



The Family of Saint Gerald
9310 S. 55th Court
Oak Lawn, Ill. 60453
December 12, 2021
3rd Sunday of Advent

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Fr. Stan's Utterances



We now begin and enter the third week of Advent. The third, rose color candle is lit. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, "*Gaudete Sunday*" as it is called, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass. "*Gaudete Sunday*" is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when our preparation is now half over and we are closer to Christmas and Christ's Second Coming. Advent is a liturgical season, a period of time in which the Church surrounds us with reminders of the greatest event in the whole history of the universe: the incarnation of the Son of God, who came to earth to be our Savior. The Church gives us these reminders to help us get our souls ready to receive the special graces God wants to give us as we celebrate that event this year, in the "right now" of our lives. Those same reminders are also meant to spark a personal examination of conscience. If in that examination we notice any sinful or self-centered tendencies, habits, or activities, Advent is the time to get rid of them. That's how we get ready for our Lord's Second Coming.

John the Baptist is Christ's precursor, the one sent to announce His coming and get people ready to welcome Him. John the Baptist plays a central role in our Advent liturgy, because this is the season during which the Church recalls Jesus's first coming; readies itself to welcome Him at His new, spiritual coming this Christmas; and looks forward to His definitive, second coming at the end of history. The word "**Advent**" actually originates from the Latin term for "**coming towards**." Jesus is "coming towards" us in a new way this Christmas, and the message of John the Baptist is meant to help us get ready. St. Luke emphasizes the incomparable importance of Christ's coming by pointing out how the Old Testament had prophesied not only the arrival of Jesus, but even the appearance of the precursor, John.

What should we do? That question is at the heart of it all. In today's Gospel, people came to John the Baptist with exactly that question. What should we do? Maybe we would expect a dramatic answer from John the Baptist. After all, he's a dramatic preacher and person who wears camel's hair and eats locusts with honey and preaches a tough message. However, his answer to the question "What should we do?" might surprise us. The answer is: share with others. Do your work well. It all seems so ordinary, but God takes the ordinary, and makes it extraordinary.

There's a striking verse in the first reading today, from the prophet Zephaniah. "*The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.*" Why does God say that about us? When God the Father

looks at us, He sees the image of His son, Jesus Christ. We are created in the "*Imago Dei*", the true image of God Himself. We are baptized Christians; we are transformed in Christ; we are children of God. In chapter five of the Second Letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul puts it like this: "*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.*" Therefore, this is all true. Then, all our actions take on a new meaning. God looks on us with endless joy; and that means that our actions, however routine they may seem, if done out of love, are part of that joy. God takes the ordinary and makes it extraordinary.

Advent still has two weeks left. Let's make this our goal: to strive to know Jesus better at the end of these two weeks than we do today. I think we all know exactly how to make that happen, but the writing of Christmas cards, decorating the tree, buying Christmas presents, babysitting the grandchildren, visiting our friends, preparing for the Christmas parties are not allowing us the time for true spiritual growth during the holy Advent season. We need to spend more time with God in personal prayer every day. We need to read and reflect on His words and example as given to us in the Holy Scriptures.

Therefore; let us please slow down more. I know this is hard to do with all of the Christmas shopping, decorations and card writing; but God does say; slow down! Let us pray Holy Scripture each night, the rosary, the Angelus, etc. and let us pray as a family more and ask our family members to pray for us too. We are talking to each other, but are we really praying for one another? Advent is the time to do all of these important spiritual works. Let us listen to the voice of John the Baptist again as he said to all of us today, "*I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said.*" *Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, 'Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.'* *This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*" How are we coming along with making an I-Pass Road for our souls for Jesus this Advent so far? How is the voice of the Baptist influencing us to listen and make room for God even more in our lives?





