

St. Gertrude Chicago E-Bulletin

Bulletin for Sunday, January 24

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Catholic Schools Week

Next weekend, we begin the celebration of Catholic Schools Week. We have been very fortunate in this Archdiocese to have such a strong presence of Catholic elementary schools, high schools, colleges, and universities providing outstanding education in a faith-based environment.

The foundation of most of our Catholic schools, for many years, has been the amazing and generous service of so many women and men religious who staffed these schools and witnessed their faith with their lives. Many of those positions are now being filled by lay men

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January 24, 2021



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

and women who are equally witnessing their faith in this vocation of education.

Special thanks to all our Catholic school administrators, teachers, aides, students, and most especially, parents. It is only possible for this faith-based education environment to continue and thrive because of their dedicated service and presence. Happy Catholic Schools Week!

Who is Watching out for the Children?

Four years ago, a short time after Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 45th President of the United States, I realized I was facing the most difficult pastoral situation I think I had ever encountered. Although my memory is probably a bit fuzzy, I cannot recall a time in the twelve years before then when I faced a similar situation. Both President Obama and President Bush were gentlemen of good character. That doesn't mean I always agreed with or liked what they did, but I was never embarrassed by their example, never cringed at what they said or did, never wondered how I explain to young children that this is not acceptable behavior.

I was reminded of this in the past few weeks when President Trump continued to tell lies many times every day about the outcome of the election. And when he refused to congratulate the winner. And when he insisted the election was fraudulent, etc. Of course, the most outrageous behavior was when he invited his followers, again with countless lies, to assemble in Washington on the day the Senate was to formally accept the votes of the Electoral College and announce the winner of the election.

In a speech that was simultaneously self-indulgent and mixed with a horrifying call to arms, he incited his followers to march down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol and "save" the nation from what the Congress was doing. And he blatantly invited violence.

What have we learned from the past four years? Certainly, we have learned that many people in our nation either never learned what the Constitution says, or just don't care. We learned that outrageous behavior in a candidate for our top leadership position will likely be followed by outrageous behavior if that person gets into office. We've learned, to many people's horror, that our democracy is nowhere near as solid and secure as we thought it was. And we learned that, contrary to his supposed pro-life position on abortion, Mr. Trump cares nothing for life other than his own -- not of the policeman

killed doing his job when the incited mob rushed the Capitol; not of the countless thousands who have died from the COVID-19 virus because he and his administration refused to face the reality of what was happening and what had to be done to stop the virus' spread. In its place, was the mocking of people who wore face masks until what should have been a medical call to arms morphed into a political affront.

So, I keep coming back to this: What do we say to the children? How do we explain it is not alright to lie -- even though a President does it every day? What do we say about bullying, when repeatedly a President mocked people, calling them names, belittling their service to the country, and so on? How do we tell our children each and every life is sacred when a President and his administration wage war on defenseless immigrants seeking asylum, even to the point of separating young children from their parents -- many of whom are still not reconnected years after this evil was perpetrated?

When George Bush and Barack Obama were President, I don't recall a time I felt it necessary to either shield children from what a President was saying and doing or having to take time to explain how this was unacceptable behavior.

So that has become my test -- for a President, and for anyone in a position of leadership. It all comes down to this one question, "Would I leave a young child in the care of this person, confident they will be safe from inappropriate words and behaviors?" And if I would not, then why would I be okay letting my country be in that person's care?

As a spiritual leader, I find it is necessary to call ourselves to account for our words and behaviors -- me as well as anyone else I come in contact with. Over a period of time, people with whom we share any kind of relationship eventually fall into one camp or another. Either the relationship makes each of us better human beings, more attentive to loving and caring for others, or it ends up being destructive, making each of us more negative, tearing down instead of building up.

Quite frankly, I am frightened about the future of our country because such a large number of voting Americans considered the behavior and the words of Donald Trump to be acceptable. I am frightened because if they think what he says and does is okay, what must be considered acceptable

behavior in their own homes? What do their children experience every day? I am not a psychiatrist, but I suspect there is a great deal of mentally unhealthy behavior in what we have witnessed. But as a spiritual leader, I am absolutely convinced we have just gone through four years of the most immoral, unethical, inappropriate behavior we have ever seen in a president.

