



*Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me.*

*~ Mark 9:37*

Image of *Angels Unaware* sculpture currently on display at Loyola University's Lake Shore campus.

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## **St. Gertrude Chicago**

### **E-Bulletin for Sunday, September 19**

### **25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

[Click here for our printed bulletin distributed in church this weekend](#)

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St. Gertrude Mass times are:

- Monday-Saturday: 7:30 am

- Saturdays at 5:00 pm
  - Sundays at 8:00 am and 10:30 am in Church (The 10:30 am Mass is live-streamed on [our parish Facebook page.](#))
  - Sundays at 10:30 am in the Gym
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## From Father Rich

### **Thank You!**

Thanks to all those who participated in last weekend's Welcome/Welcome Back Sunday celebration! It was great to see many old and new faces sharing in prayer and hospitality and good music!

### **Second Collection for Seminary Education**

This weekend's [second collection is the Seminary Education Fund](#) for seminarians studying to become priests for the Archdiocese of Chicago. Please be generous to ensure priests for the future of our parishes!

### **Bulletin for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*September 19,  
2021*





### **Repair, Renew, Refresh**

This weekend, I am speaking at all the Masses to launch a new initiative to care for our parish campus, especially the church building, and to establish a St. Gertrude Catholic Education Fund to assist parish families with children enrolled in NCA.

Recently we were surprised with a gift of \$100,000 from the Polk Bros. Foundation. This gift was an honorarium to former parishioner, Raymond Simon, who has served on the Polk Bros. Foundation Board since its inception. As Ray was retiring from the Board, he was allowed to designate a portion of this year's grants. We were one of the five beneficiaries of Ray's thoughtfulness and the Polk Bros. Foundation's generosity.

There is no shortage of projects in need of funding to keep our parish buildings in good condition. Current needed repairs amount to over \$200,000. So, we have decided to launch this short-term fund-raising campaign, ***Repair, Renew, Refresh***. Our goal is to raise another \$100,000 and address the most pressing current needs. Here are the five projects we

hope to be able to complete through this campaign:

1. Exterior repairs to the church and rectory **roofs** from some long-term damage, and the damage from February's severe snowstorm. This includes repairing and replacing certain sections of roofing, and all the **interior water damage** in both buildings.
2. Installation of three new **handrails** to provide accessibility for anyone stepping up from the main floor of church into the sanctuary, and from the main floor of the sanctuary onto the altar platform.
3. **Re-carpeting** the church. The current carpeting is over 30 years old and can't get any cleaner, nor can it be repaired any more.
4. Rebuilding the entrance **stairways** to the Parish Hall main entrance, and the south (accessible) entrance to the church.
5. Establishing the St. Gertrude **Catholic Education Support Fund** to assist parish families with children enrolled at NCA. This fund will be available for families in need both for enrolling new students, and for assisting families dealing with crises due to health, employment, or other unexpected situations.

Every registered parish family either has or shortly will be receiving a mailing which includes a brochure explaining the scope of the **Repair, Renew, Refresh** campaign, and a donor form as part of that brochure, along with an envelope to return the completed donor form and donation. Completed forms can also be placed in the Sunday Offertory, or dropped off at the rectory office, or mailed back. Donations can also be made electronically by accessing GiveCentral through the parish website:

<https://stgertrudechicago.org>.

Please give as you are able. Gifts of \$500 and more can be paid over six months, if that is helpful. The ***Repair, Renew, Refresh*** campaign will take place for eight weeks, ending on our parish Feast Day weekend, November 13-14.

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## Meet Rev. Pius Nwiyi: New Student-Priest to Live at the Rectory.

*Recently, we welcomed another student-priest to the rectory. Fr. Pius Nwiyi joins us from Nigeria. He is studying counseling at Loyola and expects to be here for about two years. His introduction is below:*

Whenever I move into a new community, I desire to become part of the people, sharing their spiritual and social lives. I'm pleased that God has brought me here to stay with every one of you during my studies at Loyola University's Institute of Pastoral Counseling. I'm happy to let you know who I am and to thank your pastor, and indeed all of you, for accepting me into the

noble family of St. Gertrude Catholic Church. I'm very happy to be here and I consider myself blessed. I desire to become a true and dedicated member of the family of God here and I'm open to sharing in the life of the parish according to God's will.

