

St. Gertrude

All Are Welcome

1420 W. Granville Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60660

www.stgertrudechicago.org

stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org

773.764.3621

First Sunday of Advent

Bulletin for December 1, 2019

**God of life and light,
Give us hope as we wait
For your coming again.**



From Father Rich

Today, with the start of a new Advent season, we also begin a new Church year. Our focus this Advent is, "God is always with us... Let us walk in the light of the Lord." At this time of year, we are aware of our limited daylight hours, of how much we depend on the light not only to make our activities easier, but also to lift our spirits.

The focus on the light Christ brings reminds us that we are not in control and the vision for ourselves and our world is bigger than we are. It is important that we not get caught in the wrong vision especially as our nation grapples with the impeachment investigation. We need to ask ourselves, "What does it mean to walk in the light of God?" Some responses come to mind immediately: It means we have to focus on our relationships with others. It means we need to be welcoming. It means we need to care for the earth, our home.

Perhaps it is the demand of our senses, but throughout this season, with its limited light, we seem to rely more on our sense of hearing to lift our spirits and provide us with the reminders of hope, love, and joy which we prefer. The uplifting music of Christmas is both our destination and it accompanies us on our journey.

Let us use this brief season of preparation for Christmas to come together as God's people. Christ's coming is the promise that what God brings will last far longer than whatever today's problems might be. We can't let those problems keep us from journeying with the Lord.

Tomorrow (Monday) evening, the girls and boys who have been preparing for two years will come together in church at 6:30 pm to celebrate their First Reconciliation. Please keep all of them in your prayers as they take this next step in their life as followers of Jesus, celebrating the forgiveness of their sins.

At the 10:30 am Mass today we celebrate the Rite of Welcoming for the candidates exploring membership in the church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Please keep these people in your prayers as they continue their faith journey.

Don't forget our parish Christmas Bazaar is next weekend! Be sure to stop by the Social Hall to find treasures and raise some funds for the parish!

~ Father Rich

Help Needed at the Christmas Bazaar

Christmas Angels are Needed to Help with the Bazaar!

Our Christmas Bazaar is Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8 and we still need a lot of help to make this event a success!

There are lots of ways to contribute - from helping to set up, making baked goods, volunteering for a shift in different areas, or donating items for the White Elephant!

To sign up to volunteer, visit signupgenius.com. Click the search icon, then under *Search for a Sign Up*, type in events@stgertrudechicago.org and choose how you would like to help. There are also sign-up sheets in the back of church! Volunteer shifts count towards NCA service hours.



Growing in Faith

It's easy for me (and probably for you, too) to get distracted and overwhelmed at this season of the year. So I look for help in keeping the spiritual meaning of this season alive in my life. I look for music, poetry and books that can help me to reflect on the season.

I've found that Paraclete Press has great books (and music) for Advent and for other liturgical seasons. Here are just a few that sound good to me:

- *My Soul Waits: Praying with the Psalms through Advent, Christmas and Epiphany* by Martin Shannon. It "combines the words of the Psalms, meditations from the Church Fathers, and a prayer as a guide for the reader through the various twists and turns on the journey to our Lord's Nativity."
- *Your Light Gives Us Hope: 24 Daily Practices for Advent* by Anselm Grün. Benedictine monk Anselm Grün "shows the reader how to approach the festive season consciously, making it a

blessed time for ourselves and our families."

- *Light Upon Light: A Literary Guide to Prayer for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany* by Sarah Arthur. "A book which weaves scripture, prayer and the finest poetry and fiction into the devotional experience of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany."
- And don't forget the Little Blue Book that the parish provides for us at this season. It offers short, insightful reflections for each day of Advent and through Epiphany.



- I also recommend the www.journeywithjesus.net website. It has art, poetry and thoughtful essays throughout the year.

~ Mary Grover
for *Growing in Faith*

Parish Calendar

Sunday, December 1

- After the 10:30 am Mass ~ rehearsal for the Christmas pageant
- 12:00-3:00 pm ~ Donations for the Christmas Bazaar accepted in the Gym
- 6:30-8:00 pm ~ Youth group in the Gym balcony

Monday, December 2

- 6:30 pm ~ Sacrament of First Reconciliation in Church (Please arrive by 6:15 pm.)
- 7:00 pm ~ Baptismal prep class in the Rectory

Saturday, December 7 *Christmas Bazaar*

- 10:00 am-4:00 pm ~ Christmas Bazaar open

Sunday, December 8 *Christmas Bazaar*

- 8:30 am-1:00 pm ~ Pancake & sausage breakfast
- 9:00 am-2:30 pm ~ Christmas Bazaar open

