



# Gerald O'Dell Grace

JAN 12, 1953 - AUG 18, 2024



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## **Gerald O'Dell Grace**

JAN 12, 1953 - AUG 18, 2024

**G**erald O'Dell "Gerry" Grace, 71, of Decatur, IL, passed into God's eternal presence on Sunday, August 18, 2024.

Gerry was born January 12, 1953, in Evansville, Indiana, to Gordon and Elta Mae Grace. He was a graduate of Stephen Decatur High School and Illinois State University. He dedicated over thirty years of service to the State of Illinois before retiring in 2018.

Gerry found great joy in watching his grandchildren participate in their various sports and activities. He was an avid golfer and a lifelong fan of the St. Louis Cardinals and the Fighting Illini, a passion he passed down to his son, Nick.

Gerry is survived by his wife of 41 years, Karen Grace of Decatur; his son, Nick (Amanda) Grace of Decatur; and his cherished grandchildren, Lucas and Addy Mae. He also leaves behind his brother, Gary (Donna) Grace of St. Louis, MO; his sister, Evelyn Drahovzal of Canal Fulton, OH; his sister-in-law, Shirley Rapp of Belleville, IL; as well as a niece and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers-in-law, Roger Rapp and Michael Drahovzal.

Visitation will be at Holy Family Catholic Church from 11:00 AM to Noon on August 24th with a Mass of Christian Burial to follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to Holy Family Catholic School.



# Events

**Gerald O'Dell Grace**

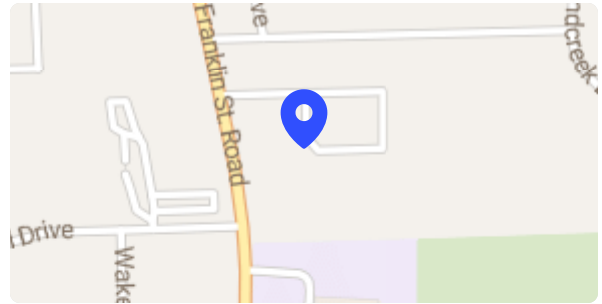
JAN 12, 1953 - AUG 18, 2024

## Visitation

**Saturday**, August 24, 2024

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CT

**Holy Family Catholic Church**  
2400 S. Franklin, Decatur IL 62521

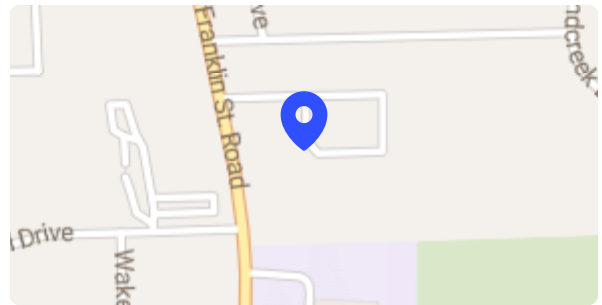


## Mass of Christian Burial

**Saturday**, August 24, 2024

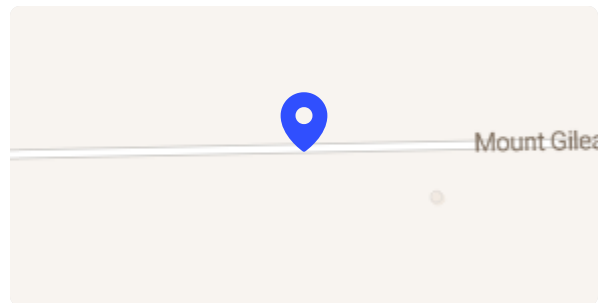
12:00 PM CT

**Holy Family Catholic Church**  
2400 S. Franklin, Decatur IL 62521



## Cemetery Details

**Mt. Gilead Cemetery**  
Mt. Gilead Rd., Decatur IL 62521





# Tribute Wall

**Gerald O'Dell Grace**

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**Lowell Gilmore** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Gerald was a friend at SDHS, we both attended ISU. We did have the occasion to run into another on campus. Gerald was soft spoken, and had a good heart as a fellow classmate. I hope your family and friends maintain a place in their heart. RIH my friend. Lowell Gilmore '71



July 17 at 6:04 PM



**John Maldaner** posted:

Gerald and I went to HS together. He was such a funny guy. Kept me in stitches quite often! Sometimes even when we were supposed to be paying more attention! Good friend with whom I had lost touch since graduating. R.I.P. my friend.

December 5 at 2:43 PM



**Tony And Tina Acciavatti And Family** posted:

I had worked with Gerry at DHS for a few years. Gerry was always helpful if you had questions and he took the time to find the answer for you. he was a professional in the way he conducted himself. I had played a few rounds of golf with Gerry and my brother Tom and my father Gino. Gerry would tee them high and let them fly. he had the right personality to converse with anyone. he was a solid fan of the Cards. I think it's a blessing I was able to work with Gerry at public aid. he was a good friend and am so sorry to hear of his passing. we all love you Gerry. you will be missed from this earth.

September 2 at 11:31 AM



**Brad Marshall** posted:

So sorry to hear of Gerry's passing. Praying for peace and comfort for Karen, Nick, and the rest of the family.

August 26 at 10:38 AM



**Monica Grace Himmelrick** posted:

Gerry and I worked together for many many years with the state of Illinois. We had a blast during breaks. Gerry was so easy going and could calm down the most aggravated person around. He was the only person I ever knew who read the newspaper from the 1st page to the last, and everything in-between. So long buddy from one Grace to another!

August 24 at 7:13 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Gerald O'Dell Grace**

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**From Emily & Jake Eckert** sent a Rainbow Reflections Basket to the Grace family.



August 23 at 4:30 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Grace family.



August 22 at 7:32 PM



**Diane Hunt** posted:

Wat a funny guy we had so much fun together working and partying with the cousin Fred gang!!  
Prayers for allDuane McCollom hunt

August 22 at 8:24 AM



**Leslie Holcomb Kiick** posted:

When we were in 6th grade at South Shores we had the run the 600 yard dash. Gerald was the only one who ran faster than I did. I was only 4'11". I don't know how tall he was way back then, but he had alot longer legs than I did!

August 22 at 5:56 AM



## Media

**Gerald O'Dell Grace**  
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**Lowell Gilmore** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

July 17 at 6:04 PM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Gerald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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