

St. Gertrude

ALL ARE WELCOME

1420 W. Granville Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60660

www.stgertrudechicago.org • 773.764.3621

Second Sunday of Advent

Bulletin for December 9, 2018

*John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance
for the forgiveness of sins.*

Luke 3:3



From Father Rich

Many thanks to all the coordinators and volunteers for last weekend's **Christmas Bazaar!** It was great fun and a great fund-raiser for St. Gertrude. The treasures for sale in the Gym, the pancake breakfast on Sunday morning in the Social Hall, the special sections for the teens and for young children, the wreath & garland sale—all worked together for a great weekend! Thanks to all who participated!

It's that time when **Giving Tree** gifts need to be returned so they can be delivered in time for Christmas. If you took an ornament from the basket, identified the gift to be purchased and helped decorate the Giving Trees, now is the time to get the gift dropped off in Church or to the Rectory so they can all be sorted and delivered to their distribution points. Thanks for helping make Christmas a little brighter to someone in need.



Next Sunday at 2:00pm in Church, we will celebrate our parish's **Advent Reconciliation Service.** Please join us as we spend about 45 minutes in reflective prayer, examination of conscience, and the forgiveness of our sins. What a great way to get ready for the celebration of Christmas!

In October, we presented the **Faith in Action Sunday Offertory** increase program. Most of the solicitation part of the program was completed at the end of November. While we still expect to be receiving some commitment forms, our parish Business Manager, Art Blumberg, reports that based upon the returned commitment forms, parishioners have indicated they plan on giving a total of \$99,507.00 within the next year, above and beyond what they had been giving before we launched the program! That is great news and goes a huge way to helping us toward a balanced budget. Thank you to all those who have already returned their commitment form. And if you haven't yet done so, please consider returning your form by the end of this year.

Last weekend, some parishioners asked about the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary being a **Holy Day of Obligation** since it was on a Saturday this year. I realize how confusing the rules of Holy Days get! On all the rest of the Holy Days -- except Christmas -- if the Feast falls on a Saturday or Monday, the Obligation to attend Mass is lifted. But because the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary is our nation's patronal feast, it is always a Holy Day, no matter what day of the week it falls on. Hope that clarification helps.

An update on the position of **Director for the Heart-to-Heart Ministry** here at St. Gertrude. We have begun sharing the job description with some people who expressed interest even before the job had been posted. And interviews will begin soon. But whomever the new Director might be, that person will not actually start until Mary Ann Collins has finished her "separation," e.g. using up her vacation and other days. This will be in January. I'll keep you posted when there is more information available.

~ Fr. Rich

Growing in Faith

The prophet Baruch envisions a great gathering of peoples, rejoicing that they are remembered by God. I picture people from all over the world streaming toward a single center. They come in overalls or hijabs, cheongsams or jeans, saris or dashikis. They are eaters of hamburgers, samosas, injera, curries or tofu. They've heard the word of the Holy One, and this gives them strength for the journey, but how will they get along?

It's hard to rejoice when differences, in Syria and Yemen and right here in Chicago, compel human beings to fight to the death. How can I rejoice when differences in my own family lead to struggle and disconnection? St. Paul in Philippians prays for an increase in our understanding and experience. We need to grow up, become wiser, more just.

"In the fifteenth year of the rule of Tiberius Caesar," begins Luke 3, "the word of God was spoken to John son of Zachariah." Now we're in a specific time and

place, where God intervenes and gives a son, Jesus. Through details we learn how God remembers particular people, including each one of us. Knowing this I can sow in tears but reap rejoicing for not just I, but "all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

So we should stand on the heights envisioned by Baruch, look to the east and join the gathering. We should remember the God who remembers, our mouths filled with laughter, our lips singing songs and our bodies inspired by dancing.

~ Maggie Kast
for
Growing in Faith



Advent 2018, Week 2: My Soul is Thirsting for You, O Lord

In today's Gospel reading, we meet one of the greatest characters in the New Testament when we follow **John the Baptist** to the desert where he is, "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." John both reminds us of our hope in God's promise, and instructs us to straighten out our lives so we will be ready for what God is doing.

