



St. Gertrude Chicago
E-Bulletin for the Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord
May 29, 2022

Click here to read the print bulletin distributed in Church

St. Gertrude Mass times are normally:

- Monday-Saturday: 7:30 am
- Saturdays at 5:00 pm
- Sundays at 8:00 am, 10:30 am in Church, and 10:30 am in the Gym
(The 10:30 am Mass in church is live-streamed on [our parish](#))

[Facebook page.](#))

Please note the Rectory office will be closed on Memorial Day, May 30. There will be Mass on May 30 at 7:30 am.

The Rectory office will temporarily close at 4:30 pm Monday-Friday. Weekend office hours may be limited. We apologize for the inconvenience.

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From Fr. Rich

The Ascension of the Lord

This Sunday's Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord is, in many respects, similar to the many graduation ceremonies that take part at this time of the year. We often call graduation exercises, "Commencement Ceremonies", which seems like an odd name to call something that is celebrating an ending.

But the wisdom of that description is that this is only a waystation. And as soon as these ceremonies are concluded, something new and different is set to begin. Depending on the level of education, it may simply be a new level. But if this is where someone's formal education is finishing up, it usually means leaving the academic world to begin your career.

Those same dynamics are happening on this feast day. Jesus is commending the disciples for their faithfulness to Him and to the Gospel,

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and he is affirming their status as witnesses. This is all He needs to confidently send them out to spread the Gospel he has proclaimed. And with that spoken affirmation, he blesses them and then returns to heaven, leaving them to carry on the work for which he has prepared them. All they are lacking is the coming gift of the Holy Spirit which is next week's Feast.

NCA Graduation

We congratulate all those who are graduating this year! And we wish them well in whatever their next step is. May God continue to bless them in all their endeavors.

Parish Staff Updates

In two weeks, we will be saying thank you and congratulations to two members of our Parish Pastoral Staff as they retire from active ministry. Our pastoral associate, Kevin Cheers, and Jane Callahan-Moore, our Heart to Heart director, are both wrapping up their time here and set to explore many other possibilities in retirement.

Jane Callahan-Moore will retire next month. For the past three years, she has worked with our Ministers of Care, coordinated visits to all our sick and elderly parishioners, provided workshops to assist our seniors in planning for their wills and health care decisions, and worked with Laurie Hasbrook, the coordinator of the Medical Lending Closet. We wish Jane all the best as she moves into this next phase of her life!

Please join us the weekend of June 11-12 when they say their farewells at the end of each of the weekend Masses and join us for hospitality afterwards in the back of the church to wish them both good things.

Memorial Day Weekend

This holiday weekend, we remember all those men and women who have

served our nation in the Armed Forces. In a special way, we remember all those who given their lives in defense of our nation's freedom. Please keep them and all their families in your prayers. Mass on Monday, Memorial Day, is at 7:30 am. The Rectory office will be closed.

NCA Graduation - Thursday - 6:00 pm Holy Child Jesus (St. Margaret Mary)

Congratulations to all our NCA graduates who will be together for their Graduation Mass and Ceremonies this Thursday, June 2nd at 6:00 pm at St. Margaret Mary/Holy Child Jesus church. Everyone is welcome to join them in this wonderful celebration as they complete their grammar school education.

Help for Ukraine

If you would like to donate to help the Ukrainian people, please consider donating to Catholic Relief Services for emergency aid to the people in Ukraine: <https://support.crs.org/donate/donate-ukraine>.

Ascension -- Now Always on the Weekend

If you grew up knowing the Ascension Holy Day was always Ascension Thursday, that is no longer the case! The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord has permanently moved from Thursday to the following weekend.

Care for our Common Home

In a recent study, nine out of ten people said they would recycle if it were "easier." We all want to do our part to help the earth, but sometimes we feel we just don't know how. [Click here](#) for five simple tips to become a "recycling regular."

Construction Update

You may have noticed ALL the scaffolding that has been up for years for the

masonry work on the Ministry Center is now taken done and gone back to where it came from! This long project has been completed. Thank you for your patience these many years.





Join Us This Sunday Evening for a
Prayer of Hope Vigil for an End to
Violence

The school shooting on Tuesday at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas has prompted our pastoral staff to gather as many as possible for a

time of prayer and call for action. Join us for a **PRAYER OF HOPE** for an **END to Violence** this **Sunday, May 29 at 7:00 pm in front of St. Gertrude Church.**

All are invited to meet at the entrance of the church to unite our voices in prayer for an end to violence of every kind and for peace in our hearts, homes, schools, workplaces, communities, churches, cities, nation, and world.

