



*The Family of Saint Gerald*  
9310 S. 55th Court  
November 5, 2023  
Oak Lawn, Ill. 60453  
31st Sunday In Ordinary Time



**Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.**  
**Psalm 25:4**



Nov. 5, 2023

### 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Last Easter season a new convert to Catholicism at my parish asked me with a grave tone in her voice: “Why do we call priests ‘father’ if Jesus says, ‘Call no man on earth your father, for you have one Father, who is in heaven’?” Thinking myself clever, I asked, “Do you think it’s okay to call someone your ‘teacher’ or ‘mister’ or ‘dad’?” She said, “Yes, I do.” I responded, “Well, Jesus seems to forbid that, too. So, it’s obviously hyperbole that he’s using.” She thought for a moment and declared, “Then I will stop using those words, too!” And she walked away. Not the outcome I was seeking.

We shouldn’t be too hasty in dismissing this complaint voiced by many non-Catholics. The expression “father” for ordained priests is not honorary for the individual man. The priest’s fatherhood doesn’t begin or end in him at all. Rather, the title “father” indicates that he is a sacramental sign of God’s Fatherhood revealed in Jesus. I can tell you, as a very unworthy bearer of that title, we should give and receive that title with some trepidation (because of God’s awesomeness) and with a little sense of humor (because of the lowliness of the men with the title).

The longer I’m a priest, the more I’m comfortable with people not using the title “father” and just calling me “John.” After all, only God is Father in the truest sense. At the same time, Jesus has brought the Father close to us, very close. We honor this closeness in some men with the title “father.” Who are the priests in your life whom Christ has sent to you? How wonderful that Christ has surrounded us with humble signs of his Father’s love. It’s good to celebrate that love with gratitude for the priests in our lives.

Fr. John Muir



# ST. GERALD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

LEARNING · LEADING · SERVING · SUCCEEDING



In the STEM Lab, the 3rd grade students built and tested pumpkin catapults to see whose pumpkin would go highest or farthest.

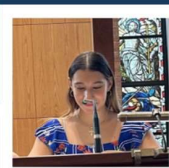
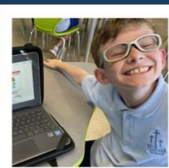


Principal Pape helped the Preschool 3 kids carve a pumpkin.



Staley the Chicago Bear talked to all the students, encouraged them to Be Kind to Your Mind and Live Drug Free.

## Schedule a Private Tour



### Inviting Parents and Prospective Students to Discover our Catholic School

Faith Based and Christ Centered  
Safe Family Environment  
Before and After Extended Care  
Hot Homestyle Lunches  
Modern Athletic & Activity Center  
Accepting students Preschool - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

For More Info: 708.422.0121

To Request a Private Tour:

[school.stgerald.com/request-a-tour](http://school.stgerald.com/request-a-tour)

Visit us and discover why St. Gerald is the right choice for your family.



[school.stgerald.com](http://school.stgerald.com)

## WAYS TO SUPPORT ST. GERALD SCHOOL:

**Bingo!** Every Friday in Arnold Hall Games start at 6:45 pm

**Manna Gift Cards:** 1st & 3rd Sunday 9 am - 12 noon in Arnold Hall and Wednesdays 6pm - 7:30 pm and Fridays 8:15 am - 9:30 am in the School Office.



**HAVE A GIANT HEART!**



Peace be with you! With these words Jesus greets his disciples after the Resurrection. It is also the greeting which follows the sign of the cross at the beginning of every Mass. And I have intentionally opened my letter with this greeting because peace is what we need at this very fragile moment in our human history.

I have no doubt that watching terrifying scenes of war and terror on TV makes us extremely emotional, sad, and wanting to do something. Acting on emotions is not always a good thing because at times our emotions can be quite bad advisors. But there is one safe and helpful thing we can do when our feelings hurt, and when the world seems to be turning upside down. At times like this we can, and we even should offer our emotions in prayer to God, who is all Powerful and Merciful. We long for peace in the world. So let us gather and pray for peace in the world.

I would like to invite you to join us in Prayer for Peace on Wednesday, December 6th at 7pm in the Church. On that day we will turn to Jesus, the Prince of Peace in gratitude for 90 years of St. Gerald and ask Him to bless us and bless the world with His Love and Peace. We will pray that all nations may seek peace and brotherly love. We will pray for peacemakers, that their work may bring trust, justice and better relationships between the nations and peoples. So please join us on Wednesday, December 6th, at 7pm and together let us raise our voices to Heaven giving thanks to God for his goodness and asking Him for peace in the world.

