



ST. GERARD CATHOLIC CHURCH

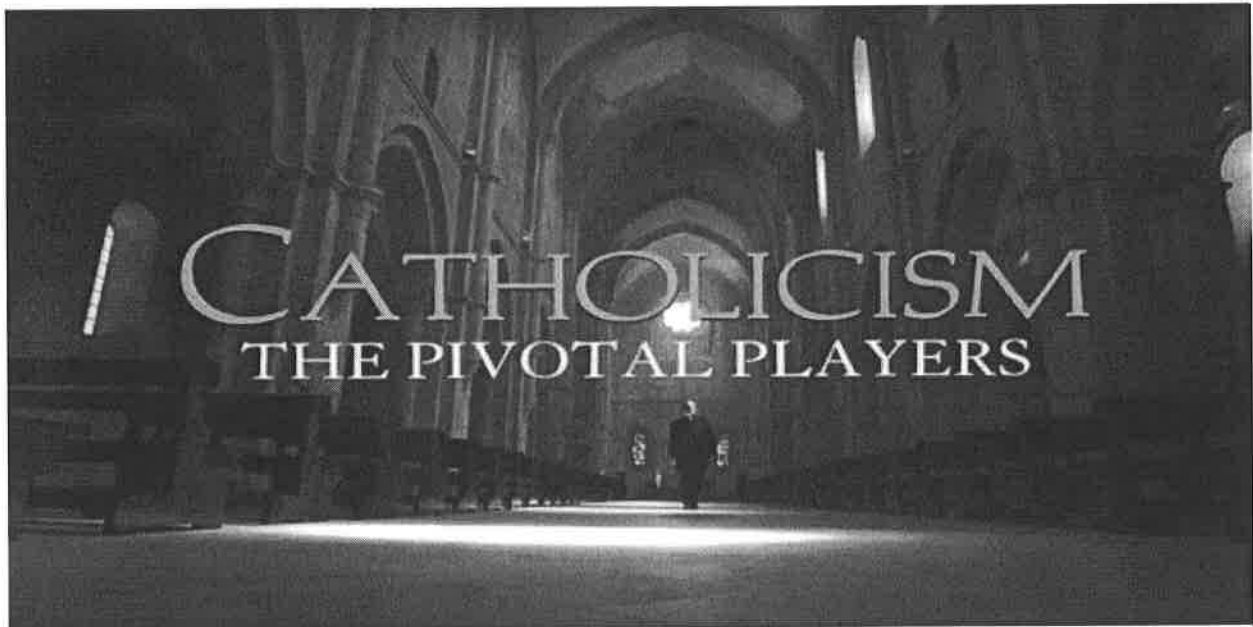
Now what?!?!

We invite you to continue growing in relationship with Christ by participating in any of the following opportunities (Beta*)...

Alpha: If you enjoyed your Alpha experience, invite a friend to the next session! Alpha 4 will be Monday evenings beginning with the Intro dinner on January 16, 6:30 PM. Sessions will run through April 3. Alpha Afternoon will be at the retreat center on March 12.



Beta: Video Series—Bishop Robert Barron:



Bishop Barron is on a new journey to unlock the truth behind the Catholic Church's most influential people. *CATHOLICISM: The Pivotal Players* is a multi-part film series that illumines a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church but changed the course of civilization. Bishop Robert Barron is the founder of *Word on Fire Catholic Ministries* and Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He is also the host of *CATHOLICISM*, a groundbreaking, award-winning documentary about the Catholic Faith, which aired on PBS.

- **Part I: Tuesdays, 7PM, January 24 – February 28 in the Parish Hall**
- **Part II: Tuesdays, 7PM, April 18 – May 23 in the Parish Hall or Adult Ed Rm**

Beta: Lenten Soup & Stations for five Tuesday evenings, March 7 – April 4.

Soup dinner begins in the Parish hall at 6pm followed by Stations of the Cross in the church at 6:45pm.



Beta: Scripture Study

- **Wednesdays at 9am beginning January 4th in the Adult Ed Room: *The Spirituality of the Gospels* with Jan Haselschwerdt.**

All four gospels call readers to become faithful followers of Christ but each gospel has a special focus on Christ. Responding to any gospel's special focus promises to also nourish a distinct spirituality one that will resonate with the spiritualities of saints and disciples both ancient and modern. Hardin finds in Matthew's gospel a spirituality based on Christ's transformative presence within us; in Mark is found the challenge of martyrdom; in Luke the call to embrace the poor; and in John disciples are called to contemplative virtues springing from grace and love.



