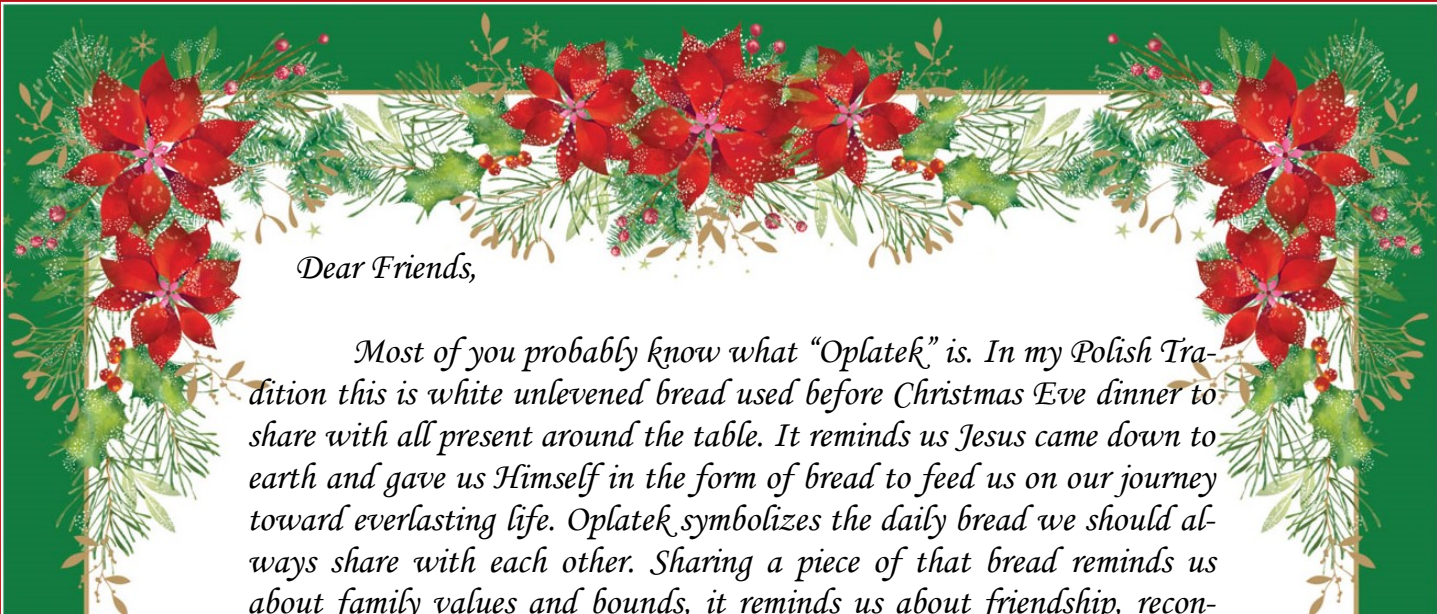




The Family of Saint Gerald
9310 S. 55th Court
December 24 2023
Oak Lawn, Ill. 60453
4th Sunday of Advent





Dear Friends,

Most of you probably know what "Oplatek" is. In my Polish Tradition this is white unleavened bread used before Christmas Eve dinner to share with all present around the table. It reminds us Jesus came down to earth and gave us Himself in the form of bread to feed us on our journey toward everlasting life. Oplatek symbolizes the daily bread we should always share with each other. Sharing a piece of that bread reminds us about family values and bounds, it reminds us about friendship, reconciliation, and forgiveness. It's a beautiful tradition which reminds us that life is short and we shouldn't waste time on vain arguments and anger. That is how in my Polish Tradition we begin Christmas. After dinner some of us go to "Pasterka"-a Midnight Mass. When I was a child we would walk to church sometimes in freezing weather and celebrated Mass in a crowded, quite cold church. It was freezing cold even inside, but our hearts were burning out of love for God who gave us His Son to save us from our sins. This year I am sharing some memories of my childhood with you and I know you have your own memories which are precious to you.

With this Christmas we enter into a celebration of our 90th Anniversary of St. Gerald. We count the blessings God has bestowed on our Parish and we look forward to create new memories and write a new history. "New" is the word I use intentionally, because I hope that this Christmas God will renew our faith and our spirituality. This is my wish for all of us to be renewed in faith. May the new born baby Jesus bring us love to take care of others, joy to bring happiness to others and hope to endure through difficult times.

