



## St. Gertrude Chicago

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Sunday, August 1, 2021

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### From Father Rich

#### 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

We have entered into a five-week period of scripture readings focused on the image of the Bread of Life -- what we usually refer to as

the Eucharist or Holy Communion. We have this liturgical period every three years as part of the scripture cycle of Sunday readings. These five weeks provide us an opportunity to consider how we are nourished, how we nourish others, and how God nourishes us all.

#### Summer Mission Appeal - August 7-8: Helping Children

Over 25 years ago, when I was pastor of a parish in Berwyn, I needed to improve my Spanish abilities in order to minister to that parish, which was transitioning from monolingual and monocultural to bilingual and bicultural. So I responded to an invitation of a classmate who was working in Mexico at the orphanages of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (Our Little Brothers & Sisters) and spent 10 weeks at the main home in Miacatlan, Mexico to study Spanish in Cuernavaca and to practice with the children in the home. One of the great blessings of living in the orphanage while studying Spanish was that the children had no problem letting me know the right word or tense when I was stumbling. A few years later, I returned to the home in Miacatlan for three months to give retreats to all the orphans at the bacchillerato level (about equivalent to our high school years) and to the workers and volunteers at the homes in Miacatlan and Cuernavaca.

My connection to the homes of [NPH USA](#) remains strong to this day. Unlike most orphanages, NPH requires that when children enter into their home, it must be all the children in the family (unless they are already legally adults) coming together because NPH becomes their new home, their new family. And no one is adopted out of the family.

NPH provides all the children in the nine countries in which they operate homes with safety, health care, food and shelter, education, and a way out of poverty. One of the ancillary programs that most moved me was an outreach to the families living on the garbage dump outside Cuernavaca. When driving between Cuernavaca and Miacatlan, everyone passes the dump. As is true in poorer countries, many families live on the garbage dump to scavenge what they can to provide enough to live on.

But the biggest problem was that the children from this area were not being educated.

## From Father Rich (Continued)

So NPH reached out to those families and began to provide daily bus service that picked up the children in the morning, brought them to the orphanage where they showered, got them into clean uniforms, gave them breakfast, and then went to school. After their afternoon meal, they were taken back home, which was the dump, to help their parents scavenge.



After speaking with many of these children over some weeks, they wanted me to come and visit their home. So, one day I joined them on the bus at the end of their school day. As we walked up what was now an enormous hill, they were delighted to show me their homes and introduce me to their parents. As we climbed this mountain of compressed trash, I was surprised that two young boys were pushing broken bicycles up with us. I couldn't figure out what was going on since the bikes had no chains. It wasn't until we got to the top of the hill it became clear. You only need a chain on a bike if you are going up. But once you are up there, you can coast all the way back down!

For many years, I was on the fund-raising board of NPH-USA, working to provide the funds necessary to house, feed, clothe, and educate all the children in the NPH homes.

NPH is fully supporting more than 3,600 boys and girls in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru. An additional 3,900 community children receive scholarships, meals, health care, and other support. More than 81,000 services were provided through community outreach programs in 2020.

I encourage you to be generous to the Summer Mission Appeal whose collection, this year, will benefit the homes of NPH. Your gift will help raise these children from poverty, provide them with an education, and change their lives forever. Thank you for your consideration and prayers for this impactful ministry.

### **Pancake Breakfast - Welcome/Welcome Back!**

On Sunday, September 12, we will celebrate welcoming everyone back to church, and a special welcome to new members from the former St. Ignatius Parish, at the 10:30 am Mass, followed by a Pancake Breakfast. I hope you can join us.



As our slogan for this event states, "Pandemics come and go. Our faith is forever!" Please consider volunteering in the planning of this event, in the setting up and taking down, in the cooking and serving, and in the games for kids. There are sign-up sheets on the tables at the church door. Thanks for considering this request!