In closing, I would like to say thank you so much for your donations to our Building and Renovation Fund, which are helping us to cover various much needed expenses of repairs and renovations around our St. Gerald 90 Year Old Campus. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue our renovation in the main vestibule. We plan to be finished with that project before Thanksgiving.

May the Peace of Christ be with you all. You're are always in my prayers!

Fr. Robert



### Pray for the sick list



Frank Apicella-2  
Baby Reese-2  
Charles Barsevick-1  
Laura Bingenheimer-2  
Susan Bingenheimer-2  
Maria Cabarello-3  
Cameran-1  
Karen Cartolano-1  
Ron Cerevic-4  
Shirley Cerf-1  
Adriene Cervantes-4  
Mary Coffman-2  
John Coleman-2  
Maureen Collins-3  
Chris Courtney-4  
Erin Culik-2  
Theresa Curtin-2  
Jack Daley-1  
Evan Danner-1  
Patrick Davis-2  
Donna D-1  
Ron Dryier-2  
Pat Earnest-1  
Diane Gomez-4  
Michael Griffin-3  
Jackie Hokinson-1  
Nelson Hathcock-1  
Clara Hobson-1

Lucie Kavaliauskas-3  
Mike Kelly-1  
Michael Kennelly-3  
Mary Klus-4  
Laura Knapp-1  
Catherine Kolbe-2  
Leonard Kosacz-4  
Katherine Kroeck-2  
MaryAnn Krupa-3  
Dorothy Kubala-3  
Laverne Leahy-1  
Joyce Lewandowski-1  
Trish Lunn-1  
Bernadette Magana-1  
Monica Martancik-3  
Gene Martyn-3  
Maureen-4  
Maureen C.-1  
Mary McMullen-4  
Joyce Meredith-4  
Lillian Miskiewicz-4  
Michael Moran-1  
Catherine Motyka-3  
Brian O'Callahan-3  
Michael O'Keefe-2  
Lucas Patrick-3  
Carol Paprocki-4  
Dave Pawlak-4

Charles Petraitis-2  
Andrea Pierzynski-3  
Randy-1  
Bruce Renz-1  
Grace Ritter-4  
Art Rivas-4  
Milo Rusin-2  
Savannah-4  
Merideth Scaglione-3  
Deirdre Scott-3  
Ryan Smith-4

Linda Stearns-4  
Joe Streit-3  
Ann Thomas-3  
Dave Tishka-1  
Paul Tishka-1  
Rita Tucholski-4  
Cindy Venditti-4  
Robert Walsh-4  
John Wickman-4  
Stella Wisniewski-4  
Linda Wydra-3  
Elizabeth Zalapi-1

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.

## Mass Schedule

### Sunday Nov. 5

**8:00am** Ida & Casey Mrozak  
**9:30am** Clem Hojnacki,, Hynes Fam.,  
 John & Kathleen Maree, Jozef Syjud,  
 Don Wasik, Patrick & Katie Fallon,  
 Spec Int for Fr. Stan

**11:00am** Fei Family, Grant Fam  
 Jerome Litrenta, Jean Wierschem  
 All Souls in Purgatory

### Monday, Nov. 6

**8:30am** Richard & James Kern, Clem Hojnacki,  
 Albert Palumbo, Spec. Int for Dawn Kern

### Tuesday, Nov. 7

**8:30am** Robert Lou Ferris, Clem Hojancki,  
 Debbie Hermann, Spec. Int for Fr. Robert,

### Wednesday, Nov. 8

**8:30 am** Ceil Olejniczak

### Thursday, Nov. 9

**8:30 am** Karen Dolan, Eleanor Leonard Andreski

### Friday, Nov. 10

**8:30am** Richard & James Kern, Rich Kern,  
 Charlene Green Kelly, Clem Hojnacki,  
 Patricia Smith, Spec Int for St. Gerald Office Staff

### Saturday, Nov. 11

**5:00pm** Richard & James Kern,  
 Patrick Quinn, Frank Basta, Dan Kirkpatrick,  
 Ron Anderson, Maurice Mendoza,  
 Spec Int for the Fam of Franek Garbacz

### Sunday Nov. 12

**8:00am** Mary Seroka

**9:30am** Richard & James Kern,  
 Jacqueline Giebelhausen,  
 Paddy, Owen and Martin O'Grady,  
 Decd. Members of the Riordan Fam.,

**11:00am** Dan Hughes, Fr. Lawrence Malcolm.  
 James Peltzer, Jean Wierschem,  
 Honorata Sikorski, Peter Laylo

## The Stewardship of our Family of Saint Gerald

	10/29/23
Masses	\$9084.00
Dropped Off	865.00
Utilities	240.00
Give Central	1797.00
Candles	196.00
Building & Ren	821.00
Total	\$ 13,003.00

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.