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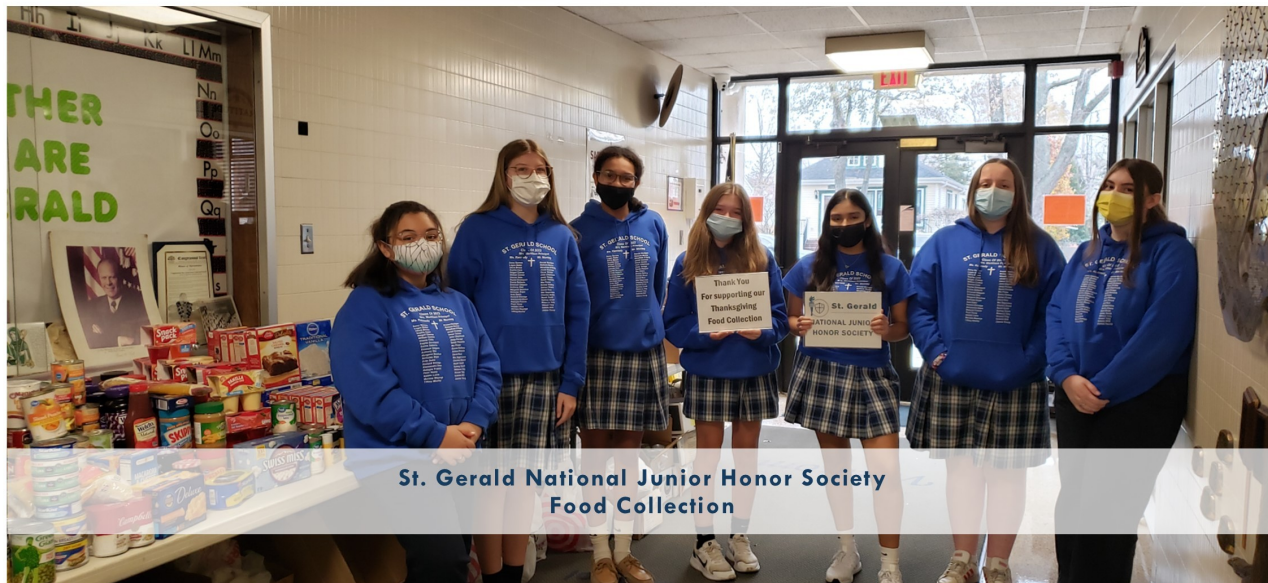
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purchase amount (pre-tax) \$

register (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6

associate name

SPORTS. TECH. CREATE. PLAY. PARTY. CANDY. ROOM. STYLE. NOW.



St. Gerald National Junior Honor Society
Food Collection

UPCOMING FAMILY PIZZA NIGHT

Five Below-Chicago Ridge: Monday - Sunday December 13th - December 19th (Must present above flyer to support fundraiser)

ONGOING WAYS TO SUPPORT ST. GERALD SCHOOL:

Amazon Smile: Donates to St. Gerald Parish & School as you shop. Simply go to smile.amazon.com to sign up.

Bingo: Every Friday in Arnold Hall. Doors open at 4:30 pm. Early Bird at 6:45 pm.

Manna Gift Cards/Benefit Mobile App: Stop in Arnold Hall Sunday 10 am - 12 noon to learn more.

Queen of Hearts Raffle: Drawing every Sunday. Visit stgerald.com/queen-of-hearts



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The Stewardship of our Family of Saint Gerald

	11/28/21
Masses	\$7861.00
Dropped Off	\$1035.00
Utilities	\$127.00
Give Central	\$1473.00
Building & Ren.	\$364.00
Total	\$11024.00

These figures include masses, give central and mailed in. Thank you for your continued support. Our parish family depends upon your support and cannot exist without you. When you are not able to be here we thank you for remembering your financial commitment to our faith community and each other.

MISSION STATEMENT

We are the Family of St. Gerald- People of God, brought together in the Eucharist as the Body of Christ. We gather as sisters and brothers with the Lord, welcoming and inviting others to journey with us to become more like Christ. We strive for spiritual fulfillment by building a community of love and service.

Marriage



Banns

| *Emily McKinley & Matthew Kopp*

Deaths

Christine A. Ross
Concepcion Rubio
James Heintz

May choirs of angels welcome them.

