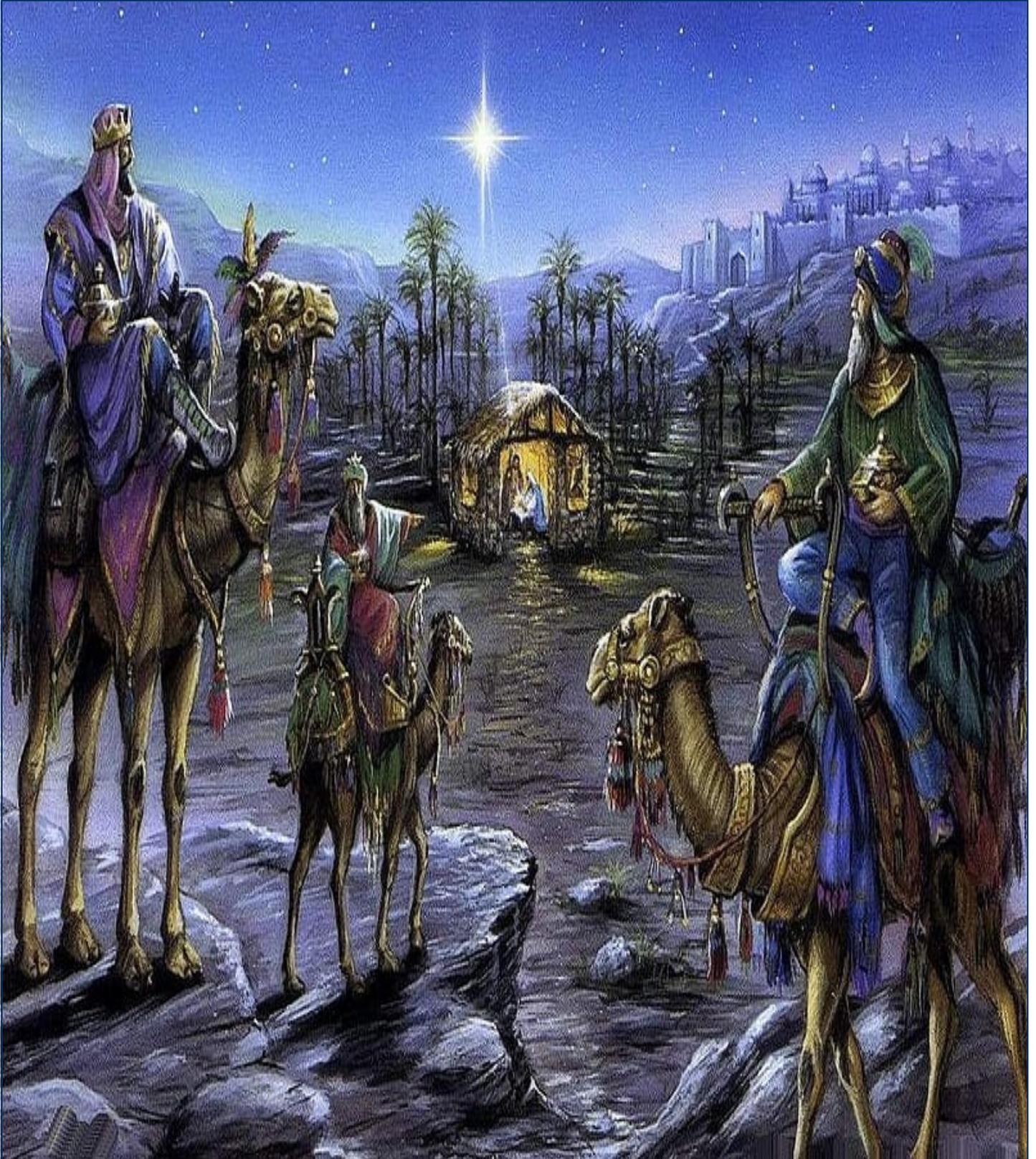




*The Family of Saint Gerald*  
9310 S. 55th Court  
January 8, 2023  
Oak Lawn, Ill. 60453  
*The Epiphany Of The Lord*



### SAND AND STONE

Oscar and Clarence were lifelong best friends from the old neighborhood. Oscar was reserved and cautious. Clarence, on the other hand, was gregarious and adventurous. Despite their different outlooks on life, they complemented one another just perfectly. The years swiftly flew by. Their hair thinned. Their memories faltered. Their steps were noticeably slower. They misplaced their keys. Their knees creaked. But their friendship endured. Each day they found someone or something to smile about. Some days proved to be harder than others.

