



# ST. GERARD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

December 17, 2015

**Miracle on Bethlehem Street** Bethlehem is delightfully dizzy with the excitement of Caesar's Census. As many people are crowding into town, Mary and Joseph must find a place to stay and the inn is packed! With a little help along the way, we all learn a valuable lesson about life in this year's Christmas program performed by the students at St. Gerard School. This year's program is Thursday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m. Students need to be dropped off in costume in their classrooms anytime after 6:20 p.m. The church doors will open at 6:30 p.m. For many people this is their only experience with St. Gerard School or our parish. This could and should be such a wonderful experience for all. Let this night be everything that is good about St. Gerard School for truly it is our children's gift to their community. As in years' past the Christmas program will be videotaped and available to purchase. Please see order form sent in Thursday's communicator or available in the office. We will continue to take orders into January.

### **Ele's Place at St. Gerard School**

For the first time, St. Gerard School will be starting an Ele's Place group for 7th and 8th graders. The 8 session group will start on Wednesday, Jan. 27th during recess and lunch for students who have lost a family member or relative close to them. Mr. Nester will be co-facilitating this positive and enriching grief and loss group experience with Rose Robertson from Ele's Place. Rose is a retired faith and formation director.

### **National Geography Bee**

Congratulations to Stewart Alvarado for winning our school's National Geographic School Bee this past week. Students competed in classrooms with each room sending a representative from 6th-8th grade to the final. Students representing their classrooms included Ben Cook, Nathan Bloomer, Olivia Brodin, Ethan Burton, Max Sanford and Stewart Alvarado. Stewart's next step includes taking a test online to compete against students statewide.

### **Girls Basketball Season Begins Soon!**

Basketball registration and skills testing for girls in grades 5 through 8 who attend St. Gerard School or regularly attend St. Gerard religious Education will be held as follows:

5th grade girls registration and skills testing:	5:00 pm on January 19th
6th grade girls registration and skills testing:	6:15 pm on January 19th
7th grade girls registration and skills testing:	5:00 pm on January 20th
8th grade girls registration and skills testing:	6:15 pm on January 20th

Please remember to bring to registration a completed basketball registration form, a copy of a current physical form dated April 15, 2015, and 2 checks: one for \$45 to cover registration, and one for \$100 to cover concession (concession check will be returned to you after you work the required shifts for concessions or admissions) made out to St. Gerard Athletics. If you have any questions, please contact the St. Gerard Athletic Director, Pat Malacina, at 230-7380.

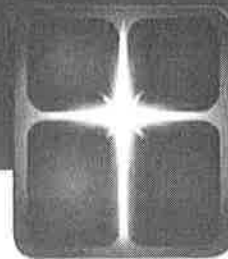
### **Upcoming Events**

Thursday, December 17th:	Annual Christmas Program at 7:00 pm in the church
Friday, December 18th:	All School Advent Mass at 8:10 am/No pm Waverly bus
Monday, December 21st-23rd:	Child Care Open
Thursday, December 24th:	Children's Choir (3rd-8th grade) at 4:30 Mass

*Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in 2016!*

# ST. GERARD PARISH

4437 W. WILLOW HWY. • LANSING, MI 48917-2180



December 15, 2015

Dear St. Gerard School Parents,

Perhaps you have heard the 'buzz' about Alpha this past fall. More than 200 St. Gerard Parishioners, including school parents, and many visitors participated in a wonderful program that brought new insight to the gift of faith and new energy and commitment to living it. The hospitality was exceptional and included a delicious meal each evening of the program. The presentations and discussions were insightful, inspiring and thought provoking. The overall environment was non-threatening and encouraging as participants sought to take a new look at faith and its place in their lives.

Listen to what a few St. Gerard School parents had to say about their experience with Alpha.

*Alpha helped my husband and me to connect – to each other, to the parish community, and to God – in new ways. As a lifelong atheist, my husband was initially reluctant to attend Alpha. But the program was intellectually engaging and he found himself enjoying a newfound contemplation of a higher power and what that could mean. I can't say enough about Alpha, and how the Holy Spirit is using it to reach people.*

-Stephanie and Dyke Van Koevering

*My husband and I really enjoyed the Alpha course. It was a date night for us once a week! We took the kids to the child care, had a nice dinner with other adults, watched a movie, and then had a small group discussion. Alpha reminded me about God's unconditional love for us, and deepened our faith. I truly hope others will participate and get as much from it as we did!*

