

St. Gertrude

ALL ARE WELCOME

1420 W. Granville Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60660

www.stgertrudechicago.org • 773.764.3621

Third Sunday of Advent

Bulletin for December 16, 2018

*Whoever has two cloaks should
share with the person who has none.
And whoever has food should do likewise.*

Luke 3:11



From Father Rich

This Sunday at 2:00 pm in Church, we celebrate our parish **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!

Many thanks to all those who participated in this year's **Giving Tree**, helping make Christmas a little brighter to so many people in need. It is in sharing from our essentials for the love of our sisters and brothers we come closest to being the people God has created us to be.

One of the ways God enters into us and transforms us is through our senses, and in a very special way, through the beauty and art we experience through our senses. At this time of the year, so many of us engage our best decorating skills to dress our homes—inside and outside, with the lights and colors of Christmas, announcing to the world the joy of this season. And though we might wonder about Christmas carols beginning the day after Halloween(!), it is hard to actually listen to the beautiful music of Christmas and not be filled once again with the profound joy that underlies this event and this season. If you have been reluctant to let the coming celebration occupy your mind and heart, take a few minutes to listen to the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah or listen to your favorite Christmas album. Music has the ability to speak to our hearts and souls like nothing else can! Let us announce the good news that the Lord is near!

The other variable I have discovered in getting ready for Christmas is that unless we find time to be with children, we miss an important part of the season. While each of us, as adults, may think we remember the joy and anticipation and wonder with which we once experienced Christmas, it is only in actually having children present that we truly see the marvelous things the Lord has done—and is doing—in every generation. Children young enough to not yet have learned to temper their elation and hope give us a peak into heaven.

And the other side of the equation is also true. For some of us, still suffering and mourning from the loss of someone we loved, or the loss of our health, independence, job, or security, Christmas comes at us and we are left wondering what to do with it. In any given year, Christmas may be in our hearts on December 25th. But it is equally possible we are still in Good Friday, lamenting great loss. Those kinds of pains only heal with time and God's love present in others. And they remind us of so much that has been precious in our lives. It is always appropriate to cry on happy days for what is gone, and to laugh on sad days for the blessings we enjoy. And in those mixed and messy feelings, we know we share the very same experience of Jesus who walked these same paths.

~ Father Rich



Growing in Faith

Gaudete. Rejoice! Our deepening awareness of Emmanuel—God with us—has ripened to near climax. Our joyfulness bubbles at the seams, having approached what is now imminent. The Gospel writer Luke describes it today this way, “The people are filled with expectation.” We are filled with “expectation.

Feel the weight of this image: to be filled with expectation. We might recall the memory of a time most filled with expectation, the pending birth of a child, the anticipated news of a marriage or a job hoped for, a move to a new place rapidly approaching. When my wife Bridget and I adopted our son, Dawit, and daughter, Tess, those weeks waiting in expectation soon crested to the very liminal moments just before receiving news that changed our lives. I remember one fall Monday afternoon at work, anticipating a call from the adoption agency any moment, staring at the phone on

my desk for news, in utter suspense the call would come. Just thinking of this again, I can see the grain marks of the faux wood laminate desk covering where the phone lay, and recall the feeling of hearing the positive news Bridget would share upon picking up the receiver. And here we are, the Christian family staring at phones, pregnant with hope for news that the Christ Child is born among us. The precedent moment before our lives are changed—once again—in ways unimaginable. “A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn,” says the famous carol. We fall on our knees. Gaudete.

~ Matthew Couture
for *Growing in Faith*



Advent 2018, Week 3: My Soul is Thirsting for You, O Lord

The Third Sunday of Advent is also called “Gaudete Sunday”, which means, “Rejoice Sunday.” This comes from the Entrance Antiphon of the mass, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.” We hear the same exclamation and instruction in both the reading from the prophet Zephaniah and in the Epistle reading from St. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians. It is all about the nearness of the Lord’s coming. In the Gospel, we also hear John the Baptist responding to the questions of his listeners, wondering what it is they should be doing to get ready for the coming of the Lord. When we hear his instruction, we might be puzzled that it seems so ordinary: share your extra cloak, don’t cheat anyone, don’t practice extortion, don’t falsely accuse anyone, be satisfied with your wages.

