



The Family of Saint Gerald

9310 South 55th Court
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453-2318

REY Phone • (708) 423-0458
Fax • (708) 422-0822

Confirmation Parent Meeting **October 19th & 22nd, 2023** **7:00 p.m. in Church**

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer

2. Information Folders

Please check all the information located on the front of your Parent Folder. Let us know before/after the meeting if the information is incorrect.

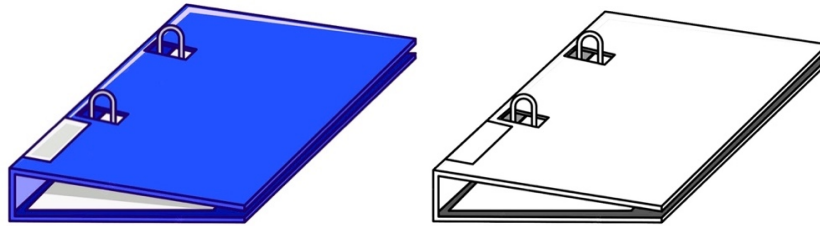
3. Folder Content

<i>Confirmandi Mass Sign-in</i>	<i>Sept. 16-17, 2023</i>
<i>Commissioning Mass - Commitment Letter</i>	<i>Oct. 28, 2023</i>
<i>Retreat (St. Gerald School kids)</i>	<i>Nov. 4, 2023</i>
<i>Retreat (REY kids)</i>	<i>Dec. 2, 2023</i>
<i>Sponsor Requirements</i>	
<i>Sacrament Form & Fee (\$50)</i>	<i>Dec. 3-4, 2023</i>
<i>Service Hours & Form (completed by)</i>	<i>Mar. 6, 2024</i>
<i>Saint Report (see teacher)</i>	
<i>Letter to Bishop R. Casey (see teacher)</i>	
<i>Pass Confirmation Test by</i>	<i>Mar. 6, 2024</i>
<i>Confirmation Week Sheet</i>	
<i>Important Dates Cheat Sheet</i>	

4. Closing Prayer

Confirmation Mass Attendance

Begins: Saturday, September 16-17, 2023



The sacrament of Confirmation is a 2-year faith formation.

At the main entrance of St Gerald Church, there will be a:

- Year 1 - BLUE Confirmation Binder
for St Gerald School 6th graders & REY 7th graders
- Year 2 - WHITE Confirmation binder
for St Gerald 7th graders & REY 8th graders,
HS Confirmation students & RCIA students

Each student is to find their name in the binder and sign
under the appropriate date each week.

Mass attendance is mandatory during this time of preparation.

If students attend a different church, they're to bring a signed
bulletin from their parish each week and hand it to their teacher.

Confirmation Commissioning Mass

All Confirmandi, Parents and Sponsors are to attend.



Saturday, October 28, 2023, at 5:00 pm

Students are to bring their Commitment Form.

This is a special Mass that allows families and our faith community to pray for the Confirmandi for a successful faith journey as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

All Confirmandi will be part of a special offertory as a sign of their commitment to being confirmed. They will be recognized by the congregation and blessed by our pastor.

Confirmation Retreat

This year, the 7th Grade St Gerald School students as well as the grade 8 through H.S. REY students are required to attend a Retreat Day at Our Lady of the Angels Mission. We'll be helping the Franciscan Sisters hand out food and clothing.

Please see the attached flyer for complete information and follow the registration directions. This year we have 40 confirmation students and will require a minimum of 6 chaperones. If you're available and would like to attend, please complete the chaperone portion on the registration form. Thank you for your support.

Retreat Day: Saturday, November 4, 2023 (St Gerald School Students)
Saturday, December 2, 2023 (REY Students)

Cost: \$20 (per students, this covers bus and donation made to OLO Angels Mission)

Payment due: Friday, October 6, 2023 (for St Gerald School Parents with Retreat on 11/4/23)
Friday, November 10, 2023 (for REY Parents with Retreat on 12/2/23)



What is a Confirmation sponsor?

A sponsor is an active living witness to Christ through their participation in the sacramental life, worship, prayer, devotion, the works of mercy, and by living a moral life according to the teachings of Christ and His Church. Thus, in all these ways they are an example of a life guided by their seal of the Holy Spirit.

Qualifications:

- A sponsor must be someone other than the parent of the one to be confirmed.
- A sponsor must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- A sponsor must be at least 16 years of age and may be male or female regardless of the sex of the candidate.
- A sponsor must be living a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken. Therefore, if married, they must be married in the Church and if single, they must be striving to live a chaste life and therefore cannot be living with a person outside of marriage.
- A sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, registered in a parish, who regularly attends weekend Mass, Holy Days of obligation, and who receives the Holy Eucharist.
- Culturally, Confirmandi can elect to have 1 or 2 sponsors.

