



# The Family of Saint Gerald

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9310 South 55<sup>th</sup> Court  
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453-2318

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

*1<sup>st</sup> Communion Parent Meeting October 13 & 16, 2021*

*7:00 p.m. in Church*

## *Agenda*

*Opening prayer – Jim Ramos*

*Information Folders – Jim Ramos*

*Closing Prayer – Father Pajor*



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## **Opening Prayer**

*Heavenly Father, you sent Jesus among us to give His life on the cross. He saves us from our sins. He also gave us His Body and Blood as a continuing way to keep us close to Him, and make the salvation effective through to the end. When we fall into sin, we have Reconciliation that provides the forgiveness and strength to not give up. You have provided everything necessary for Eternal Life. Help us share these gifts with every member of our families and in particular the young people who now begin the preparation for these two Sacraments this year.  
May the Holy Spirit guide us along the way.*

*Amen.*

## **Closing Prayer**

*Thank you, Jesus, for making it possible for us to be so close to you. May every member of our families and all our loved ones benefit from the preparation and reception of these two essential Sacraments.*

*Let us ask Our Blessed Mother to guide her children along the way to Jesus.*

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother: to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.*

*Amen.*



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## **2021-22 , 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Information** **1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation & 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Eucharist Sacraments**

***Parent Meeting, held October 13 & 16, 2021 at 7:00 in Church***

*For all parents of children making their 1st Communion*

### **Reconciliation Saturday February 19, 2022 at 10:00 am - 12:00 p.m.**

*We will have 3 priests and 3 different areas to enter the church to maintain social distancing. You will be able to bring your child into the door you are assigned at the time you are assigned. All parents will have a chance to book their time using the “Sign-up Genius”. A link will be emailed to all parents a few weeks prior to your child’s Day of Reconciliation.*

*Parents will be asked to arrive 10 minutes early. Children should dress in their “Sunday Best”.*

*Please practice the Act of Contrition with your child so they are comfortable with the prayer on their big day.*

#### *Act of Contrition*

*MY God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.*

### **1<sup>st</sup> Communion Photos Tuesday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 from 5 to 7 pm, in Arnold Hall**

*Flyers and emails will be sent to all parents prior to the Photo Date. A Sign-Up Genius will be used to book your time. Times will be blocked as follows: Boys from 5-6 pm and Girls from 6-7 pm. Come during your assigned block of time for your child’s picture to be taken. If you can’t make your assigned time, come when you can **between 5 and 7**. Bring your patience. The photographers take their time with each child. So depending on how many children are in line - will determines the waiting time.*

*Proofs will come and you will need to put an order into the office in a timely manner. If you can not take the picture on our scheduled date, and you want your child to be in the composite picture, you will need to call the photographer and book an earlier date at another location. Contact the REY office for help.*



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## **Communion Retreat Wednesday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at St Gerald Facility 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

We will have a Retreat for our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Communicants. We ask all 2<sup>nd</sup> grader students to save one of their parent's **shoe boxes** for their Retreat Day. The principals of all the schools our children attend will be contacted so that all of our students will be excused from regular classes that day and may attend the Retreat here at St. Gerald's. Religious Education Students will arrive at 8:00 and be dismissed at door # 5 by Mr. Ramos. St Gerald students will have regular arrival and dismissal that day with their own teachers. Detailed information will be forth coming, closer to Retreat Day.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Communion Day Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 11:00a.m. or 1:00pm. Mass**

**What to wear for 1<sup>st</sup> Communion** 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. The boys are to wear long sleeve white shirts and navy or black dress trousers. The boys should wear solid dark or white ties. They should wear dark dress shoes. A solid colored suit jacket is permitted but not required.

We ask that the children carry nothing (books, rosaries, flowers, etc., are to be left at home or in a pocket). Their hands should be free so that they may receive the Body of Christ without any distractions that can take away the attention of this sacred Holy Sacrament, their worship and their Love of God.

The form for the selection of the Communion Mass of your choice (11 a.m. or 1 p.m.) will be handed out at the Parent Meeting. Based on your selection will also determine your child's Communion Practice times.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Communion Day - Arrival time.**

Arrive 30 minutes early, either 10:30 a.m. for 11:00 a.m. Mass or 12:30 p.m. for 1:00 p.m. Mass. The children will be seated as a group. Seating for families are on a first come first serve basis.

**Regulations of Fasting -** Communion fast regulations require fasting from food and drink for one hour before the reception of Communion. This does not include water or prescribed medicines. There should be no gum or other food brought to church.

### **No Pictures taken During Mass**

We ask that no cameras still or video, be used in church during the First Communion Mass. We will have the ceremony professionally videotaped and your child will have a still photo taken when they receive communion. The video will be streamed live and will be available online. Your Child's still photo will be available for purchase after the ceremony. More information will be available closer to Communion.



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*Dear Parents,*

*We have two 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Masses, 11:00a.m. and 1:00p.m. We've found that the smaller the number of Communicants per Mass makes the Sacrament more prayerful and sacred. Therefore, we'll be dividing the students into 2 equal size groups and hosting two 1st Communion Celebrations. Please choose which Mass you would prefer to attend.*

*This year we have 78 total Communicants. Once a Mass reaches half of the total number of Communicants, it will be closed, and all other Communicants will be assigned to the other Mass. So, if you truly have a preference sign up for your choice early.*

*We will be having additional practice times on Saturday's the end of April and the beginning of May. Information will come home later in the year about these practices.*

*Detach and Return to your child's Teacher, Catechist or Jim Ramos*

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*Child's Name* \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please Print)*

*We prefer:*                      *11:00 a.m. Mass*                      *1:00 p.m. Mass*

*(Please circle one)*

*Parent Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent Cell#* \_\_\_\_\_