In a world where  
you can be  
anything, be  
kind.



Please join us on the second Saturday of each month as we pray the Rosary and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. We will meet in front of the Grotto of Mary at 12:00 Noon. It will be determined where we will pray due to inclement weather.



## Deaths

*Robert E. Vorberg*

*May choirs of angels welcome him.*



## Reading I

A great King am I, says the LORD of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations. And now, O priests, this commandment is for you: If you do not listen, if you do not lay it to heart, to give glory to my name, says the LORD of hosts, I will send a curse upon you and of your blessing I will make a curse. You have turned aside from the way, and have caused many to falter by your instruction; you have made void the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts. I, therefore, have made you contemptible and base before all the people, since you do not keep my ways, but show partiality in your decisions. Have we not all the one father? Has not the one God created us? Why then do we break faith with one another, violating the covenant of our fathers?

## Reading II

Brothers and sisters:

We were gentle among you, as a nursing mother cares for her children. With such affection for you, we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well, so dearly beloved had you become to us. You recall, brothers and sisters, our toil and drudgery. Working night and day in order not to burden any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. And for this reason we too give thanks to God unceasingly, that, in receiving the word of God from hearing us, you received not a human word but, as it truly is, the word of God, which is now at work in you who believe.

## Gospel

Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens hard to carry and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them. All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi.' As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi.' You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

*"Dear Lord, I thank you for waking me today. You have given me yet another sunrise to enjoy. Thank you for the wonderful sounds of nature and the cool breeze brushing through the trees making the birds sing beautiful songs. I praise You, Lord, for allowing me to live another beautiful day in Your Kingdom. Amen."*

**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!



**Reunion**

The Queen of Peace H.S. Class of 1973 will hold their 50th Class Reunion on September 15, 2023 at Gaelic Park in Oak Forest, IL. At 6:00p.m. see/join the Queen of Peace Class of 1973 Facebook Page for more info. Note the change of time and location. Email: [patricethomas6314@gmail.com](mailto:patricethomas6314@gmail.com)

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**

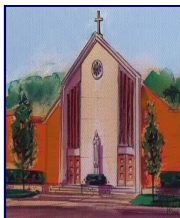
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 8:30AM

**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's  
**SPLIT**  
the **POT**



Only \$10 per entry

**HOW TO PLAY:** Fill in your details, put \$10 in the envelope, seal and place it in the collection boxes located in the vestibules. Total pot is split 50:50 between winner and St. Gerald.

Beginning in September, drawings will be once a month at the end of the month.

## A Prayer Request for our Alpha Team & Participants



In a world of isolation, anonymity, and keyboard-warriors, Alpha creates a safe space for honest, open, and judgment-free conversations for anyone to explore the Christian faith.

In the coming weeks, we look forward to sharing more about Alpha at St. Gerald. As we embark on this journey to find others on their journey with Jesus, the Alpha Team is asking for your continued prayers.

*Dear Lord,*

*We ask that you provide your blessings to the Alpha Team through the Holy Spirit. Bestow the ability to help others cultivate and commit to a close relationship with you Lord. In so doing, the team members will establish a closeness to you Lord and spread the good news in an open, heart-felt discussion with each of the participants. **Amen.***

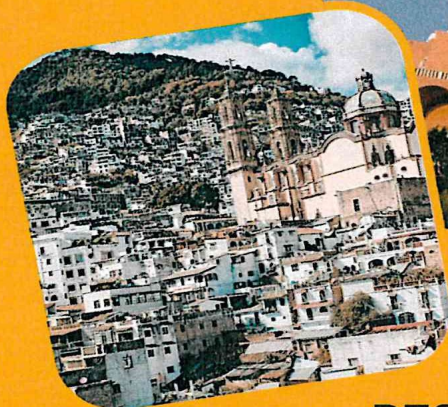
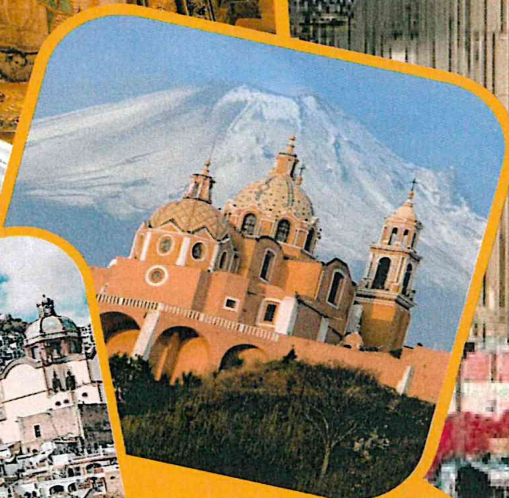
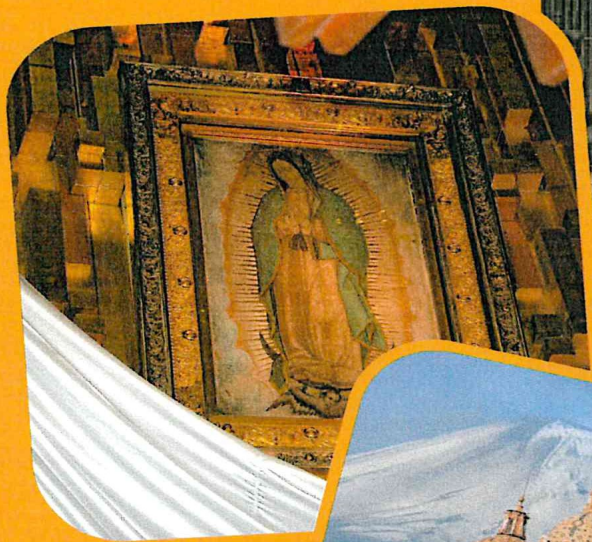