If you are unable to join us in person, we invite you to pause at 7:00 pm on Sunday and lift up your prayers in solidarity with those gathered. Please help us spread the word through the community by inviting at least one person or household to join us in this prayer gathering.

Our coming together for prayer and action will be held rain or shine. This service will be brief, lasting approximately 15 minutes.



[Peace & Justice Ministry: Pentecost Sign-Up Event Next Weekend](#)

On Saturday, June 4th and Sunday, June 5th, we will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. It is also a reminder that when we receive the Holy Spirit, we see things differently.

As the disciples huddled together, they were unsure of their future. They knew tragedy, pain, and sorrow. They also knew hope when, miraculously, Jesus returned, only to leave them once more while promising to send the Holy Spirit among them. Doubt and confusion threatened to break their will and their sense of solidarity.

What shock they felt, when the Spirit was upon them—especially as it came not with a gentle rustle or in a soft hush, but as a “rush of a violent wind” and on “tongues, as of fire” (Acts 2:2–3). In this moment, their group became a church, and their doubt turned to resolve. That Spirit charged each disciple with specific missions.

The Peace and Justice Ministry is offering opportunities for those charged by the Holy Spirit to put their faith into action. In the back of the Church on Pentecost weekend, we will host five organizations who have connections to this parish and have opportunities to put our faith into action.

The groups include Ignatian Spirituality Project, Midwest Workers Association, United Power for Action and Justice, Kolbe House, and Refugee and Immigrant Ministry. More information about each organization is below.

~ Fr. Mike Gabriel



[Ignatian Spirituality Project](#)

The Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP) offers experiences of hope, healing, and belonging to men and women recovering from homelessness and addiction. Their spiritual programs provide participants with the encouragement and empowerment necessary to make real, transformative life changes.

ISP believes spirituality has an important role to play in breaking the cycle of homelessness and substance use addiction. The opportunity to nurture an authentic, lived spirituality within a supportive community can be critical for those trying to rebuild their lives, secure stable housing and maintain long term sobriety.

All ISP Chicago programs are facilitated by local volunteers. Volunteers are needed to help facilitate spiritual reflection groups, provide for weekend retreats (including driving participants, serving as conversation partners and leadership), and support alumni and leadership training programs as drivers, facilitators, and participants. Training is provided and experience

with 12-step recovery is helpful, but not required.

For further information, visit ispretreats.org/Chicago.



Join Midwest Workers Association to End Poverty & Build a Sustainable Future!

Midwest Workers Association (MWA) is a free and voluntary, private unincorporated membership association of the Chicago area's lowest-paid workers. Members do essential work in the economy including childcare, maintenance, security, temporary work in factories, in-home health care, landscaping, and construction, yet don't get paid enough to afford all the basics for their families. Since 1996, MWA has been uniting people from all walks of life to deal with immediate needs of members while building an historic fight to end poverty.

MWA has had a relationship with the St. Gertrude community since 2011. Many of you know them through your support of their Winter Survival Campaign through their annual Super Bowl Sunday Tamale Benefit. They need your participation now more than ever!

MWA is expanding our medical and dental benefit, establishing a new benefit office on the campus of St. Ignatius, and canvassing new parts of the city to reach low-income workers who need organization. You can make a difference as a volunteer doctor, dentist, advocate, interpreter, driver, canvasser, graphic designer, and much more!

For more information about MWA and volunteer opportunities, visit <https://www.midwestworkersassociation.org>.



Kolbe House

Kolbe House, the jail ministry of the Archdiocese of Chicago, was founded in March of 1983 at the direction of Cardinal Bernardin. He wanted people who sought the aid of Kolbe House to feel that they were not coming to an office to be treated as nameless clients, but that they were coming to a home to be treated as family. Today, hospitality and accompaniment continue to be a vital part of the Kolbe House mission.

The Kolbe House jail ministry provides services not only to those currently detained in jail or incarcerated in Illinois Correctional Facilities and Centers,

but also to those released from incarceration reentering communities, victims of crime, officers working in the system, families of the detained, and individuals and families suffering from similar problems. Kolbe House seeks alternatives to incarceration, programs for prevention and deterrence, and aftercare for those released. Volunteer opportunities can be reviewed at [Kolbe House Jail Ministry](#).