I know you would like to know where I came from. I'm a Nigerian by birth. I'm ordained a Catholic priest for the Catholic Diocese of Abakaliki.

I want you to truly know me and what I treasure the most. Being a priest is my best God-given gift and treasure. I'm ever thankful to God for choosing me to be a steward of His divine mystery and grace. I enjoy sharing the story and blessings of my calling with everyone. Now that I'm here I'm pleased to share the same story with you.

I always tell people that God wanted me to become a priest. This is clear to me reflecting on my childhood life and experiences. I'm sure growing up most of us have had situations when people ask us what we want to be when we grow up. I recall saying that I wanted to be a priest each time such a question came. Thank God for my devout and God-fearing parents who introduced me to the Catholic faith and nurtured my faith. As dedicated Catholics, they understood and nursed my desire to be a priest after hearing me express the wish times without number. As the parents of Samuel in the bible, my parents were open to God's will and plans. For this reason, they sent me to a minor seminary. The fire of becoming a priest remained burning inside me throughout my seminary formation until I was ordained a Catholic priest in 2009.

Besides my vocation story, I think it will interest you to know something about my education. I attended primary and secondary schools at Nigercem Primary School Nkalagu and St. Augustine's Seminary Ezzamgbo, both in

Ebonyi State, respectively. Thereafter, I was admitted to Bigard Memorial Seminary, Enugu Nigeria, where I obtained a bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Theology.

After my seminary formation, I was ordained a Catholic priest in 2009 for the Catholic Diocese of Abakaliki. Praise God.

Following my ordination, I was assigned the parish priest of St Peter's parish Ogbala-Ishieke where I served as a pastor for nearly twelve years.

Finally, I'm happy to be here. We will continue to meet and to know one another as time goes on. Thank you.

~ Fr. Pius Nwiyi



## Religious Ed Program: Classes Begin This Sunday/Parent Meeting at 9:15 am

I'm looking forward to meeting you and your child/children this



**Sunday, September 19! Come to the Social Hall (1401 West Granville Avenue, the lower level). Doors open at 9:00 am. All attendees must wear a mask regardless of their vaccination status.**

After the introduction and presentations, students and catechists will go to Northside Catholic Academy. Parents will stay at the Social Hall to continue with the meeting.

Please read the [Rel. Ed. Handbook, calendar](#), and the [Archdiocese COVID-19 Protocols \(three documents - signature required for the family pledge PDF\)](#).

The agenda is:

- Presentation & Introduction to the program.
- Presentation of catechists/instructors.
- Catechists/Instructors go to their classrooms along with the students. (Parents stay in the social hall to continue with the orientation meeting)
- Rel. Ed. Calendar
- Rel. Ed. Handbook
- Books
- Think First & Stay Safe Program
- Q&A

Students should bring:

- 1 composition notebook or spiral notebook (find a used or extra one at home)
- 1 package of colored pencils or crayons (pencils or crayons do not have to be new)
- 1 pen

- 1 pencil
- 1 glue stick

Any questions about the program should be emailed to me at [eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org).

~ *Eloy Escamilla*

### Religious Ed 2021-2022 Handbook

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## Kids Word Resuming Soon: Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help with our Kids Word Ministry, which will resume in a few weeks. During the 10:30 am Mass in church, kids ages 5-9 are invited to attend Kids Word after the opening prayer to learn age-appropriate lessons.

To help, contact Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate, Religious Education

and Youth Ministry, at [eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org) or call 773.764.3621.

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## Youth Group Forming

Teens in middle and high school are invited to consider joining our parish youth group! Dates and activities will be shared in the near future.

For more information, contact Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate for Religious Education and Youth Ministry, at [eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org).

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## Growing in Faith

As many of you know, our dear friend and colleague, Mary Grover, passed away recently. We will miss her love, her generosity, and her keen insights. Mary was on this GIF team from the start. She not only encouraged parish writers, she contributed regularly herself. Here is her reflection from Sunday, July 9, 2017:

*"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."*

When Jesus tells us that his yoke is easy and his burden light what could he mean? He also warns his followers that they will face some pretty difficult times. I think that he's saying that it is love that makes the yoke easy and the burden light.