-Katie and Jamie Jozwiak

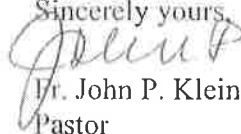
*As I have observed the development of my daughter's faith life, it has become important I re-energize my own faith life to mirror the enthusiasm she often shows. The Alpha course provided a re-introduction to many fundamental truths of Christianity in an entertaining and enlightening way. The atmosphere was warm and inviting. I made new friends, the food was fabulous, and my faith foundation has been strengthened. I highly recommend Alpha!*

-Judy Schulte

We encourage you to come to a dinner and introduction to Alpha on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. in Fr. Weber Hall. The program will be explained and you will have an opportunity to decide if Alpha is for you. **Child care will be provided.** Register for the January 13 gathering by calling the parish office, registering online at [st.gerard.org/alpha](http://st.gerard.org/alpha), or by filling out the enclosed card and returning it to the parish office or in the Sunday collection.

You are the most significant factor in the faith development of your child(ren). Alpha is offered as a gift to you and through you to those you love. **Come and see!**

Sincerely yours,

  
Fr. John P. Klein  
Pastor

  
Diane Moore  
Alpha Director

  
Rob Hecksel  
Alpha Director

P.S. If you are unable to attend January 13<sup>th</sup> but would like to participate in the sessions that follow, let us know and we will welcome you on Wednesday, January 20, at 6:30 p.m.

Alpha is a meal | talk | and discussion - to help you or a friend explore the Christian faith in a relaxed and fun setting. Check out the introductory Alpha and if you enjoy it keep coming back - no strings attached.

**St. Gerard Catholic Church**

4437 W. Willow Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917

[stgerard.org/alpha](http://stgerard.org/alpha)

517-323-2379

The Introductory Dinner is Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 6:30 pm - followed by ten weeks of a dinner, talk and discussion every Wednesday through March 23, 2016.

Register by filling out this card and dropping it in the offering, emailing or calling the church office.

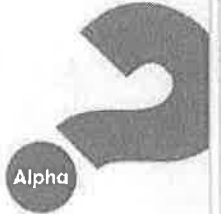
Name

phone

email

Note Food Allergy or childcare needs

[alphausa.org](http://alphausa.org) | #TryAlpha



# We are in need of 2 VERY important volunteer positions!

## Fun Day and Mileage Club need your help!

- Fun Day Chair Person (Feb. 4 during school hours)- This person coordinates activities for our Catholic School's Week Fun Day. A group of volunteers (already in place) helps set up and work at the activities on that day.
- Mileage Club Chair- This person coordinates the volunteers to work at our wonderful mileage club. Mileage Club starts in the spring.

Please contact Shelly Piecuch (or fill out the form below) if you are interested in chairing one of the fun and rewarding activities for our kids!

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*Please return to school office*

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes! I am interested in chairing Fun Day!

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes! I am interested in chairing Mileage Club!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email or phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Youth Ministry**  
**Christmas Party**

**7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup>**

**7-9 p.m. in the Parish Hall**

**We Will Have:**

- **Food**
- **Games**
- **Friends**
- **Faith**
- **Fun**



**!Attention! !Attention! !Attention!  
ALL Students IN 6<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:youth@stgerard.org)  
Tuesday December 29, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Meet at Zap Zone - 936 East Mall Drive, Lansing, MI 48917**

**Are you IN or OUT?**

December 17, 2015

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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

## ST. GERARD SCHOOL HEALTH POLICY

In order to protect your child and all children attending St. Gerard School, please be mindful of the following health guidelines. These policies have attempted to address the most common illnesses. It is not all-inclusive.

SYMPTOM	POLICY
temperature of 100 degrees or above	Child must be picked up immediately. Child may return after 24 hours of normal temperature without medication. (i.e. Children's Tylenol, etc.)
untreated eye infection (pink eye)	Child may return after 24 hours with medication.
rashes	Unidentified rashes need a doctor's written confirmation that it is not contagious. If treatment is needed, child may return after 12 hours.
scabies/lice	Child may return after 24 hours of treatment. Classroom parents will be notified.
recurring diarrhea	Child may return after 24 hours without a repeat incident or with doctor's confirmation that the condition is not contagious.
vomiting	Child may return after 24 hours without an incident.
contagious diseases (chicken pox, measles, mumps, roseola)	Child may return after sores have scabbed over. Classroom parents will be notified.
strep throat/tonsillitis	Child may return after 24 hours of treatment with medication.