On one of those admittedly hard days Oscar began to contemplate his inevitable mortality. Clarence would have none of it and suggested a journey to the desert. There in the sand and solitude he, like Jesus, hoped they might experience the eternal mystery of God and relive the days of their bygone youth. On the second day of their journey through the harsh desert, exhausted by the searing heat, they got into an uncharacteristic argument. In a moment of anger and fear Oscar slapped Clarence in the face. Clarence was stunned and hurt. He said nothing. Instead, he bent down and wrote these words in the **sand**: *"Today my best friend slapped me in the face."*

In awkward silence Oscar and Clarence kept walking until, in the shimmering distance, Clarence saw what he thought was an oasis. Racing ahead of Oscar and leaping over a wall of ancient stones he dove into what he imagined was a pool of cool water. It was not water. It was quicksand. Clarence's whole life flashed before him and in desperation implored God, *"Help me! I am going to drown."* Suddenly Clarence looked up and saw what he thought was a ghost hurtling toward him. It **was not** a ghost. It was Oscar's clothing tightly tied together as a makeshift lifeline. Clarence grabbed onto it and felt himself being pulled out of the quicksand. There at the other end was a terribly sunburned Oscar straining with all his might. With one final heave Clarence was free.

No words were spoken. Instead, Clarence crawled to the nearest stone and with an old Swiss army knife carved these words on that ancient stone, *"Today my best friend saved my life."* When they awoke in the hospital after being rescued a puzzled Oscar asked Clarence, *"After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand. But when I was able to save you, you wrote on stone. Why?"* Clarence wisely replied: *"When someone hurts us, we should write it down in sand, where the winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."* A friend forgave. A friend was forgiven. The mystery of God revealed.

It is a rare person who has not said or done something they regret or lamented a lost opportunity to be the bigger person in those petty arguments that are so hurtful and so unimportant. We have all been hurt by the mean-spirited words and actions of others and, whether intentionally or unintentionally, our words and indifference have hurt others. Our first instinct may be to get even when others hurt us and we mutter a defiant **"I'll show them!"** But what does getting even "get" us and "what" are we showing them? Resentments that eat away at us and an anger that can turn us into

someone we no longer recognize. Can we, like Clarence, write our hurts and failures in the sand or do we harden our hearts and view others with suspicion and disdain?

Recall the timeless words of the 18<sup>th</sup> century poet Alexander Pope who writes, *"To err is human, to forgive, divine."* We have all made mistakes and in our human frailty we all need forgiveness. But in every soul, there is a divine spark that shines brightest when we forgive others and open our hearts to what is noble and best in the human spirit – compassion, tolerance, mercy, a thirst for justice, service to those in need and love of neighbor.

On this Feast of the Epiphany we celebrate the hope of all humanity and the revelation of God's love in an infant so tender and mild. Mysterious 'kings' cross the desert searching for a child born into poverty that he may lift up the forsaken and humble the haughty. He waits for them and for us. They bring gifts to honor him and in honoring him they reveal themselves to be truly "Wise Men." We now bring the gift of ourselves so that he may embrace and comfort us. And when we hold our children and grandchildren and every precious child in this world close to our heart we will know that *"None stand so tall as those who stoop to help a child."* Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and kings, the choirs of angels, you and me *and* all creatures great and small rejoice in the miracle that is Christmas and in the promised Savior born for all of us.