I've been thinking a lot lately about love, the kind of love St. Paul describes: *Love is patient, love is kind...is not jealous...not rude or self-seeking, does not brood over injury.* I'm thinking about it because I am more aware at this point in my life of how much love I'm receiving, and also about the love for

others that I find growing in me. Probably the love that nourishes me has led me to be more patient, more kind, and less self-seeking. I hope so, and hope that this “growing in love” that I am feeling has the same kind of effect on the people I meet every day.

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## Refugee and Immigrant Ministry Update

We've heard from Catholic Charities and will be working with them to settle a single mother of three from Syria, with children aged 8, 10, and 12. Such a blessing!

I also want to bring a couple of other things to your attention. First, Pope Francis commissioned a sculpture called "Angels Unawares" from the same artist who produced "Homeless Jesus". Details about this exhibit at Loyola can be found in the next article.

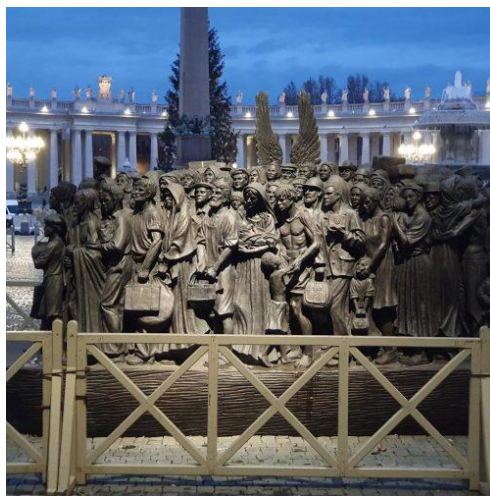
Also, Ellie Fishman, a journalist with Chicago Magazine, has recently published a book called [\*Refugee High\*](#), about CPS' Sullivan High School. She describes the refugee families and caring faculty and staff, helping them assimilate while not forgetting the treasure of their own culture.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. It's only through this faith

community that we have been able to support so many families.

~ Denise Goodman, Refugee and Immigrant Ministry

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## Angels Unaware

*“Be welcoming to strangers, many have entertained angels unawares.” ~ Hebrews 13:2*

Perhaps you have seen the photos of a sculpture Pope Francis commissioned for the piazza outside St. Peter’s in Rome. Entitled *Angels Unaware*, this sculpture depicts more than 140 immigrants from across history densely packed onto a boat with the Holy Family. The sculpture makes vivid Pope Francis’ reminder to all believers that we are all sisters and brothers and come from a very long faith tradition of welcoming migrants and refugees to our society.

A second casting of this sculpture is now on a national tour and on display at Loyola’s Lake Shore campus near the southwest corner of the West

Quad until October 4. Please note, all visitors to Loyola's campus must be vaccinated and wear masks while indoors.

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## Donate Your Airline Miles to Miles4Migrants

Have travel limitations during the pandemic left you sitting on a slush fund of frequent flyer miles? You can use them for good right now by donating your airline miles to Miles4Migrants. The nonprofit charity organization accepts donations of frequent flyer miles to fund flights for refugees to their new homes. More details can be found [here](#).

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# Collaboration Between Swedish NorthShore Hospital & Heart to Heart Ministry Center Regarding the COVID Vaccines

Swedish NorthShore Hospital and our Heart to Heart Ministry Center's staff are sponsoring an educational outreach Community Circle on Saturday, September 25 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm in the Ministry Center courtyard. A Swedish Hospital medical healthcare provider will address the history of vaccines, the misinformation and hesitancy about getting the COVID vaccines, and will also address any questions and concerns. Translators who speak Spanish and Erdu will be available. No registration is required.

The following Saturday, October 3 from 11:00 am-2:00 pm, an actual vaccination event will occur, with both Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines administered by medical professionals from Swedish Hospital in the Ministry Center courtyard. You must register for the vaccine event at <https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/qgvjg-545/>.

Please call Jane Callahan-Moore Monday-Friday from 10:00 am-5:00 pm on her cell phone at 773.595.9992 or at the Ministry Center at 773.973-5464 if you have questions.