Which leads to me wonder why? Why have so many Americans not just tolerated it but embraced it? And no matter how I try to find some other answer, the same answer keeps insisting that it be recognized - it is because Trump was waving the flag of white supremacy. He was rousing people who are terrified "their country" is being taken away from them by people of color and those who have sought refuge and are now "stealing" this country out from under them, and so on.

And that alone is one of the greatest sins of our nation. The Original Sin of slavery isn't gone. It has been reconfigured in the "victimhood" of people who somehow feel that equality for others demeans and diminishes their own freedoms.

In the very near future, I suspect we are going to have to face a very hard truth as Americans. Either we are going to admit that racism is so embedded in every aspect of our culture and society that it is now impossible for anyone who is not white to get a fair deal. Or we are going to return to where we were over 150 years ago and teeter on the brink of another civil war.

I agree wholeheartedly with those who have said if we will not speak the truth and live the truth, we will fail. We will fail as individuals. We will fail as a people. We will fail as a nation. The only way is the way of truth. Because fundamentally what we face is a spiritual crisis. And the only answer is a spiritual answer. Either we will commit ourselves to the truth or we will destroy ourselves and our nation.

That truth might begin as once again respecting science and the many, many truths it continues to speak -- concerning that the damage we, as human beings, especially in the industrialized world, have done and continue to do which has led us to climate change and the endangerment of every living creature on our planet.

We need to speak out loud about the abuses many people of color suffer at the hands of police in our cities, towns, and villages. Knowing that speaking this truth does not diminish the police who do their job faithfully, providing justice and caring for all citizens equally.

We need to speak the truth that the enormous disparity in health care depends on race and income. We need to speak that the huge disparity in education is also based on race and income.

The list could go on and on. But fundamentally, it means each of us has to be much better at looking first at our own truth. Am I honest with myself -- especially in those areas that have not yet been redeemed? And, at the same time, we need to look at our culture and society and government and workplaces.

If it is true, as some have said, that we always get the government we deserve, we are going to have to straighten out our act, refuse to allow lies, corruption, and anti-democratic policies and behaviors to be acceptable. We have to appeal to our better angels. And we have to start today! Our children's future is being determined by how we act and what we say.



Growing in Faith

Just a month ago, on Christmas Day, we heard the story of the birth of Jesus as told by Matthew. Luke's version starts off: "In those days, a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered." This was to make taxation more efficient.

We don't usually think of it, but Jesus lived under two Roman emperors. He was born under Augustus who died in 14 A.D., maybe from natural causes and maybe from eating poisoned figs from his wife. Luke tells us that John the Baptist began his preaching in "the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar," Augustus's successor.

A few years after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, an aged Tiberius was assassinated, possibly by his successor Caligula, an insane tyrant of great cruelty, sadism, and debauchery, eventually also murdered. Politics then and throughout much of human history was brutal — no election, no inauguration, sheer physical force.

Today's gospel from Mark is about the call of Jesus to four fishermen to become fishers of men and women. This invitation — well, actually, it's a requirement — is extended, as Vatican II emphasizes, to each one of us.

You and I are called to reach out to everyone we meet and "net" them for Jesus — to model the message of love to family, friends, and strangers, to act like Jesus with them.

You know, turn the other cheek, and love our enemies, and repent our sins, and forgive, as Jesus did even on the cross.

This is what Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. called "soul force," a people-power grander than worldly power. In his Nobel Peace Prize speech, he echoed Jesus in saying that "unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word."

~ Patrick T. Reardon for Growing in Faith



St. Gertrude Auction 2021 - Fundraiser Friday, February 12-Sunday, February 21

We're still looking for help! If you can make some phone calls, please let us know! We also need people to pick up donations (and deliver them after the auction.)

If you can help, please email us at auction21@stgertrudechicago.org.

Don't forget to donate a bottle of wine (approx \$20 value) for our Wine Spectacular. ([Binny's in Evanston](#) will give you a 15% discount and store the bottle for us – just mention St. Gertrude Auction 2021.)

A sampling of some of the items we have gotten to date include:

- A behind-the-scenes tour of the television series, *Chicago Fire*
- Gift certificates to local restaurants
- A beautiful vintage handmade quilt

You can also upload information about your donation to our auction website [HERE](#).