Gift Wrapping Station

Not enough time or energy to wrap all those holiday gifts? Drop by the second floor gift-wrapping station on Saturdays, Nov 27 through Dec. 18th from 11am-2pm. Teen helpers will be on hand to assist you with that pole of presents.

Wrapping paper and supplies will be provided. Teens interested in earning service hours for this opportunity can fill out a volunteer application at

www.olpl.org/teen-volunteer-form.

For further info, please call 708 422-4990 visit www.olpl.org or use the Ask a Librarian feature on our website.

Sunday, Dec 12

8:00am Foley Family, Czarniski Fam,
Roel Crucero,
9:30am Dolores & George Taylor,
Clem Hojnacki, Daniel Kirkpatrick,
Barbara Revis, Robert Pollard,
11:00 am Fei Family, Grant Family,
Maria Guzman, All Souls in Purgatory,
Marie Fadden, Dolores Tynan,
Spec Int for Michelle & Arturo Balderas on their
10 Year Wedding Anniversary

Monday, Dec 13

8:15am Michael & Hannah Boland,
Marie Guzman, Kathleen Adamow,
Clem Hojnacki, Liv & Decd Mem of SVDP

Tuesday, Dec 14

8:15am Angela Barea-Bilo, Clem Hojnacki,
Christy Heins

Wednesday, Dec 15

8:15am Wladyslawa Toczek, Clem Hojnacki,
Robert Cofman Sr., Spec Int for Pat O'Connell

Thursday, Dec 16

8:15am Robert L. Ferris, Fr. John Kwak.
Clem Hojnacki, Spec Int for Donna Zarnecki

Friday, Dec 17

8:15am For the Souls of the Faithful Departed

Saturday, Dec 18

5:00pm Mary Behling, Joe Nicolazzi,
Rudolph & Anna Petrokovitch, Donna Grillo,
Paulina Saparniene, Jonas Saparnis,
Alfredo Pedroza, Clem Hojnacki, John Greene,
Spec Int for Fr. Stan

Sunday, Dec 19

8:00am Spec Int for Eily-Mai O'Connell
Spec Int for John & Margaret Morrison
9:30am Agnes Evans, Karen Evans,
Barbara Revis, Daniel Morales,
Dolores & George Taylor
11:00 am Michael Flaherty, Margaret Domico,
Robert Pollard, Patricia Griffin, Salvatore Vancheri,
Angela Barea-Bilo, Marie Fadden, Grace Joos
For the Liv & decd mem of the Womens Club

First Reading

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel!, Be glad and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has removed the judgment against you he has turned away your enemies; the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear.

On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.

Second Reading

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Dear Parishioners,

Mary Christ Mass and Happy, Healthy Holidays! Thanksgiving is over, Christmas is on its way and the "Old Year is on its way out and the New Year is on its way on". One of the greatest and holiest holidays is coming soon-the Birth of Christ-the holidays' greatest gift. Holidays are hectic and sometime we forget a gift or two. To help out if that dilemma should fall upon you, maybe we could be of help with Fair Trade and some of our wonderful and delicious items for last minute shopping while also supporting the farmers who are responsible for getting them to us. We will be in Arnold Hall Saturday, December 18th after the 5:00p.m. celebration of mass and on Sunday, December 19th after the 8:00a.m. Mass and before and after all Masses thereafter. We will have a cup of our delicious coffee waiting for you. We hope to see you then and very Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year!! Jo and Maureen



Pray for the sick list



Baby Christopher Pajak-2
Baby Samuel-2
Baby Reese-3
Charles Barsevick-3
Allan Beazley-4
Fr. William Browne-2
John Campbell-3
Ron Cerevic-4
Erin Culik-2
Marlene Curran-1
Ron Dryier-3
Pat Earnest-2
Josephine Gajda-1
Ken Hansen-2
Clara Hobson-4
Zoe Johnson-3
Lucie Kavaliauskas-1
Richard Kern-2
Mary Klus-3
Catherine Kolbe-3
Katherine Kroeck-3