## All Hands on Deck Needed for *Welcome Back Sunday*

As Fr. Rich mentioned in his column, on Sunday, September 12, we will have a Welcome Back Sunday.

In the survey that many of you filled out, it was stated, "We need to find ways to reconnect and connect with each other here at St.

Gertrude's. As pandemics come and go, our faith lives on." In response to this, we will start by having a Welcome Mass on Sunday, September 12 at 10:30 am, followed by breakfast, music, and games.

We need you! We need volunteers for everything, from planning, set-up, take down, cooking, organizing, coordinating games for the kids, and a musician to entertain us.

Sign-up sheets are located at the back of church starting this weekend, or you can contact the Rectory office via email at [stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org) or by phone at 773.764.3621.

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## Growing in Faith

I can relate to the Israelites in our first reading today. Those who know me well have probably heard some similar "grumblings" of mine. The Israelites were just freed from slavery in Egypt; the Red Sea had just parted -- "BUT NOOOO!" (quoting Steve Martin), Moses and Aaron still led them into the desert to starve!

How many times do I experience some great joy—seeing a child's success, witnessing wonder in nature, or learning about a fantastic opportunity to grow— and then shift gears almost immediately to a sense of worry or fear? Fortunately, God heard the Israelites' grumbling and responded with manna in the desert.

And, like the crowd in the Gospel reading, sometimes I'm looking for signs and wonders in "all the wrong places" when right in front of me stands the Bread of Life.

How do I know? I have a loving family and dear friends who feed my soul. I have a rich community through my parish, neighborhood, and work at Misericordia. I enjoy access to music, literature, and daily runs along the lakefront. Lucky me! This is my daily bread. God is with me through it all—the joys and the worries— and never leaves, despite my occasional grumblings. So how do I share my bread with others? Perhaps we become bread for each other! The word Eucharist comes from the Greek word for "thanksgiving." Maybe gratitude for these gifts, our daily bread, or manna in our lives is a good place to start.



~ *Mary Ann Goode for Growing in Faith*

## Interested in Becoming Catholic?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process by which adults learn more about the Catholic Church. This free program begins in the fall and meets until Pentecost.



Many people who begin RCIA are non-Catholics seeking to become Catholic or at least to explore whether Catholicism might be a good home. Those who complete the process and decide to become Catholic are initiated into the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday. Others who take RCIA are already Catholic but want a deeper understanding of their faith foundation.

The RCIA process does not ask those who have been baptized in another faith to give up their denominational experiences. Rather, the RCIA process seeks to add new colors and designs to their existing faith life tapestry. In addition to attending Mass, the RCIA process includes weekly gatherings of breaking open the Word of God, sharing our stories, and learning about our faith traditions.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the RCIA process at St. Gertrude, contact Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate, at [kchears@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:kchears@stgertrudechicago.org) or call the Rectory at 773.764.3621.



## St. Gertrude's Women's Club Summer Potluck: New Parishioners Welcome

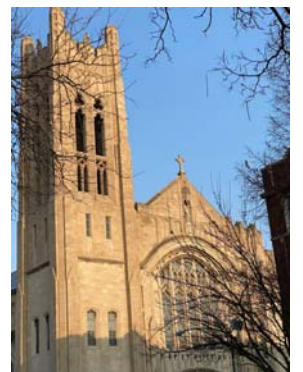
Please join us for our Summer Potluck on Thursday, August 12 from 6:00-8:30 pm. This time, we will meet in the lovely new garden space by the Ministry Center. A very special welcome is extended to any

new parishioners.

Bring a drink/dish/or dessert to share (one item is plenty). Please contact Laurie Jacob via email at [jacobfamily@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jacobfamily@sbcglobal.net) if you plan to be there or if you have questions.

Visit St. Gertrude's website at [www.stgertrudechicago.org](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org) for the latest parish information, details about our office hours, Mass times, staff contact information, our ministries, phone numbers, sacraments, Religious Ed program, bulletins, and more!

