

St. Gertrude Chicago

Sunday, February 21 - First Sunday in Lent

Click [HERE](#) to read the bulletin in a new window

St. Gertrude Mass times are:

- Monday-Saturday: 7:30 am
- Saturdays at 5:00 pm
- Sundays at 8:00 am and 10:30 am (10:30 Mass is live-streamed on [our parish Facebook page](#))

The St. Gertrude parish office schedule can be found [HERE](#). Please review the [Parishioner Guidelines for Visiting the Rectory](#) and call before you come!

[Click Here to Sign-up for Weekend Masses](#)

[Click Here to Sign up for Weekday Masses](#)

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From Father Rich

First Sunday of Lent

This year, we are reading from St. Mark’s Gospel. St. Mark wrote the shortest of the four

*Bulletin for the
First Sunday in
Lent*

February 21, 2021

gospels, never using more words than necessary. Sometimes, he might even appear terse.

Today's passage for the First Sunday of Lent might be such an example. He uses only two sentences to tell of Jesus being driven to the desert by the Spirit for forty days and being tempted. The final two sentences are after he has left the desert and, upon John the Baptist's arrest, begins proclaiming the gospel, announcing this is the time of fulfillment and of the need for repentance.



Click [HERE](#) to
make a
reservation to
attend weekend
Masses in person!

Each and every human being takes in information in her/his own way. Some people like to be gently spoon-fed certain information, while others like to receive their news in a more direct, even curt way. It is important to be aware of the differences in delivery which can also affect how we take in this information.

Today's gospel passage is so brief we might not even hear what is being proclaimed because it is so short. And we might even think it is, therefore, of less importance. But nothing could be further from the truth!

It is somewhat startling that the Spirit led Jesus into the desert. But it is crucial to both our understanding of what was happening to Jesus, as well as what needs to happen in our own lives. The desert to which Jesus was led is not our modern image of a lovely spa somewhere in Arizona! It is a place of isolation, of stark and unforgiving beauty, a place where any human being had to be careful every moment of every day because their life could be threatened by the elements as well as the creatures who lived there. In other words, it is a place people went for some period of time to really leave everything else behind and come face to face with their true selves and God.

The change to Jesus is very telling. At the end of those 40 days, even with the ministering by angels, he was reduced to his essential self. And that is the Jesus who leaves the desert and now, with a strong sense of who he is and what his mission is, begins to proclaim the gospel.

As we begin our Lenten journey, we are invited to do what He has done. The challenge for us is that we aren't going to the desert! Instead, we have to find time and place during these 40 days to face once again who we are, how we are living and behaving, how well are we allowing ourselves to be instructed by the gospel.

The first half of our Lenten theme, "Let it go" is our focus as we start. We need to find the desert place which will help us identify what "it" is that has prevented us from loving God, others, and myself more fully. Only in identifying those obstacles can we then take the steps necessary to change our behaviors, change our habits, change our lives.

St. Gertrude Parish Auction 2021

Our Parish Auction concludes this Sunday, February 21 with the Live Auction and some entertainment from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. I hope you can join us using this link:

<https://stgertrudeparish.schoolauction.net/auction2021/signup> and following the directions on the screen or by watching [this video on our parish YouTube channel](#).

You still have time for bidding on items in the Silent Auction, as well as the wine raffles -- each of the raffles will feature a variety of bottles exceeding \$300.00 in value! One of the things to consider is reaching out to other family and/or friends to see if you can group them all together to share a beautiful home in Costa Rica for a wonderful vacation, or a special homemade dinner, or some of the other great items. Here is the Auction link: <https://stgertrudeparish.schoolauction.net/auction2021>.



Growing in Faith

Turn Around and Believe the Good News: Mk 1:12-15

First Sunday in Lent

In the gospel of Mark, Jesus' first words are, "Turn around and Believe the Good News!" (Our word 'Repent' translates to the Greek "Turn Around"!!) Jesus is telling us "You have been facing the wrong direction!!...the bad news! Turn around, look at me! Believe the Good News!"

For so many people, this past year, the political contentions and the ravages of the virus, with financial setbacks and social privations have resulted in depression and despondency, feelings of isolation, and ideas that, in the end, we are on our own. Jesus' call today as we begin our Lent, is for us to rise, ready to be renewed, and restored, to walk all the way with him, along his road following his lead, day by day, to Holy Week, with the joy of the Easter Resurrection.