Samantha Latarski-4
Audrey Lenoci-2
Gene Marcinkowski-4
Maureen-3
Joyce Meredith-3
Anthony Michalak-2
Brian O'Callahan-4
Lucas Patrick-2
Carol Paprocki-3
Roselyn Peary-3
Charles Petraitis-1
Rebecca-3
Bruce Renz-4
Merideth Scaglione-4
Mary Seroka-3
Carol Sitarz-1
Ryan Smith-1
Linda Stearns-1
Megan Steiner-3
Gene Martyn-1
Marie VanCura-2
Robert Walsh-1
John Wickman-4
Elizabeth Zalapi-2

In order to add a person's name to our Pray for the sick listing, the person that is ill or a relative must call. Please call the office at 708 422-0234 to add the name of the person that is ill. We will keep the names of the sick for 4 weeks. After 4 weeks we will clear the list. If you want to add yourself or a loved one on again please call the office.

Thank you

GOSPEL

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages." Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

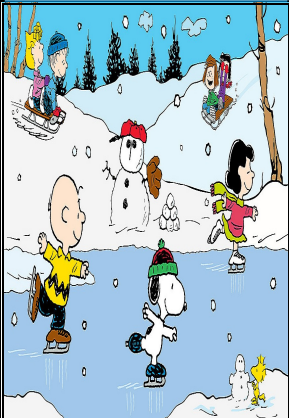
Tech Help Hour

Have a question about computers, smart phones, smart assistants or other new technologies? Stop by the computer lab during the tech help hour on Tuesdays in December at 2pm. to get assistance with your device.

For more information, please call 708 422-4990, visit www.olpl.org or use the Ask a Librarian feature on our website.



St. Vincent de Paul Society will be offering Oplatki (Christmas wafers) on Sunday December 5 and Saturday and Sunday December 11 and 12 before and after Masses. We are asking for a \$2 donation for each packet. Thank you and God Bless.

Dec 18/19	MASS TIMES	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER
	5:00PM	M Jones	J Anderson, C Keiner, L Keiner
	8:00AM	D Kobzaruk	C Adamow, P Butkus, J Ryjewski
	9:30AM	D Czaja	C Beyer, S Krystof, M Yerkes
	11:00AM	T Jones	M Kowalewski, R Paprocki B Walsh

REQUESTS FOR 2022 MASS INTENTIONS

Please fill out this form and return to the parish office. We will try and honor as best we can the dates and times you have requested, and if not possible, will assign the closest available date. Please note that individual mass intentions will be accepted on **all** days and for **all** masses with the following exceptions: Holy Thursday (04-14-22), Good Friday (04-15-22), Holy Saturday (04-16-22[') and All Souls (11/2/2021). All our deceased loved ones will be remembered in prayer on those days.

In order to provide available open Mass dates for families who have recently lost a loved one, we ask that initially limit your requests to eight (8) Mass intentions. After all our families have had an opportunity we will make the Mass Book available to those who wish more intentions.

The suggested donation is \$10.00 per mass intention. We ask that you include the donation with your request form. We will contact you by mail with confirmation of your requests. Thank you for your patience, understanding and support.

<u>Name of Intention</u>	<u>Requested Date/Time</u>	<u>Confirmed/Changed To</u>

Your Name _____ Phone _____

Please be sure to have a 2022 calendar with you when completing this form.



The Family of Saint Gerald www.stgerald.com Oak Lawn, Illinois

WEEK END LITURGIES

SATURDAY 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY 8:00, 9:30, 11:00

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

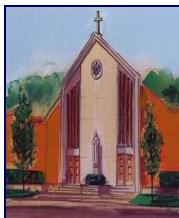
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 8:15AM

ADORATION CHAPEL

NOT OPEN AT THIS TIME

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays, 4:00-4:30 p.m.



Weddings should be scheduled at least six months in advance. Please contact the Wedding Coordinator.

Parish Office Hours

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9-5 Sat 9-12 Weds 11-5

Baptisms will be celebrated at 12:30pm on Sundays. We will baptize every Sunday with the exception of the last Sunday of the month.