Monday, December 9

- 7:30 pm ~ Good Books in the Ministry Center

Friday, December 13

- Gifts for the Giving Trees due

Sunday, December 15

- After the 10:30 am Mass ~ rehearsal for the

Christmas pageant

- 1:00 pm ~ Advent reconciliation service

Monday, December 16

- 7:30 pm ~ Poetry Pilgrims in the Ministry Center

Sunday, December 22

- After the 10:30 am Mass ~ Christmas pageant dress rehearsal in Church

Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24 ~ *Christmas Eve*

- 12:00 pm ~ Rectory closes
- 5:00 pm ~ Family Mass and Christmas Pageant
- 8:30 pm ~ Christmas Carols in Church
- 9:00 pm ~ Christmas Vigil Mass

Wednesday, December 25 ~ *Christmas Day*

- 8:00 am ~ Mass
- 10:30 am ~ Mass
- There is no Gym Mass.
- The Rectory is closed.

Thursday, December 26

- The Rectory will be closed.

Christmas Bazaar Information



Next Weekend is Our Annual Christmas Bazaar!

Saturday, December 7
from 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Sunday, December 8
from 9:00 am-2:30 pm

This annual event features handmade, fair-trade arts and crafts, plus a fabulous used book sale, Christmas greenery for sale, a White Elephant table, complimentary gift wrapping, and pictures with Santa. A pancake & sausage breakfast with music provided by St. Gertrude parishioners will be held on Sunday, December 8 from 8:30 am-1:00 pm.

Contributions for the White Elephant areas at the Christmas Bazaar are being accepted on Sundays until December 1 from 12:00-3:00 pm in the Gym, 1401 W. Granville Ave. No clothing, linens, or stuffed animals will be accepted.

St. Gertrude's Annual Balsam Pine Sale

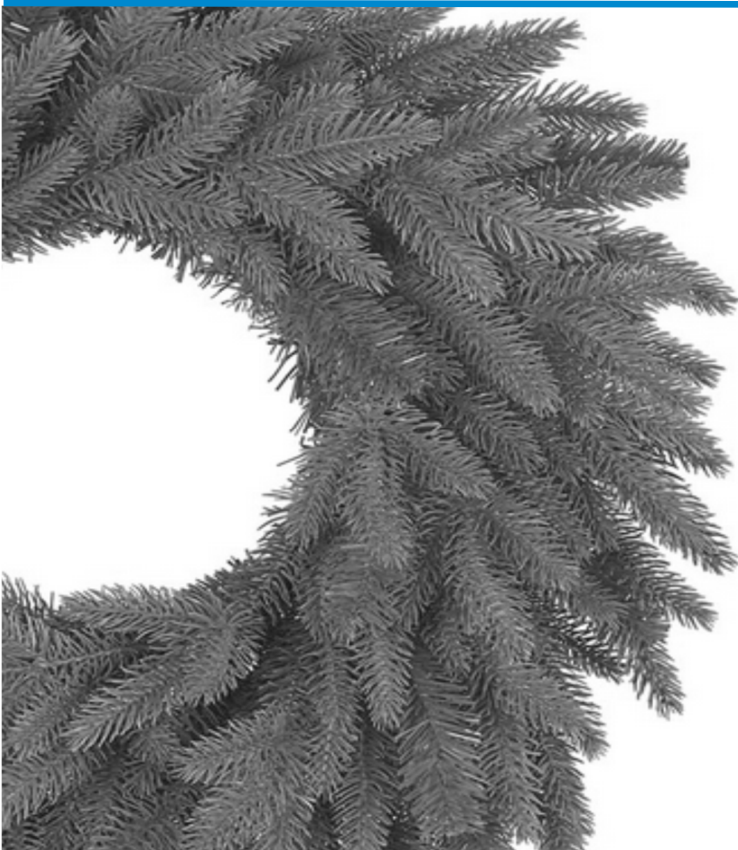
A limited number of trees, wreaths, and garland are available for sale, with proceeds benefiting St. Gertrude's ministries.

Advance orders must be placed by TODAY—Sunday, December 1. Delivery is free for orders placed by Sunday, December 1.

Items can be delivered or picked up at our St. Gertrude Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8

Items may be ordered via the forms available at the back of church. Payment may be made with cash or check.

To purchase online, go to stgertrudechicago.org and click on *Order Your Greenery Here* at the top of the home page to be taken to the items for sale. Click *View More* for large wreaths.



The Christmas Bazaar is Next Weekend!

