

Encountering Jesus Making Disciples Transforming Lives



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We continue to live in very interesting times, to say the least. The world-wide pandemic is waning and we at St. Gerald parish community remain grounded in our vision of Encountering Jesus – Making Disciples – Transforming Lives.

I am very excited about all that God has done in our parish this last year. The pandemic threatened to stop our momentum, but God is good and faithful! God has given us YOU and He continues to work through you. This last year, as a community, we made care-calls to parish members. Thank God, our emergency financial needs were met through your generosity. We made significant technology investments and began live-streaming the Mass that continues today. We maintained 100% in-person learning at our St. Gerald School. We also continue our Evangelization and Discipleship efforts with Alpha, Family Formation, Intro to Discipleship, and Missionary Discipleship activities. At a time when many parishes and schools have had to close and others are struggling just to survive, we have continued to move forward with the mission Jesus has given us.

Today, we still face challenges, yet you and I know there are tremendous opportunities ahead as we *fund the mission*. Our Lord is clearly providing the means and opportunity to go to the next level. As the world continues to experience fear, doubt, and chaos, now is the time for the People of God at St. Gerald to shine forth with the light and love of Christ!

While our hearts have made the shift to support the mission, our budget and resources remain in maintenance. We have certainly made progress, yet there are examples that we are still having to rely too heavily on special offerings and fundraisers to meet our day-to-day expenses: Walk of Pride (\$50k), Christmas Offering (\$72k), Angel Auction (\$75k). We see a future where this \$197k could be used for the advancement of our mission, rather than for maintenance and paying our day-to-day expenses. This is *a call to action!* I am asking each household to pray about and commit to an annual amount to the parish. This will enable us to invest more in taking the Gospel into the world and inviting those who do not know Jesus to encounter him and become His disciples!

A worthy goal for all disciples is to take a step toward regular tithing - 10%. If this is new to you, consider 5% to the parish, 2% to the archdiocese, and 3% to other charitable causes. If you recall, I frequently invite all of you at Sunday Mass to surrender more fully to the Lord. Your response to this invitation is a real opportunity today to express a deeper faith and trust in God.

Our Annual Commitment Form is enclosed. I am asking that every household, whether or not you have made a commitment before, complete this form and return it at Mass or to the parish office. I am so excited and deeply grateful for all the Lord is doing through you as He continues building His Kingdom on earth!

May our Lord Jesus richly bless you,
Fr. Mark Nolte, Pastor

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2022 Annual Commitment Form

Name(s): _____ Env. #: _____
Address: _____
E-mail: _____
Phone: _____

I/We would like to make this commitment to St. Gerald Parish for this coming year:
\$ _____ (total per year)

I/We would like to pay this 1) weekly 2) monthly 3) annually. Please circle one.

I/We would like to pay this by:

- ACH (Auto withdrawal from checking or savings account - complete authorization below)
- this is the preferred payment method, as your giving is consistent & there is no fee deducted from your contribution.
- Online Giving (credit/debit card - www.stgerald.org/giving)
- Weekly Envelope (Cash or Check)
- Other (IRA, Planned Gift, Gift of Stock or asset) _____

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of your commitment to the parish this year. Recognizing that everyone's situation is different, we ask you to strive toward a goal of tithing 10% to the Lord. A good guideline along the way might be 5% to St. Gerald, 2% to the Archdiocese, and 3% to other needs.

ACH (Electronic Withdrawal Authorization)

The periodic payment authorization is for \$ _____ to be paid monthly on the _____ 5th or _____ 20th day of each month starting in _____, 2022.

Name on account: _____

Bank Name: _____

Routing #: _____

Account #: _____

Checking / Savings (Circle one)

I authorize St. Gerald Church to initiate withdrawals from my account at the bank named above and I authorize my bank to accept and pay such amount from my account described above until further written notice from me. The purpose of this recurring payment is supporting the current and future ministries of the Church.

Signature: _____

Completed forms may be placed in the Sunday collection basket or delivered or mailed to the parish office at: 7859 Lakeview St., Ralston, NE 68127