## Heart to Heart Ministry Monthly Update

Featured below is an update from our busy Heart to Heart Ministry and our very active Lending Closet:

The Lending Closet loans durable medical equipment such as shower chairs/stools; tub transfer benches; bedside commodes and toilet seat risers; knee scooters; rollators, wheelchairs, and transport chairs; walkers; canes; bed trays and “grabbers”. These loans are free of charge and can be used for as long as they are needed.

August’s Durable Medical Equipment Lending Closet saw activity from Edgewater to Alsip, as we are the only known free Lending Closet in the City of Chicago. Last month, we dispensed 33 pieces of equipment and six large boxes of incontinence supplies such as Depends and bed pads. We served individuals, medical institutions, and insurance companies from zip codes 60660, 60640, 60641, 60645, 60622, 60625, 60610, and 60601. Inquiries and requests were fielded from medical social workers, caseworkers, registered nurses, and other healthcare professionals (including a pediatric social worker from Journeycare Hospice). Thank you to the twelve individuals/families who donated equipment their loved ones no longer needed, as well as unopened incontinence products and/or other medical supplies such as a blood pressure cuff, an oximeter, etc.

The Center for Disability and Elder Law (CDEL) provides free legal services to low-income seniors and persons with disabilities. Attorneys from CDEL will host a workshop at St. Gertrude on Friday, September 17. They will assist participating parishioners with creating Powers of Attorney, Living Wills, and Wills. Please call 312.376.1882 to schedule services and be sure to mention your interest in an in-person appointment at St. Gertrude Parish.

If you need to contact us, please contact Laurie Hasbrook, our Lending

Closet Manager, at the Ministry Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am-2:00 pm at 773.973.5464 or [lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org). Or you can call Jane Callahan-Moore, our Heart to Heart Director at 773.595.9992 during the hours of 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

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## Interested in Becoming Catholic? First RCIA Meeting Set for This Sunday, Sept. 19

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process by which adults learn more about the Catholic Church. **RCIA will begin with an informational meeting on Sunday, September 19 in the Ministry Center after 10:30 am Masses.**

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

The RCIA process does not ask those who have been baptized in another

faith to give up their denominational experiences. Rather, the RCIA process seeks to add new colors and designs to their existing faith life tapestry. In addition to attending Mass, the RCIA process includes weekly gatherings of breaking open the Word of God, sharing our stories, and learning about our faith traditions.

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

~ *Kevin Chears, Pastoral Associate*

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## NCA Junior Kindergarten: Spots Available

Is your child celebrating their 5th birthday after the September 1st cut-off date and, therefore, unable to attend Kindergarten this year? Are you saying to yourself, “He or she has already spent a year or two in preschool and could use a different challenge this year”?

Then check out our unique Junior Kindergarten (JK) program! NCA prides itself in answering that need we saw with some of our preschool families by developing our JK program\* as part of our Early Learning Center. While JK is still aimed at building the foundation for Kindergarten attendance the following year, it does so in a unique and challenging way that is just right for those who will turn five between September 1st and February 15th this school year. It is a full-day, five-day-a-week class that offers children in this age range many opportunities to develop learning traits that they'll use throughout their school years, such as creativity, curiosity, mindfulness, independence, decision-making, self-regulation, and experiencing positive social interactions.

Along with readiness for literacy and math, our JK program provides fun art, music, PE, yoga, Spanish, Religion, and technology activities.

See for yourself if this is the program where your soon-to-be-five-year-old will thrive! Please go to [NorthsideCatholic.org](http://NorthsideCatholic.org) for more information and to apply. For questions, please email our admissions director, Shakira Morrissette, at [smorrissette@ncaweb.org](mailto:smorrissette@ncaweb.org) or call 773.743.6277, ext. 207.

*\*Please note that the NCA Junior Kindergarten program does not replace the traditional Kindergarten curriculum. Instead, it is a bridge between preschool and a student's Kindergarten admission the following year when the student turns five and meets the September 1 requirement.*

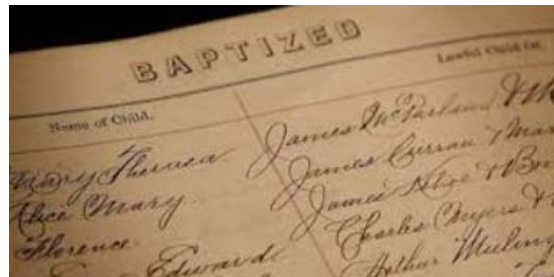
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## Wanted: Ushers, Greeters, Eucharistic Ministers, and Ministers of the Word

We are in need of additional volunteers to assist at Masses, including ushers, greeters, Eucharistic ministers, and ministers of the word. If you are interested, please email Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate, at [kchears@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:kchears@stgertrudechicago.org).

