



The Family of Saint Gerald

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

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

1st Communion Easter Vigil Parent Folder

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

- Mass Attendance – Prayer cards
- Sacrament Form & Fee
- 1st Communion Photo Day
- Easter Vigil Mass

Jan. 8, 2024
Mar. 20, 2024
March 30, 2024

4. *Closing Prayer*

Mass Attendance

 The Family of St. Gerald Parish 1st Communion Mass Card		
Student Name _____		Grade _____
Date	Signature	Gospel Message
10/29-10/30		
11/5-11/6		
11/12-11/13		
11/19-11/20		
11/26-11/27		
12/3-12/4		
12/10-12/11		
12/17-12/18		
12/24-12/25		
12/31-1/1		
1/7-1/8		
1/14-1/15		
1/21-1/22		
1/28-1/29		
2/4-2/5		

St. Gerald Parish • 9310 S 55th Court • Oak Lawn IL • 708-423-0458

Mass attendance is important for our faith journey through life. It's the only place where we can experience the real presence of God in its fullest form, through the Blessed Holy Eucharist. In the preparation for 1st Reconciliation and 1st Holy Eucharist, we ask that you help your child become comfortable with attending mass, walking up during communion, and recognize that priests are here to help us grow closer to Christ Jesus.

Mass cards were passed out in September. Parents, please continue to help your child fill out their card each week at mass. Each week ask your child:

- "What was today's lesson in the homily?" And writing their answers on the Mass Card.
- Have your child walk with you as you go to receive Holy Communion. Having them cross their arms across their chest, with hands at opposite shoulders, and receive a blessing from the priest or Eucharistic Minister.
- Have your child approach the priest after each mass and ask for them to sign their Mass Card. Help your child get comfortable greeting and handing the priest their mass card.

Father Robert and Father Stan are excited to meet this year's communicants. We hope that this relationship will continue into their young adult years.

1st Communion Photo Day - March 20, 2024

Van Gogh Photography will be setting up in Arnold Hall. A Sign-Up Genius will be used to book your time with one of 3 professional photographers. Times will be blocked as follows:

- Boys from 5-6 pm
- Girls from 6-7 pm

Come during your assigned photo session. If you can't make your assigned time, come when you can between 5 and 7. We'll squeeze you in. The photographers take their time with each child. So, depending on how many children are in front of you will determines your wait time.

The photographers usually have Bibles & Rosaries to be used for picture taking. You're welcome to bring your own. There's no extra cost by using their items. Gloves are not supplied.

Proofs will come to the school, and they'll be given to your child's teacher. You'll need to place your order online or return the paper form to the school by its due date. Actual due date is TBD. Your final prints will come to the school and be given to your child by their teacher.

Easter Vigil Baptism and 1st Communion

March 30, 2024

On this big day, please come to the church 15 minutes early. Your family will have reserved seating for the Easter Vigil mass. Godparents are to be present. Let us know how many family guests you will have this day. We'll try to accommodate all at the Easter Vigil mass.

Regulations on Fasting

As with all Catholics masses, Adults and Communicants are to fast from food and drink for one hour before Mass. This does not include water or prescribed medicines. There should be no gum, food or drinks brought to church.

Dress Attire

It has been tradition for the girls to wear white dresses. Veils are optional and many choose them in a spirit of tradition, but they are not mandatory. Boys are to wear long sleeve white shirts and navy or black dress trousers. Boys should wear a solid dark or white tie and dress shoes. A solid-colored suit jacket is permitted but not required. Please, no gym shoes.

Children are not to be wearing gloves nor carrying flowers, bibles, nor rosaries. These items should be left with their parents or godparents. You may choose to have these items blessed by the priest after the mass.

Photography

We ask that there be no picture taking or video recording during the ceremony, most especially while our communicants are receiving the sacraments. Families will be free to take photos in the church after the ceremony.

Certificates will be given either that day or the following week.

Tuition & Fees-

For your child to make their 1st Communion – unless otherwise agreed upon, all Fees and REY Tuition must be paid in full by **March 1, 2024**. We will not be taking payments on 1st Communion Day. If your family is going through financial hardship, please contact the REY office as soon as possible.

*Please note that some of these plans/dates are tentative and can change.



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1st Communion Sacrament Fee - Easter Vigil **Due on or before January 8, 2024**

This year your child will be getting the sacrament of Baptism and 1st Communion at the Easter Vigil.

Please fill out this sheet, attach a copy of the child's Birth Certificate, your \$25 Sacrament fee and return it to the school or parish office on or before the due date. Write "Attn: REY" on your envelope. Thank you!

Child's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Place of Birth _____ (City, State)

Birth Father's Full Name _____

Birth Mother's Maiden Name _____

Parent's cell/phone _____ , _____

Parent's email _____

Who will be the Baptismal God Parents _____

☐ Child's Birth Certificate enclosed.

☐ \$25 Sacrament Fee enclosed. Check# _____ Cash _____