In these days that follow, we are given time to be built up again in our spirit and hope, our confidence in God's closeness and real love for us. It is a time for a spiritual strengthening, prayer, listening to Jesus' words, and being open to ways that our following may be deeper, even better. And all of it is good news with blessings for us all, and our world, from Jesus himself, who is going to share this special time of renewal with us: "Turn Around, Believe the Good News!"

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



[St. Gertrude Auction 2021 Fundraiser:
Silent Auction Ends Sunday/Live Event
Planned This Sunday from 7:00-8:00
pm](#)

Our week-long **Silent Auction** ends in a live auction event this Sunday, February 21. What's available? Check out our items [HERE!](#)

We have gift cards to area restaurants, exquisitely made scarves, shawls, bowls, quilts, and cards, baskets of books, signed books, kitchen tools, one-of-a-kind experiences, expert consultations, and much more.

We're also offering a **Wine Spectacular** – where you can buy a \$20 raffle ticket to win one of three lots of wine (12 bottles; combined value - \$300) or one premium bottle (Staglin Cabernet Sauvignon - \$285). Hurry to take advantage of our early bird special - six chances for \$100.

The **Live Auction** event will begin at 7:00 pm on Sunday, February 21. There are some amazing items that will be auctioned off during the live event, including a Costa Rican vacation, some terrific dinners specially prepared for winners, and unique tours, and more.

To access the live auction:

- Go to <https://stgertrudeparish.schoolauction.net/auction2021/virtual>
- Follow the directions on the screen
- Or you can [watch this video on our parish website!](#)

If you've ordered dessert to enjoy during the live-stream, pick-up for the cupcakes and wine will be available after Masses on February 20 and February 21.

If you have any questions, please email us at auction21@stgertrudechicago.org. We are looking forward to a great event!

[Click here to visit the auction site](#)



Lent 2021: Let It Go...Trust God!

Our culture tells us to be our own persons, that we have to be self-sufficient and in control. But the last thing we have felt for the past year, and especially these past weeks, is “in control.” Our illusion of control can not only cut us off from the people and resources we need to live; it can cut us off from being able to hear the voice of God calling our name, affirming our relationship with God, and opening up the best paths for our journey. ~ Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP President, Paulist Evangelization Ministries

This will be our second Lenten season in a pandemic. As many people have observed, time in the pandemic is different. Parts seem to fly by, while other parts seem to drag on endlessly. So it might seem as if we were here just a few days ago.

Each year, we get this season to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. To do justice to that truth and miraculous event, we first must get ourselves renewed. We have to follow Jesus into the desert for 40 days and 40 nights in order to find our way back home once again.

For many of us, the pandemic has awakened or reawakened us both to how blessed we are, and how we have failed and need to reform our lives. On the blessing side has been a new awareness of the importance of people in our lives. The basic human need for touch, for friendship and love, for time spent together has never been clearer. Social distancing may be excellent for restraining a virus, but it is painful for our hearts. And so we have come to realize, as we were forced to slow down, to settle in, to learn and practice patience, that relationships are not only precious, they require work and attention. Every family member and friend, every neighbor and co-worker gives us a small peek into the presence of God among us. And with that awareness comes floods of gratitude and appreciation.

But this same pandemic also unmasked so much brokenness in our personal lives, in our families, in our communities, in our nation, in our world. It is not accidental that Black Lives Matter finally got a true hearing during these pandemic times. Our lives were finally stalled enough that we actually saw the scenes of violence against Black Americans and were truly shocked and revolted. If once we thought, "This is not who we are!", now we know -- "This is who we are!"

The injustice of our own systems of justice, the Original Sin of racism is still so active and alive among and within us, the horrendous disparities in our schools, places of medicine, workplaces, and homes. This is the dark side of who we are. We either did not know or did not want to know about this side of ourselves and our nation.

But when we watched the toll of deaths and infection from the virus, we could not deny reality anymore. The Covid-19 virus may indeed sicken and kill people of every race and creed and color, but we now have the proof that in our nation it overwhelmingly strikes the poor, Black, Brown, and Native American -- it strikes all minorities in such aggressively unequal ways.

We are then forced to ask ourselves, "How did we get here?" And perhaps even more importantly, "How can we yet become the people we want to be?"

The Lenten focus we have chosen for this year is, "Let it go.....trust God." This is a variation on the 12-step expression, "Let go and let God." We start there because it is clear there is a serious illness in our society. Most of all, it is an illness of the spirit. And like all spiritual diseases, the only solution is spiritual. It has to involve me and my God. So we start at the beginning. We have to let go. We are not strong enough or smart enough or powerful enough to make it all better. We need help. We need God. And as soon as we know that truth, we can begin to identify just what "it" is that we need to let go of. While there may be a commonality for households and communities and even larger groups, what finally matters is the way each of us identifies what "it" is within me that I need to confront in order to let go.