This extraordinary miracle is beautifully expressed in the song **When A Child Is Born**. Bing Crosby sings it best but I also like Susan Boyle's version. Though it is obviously much more moving when it is sung, here are the words: *"A ray of hope flickers in the sky. A tiny star lights up way up high. All across the land dawns a brand new morn. This comes to pass when a child is born."* Let us continue to hope and pray that a brand new morn may soon dawn when no child is hungry or neglected or afraid and that our world will be at peace. Let us remember and sing with unabashed hope and childlike simplicity and wisdom, *"It's a world of laughter, a world of tears. It's a world of hope and a world of fears. There's so much that we share that it's time we're aware, it's a small world after all. It's a small world after all. It's a small world after all. It's a small, small world."*

It really is a small world. It is the only one we have and there are precious few days to enjoy it. So let us cherish each day, value all life, never add to another's sorrow or detract from another's joy. When others hurt us, let us write it in the sand. When others make us smile, let us carve it in stone. Remember to forget what is unimportant or petty. But never forget to remember that *"God danced on the day you were born and the angels sang."* It may be a long way to Tipperary but it's just a hop, skip and a jump to home sweet home especially when a smile greets you at the door.

Tom Forbes / VIS 67

*PS – I had an epiphany today. I turn 70 in 2023! Not a dancer but I'll be singing, "Thanks for the Memories" to Father Malcolm and Sto Lat to Fr. Robert and Fr. Stan.*

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**August 24th- September 4th, 2023**



## Pray for the sick list



- Luis Alvarez-1
- Baby Reese-1
- Charles Barsevick-1
- Fr. William Browne-1
- Maria Cabarello-1
- Cameran-2
- Karen Cartolano-1
- Ron Cerevic-1
- Shirley Cerf-2
- Adriene Cervantes-1
- Maureen Collins-1
- Erin Culik-4
- Donna D-3
- Ron Dryier-4
- Pat Earnest-3
- Michael Griffin-2
- Nelson Hathcock-3
- Don Henry-3
- Clara Hobson-3
- Lucie Kavaliauskas-1
- Mike Kelly-1
- Michael Kennelly-1
- Mary Klus-2
- Laura Knapp-4
- Leonard Kosacz-1
- Katherine Kroeck-3
- Dorothy Kubala-3

- Laverne Leahy-3
- Donald C. Lesiak-1
- Bernadette Magana-2
- Gene Marcinkowski-4
- Gene Martyn-4
- Maureen-4
- Maureen C.-2
- Ross McCarthy-1
- Mary McMullen-1
- Joyce Meredith-1
- Lillian Miszkiewicz-1
- Brian O'Callahan-1
- Michael O'Keefe-4
- Lucas Patrick-1
- Carol Paprocki-2
- Dave Pawlak-2
- Charles Petraitis-4
- Bruce Renz-3
- Grace Ritter-3
- Art Rivas-2
- Milo Rusin-4
- Merideth Scaglione-1
- Deirdre Scott-1
- Ryan Smith-1
- Linda Stearns-4
- Joe Streit-1
- Ann Thomas-1

- Tom-3
- Rita Tucholski-3
- Robert Walsh-3
- Beckett George Wear-2

- John Wickman-3
- Stella Wisniewski-3
- Elizabeth Zalapi-4

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.



**Sunday Jan. 8**  
 8:00am Michele Cesaro, Colette McGinnis  
 9:30am Charlotte & Michael Feret,  
 Charley Samars  
 11:00am Bernadette Giovanazzi ,  
 Pawel Berezowski , Edward Hanania  
**Monday, Jan. 9**  
 8:15am Charley Samars  
**Tuesday Jan. 10**  
 8:15am Charley Samars  
**Wednesday, Jan. 11**  
 8:15am Jacqueline Giebelhausen  
**Thursday, Jan. 12**  
 8:15 am For All The Souls of the  
 Faithfully Departed  
**Friday, Jan. 13**  
 8:15am Bud McGrail, Rita Walsh,  
 Pat Halm, Donald Revoir  
**Saturday Jan. 14**  
 5:00pm Michele Cesaro, Colette McGinnis,  
 Peg Bauer, Spec Int for Michael Kennelly  
**Sunday Jan. 15**  
 8:00am Eleanor Wojtas Stella Petrasek  
 9:30am Sandra Heneghan,  
 Spec Int for Lisa & Karim & Family  
 11:00am Peter Laylo  
 Spec Int for Gianna Cislo