Christmas Bazaar Donations Accepted on Sunday Afternoons: Contributions for the White Elephant areas at St. Gertrude's Christmas Bazaar will be accepted on Sundays from 12:00-3:00 pm in the Gym, 1401 W. Granville Ave. No clothing, linens, or stuffed animals will be accepted.

Volunteer at the Christmas Bazaar: Help is needed for our Christmas Bazaar! To volunteer, visit signupgenius.com. Click the search icon, then under *Search for a Sign Up*, type in events@stgertrudechicago.org and you can choose how you would like to help. Volunteers slots count as service hours for NCA!

Calling All Bakers! Donations of baked goods are needed for the bake sale table! Items can be dropped off on the morning of Saturday, December 7 and/or Sunday, December 8. Email Madaline Kiedysz at madkiedysz@hotmail.com to sign up.

Christmas Greenery: Today, Sunday, December 1, is the last day to place advance greenery orders and to receive free delivery. Visit <https://www.givecentral.org/location/8> to place your order.

Questions About the Bazaar? Visit www.stgertrudechicago.org/christmas-bazaar or call the Rectory at 773.764.3621.



Advent 2019: "God is always with us...Let us walk in the light of the Lord."

Week I: Word & Work

The weekly lighting of the Advent wreath reminds us that we depend on the light of Christ to show us the path we are to follow. As the wreath is blessed and candle(s) are lit each week, we sing the refrain, "Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today."

As recipients of the light of Christ, it is now our job to bring that light to our own homes and to our world. We rely on the Lord. As our seasonal psalm refrain expresses, "You will show me the path of life, and guide me to joy forever."

This first week of Advent, how can I bring this light in the words I use with my family and friends and co-workers? How can I prepare for the coming of the Lord more deeply into my life and into our world?



~ Father Rich

Parish News

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 Friday, December 13.



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!

TODAY—WOW Get-Together: WOW teens are invited to gather today, Sunday, December 8, from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Gym balcony.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: The Sacrament of First Reconciliation will be held tomorrow, Monday, December 2 at 6:30 pm. Families should arrive at 6:15 pm.

Baptismal Preparation Class: The next class will be held on Monday, December 2 at 7:00 pm in the Rectory. Please call the Rectory office at 773.764.3621 to register for the class.

Second Collection is December 7-8 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.



No Gym Mass Next Sunday: There will not be a Gym Mass next Sunday, December 8.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is Monday, December 9: The Immaculate Conception is a Catholic teaching maintaining that from the moment she was conceived, the Blessed Virgin Mary was kept free of original sin and was filled with the sanctifying grace normally conferred during baptism.

This year, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be held at 7:30 am.

Good Books & Poetry Pilgrims: The book club will meet on Monday, December 9 and Poetry Pilgrims will gather on Monday, December 16. Both groups meet at 7:30 pm in the Ministry Center. Contact Mary Grover at mary@marsgrover.com with any questions.

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 15 at 1:00 pm in Church.



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

Little Blue Books Available: Advent Little Blue Books are available in the back of church. These small free booklets offer daily devotionals during the season of Advent and Christmas.

Christmas Masses: On Christmas Eve, there will be a Family Mass at 5:00 pm and a Christmas Vigil Mass at 9:00 pm, with Christmas carols sung in church beginning at 8:30 pm.

On Christmas Day, Mass will be held in Church at 8:00 am and 10:30 am. There will not be a Gym Mass.

Rectory Holiday Hours: The Rectory will close at 12:00 pm on Tuesday, December 24. It will be closed on Wednesday, December 25, and Thursday, December 26.

Preparing for the Christmas Pageant

As is our tradition during the Gospel at the Christmas Eve 5:00 pm Family Mass, the kids from St. Gertrude parish will act out the Christmas story.



I will need a Mary, Joseph, shepherds, three kings, and lots of angels. I also need parents to come to the rehearsals and assist with organizing the kids. Parents need to attend the rehearsal so that when the rehearsal is over, the kids have a ride home.

I am hoping to have two rehearsals in church after the 10:30 am Mass today, Sunday, December 1 and Sunday, December 15 for 30 minutes each and then one final dress rehearsal on Sunday, December 22 at 12:30 pm in the church.

If you and your child are interested in participating in the Christmas pageant this year, please contact me at mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org.

~ Mary Clare Barker

Lukan Lessons & Carols

Come prepare for the Christmas season with The Society: A Jesuit Music Co-op, a group of young Jesuit scholastics that include St. Gertrude guest homilist Christopher Alt.