What does the Convalidation of a Marriage Mean?

A convalidation is when a couple married outside the Church seeks to have their union officially recognized by the Church. For various reasons, A Catholic party or parties find themselves in a civil marriage or in a marriage that took place before a non-Catholic minister. In time, some seek to have their marriages approved or "blessed" by the Catholic Church. A convalidation involves the willingness of both parties to enter into a sacramental marriage.

Does this describe your situation? Were you married in a civil service and are a baptized Catholic? Were you married in a civil service, divorced and remarried? Have you wondered if you can have your marriage blessed and recognized by the Church? If you answered yes, to any of these questions feel free to start a conversation to get some answers!

A convalidation does not mean you need to plan a big wedding ceremony with all the frills. Actually, it requires some paperwork, possible attendance to Pre Cana and a meaningful ceremony in church to crown your marriage with the sacrament. St. Gerald can offer you a private ceremony or to be included in a Sunday mass group ceremony!

Feel free to contact any of the following staff members to discuss your situation:

Mrs. Laura Kowalski.....708-422-0234 (24) or lkowalski@stgerald.com

Join PASS Sunday, December 12th at 8:00pm EST Hosted by Mission Pre-Born a national faith based organization that supports Pregnancy Aid South Suburbs PASS network for life. Free Virtual Event- Celebrate Jesus: Christmas Spectacular for the Unborn.

Live streamed on Facebook, You Tube, Vimeo and Preborn.org

This Christ-honoring, worshipful, and entertaining event will give the whole family a reorientation to the true reason for the season: **Jesus Christ's coming to Earth.**

The Christmas Spectacular for the Unborn will follow the greatest unplanned pregnancy known to mankind-the story of the Virgin Mary and the birth of Jesus Christ-with orchestration and music by Danny Gokey, Jordan Smith, and Joyce Im Bartholomew for a celebratory Christmas event you will not want to miss!

All Proceeds will be distributed to Pregnancy Clinics across America.

PASS pregnancy care centers will benefit from any donations made directly to helpass.org

ST. GERALD PARISH STAFF

Rev. Robert Pajor.....Pastor frpajor@stgerald.com
 Rev. Stanley Stuglik.....Associate Pastor
 Rev. William Browne..... Resident
 Rev. Mr. Michael Fekete....Deacon mfekete@archchicago.org
 Mr. Thomas Forbes.....Parish Business Manager tforbes@stgerald.com
 Mrs. Kemberly Markham Principal kmarkham@stgerald.com
 Mr. Jim Ramos.....Coord. of Religious Education rey@stgerald.com
 Mrs. Sandy Weber.....Ministry of Care sweber@stgerald.com
 Ms. Leah Andricopulos.....Music Director musicopulos@gmail.com
 Mrs. Annamarie Blaha... Media & Marketing Coordinator ablaha@stgerald.com
 Mrs. Laura Kowalski.....Wedding Coordinator lkowalski@stgerald.com
 Mrs. Kate Zagata.....Bulletin Editor kzagata@stgerald.com
 Mrs. Gina Reynolds.....School Secretary greynolds@stgerald.com
 Mrs. Margie Colesby.....School Business Manager mcolesby@stgerald.com
 Parish Office 9310 S 55th Ct.
 Telephone 708 422-0234
 Fax 708 422-0822
 School 9320 S 55th Ct.
 Telephone 708 422-0121
 Fax 708 422-9216
 Religious Education (REY) Office 708 423-0458
 Convent 708 422-0280



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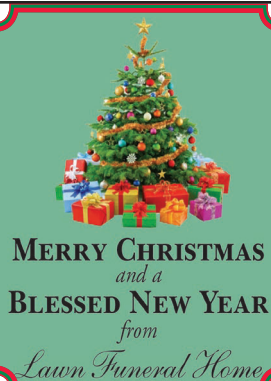
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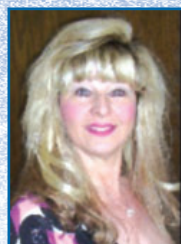
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