We often make the mistake of thinking that what the Lord asks of us is way beyond the pale, when in fact it is pretty much what God has always asked of God’s people. Or, as Jesus puts it in another Gospel passage, “Do unto others as you would have them do

unto you.” The instruction isn’t about some new ways of doing right. It is actually putting into practice what we already know.

Certainly as we enter into these final days of Advent our lives become so much busier with shopping and decorating and celebrating with friends and family, all part of the Christmas season. In all these activities, and in the normal and mundane tasks of our everyday life, we are invited to keep before us the answer of the Baptist to those who asked, “What should we do?” Or, to put it another way, in all the activities we do in these next ten days, let us also be sure that most of all we are being kind to one another, sharing - especially with those in need, loving those who most need to be loved, treating all people as we hope they will be treating us. And in so behaving, discovering the presence of the Christ already here among us. Indeed, the Lord IS near! Not only in time, but walking right beside us every moment of every day!

~ Fr. Rich

Christmas Mass Schedule



Please join us for Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!

Monday, December 24 ~ *Christmas Eve*

- 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)
- 10:30 am ~ Combined Mass (There will be no Mass at 10:00 am, 10:30 am in the Gym, or 11:30 am.)

Parish Calendar

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

- No Religious Ed classes/KidsWord.
- There will be no 10:30 am Gym Mass.
- After the 11:30 am Mass ~ Christmas pageant dress rehearsal in Church

Monday, December 24 ~ *Christmas Eve*

- The Heart to Heart office closed (until January 3.)
- 7:30 am ~ Mass
- 2:00 pm ~ Rectory closes

Tuesday, December 25 ~ *Christmas Day*

- The Rectory will be closed.

Wednesday, December 26

- 7:30 am ~ Mass
- The Rectory will be closed.

Sunday, December 30

- No Religious Ed classes/KidsWord.
- There will be no 10:30 am Gym Mass.
- The usual Mass schedule in Church will be held - 8:00 am, 10:00 am, and 11:30 am. Mass will be at 9:30 am at St. Gertrude East.

Monday, December 31 ~ *New Year's Eve*

- 7:30 am ~ Mass
- 12:00 pm ~ Rectory will close.
- 5:00 pm ~ New Year's Eve Mass

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

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

Wednesday, January 2

- 7:30 am ~ Communion Service
- The Rectory will be closed.

Sunday, January 6

- 8:30 am ~ Religious Ed classes/Kids Word resumes.

Monday, January 7

- 7:00 pm ~ Baptismal parent preparation class in the Rectory

Sunday, January 13

- 10:00 am ~ Family Mass hosted by 6th graders and their families

Sunday, January 20

- No Religious Ed classes.

Sunday, January 27

- No Religious Ed classes.
- NCA open house

Parish News

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Info: There will be another 35-minute rehearsal today, Sunday, December 16 after the 10:00 am Mass in the Ministry Center for the upcoming Christmas Pageant. This second rehearsal 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 will last for about one hour. Please contact Mary Clare Barker with any questions at mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org.

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



Parish Calendars: Calendars for 2019 are now available in the back of Church.

Christmas Mass Info: On Christmas Eve, there will be a Family Mass at 5:00 pm, featuring a Nativity Pageant starring children from our parish during the Gospel. There will also be a Christmas Vigil Mass at 9:00 pm, with Christmas carols beginning at 8:30 pm.

On Christmas Day, Mass will be held in Church at 8:00 am, at St. Gertrude East at 9:30 am, 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.

Heart to Heart Office Closed: The Heart to Heart offices will close for the holidays from Monday, December 24-Wednesday, January 2. The office will reopen on Thursday, January 3.

Rectory Closing: On Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, the Rectory will close at 2:00 pm. The Rectory will be closed on Tuesday, December 25 and Wednesday, December 26. The Rectory will close at noon on Monday, December 31, and will also be closed on Tuesday, January 1 and Wednesday, January 2.