Lent always begins in the desert. To paraphrase one of the Desert Fathers, "Everyone thinks the city is where all the action is. Nope! That's just

busyness. The real action is always in the desert.” The desert is the place we stop and are stripped down to the basics. Facades are pushed away, and we confront our real selves. And in each of us, part of that self is wonderful and beautiful and so hope-filled and loving. And in each of us, part of that self is dark and brooding, on the edge of despair and hostility, insecure and so prone to anger and violence. This darkness is what we have to bring into the light that it might be transformed. We can’t keep it contained anymore. The energy required for that containment is both exhausting and all-consuming. It prevents each of us from the positive, creative, life-giving stuff we could be doing. We have to let it go. We have to trust God.

It is the profound fear that if we trust God we will be punished, or worse, that most works against us living freely in the light of God’s love. But if we let “it” go, we will find ourselves unburdened, forgiven, loved. God never misdirects us. God always guides us on the right paths. Our seasonal psalm refrain says it so well, “Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.” (Psalm 25)

Let us begin this new Lenten season with the quiet confidence that God will continue to do what is best for us. Let us commit ourselves to using this time well to confront the darkness that we might expose it to the light. Let us let go of our need to control and to be right and to be in charge and leave that up to God. May each of us have a blessed and holy Lent!



The Anchor: A Sign of Hope for Christians

Our prayer card this Lent features the Lenten theme: “Let it go....trust God!” with the icon of an anchor, the Christian symbol for hope. This symbol

made a much greater impact when many early Christians lived close to bodies of water and fishing was a way of life.

Most of the disciples came from a background of being fishermen – probably for many generations. So it is important for us to look back to their daily experience. While we may think of an anchor as something like the parking brake of the automobile – something you put in place once you’ve parked the car, the anchor was far more important in the daily work of the fishermen, especially when the sea turned rough and the storms began to toss their small boats around. The anchor tethered the boat and its inhabitants to the earth. Once the anchor was dropped and the earth “caught” it, the boat was a much safer place to be. When the storm passed, you could still expect to safely be about where you were when it started up – but with a very changed and far more awakened sense of the power of nature and of God.

Hope is one of the three theological virtues, along with faith and charity (love). St. Paul’s reflection of these virtues in his letter to the Corinthians that we often hear at wedding celebrations points out what is most important in our lives if we are followers of Jesus. He concludes that beautiful reflection with these sentences, “And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.” Hope is the bridge connecting what we believe and how we live. It is what we cling to in difficult moments when faith is tested and life is threatened. Hope is the constant reminder that God is always with us, caring for us, loving us. It is this foundation that allows us to let go of our self-created truths in search of what God is inviting us to when we set about reforming our lives.

As we begin this Lent, the anchor we drop in the midst of turmoil is resting not on the earth’s foundation, but upon God. We are tethered to God as our foundation. God never abandons us. God is always with us. Let us trust God as we prepare for the new life which is the gift of Easter!



Lenten Liturgy

During the Lenten season, we try to simplify all we are doing, including our public prayer, in order to more keenly focus on what is asked of us and what help we are asking from God in our repentance and reformation.

At the beginning of each of our Sunday liturgies, we start the Penitential Rite with a simple statement outlining our focus that week. We are then invited to kneel (the posture of repentance) for a brief time of silent, personal reflection, then we listen to the sung *Kyrie, Eleison* (Lord, have mercy....Christ, have mercy....Lord, have mercy). We then stand for the prayer of absolution and then the Opening Prayer.

After each of the scripture readings, we have a brief period of silence in which we are invited to collect ourselves in prayer, turning to and relying upon God's help.

Our Seasonal Psalm after the First Reading each week is Psalm 25 whose refrain is, "Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant."

The Gospel Acclamation (replacing the Alleluia) is Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

The sung Mass parts will be from the Schubert's Deutsche Mass.



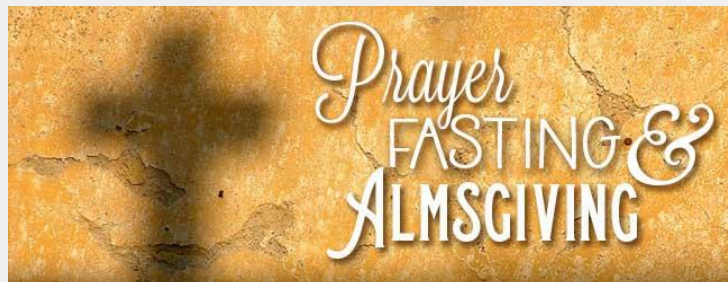
Pandemic Liturgy – Or, “How Are We Doing This?”