[St. Gertrude Refugee and Immigrant Ministry](#)

As the Syrian refugee crisis unfolded in the fall of 2015, our parish stepped up in partnership with Catholic Charities to start the Refugee and Immigrant Ministry. The Ministry partners with formal refugee resettlement agencies (usually Catholic Charities) and has sponsored a new family roughly every six months. Families have been from Afghanistan, Syria, Bhutan, Uganda, and Central African Republic, and received rental assistance, housewares, help setting up their apartment, and, if someone is open, accompaniment and friendship.

The group also has presented educational sessions to the parish, including movies related to conditions on the border, presentations by immigration

lawyers and the former CEO of Catholic Relief Services, partnered with a theater group for a presentation on human trafficking. Additionally, they have organized prayer services where immigrant issues are the focus.

In our small corner, the St. Gertrude community has been and is a source of blessing and a light of healing. If you are interested in helping, the commitment is as much or as little as you'd like! Please consider being added to our information email list to be alerted to volunteer opportunities, including helping set up apartments for new families, or assisting with set up, take down, or refreshments at a Refugee & Immigrant Ministry sponsored program.

Email Jim Manzardo at jbmanz@att.net or Denise Goodman at dmg321@comcast.net if you are interested in helping or receiving email updates.



[United Power for Action and Justice](#)

St. Gertrude's is one of the 36 members of United Power, a non-partisan organization of religious congregations, not-for-profit groups, health centers, and civic organizations from across Cook County. United Power's mission is to train people to take responsibility for solving the problems in their own communities and to renew the interest of citizens in public life.

Volunteer leaders are the organization's backbone and are trained on how

to build relationships with others in the parish and the neighborhood, to understand their concerns (what keeps them up at night) and to work to shape goals and strategies to address pressing issues. They work with leaders from other institutions across Chicagoland to understand how people of good will can work together to solve issues.

Issues United Power seeks to address include building and rehabbing homes on the south and west sides, writing grants for homebuyer subsidies to help hard-working families realize the American dream of homeownership, and partnering with other organizations' efforts to transform vacant and foreclosed buildings into homes and businesses.

United Power is also working to end the incarceration of people with mental illness by providing crisis training to police and by providing alternatives for the mentally ill instead of the criminal justice system and emergency rooms. The group also focuses their attention on political reform, stopping gun violence, lobbying for quality health care initiatives, and more.

For further information, contact parishioners Greg Pierce at gfapierce@aol.com or Kate Hibbs Davis at kate.hibbs.davis@gmail.com.



Growing in Faith

Three times in this weekend's reading from the Act of the Apostles, we are reminded that, as Jesus was preparing to ascend into heaven to join the Father, he explained that he was leaving us in the care of the Holy Spirit. "In a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

The Holy Spirit, to my mind, doesn't get enough attention. This third person in the Trinity is also called the Paraclete, which is a Greek word for helper or advocate.

The Spirit is often portrayed in art as a dove. Not as an eagle, a warrior of the air. Not as a meek sparrow. The dove is an emblem of peace. In the Song of Songs, the beloved's eyes are described as doves. Jesus talked about doves when he sent his disciples to spread the gospel: "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be as wary as serpents, and as innocent as doves."

When I think of the Father, I think of the Cosmos, of all Nature from the Big Bang to the flowering sidewalk weed. Jesus, for me, was a guy you could meet if you were heading down the dusty road to Jerusalem. Maybe because I'm a writer, I think of the Holy Spirit as sweet inspiration. Of course, not just inspiring writers and artists, but inspiring every one of us to do the right thing.

The Holy Spirit is also called Comforter. And sometimes the Spirit is called she.

~ Patrick T. Reardon



Pictured: The parish garden last summer.

St. Gertrude Garden Planting Day is Saturday, June 4

Work on the parish garden starts this Saturday, with a small group of volunteers doing prep work including weeding, tilling the soil, adding fences, and planting Easter lilies from our Easter Sunday services.

Next Saturday, June 4, is our planting day! I am looking for a few volunteers to plant lots of vegetables and herbs from 9:00-11:00 am. Please bring your garden trowels, shovels, and knee pads if you have them and gather in front of the Rectory.

The vegetables and herbs grown from our garden will once again be shared with both Care for Real and the St. Thomas of Canterbury soup kitchen!

If you are interested in helping on our planting day or wish to pitch in with weeding and watering the garden throughout the summer, please reach out to me at mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org.