Religious Ed, Kids Word and Family Mass Schedule: There will be no Religious Education class or Kids Word on Sunday, December 23 and Sunday, December 30. Religious Education classes and Kids Word will resume on Sunday, January 6.

Sixth grade parishioners and their families will host the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday, January 13. Refreshments will be offered after Mass.

Baptismal Preparation Class: The next class will be held on Monday, January 7 at 7:00 pm in the Rectory. Please call the Rectory office at 773.764.3621 to register for the class.

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.



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.

Thank You for Donating to Our Giving Tree Program: Thank you to those that took part in our Giving Tree program. The items purchased supported Catholic Charities Toy Shower, Care for Real, Heartland Alliance, Courage, the Refugee Ministry at St. Gertrude, and other refugee families in our community.

Thank You from Mary Ann Collins

I want to extend a tremendous thank you to all those who planned and worked so hard to make my retirement send off amazing.

The Mass was filled with wonderful surprises from the liturgical dancers, the kind words spoken and the ovation to the music and choir. It was a wonderful celebration that continued to the reception that followed. The reception afterwards exceeded my expectations—from the food, cake, decorations, music, and tributes up to the very end. I leave you with a full heart.

Thank you and may God bless each and every one of you!

~ Mary Ann Collins



Bazaar Wrap-Up

The numbers from the Bazaar are in! As of now, we have netted \$13,118 even with the bad weather. While I am expecting a few more expenses to roll in, the major ones have all been accounted for.

Thank you to all the volunteers that worked so hard to get things decorated, sorted, set up, and sold. Thank you to those who baked, cooked, served us, or helped us clean up. Thank you to Victoria Healy who co-chaired this year. Thank you for the music, the laughter, and the genuine Christmas vibe. Thank you to Santa and his special elf. Thank you for coming out in bad weather to do a little shopping with the vendors or to spend time catching up with friends while hunting for a bargain.

It truly takes a village to make something like this happen. See you next year!!

~ Kevin Cheers

Christmas Bazaar 2018 Recap by Area

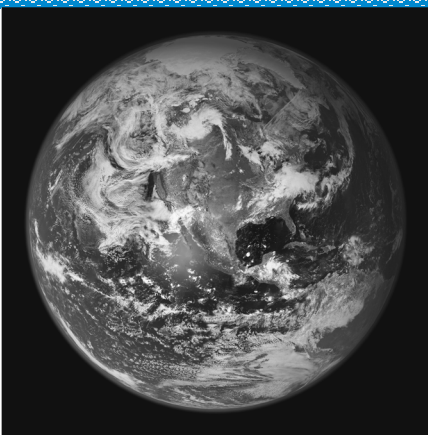
Pancake Breakfast	\$1,419
Concessions	\$853
Bake Sale	\$501
Vendor Table Rental	\$3,206
White Elephant-General	\$1,348
White Elephant - Books	\$971
White Elephant - Christmas	\$746
White Elephant - St Gertrude	\$493
White Elephant - Kids	\$312
Greenery	\$2,820
Raffle	\$308
Kids Art Room	\$116
Wreath making	\$25
Total	\$13,118

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



One cause of rejoicing on Gaudete Sunday is *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' encyclical urging care for our common home, connecting that with all other Catholic causes. He grounds his concern in grateful

appreciation for the interconnection of all life and the peace and joy provided by the beauty of nature that gives us "a glimpse of God's infinite beauty and goodness ... If we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously" he writes, because "the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise." Take time to do so this week!

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

~ NCA Green Team

Pastoral Council Meeting Notes

The Parish Council met on Thursday, November 29 to finalize a discernment process begun at the previous parish council meeting. In recent months, the Council has been looking to refresh its role and leadership. The council also reiterated its role in supporting building a vision for this parish and for being the ears to the needs of all parish members.