His instructions reflect the refrain from our psalm, "*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord.*" The parts of us that are not yet complete, the emptiness we feel in our souls, all of these are the urgings of God to make ready the way of the Lord in our minds and in our hearts and in our souls and in our lives. On this second Sunday of Advent, what one thing might I do this week to prepare the way of the Lord?

John the Baptist's location gives us a clue to one of the considerations for our preparations: he went out to the desert. We need to find some time and some place for quiet, alone time with God. In one of the busiest, most frantic times of the year, we need to go against the grain. As we heard earlier this year, God

is not found in the fierce storm or driving wind or earthquake, but in the tiny, whispering sound. We can only hear that sound when we have quieted ourselves enough to listen carefully. As an example for all of us, each Friday at the school mass, once everyone has settled into their pews after Communion, we sit in complete quiet for just a few minutes, eyes closed, to speak with God. Because we do this every week, the children are ready for this moment each week and are quickly quieted. A wonderful calm is present in church. Each of us adults could learn from them to develop this simple discipline. It only need be a few minutes, but it can completely change our day and make it much more positive -- because we are inviting God into our lives.

Sometimes we don't even know how "thirsty" we are until someone points it out to us. That's what happened to the people who listened to John the Baptist. Maybe that is also what could happen to us this Advent. And once we are aware of that thirst, we will also know it is God who satisfies us.

~ Fr. Rich

Thank You for Making Our Bazaar a Success

What a great time we had last weekend at St. Gertrude! So many people stopped by to purchase gifts from our wonderful vendors, enjoy delicious food at our concession stand and pancake breakfast, visit with Santa, make crafts at the Kids' Corner, check out our White Elephant areas, and decorate their homes with greenery purchased from the Bazaar. This annual event is our parish's biggest fundraiser of the year, and we are so thankful for everyone who came out to make it a success and support our church.

It truly takes a village to pull off a Christmas Bazaar as vibrant as the one we just had. We are so very grateful to the those who volunteered their time and services for the first time, the many parishioners that help every year, some even working both Saturday and Sunday, those who combed through their closets to donate buried treasures, the men's basketball players who put the tables away, the brave few who scaled ladders to decorate the Gym, the folks who showed up on Friday to organize and price items, the concessions stand crew, the pancake breakfast team, the wonderful musicians who played on Sunday morning, the gift wrappers, the workers who handled the greenery, the patient people who coordinated and staffed the Kids Area, the volunteers who helped out in our White Elephant areas, sold books, ran the Christmas table, sold raffle tickets, worked the treasures table, the many who worked to help clean up, and the elves and Santa who made so many children happy. It was a terrific time, and couldn't have happened without the involvement of many! Thank you again for your service! Merry Christmas!

~ Kevin Cheers and Victoria Healy, Christmas Bazaar coordinators



A Letter from Cardinal Cupich

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During the weekend of December 8-9, our parishes will be conducting the Retirement Fund for Religious collection. This annual appeal benefits 31,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests—women and men who have consecrated their lives to serving God and the Church.

During the 2018 World Day for Consecrated Life, Pope Francis remarked, “There is no growth without roots and no flowering without new buds.” This analogy has certainly been born out within the life of the Church in the United States. Senior religious were the roots that established Catholic schools, hospitals, and social services agencies—allowing generations of Catholics to flourish. Today, the example of older religious inspires younger members to persevere in mission and ministry.

Yet many religious communities struggle to provide for aging members. Most elder religious served for small stipends, leaving a large gap in retirement savings. Rising health care costs and decreased income compound the struggle to provide adequate care. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more. It also helps religious congregations implement long-range retirement strategies, even as they continue to serve the People of God.

Since the inception of this annual event nearly 30 years ago, the Archdiocese of Chicago has been one of the most generous donors to this collection for those who have labored long and hard in the vineyards of the Lord. I recognize this is but one of numerous worthy causes in need of assistance; I ask simply that you give what you can. In thanksgiving for their faithful service, please join with me in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious and in praying for God’s blessing on our nation’s elderly religious.

