here at St. Gerald!!! The Catechism of The Catholic Church-Fr. Corapi Video Series will continue Dec. 10th, Sunday Night from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. The Topic is "Baptism/Confirmation" (CCC #1210-1321). Come and learn the treasures of our Faith you may not be aware of!! This is a very, informative and enlightening video. There is lots of room and you can join at anytime. Come and try it out, you won't regret it!

Advent Day of Recollection at St. John's Center – December 17

The Priests of *Miles Christi* will be offering an *Advent Day of Recollection* at St. John Center on Five Mile Road in Plymouth, MI, on **Sunday, December 17, 2006**. The *Day of Recollection* will begin at 11:15AM with two Spiritual Talks, Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, time for personal prayer and meditation, and will conclude with Holy Mass beginning at 2:50 PM. Confessions will be available throughout the day, and a lunch break held in the retreat center at St. John's. An \$8 donation per person is suggested to cover the cost of lunch. For more information contact *Miles Christi* at infousa@mileschristi.org, or visit www.mileschristi.org

Is something around the house broken?

Can't fix it yourself? Free help is available to do minor repairs or replacements. This service is by a retired parish member and his daughter. Offer is available, but not limited to handicapped, widowed, elderly, single moms, etc. Call **Dick Bailey** and tell him your problem at **248-346-8595**.

Another Way Pregnancy Center

Another Way Pregnancy is a crisis pregnancy resource ministry that needs volunteer counselors to minister to women and teens in crisis situations. If you have a heart to help save the unborn and minister to the young women, please call Cindy Bixby at 248-471-5858.

**A Family Perspective
By Bud Ozar**

In today's Gospel, Jesus advises: "Stay awake, watch out, and pray for the strength to hold your ground" when "fearful and bewildering signs" appear threatening your family. Resist being "fearful;" fear cripples! Instead, "pray for the strength" to be courageous.



Strengthen your hearts in holiness." Are you being called to grow in holiness as a priest, deacon or in consecrated life? Do not be afraid! Call the Vocation Office email: vocations@aod.org or call 313-237-5875.

Christ Child Society Charity Scoop

Come and enjoy ice cream and other offerings at Sanders and support Christ Child Society on Sunday, December 3rd between 2:00 and 3:00 PM at the newly opened Birmingham Sanders Candy and Dessert store. Christ Child Society will receive all proceeds from store sales during that hour. Sanders is located on Maple, just east of Woodward Ave. Mark your calendars and join us.

Funseekers - Barbara Cole

**Home for the Holidays Detroit
Orchestra Hall Saturday - Dec.16**

This performance will include many of our favorites with a good old fashioned sing-along.

Prior to the performance, we will have lunch at the River Café in the Marriott Renaissance Center and will include a sit down meal.

This performance sells out months in advance, so please call Barbara Cole at 734-591-9572 as soon as possible. This trip is \$95.00 and mail your checks payable to Bianco Tours and mail to Barbara Cole at 17981 University Park Dr., Livonia, MI 48152.

**Welcome New Member
to St. Gerald's**



Welcome **Melanie Bruss** of Parker Street of Farmington Hills.



**Mass Intentions
December 4-10**

Monday

9:15 AM Dolores Shamie
Requested by Lisa Shamie

Tuesday,

9:15 AM Richard Latham
Requested by his wife

Wednesday

9:15 AM Audrey Jacques
Requested by Bonnie Black

Thursday

7:00 PM Dot Bailey
Requested by Dick Bailey

Friday Immaculate Conception

9:15 AM Mary Macek
Requested by Walter and family
7:00PM Martin Scanlon
Requested by the Taffe family

Saturday

5:00 PM Bernice & Joseph Barry
Requested by Delphine Midura

Sunday

8:30 AM For the parishioners
10:00 AM Walter Winiarski
Requested by Victor & Gloria Winiarski
12:00 Cecil Moreland
Requested by the Reinke family



**Happy are those who
have died in the
Lord; Let them Rest
from their labors for
their good deeds go with them
(Rev. 14:13).**

Please pray for **Daniel Organ** who entered eternal life on November 26. Please pray for **Raul Tambornini** who entered eternal life on November 27. Also, please remember their family and loved ones in your prayers.

Project Rachel

Are you hurting after an abortion? Understand why you hurt. Reconcile with God, self, child and Church. For more information about *Project Rachel*, call 888-Rachel5 (888-722-4355). *Project Rachel* is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit. A healing Mass will take place at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on Sunday, January 21, at 10AM. All are welcome.