**Hello Ladies!**

We invite all ladies to join us for our next meeting on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. We will begin with the Rosary in church at 6:30pm followed by a brief meeting at 7pm in Arnold Hall-Room 121. We will be planning for our Annual Bake Sale on the weekend of November 18/19.

We look forward to welcoming you.





**DECEMBER 7-17, 2023**

# **PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO**

**UNDER SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE OF :  
FR. ROBERT PAJOR & FR. CHRIS KULIG**

**ST. JOSEPH TRAVEL/ REK TRAVEL**

**773-777-7733**

**ENROLLMENT STARTS: 08/01/2023**

**DEPOSIT \$1000. FINAL PAYMENT: OCTOBER 24TH, 2023**

**\$1950**

**PRICE INCLUDES:**

- **AIRLINE TICKETS**
- **ALL ENTRANCES**
- **ACCOMODATION**
- **MEDICAL NSURANCE**

**CASH OR CHECK ISSUED TO REK TRAVEL SERVICES LLC MEMO: PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO**

**MORE DETAILS - VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.STJOSEPHTRAVEL.COM](http://WWW.STJOSEPHTRAVEL.COM)**



Bob Kuenster

Thompson & Kuenster Funeral Home

5570 W. 95<sup>th</sup> St., Oak Lawn, IL

Presents the seminar

## Coping With the Holidays

Thursday, November 16, 2023

7pm at

Thompson & Kuenster Funeral Home

Rev. James Heneghan

Seminar Facilitator

We have all lost someone we loved,  
someone who played an important part  
in our family's celebrations.

How can we acknowledge our grief and  
also honor them this holiday season?

Rev. Heneghan will offer suggestions to help  
us use the holidays as a step towards healing.

Please RSVP by November 12, 2023

708-425-0502

<https://www.thompsonkuensterfuneralhome.com>



## CELEBRATE NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

We invite you to bring your Bible to mass the weekend of November 18/19.

### History of National Bible Week:

In 1941, during World War II, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt first declared the week before Thanksgiving, National Bible Week. At the time, passages were read passages on the air at NBC between radio broadcasts to encourage the nation during a time of war.

National Bible Week is meant to encourage reading the Bible and sharing God's word. During Thanksgiving week is a way to remind ourselves of the many ways we are blessed through the Word of God.

For many, the Bible offers a source of hope, guidance, and strength. In difficult times, its words provide comfort. It offers peace, encouragement for individuals and nations.

Add more meaning to National Bible Week by:

- Attend Mass with your Bible
- Explore the Bible and discover a new verse
- Host a Bible discussion
- Attend a Bible luncheon
- Give a Bible to someone
- Share your favorite verse
- Invite a friend to join you in a Bible reading
- Read the Bible aloud to someone

Today, the Bible is still the best-selling book of all time.

### Readings for Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time:

**Reading 1:** Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

**Responsorial:** Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

**Reading 2:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

**Alleluia:** John 15:4a, 5b

**Gospel:** Matthew 25:14-30

**Lord's Prayer:** Luke 11:2

## PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS



*Please keep the Ukraine in your prayers.*

Christ the King class of 1973

Is planning their 50th reunion for November 2023. Please send contact information to Lynn Rollheiser O'Connor to [mo1959@gmail.com](mailto:mo1959@gmail.com)





**ST. GERALD PARISH STAFF**

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**Convent 708 422-0280**

