

**St. Gerald Parish
9310 S. 55th Court
Oak Lawn, IL 60453**

Dear Family of St. Gerald,

We hope and pray that you are well as together we face the COVID-19 public health crisis. First and foremost we are praying for the recovery of all who are sick. We especially remember all who have died and trust that God holds them in his hand. We offer our profound gratitude for the health workers and first responders who work tirelessly and selflessly to make us safe and whose sacrifices inspire us all.

Not being able to come together in worship and prayer is hard on all of us. Our faith is a great gift and a source of comfort in such difficult times. But we understand the need to combat this virus wisely and to follow the guidelines from public health officials and the archdiocese.

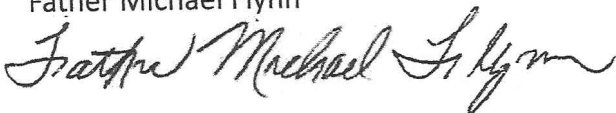
It is an unparalleled time of crisis and uncertainty. People are anxious and understandably so. Concerned above all else for the health of all our families, we are also respectfully aware of the social and economic impact on our lives and livelihoods. But the people of God are resilient and the Church we love and serve is a refuge and rock.

Though many are experiencing hardship and we are sensitive to all who are struggling, we ask that in this time of physical distance you continue to support St. Gerald as you always have. Your support is vital. Though the doors are temporarily shut the bills still need to be paid. We depend on your generosity and goodness to meet those expenses. In his eleven years as pastor Father Malcolm marveled at your generous and enthusiastic response to any and all needs.

We are asking for your help now. We know the demands are many but we ask that you maintain or, if possible, increase your current level of giving to the parish. To that end you can mail your donations to the parish office or drop them off at the parish office. You can also donate electronically by going to www.givecentral.org. It is a secure and easy option to make your donations on line. Additionally, for those who are in a position to do so, any donation to offset not only the significant loss of our Sunday offertory income but our many fundraising sources of revenue would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you so much for your support and understanding in this difficult time. Your generosity now and always is graciously acknowledged and a welcome sign of hope. One day the doors will reopen and we will gather as the family of St. Gerald once again. May we be a stronger church and ever faithful witnesses to the God who loves us and calls us to love another. Until then be assured of my prayers and gratitude. God bless you.

Father Michael Flynn



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P.S. The archdiocese is now offering an online donation platform for you to also consider that is both safe and secure and simple to follow. Just go to www.archchicago.org/offertory to make your donation to St. Gerald. Those donations are then transferred electronically to our parish operating account. Again our sincerest thanks.