

St. Gertrude

All Are Welcome

1420 W. Granville Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60660

www.stgertrudechicago.org

stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org

773.764.3621

Third Sunday of Advent

Bulletin for December 15, 2019



*Please join us today in Church at 1:00 pm for our
Advent Reconciliation Service!*

From Father Rich

Thanks to Victoria Healy, Laurie Savas, Vicky Santoso, and Kevin Cheers for coordinating the wonderful Christmas Bazaar last weekend! Thanks to all our parish volunteers who staffed tables, set-up, did the sorting and the pricing, made and served the pancake breakfast, helped children with their visit with Santa, cleaned up, and a host of other details that all came together for a wonderful weekend parish event!

This afternoon, Sunday, December 15, we celebrate our parish Advent Reconciliation Service at 1:00 pm in Church. This service provides some quiet, reflective time, with Advent hymns and a few readings from scripture to guide our reflections. It usually lasts about 45 minutes and is a great way to prepare for Christmas!

Just a reminder, if you took a tag from the Giving Tree, the purchased gifts need to be returned to the tree by noon today (Sunday). Just place your unwrapped gift under one of the Giving Trees in the back of Church. Many thanks to all those who participated in the Giving Tree this year. Certainly, your generosity has helped to brighten Christmas for someone in need, sharing the true spirit of Christmas!

The complete schedule of services for Christmas is below. Please keep a copy around for reference in your home.

~ Father Rich

Christmas Mass Schedule



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

Tuesday, December 24 ~ *Christmas Eve*

- 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 in Church
- 9:30 am ~ Mass at St. Gertrude East
- 10:30 am ~ Mass in Church
- There is no Gym Mass.

Growing in Faith

From the Scripture Scholar's Desk: A Healing Messiah

Before his imprisonment by Herod, John the Baptist had preached the imminent arrival of the "Coming One" and he had warned "His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, the wheat he shall gather into his barn but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now in prison, John heard of Jesus' healings, his teachings on forgiveness, and his promise of God's constant love and mercy. John now sends his disciples to ask Jesus "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Jesus understands John's confusion and sends back to him the prophecy of Isaiah, the prophecy we read today in the first reading, and the one Jesus is fulfilling: "The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed..."

Then, turning to the crowds, Jesus affirms John as God's prophet, and more, God's chosen precursor of the Messiah, quoting the prophet Malachi, "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you." John is the prophet who God has sent to call us to convert our hearts, not to avoid a terrible, violent judge, but so that we will recognize Jesus as our Messiah, and to follow him with open hearts, and his way of kindness, forgiveness, and healing.

~ Sister Wendy Cotter,
Ph. D, for *Growing in Faith*



Parish Calendar

Sunday, December 15

- 10:30 am ~ Family Mass hosted by 7th graders
- After the 10:30 am Mass ~ rehearsal for the Christmas pageant in Church
- 12:00 pm ~ Gifts for the Giving Trees due
- 1:00 pm ~ Advent Reconciliation Service
- 6:30 pm ~ WOW youth group in the Gym

Monday, December 16

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

Wednesday, December 18

- 6:30 pm ~ NCA Holiday open house

Sunday, December 22

- 12:30 pm ~ Christmas pageant dress rehearsal in Church (Children should go to the Rectory at noon to change into costumes.)
- No Kids Word
- No Religious Ed classes

Tuesday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

- 12:00 pm ~ Rectory closes (Mass times listed on page 2.)

Wednesday, December 25 ~ Christmas Eve

- The Rectory is closed. (Mass times listed on page 2.)

Thursday, December 26

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

Sunday, December 29

- No Kids Word
- No Religious Ed classes
- There is no Gym Mass.

Tuesday, December 31 Vigil - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

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

Wednesday, January 1 ~ Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God/Holy Day of Obligation

- New Year's Day
- 10:00 am ~ Mass
- The Rectory is closed.

Thursday, January 2

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

Sunday, January 5

- Religious Ed resumes
- Kids Word resumes

Please note, the Heart to Heart office will be closed from Monday, December 16-Monday, January 6. Contact Laurie Hasbrook at the Rectory at 773.764.3621 or via email at stgertrude1430@stgertrudechicago.org if pastoral services such as anointing of the sick or communion are needed.

Thank You for Making Our Bazaar a Success

There are always so many people to thank for the success of an event like the Christmas Bazaar. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked so hard to get things going by decorating, sorting, pricing, and setting up. Thank you for standing outside so we could pick up our greenery. Thank you for working at one of the white elephant tables over the weekend. Thank you to those who baked, cooked, or served us. Thank you to the vendors, old and new, for offering us such wonderful things to choose from. Thank you to the musicians who entertained us during the pancake breakfast. Thank you to Santa for stopping by. Thank you to those who came at the end, to help us clean up when we were all so tired. Thank you to Laurie Savas and Vicky Santoso who joined in coordinating this year. Thank you to Victoria Healy who co-chaired again this year. And thank you for having a browse! Hope you found a treasure or two. Mark your calendars for next year – Saturday, December 5 and Sunday, December 6, 2020.