Who would make a good sponsor? You might choose your baptismal godparents. Who have been at your side since Baptism. Or it might be someone new, such as a relative or close friend, whose faith example and commitment to the Church you admire. A man or woman can be a sponsor for either a male or female candidate.

If your candidate does not qualify as a Confirmation sponsor based on the description listed above, talk with them early enough for them to have a chance to get right with the Church.

Any questions or concerns, please contact: Fa. Pajor or Mr. Jim Ramos

Sacrament Form for Confirmation

\$50.00 Sacrament Fee - Due by December 4th, 2023.

Amount Paid \$ _____ **Paid Date** _____
Check# _____ Cash _____

Student's Name _____
(Legal First Name, Middle Name, Last Name)

Date of Birth : (mm/dd/yyyy) _____

Place of Birth (city, state) _____

Age (today) _____

Birth Father's Name _____

Birth Mother's Full Maiden Name _____

Home Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Mother's Cell _____ **Father's Cell** _____

Home Phone # _____

Confirmation

Confirmation Sponsor (Padrino) _____

Relationship of Sponsor to Confirmand _____

Student's Confirmation Saint Name _____

Reason for choosing this Saint _____

(Fill out both Front and Back page)

Baptism

Baptism Date _____

Baptism Parish _____

Parish Address _____

Godparents _____

Baptism Performed by (priest/deacon) _____

1st Communion

Date of 1st Communion _____

Parish of 1st Communion _____

Parish Address _____

Communion Performed by (priest) _____

Completed Form & Fee are Due on or before DECEMBER 4TH, 2023

We accept checks, cash or electronic payments.

Send/Drop-off your form with payment to:

- 1. St. Gerald School or Parish Office, write "Attention REY" or*
- 2. Submit to your child's classroom teacher (During regular class time) or*
- 3. REY Office located in the St. Gerald School Rm# 114 (During regular class time)*

For additional questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Ramos at rey@stgerald.com or 708-423-0458

Service Hours

Guidelines:

- You cannot accept payment for ANY of your service hours – any payment received must go to the church, ministry for the poor, or good cause.
- You cannot “double-up,” meaning, Confirmation service hours cannot be counted as school hours (or any other organization’s service hours) and vice versa
- These hours must ALL be COMPLETED by the due date.
- All your service hours need to be logged and signed by the person you’re helping
- All Confirmation service hours are the student’s responsibility.
- It is strongly encouraged for candidates to perform service with parents/sponsor when possible. Service is an opportunity to grow in faith together.

Suggestions:

Check with the Oak Lawn Library, Children’s Museum, Animal Welfare League, or PAWS. You can also check with the different St Gerald Ministries located on the parish bulletin. Their email addresses are listed each week. If you’re finding it difficult to find places that accept service hour help, here are a few additional suggestions.

Fall Season Suggestions:

MOWING LAWNS AND RAKING LEAVES OUTSIDE.

Find elderly people in your neighborhood and help them get their yards ready for winter.

ST GERALD CRAFT EVENTS.

Contact the parish to help with such events like the fall craft show, Bingo, Parish Garage Sale, etc.

CLEANING SERVICES

Help a neighbor clean out their garage or basement. Sometimes people want to get rid of clutter in their homes but don’t have the energy to do it.

HELP AT A HOMELESS MINISTRY

Look for parishes that host "sandwiches and meals for the homeless". Check with ministries at St Gerald and surrounding churches.

MEDIA MINISTRY

Volunteer to work the TV screens during Mass.

Winter Season Suggestions:

SNOW SHOVELING MINISTRY.

On snow days, help seniors who have trouble clearing their snow. Shovel their walk paths and driveways.

Winter Season Suggestions: (continued)

CLEANING THE CHURCH

Help our ministries clean the church after each mass. Especially on snowy days, when parishioners track snow and salt into the church.

CHURCH DECORATING

Help decorate the church for Christmas. Contact the parish office and offer your help.

MAKE CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE ELDERLY

The REY students will be spending 1 class during December decorating Christmas Cards for seniors at our local nursing homes. Last year 1 student created close to 200 Christmas cards on his own.

These are only a few examples. Always keep your eyes open for different ways to help your parish and those in need. If you're not sure if something qualifies as a service hour, forward your questions to the REY email.