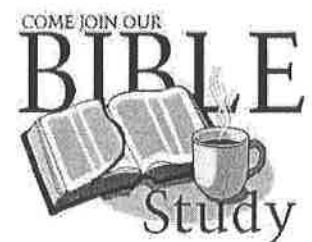
- **Thursdays at 7pm beginning January 12th in the Parish Library with Leah Lone: *Job-A Good Man Asks Why***

The book of Job helps us work through one of the most difficult questions that confronts us in life: Why do bad things happen to good people? In *Job: A Good Man Asks Why*, author Kevin Perrotta walks us through the key points in the book of Job and helps us understand suffering, justice, and love in a new light.



- **Lenten Wednesdays at 7pm beginning March 8 (5 sessions): Facilitated by Pat Rinker in the Parish Hall (March 15th will be in Adult Ed)**

Opening the Word is a feature of our FORMED, online resource for faith formation. Reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings and journal daily if you wish. Gather with others to reflect, pray, and enjoy small group faith sharing.



**Beta refers to any follow up opportunity after Alpha to help you continue to grow in your faith. Our desire is that the small group community that developed during Alpha would continue to grow as you meet to participate in a Beta opportunity together.*

December 15, 2016

Dear Parent(s):

Seventh and eighth grade students will take their first semester finals on January 11th, 12th, and 13th. Junior high students will be dismissed at 11:00 a.m. on those days. Students need to be in school uniform. No out of uniform coupons accepted.

Students will return home for the afternoon to take advantage of additional study time. We have found that giving the student(s) time in the afternoon to prepare for their finals or to rest has proven to be beneficial and helps reduce stress.

Please return the bottom portion of this letter no later than Friday, January 8th. No student will be released from school via an alternative method without the appropriate signature on this form.

Exam Day Schedule:	8:00 – 8:15	Homeroom(s)
	8:15 – 9:30	1 st Exam
	9:30 – 10:45	2 nd Exam
	10:45 – 11:00	Prayer/Announcements/Dismissal

Wed: 7th gr Religion and Science
8th gr Literature and Religion

Thurs: 7th gr Math and History
8th gr English and Science

Fri: 7th gr Literature and English
8th gr Math and History

** Please stress with your child that the process of taking exams is what is most important. Exams are weighted the same as any other test this semester.

Shelly Picuch
Principal

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Student name _____ will be going home at 11:00 a.m. during finals. Transportation will be provided by _____

_____	Wed
_____	Thurs
_____	Fri

Parent(s) Signature

** Please pick up your child in the lower lot. **

December 15, 2016

Mr. Rick Peiffer will make copies (DVD Format) of the Christmas Program available to any who may be interested. If you would like a copy, please complete the following information and return to school by Friday, January 13th, 2017.

The cost is \$15.00 and due when you place your order. Please make checks payable to ST. GERARD SCHOOL. Return your check and this form in an envelope marked "VIDEO".

NAME: _____

STUDENT NAME: _____

TEACHER NAME: _____

DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

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NAME: _____

STUDENT NAME: _____

TEACHER NAME: _____

DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

Service Saturday And Service Sunday

Service Saturday — December 17

We will be helping our St. Vincent de Paul Society deliver children's gifts to those in need. It starts at Noon and goes until 2pm. We will meet at the St. Vincent DePaul house which is 1213 Clark Rd. Sign up by calling the Parish Office 517-323-2379.

Service Sunday — December 18

We will be helping our St. Vincent de Paul Society deliver food baskets to those in need. It starts after 11 am Mass and goes until 2pm. We will meet at Fr. Weber Hall, located behind St. Gerard School. Sign up by calling the Parish Office 517-323-2379.



Who Can Participate? Families, students in need of service, groups of friends, individuals who would like to for friendships and help others. We just ask that children 14 or younger are accompanied with an adult.

Questions: Contact Theresa Bosman or Jeff Corder: 517-323-2379



Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Service Saturdays:

January 14th, 2017: 12-3pm— help Greater Lansing Food Bank sort so they can better serve those in need

February 11th, 2017: 12-3pm— We will be making tie blankets for the Linus Project that distributes them to kids who are in the hospital.

Christmas Party!

For all 6th, 7th &
8th Graders
December 16, 2016
6pm-8pm
Youth Room

Questions: Please contact Jeff Corder or
Theresa Bosman at the parish
office- 517-323-2379



Come and
enjoy holiday
fun with friends
and meet new
people!

**!Attention! !Attention! !Attention!
ALL Students IN 6TH - 12TH GRADE:
You're invited to the
St. Gerard Youth Ministry Party at**



**Cost: \$10.00 a person. - Includes 3 games
Register by calling the parish office or emailing youth@stgerard.org
Tuesday December 27, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Meet at Zap Zone - 936 East Mall Drive, Lansing, MI 48917**

Are you IN or OUT?