St. Gerald Parish
21300 Farmington Road
Farmington, Michigan 48336
Website: www.stgerald.net
Office Hours 8:30AM—4:30PM Mon.-Fri.
Fax Number 248-477-3878

Pastor

Fr. Ronald T. Browne(248) 477-7470
frbrowne@stgerald.net
+ Fr. John Menner, C.S.B. (1929-2005)
Deacon Joseph Lennon - (248)477-7470 ext. 213
DeaconJoe@stgerald.net
Rectory and Church Office....(248)477-7470
Parish Secretary and Bookkeeper
Mary Moore,
secretary@stgerald.net
Maintenance, Jim Roman
Education and
Worship ministries(248) 476-7677
Mary Taylor, ext. 201 Coordinator of
Elementary & Junior High
Religious Education
mtaylor@stgerald.net
Peggy Backus, ext. 202, Coordinator of
Worship/RCIA
worshipmusic@stgerald.net
Sr. Ellen Ann Gardner, ext 200
seagardner@stgerald.net
Organist, Choir Director.... Deborah Ponds,
d10ponds@mindspring.com ex. 204
Director of Music and Handbells
Ronald R Weiler II
rweiler@twmi.rr.com
Youth Minister and Confirmation
Coordinator...(248)476-7677 ext. 203
Edward Lowen
edwardlowen@excite.com

Christian Service(248)477-9485
Christian Service Coordinator
Mary Hoots
christianservice@stgerald.net

Sacraments

Rite of Reconciliation: Sat. 3:30-4:30PM
Baptism: Last Sunday of the month at 1:15 PM Parents will ordinarily be expected to attend a workshop before the Baptism. Make arrangements by calling the rectory.
Matrimony: Arrangements must be made six months in advance. Call the rectory.
Sacrament of the Sick: Please call the rectory.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM
Sunday 8:30, 10:00, 12 Noon
Weekday: Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 9:15 AM
Thursday Evening 7:00 PM
Registration of new members:
Instruction for adults: Please see Fr. Browne after Mass or call at the rectory.

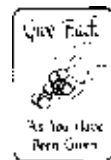


**Stewardship
November 25-26**

**Contributions:
\$9,582.10**

"But who am I, and who are my people that we should be able to offer so willingly as this?"

For all things come from You, and of your own we have given You."
Chronicles 28: 14



When Help is Needed...

American Red Cross
Volunteers are Giving Hope
And Saving Lives.

Volunteer Today!
Call 1-800-552-5466



American Red Cross *Together, we can save a life*

EMG MECHANICAL, LLC
For All Your Heating & Cooling Needs
Mention This Ad For \$10 OFF
Licensed & Insured • 734-837-6010

NEW USED
TIRE 1 ONE
Tires, Auto, Windows, Air, Oil, Wash, Wax
(248) 442-7934
Sales Service Repair

ADVERTISING!
A BRILLIANT IDEA!
1-800-521-4486

THE BODY CURVE
Collision & Paint
20785 Orchard Lake Rd.
Farmington Hills
248.442.1122
bodycurve333@aol.com

- Pick Up & Delivery Available
- Expert Color Matching
- Frame Specialists

GOLD & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
Formerly Mies & Gold, P.C.
Let us help you with your Estate Planning
(Trusts, Wills, Powers of Attorney)
Probate, Tax, and Business needs
19575 Victor Parkway, Ste. 320A, Livonia
734-462-4900

**MICHIGAN
HUMANE
SOCIETY**



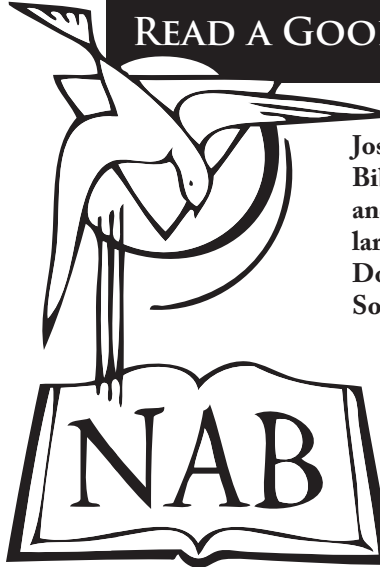
SOMEBODY HERE NEEDS YOU.

Looking for a great relationship?
You're sure to fall in love at the
Michigan Humane Society.
Dog and cat adoptions include
sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations
a 10 day health plan and, of course,
unconditional love.

Detroit | Rochester Hills | Westland
(313) 872-3400 | (248) 852-7420 | (734) 721-7300

www.michiganhumane.org

READ A GOOD BOOK LATELY?



Here is the ideal New St. Joseph American Catholic Bible Designed with footnotes and cross references for easy large-print reading and study. Doctrinal Bible index. Soft cover.

\$15.95 + \$4.10 shipping and sales tax

1-800-521-4486
Liturgical Publications, Inc.
PO Box 180906
Utica, MI 48317

We Have a Space Reserved for You!

The advertising that appears on this page will defray the costs of your newsletter service.

At the same time, your business name is presented to potential customers in your neighborhood!

Please call

**Liturgical Publications, Inc. at
(800) 521-4486**

if you are interested in placing an ad which will support this publication.