As we have all learned since last March, the behaviors that keep us safe and healthy in this pandemic also mean that patterns of behaviors have had to change. We no longer shake hands or hug when we greet each other; we isolate ourselves from people we do not live with, and try to bring fresh air into wherever we are, and so on.

Just so, our liturgies have changed. As we enter into Lent, the behaviors of past years are not reliable touchstones for what we do today. The first hint of those changes was probably noticeable on the weekend before the feast of St. Blaise when the final blessing of Mass was the blessing of throats. But there was no allowance for individual blessings.

On the Fridays of Lent, for those praying the [Stations of the Cross](#) at **3:00 pm**, the priest/minister will not invite any of those in church to walk with him/her. Everyone else must remain in their pew while the minister moves from Station to Station.

There are additional changes to the liturgies of Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday). That information will be shared closer to Holy Week.



The Three Lenten Disciplines: Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving

As we hear in the scripture readings on Ash Wednesday every year, the three penitential practices we follow in Lent are *Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving*. These three help us to let go of our control over everything we think we have control over in order to place our trust in God. This letting go allows God to help us be transformed.

PRAYER

There is no secret to prayer. It is simply a word that means we are spending time with God. Everything that follows is because others before us have shared their own experiences of prayer as a gift to help those who follow.

Like all good relationships, communication requires of us the ability to quiet ourselves in order to listen to the other person. For most of us, this is the hardest part of prayer. No sooner do we find a time and place to be quiet than we become aware of all the chattering in our own minds. That awareness is a good place to start – for that chattering is our life – and that is exactly what we want to bring to the Lord.

Over many centuries, people of faith have stumbled upon many disciplinary practices that they have found helpful in their own prayer life. The list is quite lengthy! Here are some suggestions for a variety of prayer you might consider during this Lenten season:

- **Attend Mass every Sunday in church or via our live-stream.** This connects us to God and our worship with our primary faith community
- **Attend one daily Mass every week.** Sometimes we segregate our prayer-life from our work-life from our home-life, and so on. Coming to mass during the week reminds us of the interconnectedness of all parts of our life and that all parts are holy – no matter what day of the week it is.
- **Daily scripture readings.** Whether we decide to read through one or more books of the Bible or choose the daily scripture readings for each day in Lent, God's Word is always a place of comfort and challenge.
- **Faith-sharing groups.** Often our spirituality is enriched when we simply share our experiences with others. Speaking out loud about

what we treasure in our hearts can bring greater clarity to our hearts and souls.

- **Five minutes daily in silence with the Lord.** This one is perfect for everyone! Find, borrow or steal five minutes of silence in a quiet setting. God will do the rest.
- **Use the *Sacred Space* app.** The same devices that can distract us can also be used to focus us! Apps such as Sacred Space invite us into a few moments for reflection.
- **The *Little Black Book* for daily reflection.** This is a little treasure that provides us with the outline for a few minutes with God, focused on a short scripture passage and a brief reflection.
- **Attend Stations of the Cross in church on Fridays at 3:00 pm.** Although we can't walk together because of the pandemic, the Stations of the Cross were originally created to allow those unable to travel to make a pilgrimage in their own churches or even at home by recalling these 14 steps in Our Lord's Passion.

FASTING

All the world's great religions have stumbled onto certain universal truths. Fasting is one of those truths. One way of summing up all religious truth is to say that all religion is about one thing – allowing us the ability to freely choose to love God with all our mind and heart and soul.

Fasting is about addressing the freedom part of that endeavor. Not unlike our clothes closets and garages and basements, without quite knowing how or when it got that way, we discover that we have accumulated lots of stuff that was meant to enhance our well-being, but over time, and collectively, have now become burdensome, leaving us unable to act as free agents.

Periodic fasting allows us to step clear of whatever is burdening us. Sometimes it is stuff. Sometimes it is behaviors. Sometimes it is hidden desires in our hearts and souls. For many centuries, the Church has established a set of regulations on food which can lead us to how we can address all aspects of our lives.