~ *Mary Clare Barker*



Catechists Needed to Teach Religious Education Next School Year

We are looking for catechists to teach in our parish's Religious Ed program this Fall! Catechists are usually not professional teachers, just willing parents and parishioners who enjoy kids and want to help them grow in a personal relationship with God, participate in the sacraments, and develop a mature conscience, and integrate faith in all areas of their lives.

Please consider offering your time and talents to help our young people learn about and grow in their faith. If you have any questions, please reach out to Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate, Religious Education and Youth Ministry, at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org or call 773.764.3621.



April Lending Closet Report

April Showers bring... lifted spirits!

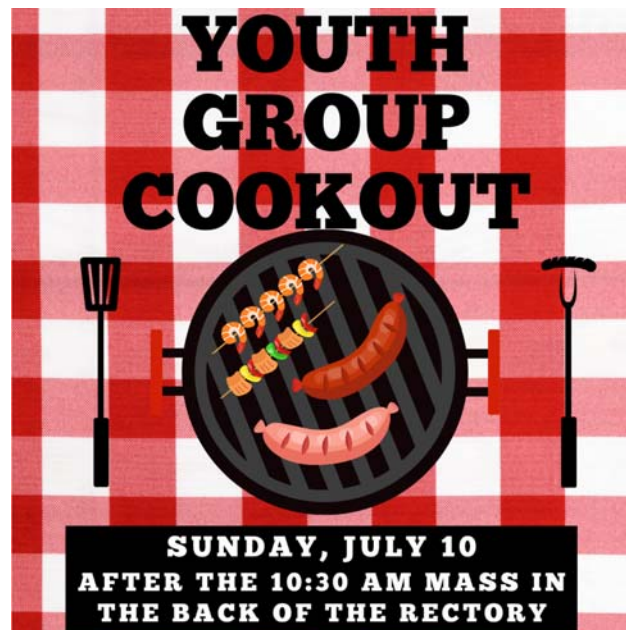
Miss B's UIC-Hospital physical therapist referred her to the Heart to Heart Lending Closet for a rollator. Delighted to get a sturdy walker with a seat, Miss B patiently waited in the Ministry Center parlor for her PACE bus ride home to the west side.

As we watched the rain, she mentioned her years working at Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Elderly, including when Cardinal Joseph Bernardin's mother Maria lived there. "I got the call when the Cardinal's mother arrived – the staff wanted me to be there to welcome and care for her!" Miss B reminisced.

Her welcoming demeanor was confirmed not 10 minutes later, when Jacqueline rang the bell, desperate to borrow a Lending Closet wheelchair. Jacqueline's teen son, a varsity CPS high school basketball player in the Chatham neighborhood, had been injured in a game. He needed a wheelchair to attend school for the next six weeks and CPS suggested the Lending Closet. Miss B assured the worried mom that her son would do just fine and promised prayers of healing. As the rains softened and Miss B and

Jacqueline each headed home, I imagined Maria Bernardin and her son Joseph smiling down on such chance meetings that lift all our spirits!

~ Laurie Hasbrook, Lending Closet Manager



Save the Date! Youth Group Cookout Planned for Summer

Join the St. Gertrude Youth Group for food, friends, fun, and faith! Teens in 7th grade and older are invited to the parish youth group cookout, planned for Sunday, July 10 after the 10:30 am Mass in the back of the Rectory.

Additional youth group gatherings have been planned for August 20, September 11, October 15, November 6, and December 10.

For more information, contact Eloy Escamilla
at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.



Online Families Anonymous Meetings: Tuesdays at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Families Anonymous (FA) is a free 12-step program designed to help and heal family and friends of those suffering from substance abuse and other addictive behavioral issues.

The Chicago Near North FA meetings are held on Tuesdays via Zoom and start promptly at 6:00 pm. Meetings last one hour, but some of the group stays on for a while after the meeting to socialize and to answer any questions from visitors or newcomers. Interested participants can join here:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81634932105?pwd=MHIUY2YyN2NReUMzRDhBaEVkMXhDZz09>
- Meeting ID: 816 3493 2105, Passcode: 705592
- Call in at +13126266799



TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Help a Child Attend Our School

This year, more than 4,400 children are waiting for the opportunity to attend a school in the archdiocese with the help of the Illinois Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship program, including **30** on the waitlist at **Northside Catholic Academy**.

Every contribution to the Tax Credit Scholarship Program is eligible for a 75 percent credit on your state income taxes.