Sincerely in Christ,

Cardinal Blase Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago

Parish Calendar

Sunday, December 9

- Second Collection for Retired Religious at all Masses
- After the 10:00 am mass ~ Christmas pageant rehearsal in the Ministry Center
- 6:30–8:00 pm ~ WOW teens in the Gym balcony

Friday, December 14

- Gifts for the Giving Tree due

Sunday, December 16

- After the 10:00 am mass ~ Christmas pageant rehearsal in the Ministry Center
- 2:00 pm ~ Advent Reconciliation in Church

Sunday, December 23

- After the 11:30 am mass ~ Christmas pageant dress rehearsal in Church

Christmas Mass Schedule

Monday, December 24 ~ *Christmas Eve*

- 2:00 pm ~ Rectory closes
- 5:00 pm ~ Family Mass
- 8:30 pm ~ Christmas Carols in Church
- 9:00 pm ~ Christmas Vigil Mass

Tuesday, December 25 ~ *Christmas Day*

- 8:00 am ~ Mass
- 9:30 am ~ Mass at St. Gert’s East (Sacred Heart)
- 10:30am ~ Combined Mass (There will be no Mass at 10:00 am, 10:30 am in the Gym, or 11:30 am.)

Wednesday, December 26

- The Rectory will be closed.

Monday, December 31 *New Year’s Eve*

- 12:00 pm ~ Rectory closes
- 5:00 pm ~ New Year’s Eve Mass

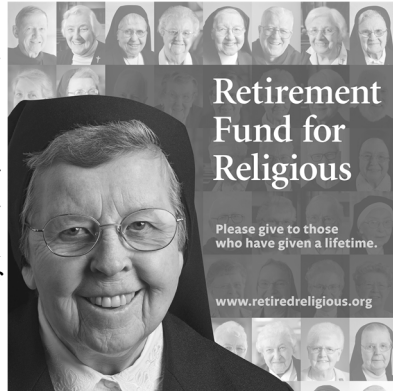
Tuesday, January 1 ~ *New Year’s Day*

- 10:00 am ~ Mass
- The Rectory will be closed.

Parish News

TODAY—Second Collection for Retired Religious:

The sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for little pay, resulting in today's shortage of retirement savings. Your gift helps provide prescription medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.



Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Info: There will be two 35 minute rehearsals. One today, Sunday, December 9 and another next Sunday, December 16 after the 10:00 am Mass in the Ministry Center for the upcoming Christmas Pageant. At the first rehearsal, children will receive the script, be assigned roles and go over Christmas music for the pageant. The second rehearsal on December 16 will focus on the staging of the drama. Parents are expected to be present with their children and will be assigned small roles/tasks to make the pageant run smoothly.

There will be a dress rehearsal on Sunday, December 23 after the 11:30 am Mass in the Church. Kids and parents should come to the Rectory at noon to dress in their appropriate costumes. The dress rehearsal might last one hour. If your child/children would like to participate in this event, please contact me at mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org.

~ Mary Clare Barker

WOW Get-Together Tonight: WOW teens are invited to gather this evening from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Gym balcony.

Advent Reconciliation: What do I need to talk to God about? Where do I need forgiveness? Our Reconciliation Service will be held on Sunday, December 16 at 2:00pm in Church.

The Giving Trees: Our Giving Trees are up in Church! Please help us make Christmas special for families in need. The process is easy!

- Choose an ornament from the basket near the trees in the back of Church.
- Remove the gift idea.

- Place the ornament on the tree.
- Purchase the gift.
- Bring it back unwrapped, and place it under the tree in Church.
- Gifts are due by this Friday, December 14.

The items requested will go to support Care for Real, Heartland Alliance, Courage, Catholic Charities Toy Shower, the Refugee Ministry at St. Gertrude, and other refugee families in our community. We hope you join us as we share our St. Gert's generosity with our neighbors!

Christmas Masses: On Christmas Eve, there will be a Family Mass at 5:00 pm and a Christmas Vigil Mass at 9:00 pm. On Christmas Day, Mass will be held in Church at 8:00 am, at St. Gertrude East at 9:30, and a Combined Mass held at 10:30 am, in lieu of the 10:00 am, 10:30 am (Gym), and 11:30 am Masses.