# 7th, 8th, & 9th Grade Dance



**Saturday, January 9, 2016 from 7:30pm-10:00pm  
(entrance cut off time is 8pm)  
Lansing Catholic High School Cafeteria**

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders - Cost is \$3 and you must bring the signed permission slip

*This dance is sponsored by the LCHS freshmen class.*

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## DANCE PERMISSION SLIP

\_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to attend the dance on Sat., January 9, 2016 at Lansing Catholic High School from 7:30pm-10:00pm. My child and I understand that only modest attire is to be worn and only dancing and other behavior befitting young Christians will be allowed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Phone number that can be called during the dance*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*School*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student Grade Level*

We've got a great night planned for everyone with awesome music, free pop, and more! Bring your friends from your school, this permission slip, \$3, and have some fun!

This is a closed dance---only students from our Catholic schools AND with a signed permission slip can attend this dance. Parents should drop students off between 7:30pm-8:00pm only, after 8:00pm no one will be admitted without prior permission from Mr. Doug Moore, LCHS Principal – [doug.moore@lansingcatholic.org](mailto:doug.moore@lansingcatholic.org). ALL students should be picked up by 10pm, please do not wait to be called to pick up your student.

If we have inclement weather on Saturday, January 9, 2016, please email or call LCHS Admissions Coordinator, Karen Gavin, at [karen.gavin@lansingcatholic.org](mailto:karen.gavin@lansingcatholic.org) or 517-267-2102 between 5pm and 7pm. – if the dance is cancelled, the voicemail message at that number will indicate that the dance is not being held.



# St. Gerard School Athletics

Dear St. Gerard 5-8 grade Parents:

Welcome to the St. Gerard Athletic Program. This is the registration form for your child to play **Girls Basketball for the 2016 Season**. The registration fee is \$145.00 and will be collected in two separate checks of \$45.00 and \$100.00. The \$100.00 check will not be cashed but held until you fulfill your scheduled assignments of working concessions and/or admissions. Sign-up sheets are at the admission table during all of the Volleyball matches, as well as the Parent meeting. It is **Your Responsibility** to schedule a time to work. Should you not work your assigned time(s); the \$100.00 check will be deposited by our Treasurer. Please check the appropriate box below.

1.  I will work admissions and /or concessions or gym set up/cleanup to receive my \$100.00 check back.
2.  I do not wish to work. You may deposit the \$100.00 check now.

Please make checks payable to: ST. GERARD ATHLETICS.

**Because of eligibility requirements we need to know: PARISHIONER, (YES - NO)**

School \_\_\_\_\_ Religious Ed \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE REMEMBER: There is a \$10.00 late fee charged to all registrations received after the registration date for that sport**

Go Falcons

Student/Player Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender M  F  Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Coach \_\_\_\_\_ Help with Skills Clinics \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ for coaches to contact.

Is there any information a doctor should know to treat your child? \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Last Tetanus Shot \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Medical Insurance \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Family Doctor \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

In case of an emergency, I give my permission to a doctor and trained medical personnel to treat my child.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## St. Gerard Girls Basketball Registration for 2016 – Mark the Date!

Volleyball registration and skills testing for girls in grades 5 through 8 who attend St. Gerard School or regularly attend St. Gerard Religious Education will be held as follows:

5<sup>th</sup> grade girls' registration and skills testing 5:00 pm on January 19<sup>th</sup>

6<sup>th</sup> grade girls' registration and skills testing 6:15 pm on January 19<sup>th</sup>

7<sup>th</sup> grade girls' registration and skills testing 5:00 pm on January 20<sup>th</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> grade girls' registration and skills testing 6:15 pm on January 20<sup>th</sup>

Skills testing for each grade level will take approximately 1 hour.

Please remember to bring to registration a **completed Basketball registration form, a copy of a current physical form dated after April 15, 2015, and 2 checks: One for \$45 each to cover registration, and one for \$100.00 to cover concessions (concessions check will be returned to you after you work the required shifts) made out to St Gerard Athletics. There is a mandatory \$10 late fee for all registrations received after January 20<sup>th</sup>.** If you have any questions please contact the St Gerard Athletic Director, Pat Malacina, at 230-7380. Girls will not be permitted to practice until all required documents and payments are received. This will be enforced as we must have all Documents at this time. **If you played Volleyball we have your physical on file and will not need to bring another copy.**

Games will begin around the week of February 9<sup>th</sup>, and the season will last approximately 9 weeks, with a 1 week season tournament scheduled TBD

At this time I am looking for coaches for the following grades. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to coach.

2 for 5<sup>th</sup> grade (2 teams)

2 for 6<sup>th</sup> grade (2 Teams)

1 for 7<sup>th</sup> grade. (2 teams) I have 1 already

1 for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Only have 1 team at this grade.