**The Stewardship of our Family of Saint Gerald**

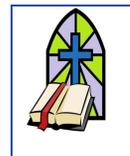
	12/11/22	12/18/22
Masses	\$10,233.00	\$9045.00
Dropped Off	905.00	1160.00
Utilities	425.00	173.00
Give Central	1833.00	2023.00
Candles	259.00	212.00
Building & Ren	570.00	1072.00
Flowers	160.00	25.00
Total	14,385.00	13710.00

**Christmas Collection as of 12/31/22 \$46,613.00**

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.



**Deaths**

*Carol A. Zwolinski*  
*Suzanne Bodey*  
*Lois Tarasevic*

*May Choirs of angels welcome them.*

**MORNING OF REFLECTION**  
**"Growing in Grace and Holiness"**  
**Women's Monthly Morning of Reflection**  
**Wednesday, January 18th 10:00-1:30**

Each month's Morning of Reflection includes prayer, meditation, and time for sharing. Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be served. \$30 Donation requested. Mount Assisi Center (former high school) 13860 Main St. Lemont. Social distancing and safety procedures will be in place.

**Please RSVP by FRIDAY, January 13th to Carrie Peters**  
**630-257-7844 ext. 223**  
**[carriepeters2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carriepeters2@sbcglobal.net)**

**Consider switching to weekly contributions online**

**Give Central** Online Giving is a convenient way to make weekly offertory contributions to St. Gerald. It's a secure online system with several payment options.

Go to: **<https://www.givecentral.org/location/49>** Thank you for your generosity and support of St. Gerald!



## I Reading

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

## II Reading

Brothers and sisters:

You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

## Gospel

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

*And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.* " Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.



### *Upcoming Eucharist Adoration in the Church:*

Wednesday January 18th 6-8pm  
 Wednesday February 1st 2023 6-8pm  
 Wednesday February 15th 2023 6-8pm

The Family of Saint Gerald [www.stgerald.com](http://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 IN CHURCH

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH 6-8PM

### THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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



**Weddings** should be scheduled 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 the 11:00am Mass or at 12:30pm on Sundays. We will baptize on the first and third Sunday's of the month.

# St. Gerald Commemorative Bricks

## Building Memories One Brick at a Time

Our ongoing Memorial Garden with commemorative bricks surrounding the statue of our Blessed Mother creates a peaceful and beautiful setting for prayer and meditation and honors our loved ones.

The final phase of our Memorial Garden project is nearing completion with less than 200 bricks remaining.

We are excited to offer the opportunity to support St. Gerald with the purchase of a commemorative brick to celebrate life's many occasions. Bricks can be purchased for Birth/Baptism, Sacramental Celebration, Christmas/Easter, Memorial to a loved one, Special Occasion, Wedding/Anniversary, Birthday, and First Communion/Confirmation. Memorial Garden bricks start at \$200 each and are available in various sizes.

Orders are now being taken for our spring installation. Please submit orders no later than February 15<sup>th</sup>. Order forms are available at [www.stgerald.com](http://www.stgerald.com) or at the Parish Office. Contact Laura at [lkowalski@stgerald.com](mailto:lkowalski@stgerald.com) or call 708-422-0234 ext. 124 for more details or an order form.

Commemorative Brick Gift Certificates are available upon request.



**REQUESTS FOR 2023 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 (04-06-23), Good Friday (04-07-23), Holy Saturday (04-08-23) and All Souls (11/2/2023). 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 you 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 \$15.00 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.

**Name of Intention**                      **Requested Date/Time**                      **Confirmed/Changed To**

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Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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ST. GERALD PARISH STAFF

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Rev. Stanley Stuglik.....Associate Pastor
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