After prayer, individual reflection, group discussion, and more discernment, the council arrived at these decisions regarding Council leadership:

- Chair: Gail Smith
- Co-Vice Chairs: Dominic Guagenti and Donna Whalley
- Secretary: Colleen Fulkerson

The next meeting is Thursday, January 24 at 7:00 pm in the Ministry Center. A link to the meeting minutes can be found at on the home page of the parish website, www.stgertrudechicago.org.

~ Colleen Fulkerson

Parish Stewardship Report

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!" ~ Philippians 4:4

During Advent, let's search for our joy in waiting for, in anticipation of the birth of Jesus. Let us rejoice!

Collection December 8-9	\$7,028.69
Budgeted Collection	<u>\$7,725.00</u>
Underage	(-) \$696.31

Electronic Collection November 2018	\$19,746.00
Budgeted Collection	<u>\$18,488.00</u>
Overage	(+) \$1,258.00

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. For more information, please go to NorthsideCatholic.org or call 773.743.6277.

Our Parish at Prayer

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:30 am Aldona Dabrila †

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

7:30 am Parishioners of St. Gertrude

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:30 am Communion Service

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:30 am Mary McGuiness

8:30 am NCA prayer service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:30 am Kathleen Marsh

5:00 pm Joseph † & Isabelle Laczkowski †

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:00 am Brendan McGearry

9:30 am Joseph "Terry" Shields †

10:00 am Glenn † & Mary Jo Martin †

Kathleen O'Toole †

 11:30 am The deceased of the Strubbe-Galoney
family †

† Indicates
person listed is
deceased.

Eucharistic Ministers

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

 5:00 pm Kathleen Dawson, Peggy Dawson (with
Mary Cook assisting), Brad Koch,
Candace Koch, John Sullivan

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

 8:00 am Hallie Burhoe, Peter Morin, Brian
DeVarenne, William Mitchell, Bob Backis

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

 10:00 am Carlos Barragan, Christine Curran, Rafael
Melendez, Ruth Ott, Nancy Merrill, Amy
Bessette, Debra Novak

 11:30 am Jana Ashbeck, Richard Ashbeck, Chris
Lincoln, Troy McMillan, Steven Monti

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

 5:00 pm Kathy Dunne, Rose Marie Anichini, Sarah
Millar, Brad Koch, Candace Koch

 9:00 pm William Mitchell, Debra Novak, Patrick
Robinson

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

 8:00 am Hallie Burhoe, Peter Morin, Mary Wyler,
Marty McDermott

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

 10:30 am Carlos Barragan, Kathy Wall, Rafael
Melendez, Steve Monti, Jana Ashbeck

**There will be a Christmas Day Combined Mass
held at 10:30 am, in lieu of the 10:00 am, 10:30
am (Gym), and 11:30 am Masses.**

Ministers of the Word

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

5:00 pm Norm Bowers, Kathleen Dawson

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:00 am Hallie Burhoe, Carol Ann Munro

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

10:00 am Ruth Ott, Debra Novak

10:30 am TBA

11:30 am Richard Ashbeck, Troy McMillan

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 pm Sarah Millar, Pat Reardon

9:00 pm Debra Novak, Patrick Robinson

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:00 am Hallie Burhoe, Marty McDermott

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

10:30 am Richard Ashbeck, Rafael Melendez

**There will be a Christmas Day Combined Mass
held at 10:30 am, in lieu of the 10:00 am, 10:30
am (Gym), and 11:30 am Masses.**

Altar Servers

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

 5:00 pm Joey Dunning, Katie Dunning, Jesse
Devitt

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

 10:00 am Katherine Tentler, Dominic Millar, Nadia
Millar

11:30 am Alise Veleta, Sam Ingram, June Rutzen

**Please contact Steve Monti for the Christmas
Mass schedule.**

Milestones



*Please Pray
for Our
Parishioners
and Friends*

Maria Hertl
Larry Swoboda



Baptisms

Serena Isabelle
Lardizabal,
daughter of Jazz & Irish

Please call the Rectory at
773.764.3621 to make
arrangements to have a child
baptized.

Readings This Week

Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17;
Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19;
Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-
6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Thursday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38

Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk
1:46-56

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19;
Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

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