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Robert



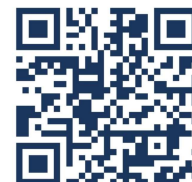


ST. GERALD CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

JAN. 28, 2024

MASS AT 9:30 AM

OPEN HOUSE 10:30 AM - 1 PM



LEARNING • LEADING • SERVING • SUCCEEDING

FAITH BASED AND CHRIST CENTERED
SAFE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT
BEFORE AND AFTER EXTENDED CARE
HOT HOMESTYLE LUNCHES
MODERN ATHLETIC & ACTIVITY CENTER
ACCEPTING STUDENTS PRESCHOOL - 8TH GRADE

- Meet teachers/staff and take a student led tour
- Receive admission and curriculum information
- Ask parents and students all your questions
- Learn how your child will excel in a Catholic School

To learn more about why St. Gerald is the right choice for your family
visit us at school.stgerald.com and follow us on Facebook @StGeraldSchool

Call for a private tour (708) 422-0121
9320 S. 55th Court | Oak Lawn, IL 60453



CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2024



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. Forious 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 PreCana 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

REMINDER

We will not have Confessions on Saturday, December 30th.



Pray for the sick list



Frank Apicella-2
Baby Reese-2
Charles Barsevick-1
Robert S. Belin-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
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

Lucie Kavaliauskas-3
Mike Kelly-1
Michael Kennelly-3
Mary Klus-4
Laura Knapp-1
Catherine Kolbe-2
Leonard Kosacz-4
David Kowalewski-1
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
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
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.

The Stewardship of our Family of Saint Gerald

	12/3/23	12/17/23
Masses	to come	to come
Dropped Off		
Utilities		
Give Central		
Candles		
Building & Ren		
Total	\$	

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.

**Parish Office will be closed:**

Christmas Day 12/25
Tuesday 12/26
New Years Day 1/1/24
Martin Luther King Jr. 1/15/24
Presidents Day 2/19/24

**Deaths**

Stanley Bzdyk
Johanna A. Sturonas

May Choirs of angels welcome them.

Sunday Dec. 24

8:00am Mildred Uidl, Edward Hanania,
Toni L. Pitt, Robert Tibbett

9:30am Jacqueline Giebelhausen,
Stricula & Wasik Fam., Antonia & Leon Krzyszkowski,
Clem Hojnacki, Paul Tishka, Wojciech Wieczorek

11:00am Donna Grillo, Antoinette Cataldo,
Stan & Jackie Walent, Colleen Nieminski,
Patrick Carmody & Fam., Charlene Green Kelly

Tuesday, Dec. 26

8:30am Fr. Dan Tomich, Rich Pernai,
Spec Int for Donna Zarnecki

Wednesday Dec. 27

8:30am Clem Hojnacki, Lois Tarasevic

Thursday, Dec. 28

8:30 am Ceil Olejniczak, Bob Leiser

Friday, Dec. 29

8:30am For All the Faithful Departed

Saturday, Dec. 30

5:00pm Joan DeVries, Clem Hojnacki,
Michael Anderson, Jennifer Connolly Shoup

Sunday Dec. 31

8:00am Mildred Uidl

9:30am Clem Hojnacki, Kirkpatrick Family,
Paul Tishka, Patrick & Marlene Curran

11:00am Cathy Faxel

5:00pm Michele Cesaro, Colette McGinnis

MORNING OF REFLECTION**"Growing in Grace and Holiness"**

Wednesday, January 10th 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.

Please RSVP by FRIDAY, January 5th to Carrie Peters
630-257-7844 ext. 223

Please see Page 9 for Christmas Eve and
Christmas Day Mass Schedule

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.

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

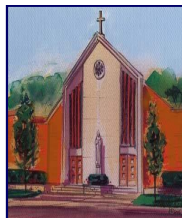
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 8:30AM

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.