Our Sunday 10:30 am Masses are live-streamed weekly on our parish Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/stgertrudechicago> then posted on our parish's YouTube channel and on the home page of our website.



## Care for Real's 50th Anniversary

Fifty years ago, in 1971, the Edgewater Clerical & Rabbinical Association Episcopal (precursor to today's ECRA) and member

congregations came together to organize emergency assistance to residents of Edgewater whose homes had been destroyed by a series of fires. Meant to be a short-term solution to an urgent crisis, it soon became clear that food insecurity went far deeper into the community. Our neighbors needed a safety net, and that safety net evolved into Care for Real.



**care for real**  
FOOD • CLOTHING • SUPPORT

Fifty years later, the number of clients Care for Real serves is only increasing, in both Edgewater and at the new Rogers Park pantry. At this pivotal moment, they need your support to realize their vision for a thriving community where all have access to healthy food and feel supported, respected, and deserving of care.

To honor their anniversary and build resources to serve our neighbors in new and better ways, Care for Real is launching a campaign to raise \$50,000 in 50 Days, starting July 12 and running through August 31. Please consider supporting this effort! To donate, please visit <https://careforreal.org/donate-2/>.

### *St. Gertrude's Connection to Care for Real*

*St. Gertrude has been a strong supporter of Care for Real since 1970, providing annual financial support to help Care for Real's goals of providing loving support for our neighbors and acting as a safety net for the entire Edgewater community.*

### **Please Welcome Eloy Escamilla!**

In July, Eloy Escamilla accepted the position of Pastoral Associate for Religious Education and Youth Ministry here at St. Gertrude. Eloy will join the parish staff this week.

Eloy comes to us after six years in a similar position at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish on the southeast side of Chicago. He has received both a Master of Arts in Theology and a Master of Divinity from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.



*Are you interested in signing your child/children up for our 2021-2022 Religious Education classes? Applications are available online at <https://stgertrudechicago.org/religious-education-news>. Additional info about our program will be shared later this month.*

## Upcoming Career Transition Center Workshops

On Thursday, August 5 from 9:30-11:30 am, Career Transition Center (CTC) will host a free online workshop. Titled *Networking: an Essential Tool for Career and Life*, the seminar will address best practices and techniques in the cultivation of networking, a stressful but necessary professional skill.



CTC also other upcoming free sessions, including one on discovering, developing, and communicating your natural talents on Friday, August 27.

Visit <https://ctcchicago.org/A-CalAll.asp> for more information on these programs and other CTC events.



## County Tax Bill Update

According to a statement by Maria Pappas, Cook County Treasurer, property tax bills will be mailed in late August and posted to [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com) in mid-August. The anticipated due date is October 1, 2021.

The website also has information on:

- Homeowner Exemptions
- Senior Citizen Homestead Exemptions
- Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Exemptions
- Persons with Disability Exemptions
- Home Improvement Exemptions
- Property Tax Relief for Military Personnel
- Disabled Veteran Homestead Exemptions
- How to pay by mail, in person, at Chase Bank, or at a community bank
- Understanding your bill
- How to apply for a property tax refund
- How to get a copy of your tax bill
- How to understand your tax bill

## Resurrection Compost Garden: Another Harvest!

We're delighted to report our Resurrection Garden is thriving! The above veggies were given to St. Thomas of Canterbury soup kitchen last week.

Additional squash and herbs were sent to Care for Real.





## Heart to Heart Legal Workshop Hosted This Friday, August 6

The Center for Disability and Elder Law (CDEL) provides free legal services to low-income seniors and persons with disabilities.

Attorneys from CDEL will host a workshop at St. Gertrude on Friday, August 6. They will assist participating parishioners with creating Powers of Attorney, Living Wills, and Wills. Documents will be completed prior to the meeting and finalized at the in-person appointment.

Attorney, Living Wills, and Wills. Documents will be completed prior to the meeting and finalized at the in-person appointment.