Thank you to those who have donated!

[Download a Donor Form](#)



This Weekend: Second Collection for the Church in Latin America

This Saturday, January 23 and Sunday, January 24, we will take up a second collection for the Church in Latin America. For many in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith.

Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ.

To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.



Financial Reports

As I mention each year, it is a requirement of church law that every pastor

makes an annual report to the parishioners, giving an accounting of the Stewardship of their contributions in the Sunday Offertory as well as other donations.

This year, I would like to share two reports. The first is the usual [Annual Financial Report](#) from the Fiscal Year 2019-2020. I apologize that it is so late this year. I held off on publishing the report for the year that ended on June 30, 2020, because I wanted to see if there were trends that could be identified since the pandemic began.

Therefore, this week we are publishing the Annual Financial Report. Next week, we will publish a comparison of the actual income and expenses from the start of the initial pandemic shutdown (March 13) through December 31, 2020, and the figures from the same time period in 2019. That gives us a more realistic look at how we are doing financially.

A few comments on the 2019-2020 Annual Financial Report:

- Overall, we have done fairly well, given the pandemic. The offertory collections for Sundays/Holy Days were down 14.66%, or \$55,177.00, from last year.
- Ordinary Expenses were reduced by 5.51%, or \$55,531.00, from last year.
- Our totals for the year ended in a deficit of \$149,523.00 for the year.
- This is also the reason we have scheduled the St. Gertrude Parish Auction 2021 for February. It is part of the way we hope to make up for some of that deficit.

Next week, we will publish the year-to-year comparison within the framework of the actual time since the pandemic started in March through the end of the year, as compared to the same dates from the previous year.

Thank you to everyone who has continued their weekly contributions to St. Gertrude Parish! It is amazing how many parishioners have maintained their Sunday offertory contributions regardless of whether they feel safe coming to church every Sunday or watch Mass live-streamed.

I want to repeat that no one should come to church if they feel their health is threatened in any way. This is especially true of people over 65, and anyone with any pre-existing conditions that might make you more susceptible to getting sick. Hopefully, the vaccines will soon be readily available and we

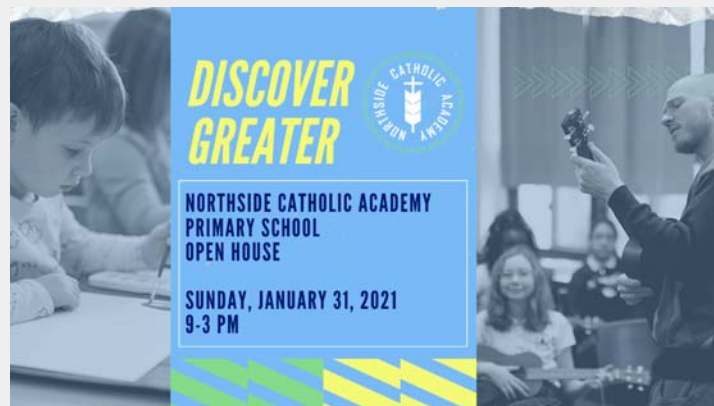
can put this pandemic behind us. In the meantime, please be careful.

As always, if you have any questions about the Annual Financial Report, please feel free to contact me, or our Business Manager, Art Blumberg. We are happy to answer any questions.

Gratefully,

Fr. Rich Prendergast

[Read/download a copy of Annual Financial Report](#)



Catholic Schools Week Begins Next Sunday: NCA Hosts In-Person Open House

Join us for our *Discover Greater* Open House on **Sunday, January 31, from 9:00 am-3:00 pm**. Our *Discover Greater* Open House is a kick-off event for Catholic Schools Week, an annual Catholic education celebration in the United States.

We are an award-winning academy committed to providing our students with an exceptional educational experience that includes intellectual, spiritual, physical, and social development. We offer a well-rounded and rigorous curriculum for PreK-8th grade. Families will have the opportunity to tour our Primary Campus with our admissions director.

For more information on Northside Catholic Academy, please go to

NorthsideCatholic.org. And for questions, please email Shakira Morrissette at smorrissette@ncaweb.org.