New Homilist: Christopher Alt, SJ, is a scholastic in the Society of Jesus. He is a graduate of the University of San Diego with a Bachelor of Arts in Theological and Religious Studies, and went on to earn a Master of Divinity from Boston College, School of Theology in Ministry. Christopher has worked as a hospital and prison chaplain, homeless shelter manager, campus minister, and spiritual director. He currently lives in the Loyola University Jesuit Community and is pursuing a Master of Social Work at Loyola University. He will be joining us as a homilist this month.



Remembrance Altar: If you had a picture or a memento on our remembrance altar in November, please pick them up in the Rectory office.

Thank You! The Christmas Bazaar Greenery Committee would like to extend their thanks to the St. Matthias Men's Group for their help in unloading the delivery truck at St. Matthias and prepping the greenery for transportation. We especially thank Minas U-Haul Rental Center who graciously let us use their truck for free to transport the greenery from St. Matthias to St. Gertrude. We appreciate all the help from our volunteers.

Commonweal Conversation

The Commonweal Discussion Group will host a Three Kings Day Social on Sunday, January 6 in the Ministry Center from 3:00-6:00 pm. We will meet in the dining room for appetizers and dessert; we encourage each person to bring a favorite appetizer.

This gathering will be a capstone to the holiday season and an opportunity to meet other parishioners from various ministries of St. Gertrude who are also invited. And we will also continue our on-going Commonweal discussions at the intersection of our Christian faith and political and social concerns. Come to enjoy, but hope to leave with fruitful reflections for the New Year!

Care for our Common Home



On the second Sunday of Advent, the Gospel recalls how John the Baptist preached that “all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” Pope Francis reminds us in *Laudato Si* that flesh has a more expansive meaning

than first meets the eye: "We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters." Caring for our earth, caring for our neighbor and caring for ourselves are not separate endeavors. As we consider our shared imperative to care for our common home, let's celebrate the earth that connects us.

For information about NCA Green Team, contact georgetully82@gmail.com.

~ NCA Green Team

NCA News

Preschool Enrollment for Next Year has Begun! Northside Catholic Academy is now enrolling three and four-year-olds for the 2019-20 school year. NCA is an award-winning academy that has half and full-day preschool.

For more information, please go to NorthsideCatholic.org or call 773.743.6277 ext. 207 and schedule a private admissions tour!

Save the Date for the NCA Soiree! The NCA Soiree is planned for February 23, 2019, at the Ravenswood Event Center.



Parish Stewardship Report

“John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming ... ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.’” ~ Luke 3:3-4

Advent is a time of anticipation, of preparation for the birth of Jesus. What can we do to be like John, to prepare ourselves, to help prepare others during this season? How can we make straight the crooked paths?

Collection December 1-2	\$9,034.01
Budgeted Collection	\$7,725.00
Overage	(+) \$1,309.01

~ Art Blumberg,
Director of Parish Management and Facilities

Our Parish at Prayer

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

7:30 am Lori Jeyuson †

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

7:30 am Living and deceased mothers and father of St. Gertrude parishioners

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

7:30 am Emmett McKee †

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

7:30 am Communion Service

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

7:30 am Jose Ricardo Cristales †

8:30 am NCA Mass - Margaret Martin †

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:30 am Parishioners of St. Gertrude

5:00 pm Jacqueline Elwood †

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:00 am Morris P. Anslow †

9:30 am Joseph "Terry" Shields †

10:00 am Pat Veccie †

10:30 am James Patrick Rogers †

11:30 am Richard Cenar †

2:00 pm Advent Reconciliation Service

† Indicates
person listed is
deceased.