When we fast and abstain from certain parts of our regular diet, for even a few weeks, we become aware of how we become “prisoners” of certain things. Some of what we consume can even become addictive when we are unable to control how much of a certain thing we may partake in. These insights gained from our diet point the way, as well, to other behaviors that can assist us in being freed from other encumbrances. Besides the Lenten

Regulations for Fast and Abstinence, here are some other possibilities for this Lenten discipline:

- Turn off all electronic devices for at least 30 minutes every day.
- Behavioral fasting from criticism, anger, negativity, judgmentalism, resignation, know-it-all-ness, self-righteousness, cynicism, provincialism, self-absorption, divisiveness, intolerance, violence in thought, word or deed, excess pride, criticism, bitterness, despair, and hatred.
- Limiting television watching on certain days or certain times during Lent.

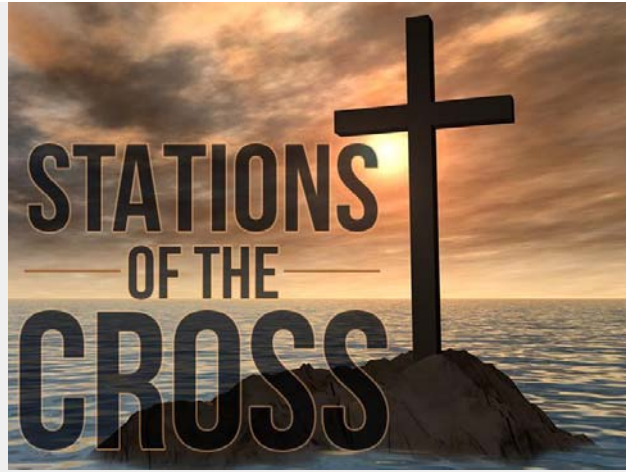
ALMSGIVING

That "Life is not fair" is hardly news. But as old as that truth is, equally old is the Judeo-Christian teaching which informs us that life is also lacking in justice and righteousness. While no one of us can make life universally fair, each one of us has an obligation to do our part to help restore justice and re-establish righteousness.

Giving to those in need helps that re-ordering. Feeding our hungry brothers and sisters produces justice. The practice of almsgiving during Lent is a way to help us, throughout the entire year, work on justice. In a nutshell – we not only have more than we need, but our excess is also, at least in part, what is missing from the lives of our poor sisters and brothers.

Almsgiving is a way of softening our hearts to be more human and more humane. Here are a few possibilities for your consideration this Lent:

- Take part in the weekly [Almoner's Program](#) for outreach to those in need through Care for Real and The Night Ministry by contributing to the second collection on all the Sundays of Lent which purchases gift cards for our neighbors in need.
 - Save and donate one hour's wages every week to the charity of your choice.
 - Take part in Catholic Relief Service's *Operation Rice Bowl*.
 - Secretly provide assistance to a neighbor or relative or co-worker.
-



Weekly Stations of the Cross Begin This
Friday, February 19/Lenten
Reconciliation Service Planned for
Sunday, March 14

Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday during Lent at 3:00 pm in Church beginning this Friday, February 19. During the Stations of the Cross at 3:00 pm, the priest/minister will not invite any of those in church to walk with him/her. Everyone else must remain in their pew while the minister moves from Station to Station.

No registration is necessary to attend. Please check-in at the greeter table using the door on Granville.

Our Lenten Reconciliation Service will take place on Sunday, March 14 at 1:00 pm in church. Registration is available below.

[Click here to register for the March 14 Reconciliation Service](#)



Our Lenten Almoner's Program Begins This Weekend, February 20-21

Previously, our Almoner's Program distributed \$5 gift cards to McDonald's to parishioners after Mass. They were then asked to share the card with someone in need and take the opportunity to have a brief and humane conversation with the other person, affirming them and wishing them well.

This year, we have adjusted our program due to COVID and have opted to collect donations to purchase McDonald's gift cards for two local ministries that serve those in our community who are in need - [The Night Ministry](#) and [Care for Real](#). Both organizations have seen a dramatic rise in people needing help since the beginning of the pandemic.

The Night Ministry

[The Night Ministry](#) was created by local clergy and faith communities in 1976 to address the crisis of homelessness for teens and young adults. Its mission is to compassionately provide housing, health care, outreach, spiritual care, and social services to adults and youth who struggle with homelessness, poverty, and loneliness. They strive to lovingly accept individuals as they are, particularly those in the LGBTQ community who have been ostracized from their families, and offer support as they seek to improve their lives.