HEENEY-SUNDQUIST FUNERAL HOME

Farmington's Catholic and Family Owned Funeral Home since 1850

23720 Farmington Road
Downtown Farmington
248-474-5200

"Catholic Directors Serving Your Family"
THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME
248-474-4131
33603 Grand River Avenue
Downtown Farmington **Family Owned Since 1933**

WEINGARTZ
North America's Largest Outdoor Power Equipment Dealer
UTICA WATERFORD
FARMINGTON HILLS www.weingartz.com

DON'S PLUMBING • CALL 248-349-0675
Expert Plumbing, Sewer & Drain Cleaning
Licensed Master Plumber - Fast Service

BRIAN R. CARROLL, D.D.S.
Family Dentistry and Orthodontics
478-3285
34405 Grand River Farmington
SATURDAY & EVENING APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
Between Farmington Road & Drake Road
Member of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish

Auto Excel Collision Center
30870 W. Eight Mile, Farmington Hills
248.477.6200 Charlie Muscat
Repairs of Excellence, Lifetime Guarantee

WIETCHA MONUMENT CO.
22602 W. WARREN 25685 W. 10 Mile Rd
313-278-0380 248-356-7625

ZANETTI
COSMETIC & GENERAL Dentistry
Dentistry you can depend on, from a doctor you can talk to...

Jeffrey L. Zanetti, D.D.S.
(248) 477-1500
31904 Grand River Farmington, MI 48336
Member of Our Lady of Sorrows

GLEN EDEN MEMORIAL PARK
Where Families of Faith Remember Christ Provides
35667 W. Eight Mile Rd. Livonia, MI
248-477-4460 Thomas A. Habitz General Manager
www.glenedenmemorialpark.org

JACK'S Plaster & Drywall Repairs
Specializing in Dust Free Repairs
Licensed & Insured
WALL REPAIR SERVICE **248-348-2200**

(248) 477-9695
F.J. La Fontaine & Sons Landscaping Co.
Landscape Contractors • Site Development • Landscape Construction • Management and Maintenance
Established 1958
Farmington Hills • Employment Opportunities

Christine Dwyer
Independent Reliv Distributor
Nutrition Made Simple. Life Made Rich.
248.231.0005
cfdwyer@gmail.com

Seamless Gutters - 18 Colors
Install • Repair • Clean & Screen
AMERICAN GUTTER and SIDING INC.
248-477-8911
SIDING & TRIM
Vince McClintock, Owner

Big Boy 20788 Farmington Rd. Farmington
248-477-2590
FREE Slice of Pie with purchase of entree & ad
Big Boy is a registered trademark of Elias Brothers Corporation

CHRIS' TREE SERVICE
CHRIS SHIREY
Parish Member
313.930.3514
Free Estimates Insured
ALL YOUR TREE CARE NEEDS

Come LIVE at Fox Run!
Discover why all your neighbors Dare moving to the finest 62+ community in Oakland County. Fox Run celebrates life with activities for your mind, body, and spirit. Come visit this active community that bustles with interesting and vital people. Call 1-800-843-1433 for more information

FOX RUN in Novi
1-800-843-1433

Equal Housing Opportunity
You must be 62+ to enjoy the incomparable lifestyle

Erickson Retirement Communities

ADVERTISING!
A Brilliant Idea.

DON'T DEPEND ON WORD OF MOUTH!

LITURGICAL PUBLICATIONS INC
1.800.521.4486

COLONIAL CAR WASH
Voted #1 in the year 2000!
\$2.00 OFF
9 Mile Rd. W. of Farmington Rd.
248-442-0815

Wabeek Country Club and Banquet Center
Est. 1972
Now Accepting New Golf and Social Members

FREE ONE YEAR SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP WITH BANQUET ROOM BOOKING
LIFETIME GOLF MEMBERSHIPS FROM \$5,000
Perfect facility for receptions, banquets, and parties
Pete Dye/Jack Nicklaus Golf Course
4000 Clubgate Drive Bloomfield Hills
www.wabeekcc.org
1-877-855-0702

F. PATRICK DEVINE
Attorney at Law
ADOPTIONS
FAMILY/JUVENILE LAW
WILLS • PROBATE
33470 Lyndon, Livonia
(734) 261-4944

ROBSON PAINTING
Interior - Exterior - Drywall Repair
Decks Powerwashed & Sealed
78 Insured

Murphy-Goddard INSURANCE
Dan Murphy
Parish Member
Auto-Home-Business
AARP Discount
(313) 535-1200

FARMINGTON GOODYEAR
WEEKDAYS 7:30-6 SATURDAY 8-3
LOCAL SHUTTLE SERVICE
YOUR ONE STOP AUTOMOTIVE CENTER
DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN
33014 GRAND RIVER AVE.
248-477-0670
OWNER FRANK GRECH CC '87