The group will present "Lukan Lessons & Carols" on Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00 pm at St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 806 W. Ridge, Evanston. Admission is free.



NCA News

Preschool Enrollment for Next Year has Begun! Northside Catholic Academy is now enrolling three and four-year-olds for the 2020-21 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 Saturday, February 22, 2020, at the Ravenswood Event Center.

Art of the Creche Exhibit

Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA) annual holiday exhibition, *Art and Faith of the Crèche: The Collection of James and Emilia Govan*, runs until Sunday, January 5, 2020. The collection showcases more than 100 unique nativity scenes from around the world.

LUMA is open Wednesday - Friday from 11:00 am-3:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 am-3:30 pm. LUMA is closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Admission is free.



**Our Parish at Prayer for
December 2-8**

Monday, December 2

7:30 am Ted Miskowicz †

Tuesday, December 3

7:30 am Purgatorial Society

† Indicates person listed is deceased.

Wednesday, December 4

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

Thursday, December 5

10:00 am Communion service

Friday, December 6

7:30 am Elsie Radtke †

8:30 am NCA Mass

Saturday, December 7

7:30 am Gladys Maebelle Bowers †

5:00 pm Harry Laczkowski †

Sunday, December 8

8:00 am Bill Irwin †

10:30 am Tim O'Toole †

Deceased of the Galoney-Strubbe family †

**Ministers of the Word
for December 7-8**

Saturday, December 7

5:00 pm Kathleen Dawson, Bob Backis

Sunday, December 8

8:00 am Hallie Burhoe, Rob Sierzega

10:30 am Debra Novak, Sarah Millar

There is no Gym Mass on Sunday, December 8.

**How Do You Find & Contact Your
Elected Officials?**

Be a voice for change! Contact your elected officials and share your thoughts on gun control, immigration, and more.

Visit usa.gov/elected-officials for a contact information for all of your elected officials, including your senators, U.S. representatives, governor, and state legislators.

**Readings for
December 2-8**

Monday: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1

Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

**Eucharistic Ministers
for December 7-8**

Saturday, December 7

5:00 pm Mary Cook, Kathleen Dawson, Roman Reyes, Kathy Wall, Bob Backis

Sunday, December 8

8:00 am Hallie Burhoe, Marty McDermott, William Mitchell, Peter Morin, Rob Sierzega

10:30 am Rose Marie Anichini, Carlos Barragan, Kathy Dunne, Debra Novak, Ruth Ott, Gail Smith, Troy McMillan

There is no Gym Mass on Sunday, December 8.

**Altar Servers
for December 7-8**

Saturday, December 7

5:00 pm TBA

Sunday, December 8

10:30 am TBA

**Heart to Heart
Medical Lending Closet**

The Heart to Heart Lending Closet's hours of operations are Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:00 am-3:00 pm by appointment only. We are currently looking for wheelchairs and tub transfer benches.

Please contact Heart to Heart at 773.973.5464 to arrange a drop-off time.

Milestones



*Please Pray
for Our Parishioners
and Friends*

Walter Bradford
Ed & Ester Bugler
Maggie Callaway
Aida Calvopina
Geraldine Clark
Mary Ferguson
Mary Fitzgerald
Joan Harrington
Gina Heidkamp

Maria Hertl
Bernice Kiedysz
Karey Myers
Don Piven
Dave Resch
Kyle Rutherford
Charley Scantlebury
Richard Seitz
Peggy Stoffel
Elinora E. Tolentino
Norma E. Viray
Lorraine Walton



New Parishioners

If you are interested in joining our community of faith, please fill out a registration form. They are located in the back of Church, at the Rectory, and online at our parish website, www.stgertrudechicago.org.



Baptisms

Baptisms take place on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Call the Rectory to make arrangements to have a child baptized, and to RSVP to attend a parent preparation meeting.

Parish Information

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor
Rev. Michael Gabriel, Associate Pastor (part-time)
Mary Clare Barker, Minister of Music
Art Blumberg, Director of Parish Management and Facilities
Jane Callahan-Moore, Director of Parish Social Services
Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate
Laurie Hasbrook, Office Staff
Jim Potthast, Youth and 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, 10:30 am (The Gym Mass resumes on Sunday, September 8.)
9:30 am St. Gertrude East (Sacred Heart School/Sheridan and Granville)
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@stgertrudechicago.org
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 - Thursday: 8:30 am to 7:30 pm
Friday: 8:30 am to 4:45 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
Email: heart2heart@stgertrudechicago.org

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. This schedule will change in the summer months. 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

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Parishioners

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