All families must wear a mask, receive a temperature check at the door, and schedule a tour time before attending the open house. Please click the link below to schedule your tour time.

[Click here to sign up to tour NCA](#)



Poinsettia Plants Available

Plants used to decorate the church are available to take home. Please help yourself to them after Mass, they are located in the back of the church.



Rest in Peace

Larry Crumlish
Donald Elster
Robert Howe



Readings and Music for Sunday, January 24

- [PDF of readings for January 24](#)
 - [PDF of lyrics, music, and copyright info for January 24](#)
 - Music planned and hymn numbers from *Breaking Bread Hymnal*:
 - Entrance: **Sing a New Song**, #546
 - Gloria: Barker
 - Psalm: **#25 To You O Lord I Lift My Soul**, # 749
 - Gospel Acclamation: From Mass of Endless Mercy (NEW) **Spirit and Psalm 2021**
 - Offertory: **The Summons**, #382
 - Mass Parts: **Mass of Renewal**, #876 and Memorial Acclamation B
 - Communion: **Servant Song**, #378
 - Recessional: **God Has Chosen Me**, #384
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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 musicians will be:

- Saturday, January 23 at 5:00 pm - Mary Clare Barker
- Sunday, January 24 at 8:00 am - Jon Blake
- Sunday, January 24 at 10:30 am - Rob Schroeder

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, January 23 at 5:00 pm - Tim Harrington
- Sunday, January 24 at 8:00 am - Barb Daly
- Sunday, January 24 at 10:30 am - Debra Novak

Our readers this weekend are:

- Saturday, January 23 at 5:00 pm - Jayne Deiters
- Sunday, January 24 at 8:00 am - Mark Kollar
- Sunday, January 24 at 10:30 am - Bob Backis

Our set-up/greeter team this weekend is:

- Saturday, January 23 at 5:00 pm - Debbie Kern, Michelle Kuehlhorn, Peter CashmanSheila Cashman
- Sunday, January 24 at 8:00 am - Barb Daly, Peter Morin, Hallie Burhoe, Mark Kollar
- Sunday, January 24 at 10:30 am - Michael Kowalsky, Patrick Robinson, Dorothea Tobin, Nancy Kuhn

Our clean-up team this weekend is:

- Saturday, January 23 at 5:00 pm - TBA
- Sunday, January 24 at 8:00 am - TBA
- Sunday, January 24 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 kchears@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](#)



Daily Scripture Readings

Our website has links to the daily readings for Masses [HERE](#). (*Scroll down the webpage to see the readings.*)

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

Monday, January 25: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18

Tuesday, January 26: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10; Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday, January 27: Heb 10:11-18; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 4:1-20

Thursday, January 28: Heb 10:19-25; Ps 24:1-6; Mk 4:21-25

Friday, January 29: Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40; Mk 4:26-34

Saturday, January 30: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 1:69-75; Mk 4:35-41

Sunday, January 31: Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk1:21-28



Mass Intentions

Monday, January 25: 7:30 am - For the intention of Mary McGuiness

Tuesday, January 26: 7:30 am - Carolyn Ford+

Wednesday, January 27: 7:30 am - Robert H. Flynn+

Thursday, January 28: 7:30 am - Communion service

Friday, January 29: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society; 8:40 am - Mrs. Valerie Swanson+

Saturday, January 30: 7:30 am - Parishioners of St. Gertrude; 5:00 pm - Ester and Ed Bugler+

Sunday, January 31: 8:00 am - James E. McGovern+; 10:30 am - Francesca Teresi Rodriguez+

(+ indicates the person is deceased)



Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends

- Michael Batza
- Jean Bautista
- Walter Bradford
- Sharon Brown
- Connie Bueck
- Maggie Callaway
- Aida Calvopina
- Geraldine Clark
- Connie Cool
- Lois DiFruscio
- Sara Fighter
- Lucia Hall

- Gina Heidkamp
- Maria Hertl
- Bernice Kiedysz
- Karey Myers

- Braedon Rimpson
 - Mickey Resch
 - Charley Scantlebury
 - Richard Seitz
 - Peggy Stoffel
 - The Sullivan family
 - Elinora E. Tolentino
 - Norma E. Viray
 - Ken & Vyes Yoza
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