Readings This Week

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80: 2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Eucharistic Ministers

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

5:00 pm Kathleen Dawson, Patricia Norcik, Tim Roman Reyes, John Sullivan, Michelle Kuehlhorn

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:00 am Hallie Burhoe, Barb Daly, Peter Morin, Brian Devarenne, Mary Wyler

9:30 am Pat Riley, Barbara Rossi and Leon Ward

10:00 am Bob Backis, Gail Smith, Patrick Robinson, Rafael Melendez, Rose Marie Anichini, Mary Dolan, Sarah Millar

10:30 am TBA

11:30 am Jana Ashbeck, Richard Ashbeck, Karen Griebel, Steven Monti, Sharon Brown

Ministers of the Word

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

5:00 pm Clarisse Chonka, Steve Matre

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:00 am Marty McDermott, Mark Kollar

9:30 am Pat Riley, Barbara Rossi and Leon Ward

10:00 am Rafael Melendez, Donna Whaley

10:30 am TBA

11:30 am Steve Monti, Amanda Robertson

Altar Servers

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

5:00 pm J. Reyes, N. Moran, B. Moran

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

10:00 am M. Killoren, G. Morrow, J. Elue

11:30 am J. Rosenmayer, M. Agdubai, A. Agdubai

Support the Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach

Your online donation is secure and flexible. You can choose the amount you wish to give and how you wish to have the funds designated. Donations may be made at

<https://www.givecentral.org/location/132/event/12645>.

Milestones



Rest in Peace

Michael Feegan
Sarah Filler



Weddings

Interested in getting married at St. Gertrude? Call the Rectory at 773.764.3621 to ask for more info.



Baptisms

Olivia Grace, daughter of John & Anne Colasanto
Please call the Rectory at 773.764.3621 to make arrangements to have a child baptized.



Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends

Maria Hertl
Larry Swoboda

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor
Mary Clare Barker, Minister of Music
Art Blumberg, Director of Parish Management and Facilities
Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate
Mary Ann Collins, Director of Parish Social Services
Laurie Hasbrook, Office Staff
Amanda Kvasnica, Office Staff
Jim Potthast, Family Minister
Tracy Shields, Minister of First Impressions/Communications
Sr. Judith Zonsius, Office Manager

OTHER PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Michael Bradley, Resident
Rev. Dominic Grassi, Retired Pastor
Rev. William Kenneally, Pastor Emeritus
Carol Beatty, St. Gertrude East Music Director

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:30 am
9:30am St. Gertrude East (Sacred Heart School/Sheridan and Granville)
10:30 am Mass in the Gym (except summer months)
Monday through Friday: 7:30 am (Thursday is a Communion Service.)
Saturday: 7:30 am and 5:00 pm (Sunday Vigil)

LOCATIONS:

Rectory: 1420 W. Granville Ave., Chicago, IL 60660 Phone: 773.764.3621
Website: www.stgertrudechicago.org E-mail: stgertrude1420@sbcglobal.net
Ministry Center: 6214 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago, IL 60660
Social Services Phone: 773.973.5464.
Social Hall: 1401 W. Granville Ave., Chicago, IL 60660

RECTORY BUSINESS HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:30 am to 7:30 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am to 1:00 pm

HEART TO HEART

Senior outreach and social services connection: 773.973.5464

PARISH SCHOOL

Northside Catholic Academy: 773.743.6277
www.northsidecatholic.org

BAPTISM

Baptisms take place on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Additionally, baptisms will be incorporated into one of the weekend Masses each month, with a different Mass having a baptism each month. Call the Rectory to make arrangements to have a child baptized, and to RSVP to attend a parent preparation meeting, held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

We have an enriching program called the R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults). Contact the Rectory for details.

MARRIAGE

Arrangements begin by setting up an appointment with the Pastor. Preparations are to begin at least four months prior to the desired date.

MINISTRY OF CARE AND COMMUNION

Trained ministers will gladly visit and bring communion to those who are sick or homebound. Please call the Rectory to make arrangements.

NEW PARISHIONERS

You are most welcome and are invited to stop in at the Rectory to introduce yourself and register, or register with one of the greeters before or after any Mass. Registration is also available online at www.stgertrudechicago.org.

RECONCILIATION

Individual: Saturday from 4:15-4:45 pm and by request.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS HELD AT ST. GERTRUDE

Al-Anon: Sundays at 7:00 pm in the Ministry Center
Open AA: Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in the Ministry Center, and Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the school cafeteria.
Caris Pregnancy Center, pregnancy support, free pregnancy tests, and post-abortion help: 312.229.5700.
Makko ho (Japanese yoga): Saturdays at 10:00 am in the Ministry Center