Using a bus as a mobile medical clinic, the Night Ministry provides free health care, survival supplies, food, winter wear, and hygiene kits to individuals who have the most difficulty accessing traditional services. Their team regularly visits encampments, expressway viaducts, and street corners across the city, first addressing immediate health needs, then link individuals to case management and medical homes.

They have also created youth housing programs—the Response-Ability Pregnant and Parenting Program (RAPPP); the STEPS Transitional Living Program; the Crib, an emergency overnight shelter for young adults ages 18 to 24; and Phoenix Hall, a residence for North Lawndale College Prep High School students experiencing homelessness.

Care for Real

[Care for Real's](#) mission is to help neighbors in the Edgewater community by providing food, clothing, and counseling services to those in need. They

accomplish this through [on-site food pantry](#), deliveries to the homebound, a [free clothing closet](#), a [pet pantry](#), a job readiness program, and a case-management program to help clients connect with other services they may need.

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.

Donations to our Lenten Almoner's Program can be made via GiveCentral online [HERE](#) or placed in the collection box on the Lenten resource table when attending Mass. Please be as generous as you can!

[Donate to our Almoner's Program!](#)



Ministers of Praise: We Need Help FROM our Homebound Parishioners

Interested in joining a special ministry that has no required meetings, no dues, or outside responsibilities? Yet its participants have a valued connection to our parish life. You can enrich your life by praying for others every day.

Here's how it works: we provide our committed participants (you) with a monthly guide sheet reflecting some of the prayer petitions taken from St. Gertrude Church's Prayer Wall. You then refer to this guide every day as you pray. As one of our prayer angels, you become an unseen blessing to so many.

We welcome your interest in this caring Ministry of Praise. Please contact Jane Callahan-Moore by calling the Rectory office at 773.764.3621.



Commonweal Dialogue: Zoom Event Planned for Sunday, February 28 at 2:00 pm

The Promise of Vatican II Fifty Years On: The Synod on Synodality

In October 2022, Pope Francis will host a synod among Bishops at the Vatican on the topic of synodality—on how Catholic laypeople may participate in discerning the Church's path forward in the twenty-first century.

From early in his papacy, Pope Francis has stressed the need for a greater practice of "synodality" in the Church. Such synodality is rooted in the fundamental equality of all Christians on account of their baptism. It literally means "walking together." It recognizes that all members of the church are endowed with a wisdom that needs to be expressed and heard by everyone in the church. "When the dialogue among the people and the bishops and the Pope goes down this road and is genuine," Francis says, "then [the church] is assisted by the Holy Spirit."

Steve Bevans, Professor Emeritus at Chicago Theological Union, will explain the promise and meaning of synodality and the upcoming Synod. He will also answer questions on how we can make our voices heard as bishops prepare for the Synod in the coming months.

The forum will last for about one hour, including time for discussion. All are welcome.

The link for the Zoom forum is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85699252556?pwd=bjZESURqem1zRjBtTnlQb1lSYU5UZz09>

If convenient, please join via your desktop computer. This will let you see more of the "roomful" of guests. If your computer does not have a camera or microphone, you can join simultaneously via smartphone, allowing you to use the smartphone's camera and microphone alongside your desktop computer.

Here's how to join via smartphone (or landline phone):

- [+1 312 626 6799](tel:+13126266799) US (Chicago)
- Meeting ID: 856 9925 2556 #
- Participant ID: #
- Passcode: 960581 #



Readings and Music for Sunday, February 21/Explanation of Lenten Music Choices

- [PDF of readings for February 21](#)
- [PDF of lyrics, music, and copyright info for February 21](#)
- Music planned and hymn numbers from *Breaking Bread Hymnal*:
 - Entrance: *Seek the Lord*, #649
 - *Kyrie*: Barker
 - Psalm Response: *Be Merciful* (from Spirit and Psalm)
 - Gospel Acclamation: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of Endless Glory* (Barker)
 - Offertory: *Softly and Tenderly*, #668
 - Mass Parts: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert
 - Lamb of God: *Agnus Dei*, chant, #861
 - *Turn to Me*, #650
 - Recessional: *Save Your People*, #125

Lent begins on Sunday and the new season will bring about many changes into our liturgies as we try to deepen our faith and grow closer to God. This year, we will strive for a blend/mixture of old and new music as we remember our past traditions and start new ones. Here is a brief rundown:

- *Kyrie by Barker*: we have sung this setting the past few years. The only change this year is that it cannot be performed in the original “call and response” form because of the pandemic.
- *Psalm*: Our seasonal psalm this year is from the *Spirit and Psalm 2021* book. It is by Jaime Cortez and we will sing this psalm for five Sundays in Lent up to Palm Sunday. The lyrics are: *Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.*
- No *Gloria* in Lent.
- *Gospel Acclamation*: *Barker-Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ King of endless glory*. We have sung this here the past few years.
- *Mass Parts*: Franz Schubert *Deutsche Mass*. This is a beautiful classical setting of the Holy, Memorial acclamation, and Amen. I think that it is lovely with its simple melody. Older folks will definitely appreciate hearing this setting again. Oddly enough there is no Lamb of God in this setting, so we will chant in LATIN the *Agnus Dei*. Again we are borrowing from our older traditions and ensuring that the newer generations are aware of our rich past. Also, I adapted the melody of the Holy to the Memorial Acclamation so the lyric changes in the new Roman Missal are now current.
- *Meditation*: We will sing one verse of Sacred Silence after Communion each week.

In addition to these changes, we will also have 30 seconds of silence between the first and second reading and between the second reading the gospel acclamation so that we can truly reflect on the scripture readings that have just been proclaimed.

You will also find each week a mixture of Lenten standards and some new hymns. I hope that you will enjoy the music that has been selected for this season.

~ Mary Clare Barker, Music Minister



Additional Parish Information Found on our Website

List of info/articles

- [Mass Schedule/Links to Sign up for Mass](#)
 - [Video of What to Expect When Returning to Church](#)
 - [Parishioner Guidelines for Attending Mass in Church](#)
 - [What to Expect/Do in Church \(photos w/captions\)](#)
 - [Volunteers Needed to Help with Mass](#)
 - [Parishioner Guidelines for Visiting the Rectory](#)
 - [Meetings at St. Gertrude](#)
 - [Volunteer Sign-up Form](#)
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Lectors, Cantors, Eucharistic Ministers, Set-up/Greeters/Clean-up Teams, and Musicians Planned for This Weekend

This weekend, our cantors will be:

- Saturday, February 20 at 5:00 pm - Paula Dempsey
- Sunday, February 21 at 8:00 am - Jim Manzardo
- Sunday, February 21 at 10:30 am - Matt Heimer; Denise Goodman, clarinet; Dana Sullivan, flute

Please note, we ask that those attending Mass in person do not sing due to concerns that singing may spread germs further than six feet.

Our Eucharistic ministers are:

- Saturday, February 20 at 5:00 pm - Tim Harrington
- Sunday, February 21 at 8:00 am - Barb Daly
- Sunday, February 22 at 10:30 am - Debra Novak

Our readers this weekend are:

- Saturday, February 20 at 5:00 pm - Troy McMillian
- Sunday, February 21 at 8:00 am - Mark Kollar
- Sunday, February 21 at 10:30 am - Patrick Robinson

Our set-up/greeter team this weekend is:

- Saturday, February 20 at 5:00 pm - TBA
- Sunday, February 21 at 8:00 am - TBA
- Sunday, February 21 at 10:30 am - TBA

Our clean-up team this weekend is:

- Saturday, February 20 at 5:00 pm - TBA
- Sunday, February 21 at 8:00 am - TBA
- Sunday, February 21 at 10:30 am - TBA

We still need other volunteers to fill teams for greeting/set-up and clean-up. For safety reasons, volunteers should be between 18-64 years of age and not have conditions that would put them at risk for negative outcomes from COVID-19 infection (immunosuppressive therapy, heart or lung disease, cancer, etc.)

If you would like to participate on a team, please [download this form](#) and email it to Kevin Cheers at kcheels@stgertrudechicago.org and include your preferred e-mail and telephone number.



[Ways to Help Our Parish: Amazon Smile, Text to Give, GiveCentral, PayPal, Archdiocese Link, and Amazon Smile](#)

Visit smile.amazon.com and select St. Gertrude Parish as your charity of choice. From then on, connect to Amazon through smile.amazon.com and St. Gertrude will automatically benefit as your charity of choice.

We have set up a "Text to Give" option through GiveCentral. Parishioners are welcome to text the word **Donate** to 1.773.741.9505 to make a donation via phone.

The Archdiocese has [an online giving option via the Archdiocesan website](#). You simply click on the link and it takes you to the website. Once there, you

determine if you want to contribute via a credit card or a checking account. You fill out the form, including selecting the parish to which the contribution is going, and the money will be electronically debited. The site offers options for amounts and the frequency of the contribution.