~ Kevin Chears



Additional pictures are available on the home page of our website, www.stgertrudechicago.org.

Parish News

TODAY—Family Mass: This morning, Sunday, December 15, there will be a Family Mass in Church at 10:30 am, hosted by 7th grade students and their families. There will be hospitality offered after Mass.

TODAY—Giving Trees Donations Due: If you have an item for our Giving Tree, please put them under the trees in the back of Church. Items 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. Thank you for your generosity!

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Info: There will be a 30-minute rehearsal today, Sunday, December 15 after the 10:30 am Mass in the Church 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 22 at 12:30 pm in the Church. Kids and parents should come to the Rectory at 12:00 pm to dress in their appropriate costumes. The dress rehearsal will last for about 45 minutes. Please contact Mary Clare Barker with any questions at mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org.

TODAY—Advent Reconciliation: This afternoon, Sunday, December 15, we will celebrate our parish Advent Reconciliation Service at 1:00 pm in Church. The celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a perfect way to prepare for the feast of Christmas. In this reflective service, we have a chance to prepare our hearts and souls for Christmas as we continue our Advent journey.



TODAY—Youth Group Get-Together: Our youth group will meet today, Sunday, December 15, from 6:30 –8:30 pm for some holiday festivities in the Gym balcony.

Poetry Pilgrims: The group will gather on Monday, December 16 at 7:30 pm in the Ministry Center. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Grover at mary@marsgrover.com.

Christmas Masses: On Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, 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 and 10:30 am and at 9:30 am at St. Gertrude East. There will not be a Gym Mass.

Religious Ed, Kids Word and Family Mass Schedule: There will be no Religious Education class or Kids Word on Sunday, December 22 and Sunday, December 29. Religious Education classes and Kids Word will resume on Sunday, January 5.

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.

The Rectory will close at noon on Tuesday, December 31, New Year's Eve. The Rectory will be closed on Wednesday, January 1 and Thursday, January 2.

New Year's Mass Schedule: The Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is Wednesday, January 1 and it is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses for the Holy Day will be on Tuesday, December 31, New Year's Eve, at 5:00 pm, and on Wednesday, January 1, New Year's Day, at 10:00 am.

Heart to Heart Office Closed: The Heart to Heart offices will be closed from Monday, December 16 to Monday, January 6. Please contact Laurie Hasbrook at the Rectory at 773.764.3621 or via email at stgertrude1430@stgertrudechicago.org if pastoral services such as anointing of the sick or communion are needed.

The Lending Closet will available by appointment only during this period.

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

Week III: Generosity & Patience

At first blush, generosity and patience seem an unusual pairing of virtues -- in Advent, or any time of the year. But if we stop and think for a moment, without the generosity of our time, patience is not possible. Indeed, these two virtues are closely related! In today’s gospel passage, we are “witnesses” to the messages John, now in prison, exchanges with Jesus.

John had sent one of his disciples to ask, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” What an extraordinary question from the man who has announced the arrival of the Messiah, having waited for this promise of God to be fulfilled from over 700 years ago! Throughout his life, John the Baptist generously offered his time to God. And in return, as Jesus’ message made clear, God’s promise is fulfilled: “The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.”

As we enter into these final days of Advent, getting ready for the celebration of the Lord’s birth, how are both our generosity and our patience faring? Am I still holding on to dead stuff from the past? Am I so concerned with what I don’t have or haven’t done that I cannot enjoy the present moment? Take a few moments this week to consider your blessings, including the gift of your time. God is available to us in every moment. Let us use some of those moments to be more aware of the presence of God in our lives, that we might truly walk in the light of the Lord.

~ Father Rich

Parish Stewardship Report

“Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense, he comes to save you.” ~ Isaiah 35:3-4

Our times seem troubled and dark. Yet we may go through the darkness with the hope and promise of emerging in new light. Let us call upon God and support each other as we move toward the light of Advent.

Collection December 7-8	\$8,295.01
Budgeted Collection	<u>\$7,725.00</u>
Overage	(+) \$570.01
Second Collection for Retired Religious	\$2,374.00



~ Art Blumberg,
Director of Parish
Management and Facilities

NCA Holiday Open House

The secret is out! Santa Claus is coming to Northside Catholic Academy! Join us this Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30 pm at our primary campus, 6216 N. Glenwood . It is going to be a jolly good time.

We will be serving hot cocoa, cider, and cookies. Come and take pictures with Santa Claus while listening to Christmas carols sung by NCA students, learn about our award-winning approach to education, and receive a tour of our primary campus.



