

Encountering Jesus Making Disciples Transforming Lives



March 5, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Wow, what a year we have experienced. In the midst of a world-wide pandemic we have stayed the course toward our vision of Encountering Jesus – Making Disciples – Transforming Lives.

As I write this letter now, I recall my thoughts and excitement about all God was doing in our parish this time last year. The pandemic threatened to stop our momentum, but God is Good and Faithful! God has given us YOU and He works through YOU. As a community we made care-calls to parish members in April. Our emergency financial needs were addressed through your generosity. We made significant technology investments and began Live-Stream Mass. You may recall drive-up confessions and Adoration in the window. Since the Fall, our school has maintained 100% in-person learning. We also continue our Evangelization and Discipleship efforts with Alpha, Family Formation, Intro to Discipleship, and Missionary Discipleship. 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 many challenges, yet there are tremendous opportunities to advance 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 mission, our budget and resources remain in maintenance. An example of this is our continued reliance on special offerings and fundraisers to meet our day-to-day expenses: Walk of Pride (\$30k), Christmas Offering (\$85k), Angel Auction (\$55k). We see a future where this \$170k could be used for mission and not 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 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 recently invited all of you at Sunday Mass to stand and surrender more fully to the Lord. Your response to this invitation is a tangible opportunity 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 for what 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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Making Disciples
Transforming Lives**



2021 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)
- 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 _____, 2020.

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**