To access our PayPal link, please visit [our parish website](#) and donate from there. [GiveCentral](#) offers parishioners the option of one-time gifts or weekly contributions.

For more information on text to give or to sign up for online giving, please email Art Blumberg, Director of Parish Management and Facilities, at ablumberg@stgertrudechicago.org. He will be happy to help in any way he can.

[Click here to go to GiveCentral](#)

[Click here for PayPal \(via our website\)](#)

[Donate via the Archdiocese website](#)



[From the Archdiocese: Get Your Complimentary Guide: How to Be a Wise Donor](#)

This comprehensive guide will help you give:

- The right asset (from cash to collectibles)
- At the right time (now or through your estate)

- In the right way (retaining control if you need to)
- For the right purpose (such as an endowment)

Click below to request a copy of this complimentary guide.

[Click to request a copy of this guide](#)



Now Open: Special Health Insurance Enrollment Period

As the global pandemic continues, millions of Americans are facing new health concerns and also remain underinsured or uninsured and still need affordable health coverage. That's why President Joe Biden signed an executive order calling for a Special Enrollment Period so you and your families can apply and enroll in the coverage you need.

Up until March 15, 2021, you can purchase, change, or renew your health care plans under the Affordable Care Act for coverage starting on the first of the next month.

Visit [Healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) to learn about the options that are available to you and your family.

Most people using [Healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) qualify for financial assistance and in 2019, 2 in 3 people found plans for \$10 per month or less. Access to affordable health coverage is more important now than ever. Don't go uncovered. Go to [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) and find a quality affordable plan that works for you.

Chicago Religious Leadership Network: Sanctuary Working Group Winter Appeal



C • R • L • N

Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America

Sanctuary Working Group

You can be part of communities temporarily supporting immigrant and asylum seeker needs by giving to the Immigrants' Emergency Fund.

If you, as an individual or a congregation, can provide housing or gift cards for food and other necessities to an immigrant or asylum seeker, OR if you have questions of how to support, contact jchernandez@crln.org.

CRLN's Organizing Committee convenes a Sanctuary Working Group to identify ways that congregations and individuals can provide temporary housing and accompaniment for immigrants released from detention and sponsorship support for asylum seekers. The Group also reaches out to link these individuals with case managers and counselors, when requested. In 2020, Wellington Avenue UCC, University Church, and Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church answered the call to provide housing and/or sponsor asylum seekers and immigrants. CRLN set up an Immigrants' Emergency Fund to help congregations meet the additional costs—food, clothing, transportation, household supplies--of supporting immigrants and asylum seekers as they transition into supporting themselves.

If you cannot provide housing, you can help by **scanning the QR Code below** or donating here to the Immigrants' Emergency Fund:
tinyurl.com/iefund

Please give from your hearts to support those who have already endured detention and mistreatment merely for lack of documents or for seeking safety.





Daily Scripture Readings

Click [HERE](#) for the daily readings for Masses.

Here is the list of readings for this for parishioners that prefer to look them up:

Monday, February 22: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday, February 23: Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday, February 24: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday, February 25: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12

Friday, February 26: Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday, February 27: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48

Sunday, February 28: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10



Mass Intentions

Monday, February 22: 7:30 am - Donald Elster+

Tuesday, February 23: 7:30 am - Massielle Ojeda+

Wednesday, February 24: 7:30 am - Parishioners of St. Gertrude

Thursday, February 25: 7:30 am - Communion service

Friday, February 26: 7:30 am - Glenn & Mary Jo Martin+; 3:00 pm - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 27: 7:30 am - Living & deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners; 5:00 pm - Mary Mann+

Sunday, February 28: 8:00 am - Isabelle Laczkowski+; 10:30 am - Mary Bridget Breitenbach+

(+ indicates the person is deceased)



Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends

- Jean Bautista
- Walter Bradford
- Sharon Brown
- Connie Bueck
- Lilly Buie
- Maggie Callaway
- Aida Calvopina
- Geraldine Clark
- Connie Cool
- Lois DiFruscio
- Diane Gulczynski
- Lucia Hall
- Gina Heidkamp
- Maria Hertl
- The Hoynes Family
- Bernice Kiedysz
- Karey Myers
- Martha & Massielle Ojeda
- Braedon Rimpson
- Mickey Resch
- Charley Scantlebury
- Richard Seitz
- Peggy Stoffel
- The Sullivan family
- Elinora E. Tolentino
- Manuel Viray
- Norma E. Viray
- Ken & Vyes Yoza

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Our mailing address is:
1420 W. Granville, Chicago, IL 60660

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