You can help change a child's future and help clear the waitlist by donating to the Invest in Kids program. To learn how you can donate to this life changing program, please visit archchicago.org/tcs, call the TCS Hotline at **312.534.2617** or email tcs@archchicago.org.

Donate today and fund a child's future!

Tax Credit Scholarship Program

Looking for a way to decrease your Illinois state income tax liability? What if you could decrease what you owe to the state and potentially increase your state tax refund, while also helping fund scholarships for low-income students to attend the Catholic school of their choice?

More than 30 children are on the waitlist for Northside Catholic Academy. Help fund a child's future and donate to the Archdiocese Tax Credit

Scholarship Program.

Every contribution to the Tax Credit Scholarship Program is eligible for a 75 percent credit on your state income taxes.

Help a child attend NCA today. Learn more at archchicago.org/tcs.



Rest in Peace

- Ann McKenna Trausch, aunt of Marty McDermott, Class of '57
 - Patricia Messbarger
-



Readings and Music for This Weekend

- [Click here for a link to read this Sunday's readings online](#)
 - Music planned for this Sunday:
 - Prelude: *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*
 - Processional: *Alleluia Sing to Jesus*, #732
 - Gloria: *Glory to God* from Mass of Renewal, #875
 - Psalm #47: God Mounts his throne to shouts of joy
 - Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia* from Misa del Mundo by Jesse Manibusan
 - Presentation: *We Walk by Faith*, #505
 - Mass parts: Mass of Glory, #901
 - Communion: *I, the Lord*, #685
 - Recessional: *America the Beautiful*, #745
-



Cantors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Lectors for This Weekend

Our Ministers of the Word are:

- Saturday, May 28 at 5:00 pm - Wes Dingman
- Sunday, May 29 at 8:00 am - Sr. Kathryn Stimac
- Sunday, May 29 at 10:30 am - Steve Modde
- Sunday, May 29 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Our Eucharistic Ministers are:

- Saturday, May 28 at 5:00 pm - Tim Harrington
- Sunday, May 29 at 8:00 am - Marty McDermott
- Sunday, May 29 at 10:30 am - Bob Backis, Troy McMillian
- Sunday, May 29 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

This week, our cantors and musicians will be:

- Saturday, May 28 at 5:00 pm - Mary Clare Barker
- Sunday, May 29 at 8:00 am - Denise Goodman
- Sunday, May 29 at 10:30 am - Jon Blake
- Sunday, May 29 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA



Ways to Help Our Parish: Amazon Smile, Text to Give, GiveCentral, PayPal, 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.

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.

[Click here to go to GiveCentral](#)

Click here for PayPal (via our website)



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, May 30: Acts 19:1-8/Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday, May 31: Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/Lk 1:39-56

Wednesday, June 1: Acts 20:28-38/Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday, June 2: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Jn 17:20-26

Friday, June 3: Acts 25:13b-21/Jn 21:15-19

Saturday, June 4: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Jn 21:20-25

Sunday, June 5: Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17/Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26



Mass Intentions

Next week's intentions are:

Monday, May 30: 7:30 am - For all those that have died serving our country

Tuesday, May 31: 7:30 am - Patrick A. Murphy

Wednesday, June 1: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society

Thursday, June 2: 7:30 am - Communion Service

Friday, June 3: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners

Saturday, June 4: 7:30 am - Thomas O'Malley +; 5:00 pm - Jenny Wyman

+

Sunday, June 5: 8:00 am - Parishioners of St. Gertrude; 10:30 am

Combined Mass in Church - Jack Taylor +

(+ indicates the person is deceased)



Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends

- Pamela Sherrod Anderson
 - Helen Banta
 - Zara Bradley
 - Sharon Brown
 - Connie Bueck
 - Lilly Buie
 - Maggie Callaway
 - Aida Calvopina
 - KC Conway
 - Connie Cool
 - Caloy Desembrana
 - Ann Collins Dole
 - Christine Frisoni
 - Shirley Marie Gonzales
 - Gina Heidkamp
 - Maria Hertl
 - Daniel Hidalgo
 - Patricia Irwin
 - Bernice Kiedysz
 - Sheila McGuire
 - Dean Mattoni
 - Larry McCauley
 - Molly Morris
 - Karey Myers
 - Tina Piemonte
 - Charley Scantlebury
 - Richard Seitz
 - Peggy Stoffel
 - The Sullivan family
 - Elinora E. Tolentino
 - Manuel & Norma Viray
 - Valerie Williams
 - Ken & Vyes Yoza
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