Please call 312.376.1882 to schedule services and be sure to mention your interest in an in-person appointment at St. Gertrude Parish.

## Wanted: Ushers, Greeters, Eucharistic Ministers, and Ministers of the Word

We are in need of additional volunteers to assist at Masses, including ushers, greeters, Eucharistic ministers, and Ministers of the Word.

If you are interested, please email Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate, at [kchears@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:kchears@stgertrudechicago.org).



## This Weekend's Cantors, Musicians, Ministers of the Word, and Eucharistic Ministers

### Cantors:

- Saturday, July 31 at 5:00 pm - Kate Hibbs Davis
- Sunday, August 1 at 8:00 am - Mary Clare Barker
- Sunday, August 1 at 10:30 am - Michael Callahan

### Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, July 31 at 5:00 pm - Patrick Reardon
- Sunday, August 1 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, August 1 at 10:30 am - Bob Backis

### Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, July 31 at 5:00 pm - Tim Harrington, Kathy Wall
- Sunday, August 1 at 8:00 am - Peter Morin, Marty McDermott, Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, August 1 at 10:30 am - Bob Backis, Carlos Barrigan, Debra Novak

## Mass Intentions

- Monday, August 2: 7:30 am - John Sullivan+
- Tuesday, August 3: 7:30 am - St. Gertrude parishioners
- Wednesday, August 4: 7:30 am - Frank Joyce+
- Thursday, August 5: 7:30 am - Communion Service - Greg Wall+
- Friday, August 6: 7:30 am - Maria Y-Nhu Tran+
- Saturday, August 7: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society; 5:00 pm - Victor Strubbe+, CFD
- Sunday, August 8: 8:00 am - Joanne Knoch Strong+; 10:30 am - Claire O'Connor+

*(+ indicates the person is deceased)*

## Baptisms

- Anthony Edward Axel Guzzo, child of Anthony and Holly Beth Guzzo
- Zachary Wyatt Martin, child of Josh and Nicole Martin
- Ada Jane Werner, child of Matthew and Rebekah Werner

## Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- |                           |                          |                        |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Pamela Sherrod Anderson | • Ann Collins Dole       | • Bernie O'Connor      |
| • Helen Banta             | • Mary Grover            | • Tina Piemonte        |
| • Jean Bautista           | • Felipe Hall and Family | • Braedon Rimpson      |
| • Walter Bradford         | • Lucia Hall             | • Charley Scantlebury  |
| • Sharon Brown            | • Gina Heidkamp          | • Richard Seitz        |
| • Connie Bueck            | • Maria Hertl            | • Peggy Stoffel        |
| • Lilly Buie              | • Bernice Kiedysz        | • The Sullivan family  |
| • Maggie Callaway         | • Art Lyons              | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Aida Calvopina          | • Sr. Terri McKenzie     | • Manuel Viray         |
| • Geraldine Clark         | • Molly Morris           | • Norma E. Viray       |
| • Connie Cool             | • Karey Myers            | • Ken & Vyes Yoza      |

## Donate to our Parish

Parishioners can donate to St. Gertrude:

- Text the word *Donate* to 1.773.741.9505.
- PayPal link - visit our parish website at [www.stgertrudechicago.org](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org)
- GiveCentral: [www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevants](http://www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevants)

Email [esoto@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:esoto@stgertrudechicago.org) for additional information.

*Our Heart to Heart office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am-2:30 pm. Contact them at 773.973.5464.*

## Parish Staff

Rev. Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor  
Rev. Michael Gabriel, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Michael Bradley, Resident Priest  
Mary Clare Barker, Minister of Music  
Jane Callahan-Moore, Director, Heart to Heart  
Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate  
Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate for Religious Education and Youth Ministry  
Margie Guadagno, Office Manager  
Laurie Hasbrook, Office/Heart to Heart Staff  
Tracy Shields, Communications  
Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management