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## Baptisms

- Penelope Quinn Pileggi, child of Mario & Bridget Pileggi
  - Dashiell Tooley Daasch Youngs, child of Charles Grogg & Whitney Youngs
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## New Parishioners

- Jacob & Mary Kate Kreiner and son, Joseph



## Rest in Peace

- Patrick Cunningham
  - Vicki Vetrano Sopcak, daughter of Yolanda Vetrano
-



## Readings and Music for Sunday, September 19

- [Link to readings for Sunday, September 19](#)
  - [Lyrics for Sunday, September 19](#)
  - Music planned and hymn numbers from Breaking Bread Hymnal:
    - Entrance: *Seek the Lord*, #649
    - Psalm: *The Lord upholds my life* from Spirit and Psalm
    - Gospel Acclamation: Mass of Endless Mercy (from Spirit and Psalm)
    - Offertory: *The Summons*, #382
    - Mass Parts: Mass of Creation
    - Communion: *Take and Eat*, #357
    - Recessional: *Take the Word of God*, #377
-



## Cantors, Musicians, Eucharistic Ministers, and Lectors Planned for This Weekend

Our cantors and musicians are:

- Saturday, September 18 at 5:00 pm - Bernie O' Connor
- Sunday, September 19 at 8:00 am - Jon Blake
- Sunday, September 19 at 10:30 am in church - Dana Sullivan; quartet: Fran Guenette-bass; Rob Schroeder-tenor, Justine Aten-alto, Kate Hibbs Davis-soprano
- Sunday, September 19 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Our Eucharistic ministers are:

- Saturday, September 18 at 5:00 pm - Steve Monti, Kathy Wall
- Sunday, September 19 at 8:00 am - Peter Morin, Brian Devarenne
- Sunday, September 19 at 10:30 am in church - Bob Backis, Rafael Melendez, Carlos Barrigan
- Sunday, September 19 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Our Ministers of the Word are:

- Saturday, September 18 at 5:00 pm - Kathleen Dawson



- Sunday, September 19 at 8:00 am - Sr. Kathryn Stimac
  - Sunday, September 19 at 10:30 am in church - Debra Novak
  - Sunday, September 19 at 10:30 am Gym Mass -TBA
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## Ways to Help Our Parish: Amazon Smile, Text to Give, GiveCentral, PayPal, and Amazon Smile

Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select St. Gertrude Parish as your charity of choice. From then on, connect to Amazon through [smile.amazon.com](https://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.

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 [esoto@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:esoto@stgertrudechicago.org).

[Click here to go to GiveCentral](#)

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

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## [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, September 20:** Ezr 1:1-6/Lk 8:16-18

**Tuesday, September 21:** Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Mt 9:9-13

**Wednesday, September 22:** Ezr 9:5-9/Lk 9:1-6

**Thursday, September 23:** Hg 1:1-8/Lk 9:7-9

**Friday, September 24:** Hg 2:1-9/Lk 9:18-22

**Saturday, September 25:** Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Lk 9:43b-45

**Sunday, September 26:** Nm 11:25-29/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

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## Mass Intentions

Next week's intentions are:

**Monday, September 20:** 7:30 am - Antoinette Linke+

**Tuesday, September 21:** 7:30 am - Living & deceased parents of St.  
Gertrude parishioners

**Wednesday, September 22:** 7:30 am - St. Padre Pio

**Thursday, September 23:** 7:30 am - Juanita Gusmanos+

**Friday, September 24:** 7:30 am - Mr. & Mrs. Alfolabi

**Saturday, September 25:** 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society; 5:00 pm ~ Jeffrey  
Svaldi+

**Sunday, September 26:** 8:00 am ~ Dr. Morris Clark+; 10:30 am - Ann  
Marie Robinson+; 10:30 am Gym - Carol McRaith+

*(+ indicates the person is deceased)*

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## Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends

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

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