Requests for 2024 Mass Intentions

Please fill out this form and return it to the Parish Office. We will try and honor as best as we can the dates and times that you have requested, if not possible we 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 (03/28/24), Good Friday (03/29/24), Holy Saturday (03-30-24) and All Souls (11/02/24). 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 request 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 this request form. We will contact you by mail with confirmation of your requests. When completing this form, please be sure to have a 2024 calendar on hand. Thank you for your patience, understanding and support.

Names of Intention Requested Date/Time Confirmed/Changed

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____



UPCOMING EVENTS

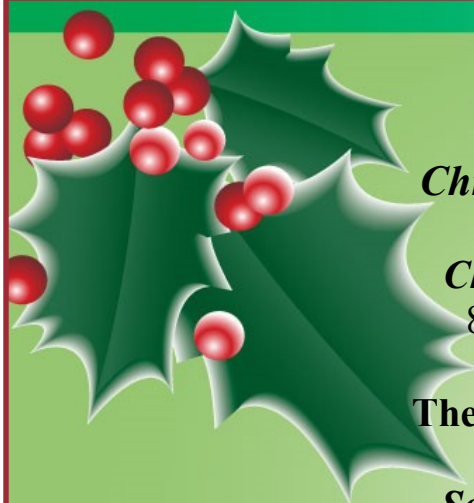
12.10.23 - Breakfast w/ Santa
 2.10.24 - Casino Night
 3.9.24 - St. Pat's Party
 3.23.24 - Boxing Show

SUMMER 2024
 St. Gerald Carnival
 Fr. Malcolm Golf Outing



MEETINGS

FRIDAYS DEC 8
@ 7:30 PM JAN 5
CHAPEL FEB 9
HALL MAR 8
 APR 12
 MAY 3
 JUN 7



***St. Gerald Church
Christmas & New Year's Schedule 2023-2024***

Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25, 2023

8:00 am, 9:30 am & 11:00 am Masses

There will no confessions on Saturday December 30th

Saturday, Dec. 30th - 5 pm mass for Sunday Obligation

Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023, for Sunday Obligation.

8:00 am, 9:30 am & 11:00 am Masses

Vigil Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023

5:00 pm Mass

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Monday, January 1, 2024

9:30 am & 11:00 am Masses



Christmas Eve Mass Schedule

4:00pm Joseph Novak and Dorothy Shannon, Brendan Pierce, John Goetz, Tiffany Nielsen, Mary Ellen Kowalski, James Ball, David and Audrey Reardon, Len and Millie Kowalski, Anthony Michalak, Colleen Michalak, Tito DeLorenzo, Badon, DiGangi, & Dolfonso Family, Joseph Giuffre

11:00pm Joseph and Therese Langan, Donna Grillo, Antoinette Cataldo, Stan and Jackie Walent, Colette McGinnis, John and Rosemary Trolia, Coach Daniel Kelly

Christmas Day Mass Schedule

8:00am Marilyn Joy Marcinkowski, Kenneth Ritter Sr., Mildred Uidl, Sam T. Fantozzi, Frank Stacy

9:30am C.K. Desmond, Tom & Ann Mulhall, Clem Hojnacki, Rosemary Bingenheimer-Rissler, Spec Int for Carol Baikie, Spec Int for Fr. Stan, Spec Int for Fr. Robert

11:00am Carolyn Krauss, Revoir Fam., Grace & Edward Ferris, Chris Griffith & Jerry Sanford, Tom Wood, Robert Lou Ferris, Daniel Morales, Manuel Lopez, Fei Fam., Grant Fam., Sean Ralph, Salvatore Vancheri, Colleen Nieminski, All Souls in Purgatory

\$4195

ALL INCLUSIVE

DISCOUNT \$200*
WITH A PAYMENT \$1500/
PERSON BY 12/15/23

Pilgrimage to Italy

April 13-26, 2024

Under spiritual guidance of:
Fr. Robert Pajor

Venice, Padua, Florence, Assisi, Loretto, Lanciano, Monoppello,
San Giovanni Rotondo, Pompei, Sorrento, Capri, Rome, Vatican

St. Joseph Travel/ Rek Travel

visit our website or call us for more info:



773-777-7733

www.STJOSEPHTRAVEL.com

Enrollment starts: 12/01/2023. Final payment: January 31 st, 2024
Zelle, cash or check issued to Rek Travel Services LLC. Memo: Pilgrimage to Italy

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