Confirmation Saint Report

Every Confirmand is required to research a saint whose name they'll take as their Confirmation Name. Your child will receive guidelines and a due date for this report from their teacher.

Bishop Robert Casey Letter



Every Confirmandi is required to write a letter to the bishop explaining why they feel ready to be confirmed. Your child will receive guidelines and a due date for the letter from their teacher.



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Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453-2318

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Service Hour Commitment/RECAP for Confirmation

Candidate's Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail Address (please print clearly) _____

My commitment of **20 hours** of Service Time within the St. Gerald and/or my Oak Lawn Community. Check the REY Website for Service Hours Due Date.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Service Project or Task</u>	<u># of Hrs.</u>	<u>Ministry Leader</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL HOURS:		_____		

3 options for submitting your Service Hours:

Submit a copy to your Teacher

OR

Scan & email to: REY@stgerald.com

OR

Hand deliver to: Parish Office - Attn REY
9310 S 55th Court
Oak Lawn IL. 60453

Any questions please email us at rey@stgerald.com or leave a message at the REY Office 708-423-0458. Mr. James Ramos would be happy to answer any questions.

Confirmation Week – March 16-23

Confessions-

St Gerald School Students - will have confessions during their school day. The date is TBD.

St Gerald REY Students - Saturday **March 16, 2024** (last chance for confessions at St Gerald) REY students will have confession in the church following the 5 p.m. Mass. All confirmandi must make a full confession before making their Confirmation. If students miss confession day, parents are to find a parish, other than St Gerald, to have their child make their confession. A signed bulletin or photo is to be emailed to the REY office as proof of confession.

St Gerald school students are welcome to attend March 16 confessions - if they missed their confession during the week.

Confirmation Practice-

Will be held at: St Gerald Church, Thursday, **March 21, 2024** - 6:00-7:00 pm

Please plan on coming 15 minutes early. We'll start by lining up (Confirmandi and Sponsors) in Arnold Hall. All students and Sponsors are to be present for instructions. If the sponsor is not able to attend, an adult must come in their place. Parents and children are welcome.

Confirmation Day-

Saturday, **March 23, 2024** –

Arrival time 12:00

Bishop meets with the Confirmandi at 12:20 pm

Sponsors line up with Confirmandi – 12:45 pm

Ceremony Starts: 1:00 pm sharp

Seating is always first come – first served and limited due to the amount of candidates each year. This year we have 79 Confirmandi. With a total capacity of 675 in our church, we should be able to accommodate 8 people per family (this number includes the student and sponsor).

Photography

There will be a professional photographer at the ceremony taking pictures of each child as they're confirmed. Photos can be purchased after the ceremony in Chapel Hall (Church basement). Family members are not allowed to walk up to the altar during the ceremony for picture/video taking.

Photos with the Bishop-

Bishop Casey will be available after the ceremony for photo taking with your child/family in the church, at the altar. Bring your smartphone or camera.

Live Stream-

The Confirmation Mass will not be live streamed.

Please note that these plans are tentative and can change.

Dress Attire and Tuition Fees

Confirmandi-

Please keep in mind that you'll be wearing a Confirmation Name Pin on the left side of your suit/dress. Keep your forehead clear for when the bishop anoints you with Holy Chrism.

Dress Attire for Confirmation Mass.

On Confirmation Day, both the Confirmandi and their guests' wardrobes are to be modest and reverent. Please remember that we're in God's presence.

Lady's Attire

Modest Dresses or Skirts & Tops. They do not need to be white.

- Dresses and skirts should not come above the knee.
- Skirts and tops should be loose-fitting. They should not be low-cut, sleeveless, or exposed to the midriff.
- No spaghetti straps, and plunging necklines that expose the bare shoulders, chest, or back.
- Avoid materials that are see-through or skirts with high slits. Shoes should be dressy but comfortable to walk in.

Gentlemen's Attire

Please wear dress pants and a shirt (short or long sleeve) with Ties, socks and dress shoes.

Optional are Suits, formal jackets, or sports coats. Please avoid wearing hats, gym shoes, or sandals. Shirts are to be tucked inside your slacks.

(NEW) REY Tuition & Fees Must Be Paid In Full by March 1, 2024

Full payment to the church is a part of your commitment to raising your child in the Catholic faith. For your child to make their Confirmation - all Fees and REY Tuition must be paid in full by March 1, 2024. We will not be taking payments on Confirmation Day.

If you're having financial difficulties, please contact the REY office immediately.

Thank You and God Bless,

Jim Ramos
St Gerald Parish, Coordinator of Religious Ed.
10/2023