The "O" Antiphons of the Final Days of Advent

Each Advent, during the final days leading up to Christmas, the Church uses a series of prayers called the O Antiphons to help us center ourselves on the coming of Christ. (This is also the source of the Advent hymn we sing each Sunday in Advent, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.") The O Antiphons are seven verses (antiphons) that are prayed during the Church's Evening Prayer. They begin on December 17 (which is Tuesday) and conclude on December 23 (next Monday.)



O Antiphons

*A time of active waiting and
eager anticipation for
Christ's coming*

The O Antiphons are based on Old Testament prophecies and titles of the One who would come to bring peace and justice to the world. As Christians, we believe that Jesus Christ is the One who fulfills these prophecies and lived these titles.

Part of the enjoyment of the arrangement of the O Antiphons is found in their original Latin spelling, in which the first letter of each of the titles, when strung together, spells out "Ero Cras", which in English means, "I will be tomorrow" since the final O Antiphon was on December 23 - and the Eve was considered the beginning of the actual feast - thus announcing the birth of the Messiah.

Each Antiphon is divided into three parts: 1) a particular title of Jesus proclaimed in the Old Testament, 2) God's action in our lives, and 3) a prayer that we may respond to God's generosity.

Perhaps you could use them for your own reflections in these final days of preparation for the birth of Our Lord.

December 17: O Wisdom, O Holy Word of God, You govern all creation with your strong, yet tender care: Come and show your people the way to salvation. (O Sapientia)

December 18: O Sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed himself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free. (O Adonai)

December 19: O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples: Kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you: Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid. (O Radix Jesse)

December 20: O Key of David, O Royal Power of Israel, controlling at your will the gate of heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom. (O Clavis)

December 21: O Radiant Dawn, Splendor of Israel, Sun of Justice: Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. (O Oriens)

December 22: O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man: Come and save the creature you fashioned from dust. (O Rex Gentium)

December 23: O Emanuel, King and Lawgiver, Desire of the Nations, Savior of All People: Come and set us free, Lord our God! (O Emmanuel)

~ Father Rich

Our Parish at Prayer for December 16-22

Monday, December 16

7:30 am Pat Veccie †

† Indicates person
listed is deceased.

Tuesday, December 17

7:30 am Marie Dotty Mila Taste Good †
Teremar Baez Camila †
Marie Leslie Zowaya Hercules †

Wednesday, December 18

7:30 am Ted Miskowiec †

Thursday, December 19

7:30 am Communion service

Friday, December 20

7:30 am Living & deceased mothers & fathers of
St. Gertrude parishioners
8:30 am All NCA Los Posadas prayer service

Saturday, December 21

7:30 am Purgatorial Society
5:00 pm Emmett McKee †

Sunday, December 22

8:00 am Parishioners of St. Gertrude
9:30 am Jessie North, in honor of her 90th birthday
10:30 am Betty Taylor †
10:30 am Billy Tobin † (Gym Mass)

Ministers of the Word for December 21-22

Saturday, December 21

5:00 pm Kathleen Dawson, Pat Reardon

Sunday, December 22

8:00 am Jacalyn Meier, Steve Matre
9:30 am Pat Riley, Barbara Rossi and Leon Ward
10:30 am Patrick Robinson, Troy McMillan
10:30 am TBA (Gym Mass)

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 16-22

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Friday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Eucharistic Ministers for December 21-22

Saturday, December 21

5:00 pm Peggy Dawson (with Mary Cook assisting), Kathleen Dawson, Patricia Norcik, Roman Reyes, Kathy Wall

Sunday, December 22

8:00 am Hallie Burhoe, Barb Daly, Brian DeVarenne, Peter Morin, Mary Wyler
9:30 am Pat Riley, Barbara Rossi and Leon Ward
10:30 am Rose Marie Anichini, Rafael Melendez, Sarah Millar, Gail Smith, Mary Donlan, Chris Lincoln, Lina Peon
10:30 am TBA (Gym Mass)

Altar Servers for December 21-22

Saturday, December 21

5:00 pm Luke Sharba, Ethan Vargas, Leila Vargas

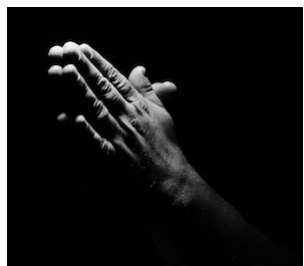
Sunday, December 22

10:30 am Henry Jacobson, Leah Malloy, Kayla Malloy

Do You Have Questions About Mass Times, Events, or Holiday Hours?

Visit our website at www.stgertrudechicago.org for a complete listing of events, Mass times, office hours, pictures from our celebrations, bulletins, and more.

Milestones



Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends

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

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



Rest in Peace

Daniel O'Connell Joyce,
father of Peggy Joyce Osterman
Regina Lyons



Baptisms

Claire Annalise Chang,
daughter of Harold
& Grace Eusebio

Leo Luca,
son of Paul & Lauren Corso

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
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 *(Please see our holiday hours article.)*

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
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WHY IS IT?



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