

This weekend, we are supporting the important work of our Refugee and Immigrant Ministry! We'll have a [second collection](#) to raise funds for it at all Masses on Saturday and Sunday. Please enjoy the [Growing in Faith column below](#), written by Denise Goodman, an active member of this ministry, an article about how the ministry [helped a recent immigrant family](#), and details about [a concert the ministry is co-sponsoring](#).

St. Gertrude Chicago E-Bulletin

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 27, 2020

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 is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am-2:30 pm and 8:30-11:30 am on Sunday. Please review [Parishioner Guidelines for Visiting the Rectory](#). **Please 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

This is NOT an endorsement for anyone running for any office in this year's election. In fact, no deacon, priest, or bishop is allowed to endorse any candidate for public office. (And yes, like you, I have read the news accounts of some priests and bishops who have endorsed specific candidates or political parties. I understand the priests have been called to task and subjected to certain corrective measures. Alas, the church isn't equally good at holding her bishops accountable.)

Having said that, many people are surprised the "Catholic vote" is of any significance any more. They presume the secularization of society has become so pervasive that either there is no such thing as a "Catholic vote.", or, if it exists at all, it is of such insignificance it doesn't make any difference. But they are wrong and misinformed.

Donald Trump is President of the United States today because in 2016 he won the Catholic vote. And even though this time he is running against a life-long Catholic, Vice-President Joseph Biden, expectations are still high that Trump will likely again capture the Catholic vote again.

Rarely have two presidential candidates better captured the conflict and

*Bulletin for the 26th
Sunday in Ordinary
Time*

9/27



Click to view,
"What to Expect &
Do When Coming
Back to Church."

conversation going on in the Catholic Church today. If someone is a “single-issue” voter, that usually means the person claims s/he is against abortion and that person will vote for whichever candidate claims to be against abortion. This pattern has developed over the years as the so-called anti-abortion forces and many right-wing supporting bishops and politicians have triumphed in making this the only issue they even consider in elections. I have to agree with a woman religious leader who recently pointed out most of the so-called “pro-life” advocates aren’t really “pro-life”, they are simply anti-abortion. But when it comes to protecting immigrants at the border, including infants and children; when it comes to protecting the environment and caring for our earthly home; when it comes to providing universal health care; when it comes to working for peace and justice; when it comes to protecting the rights of minorities and women; when it comes to economic justice; these same people are deafeningly silent. They really only want to protect life in the womb, demonstrably unconcerned about the condition of the world and persons once they are born.

Those who truly embrace the much broader-based Catholic social teaching understand that abortion is wrong, and there is also a whole menu of other issues we need to be paying attention to and having our candidates address. The Catholic Church is not a single-issue Church -- no matter what some right-wing laity, priests, or bishops claim. Our teachings do not begin and end with one issue.

I believe Pope Francis has made it exceedingly clear that every believer is responsible for the much broader range of issues affecting humanity. His summons for every believer to reach out to the peripheries is a perfect example of the broader social teaching of the church. In fact, he regularly triggers strong reactions when he addresses issues that some continue to pretend are resolved forever and written in stone. Just last week was another example of his pastoral outreach when he greeted a group of LGBTQ parents from Italy, after a general audience, and told them all parents need to “love their children as they are.” He went on to explain, this is, in fact, the way God loves each and every one of us. Regardless of your views on the range of LGBTQ issues, no one is born, lives, or dies without sins, failings, errors, etc. We all come up short of the mark. But that is no reason to treat anyone as anything less than a child of God, equally deserving of the same dignity and respect as any other person.

Which is probably a good place for any Catholic to start in their

consideration of which candidate they should vote for. And that means doing the “homework” necessary -- researching candidate’s positions on the important issues facing us today.

The other part of a frequently debated hot topic is whether or not Catholic candidates can receive Communion if they disagree with the Church on a specific teaching. Some bishops have refused Communion to certain candidates. Yet this is contrary to Catholic teaching which insists that the state of any individual’s soul is between that person and God. It might also be worth noting that when Communion is refused, it is usually around either the abortion issue or some sexual morality item. It has amazed me for years that no one ever seems to deny anyone Communion for excessive greed or damage to other human beings or the planet. Which had led me to suspect it is usually an act of intolerance -- not morality, that is happening. Neither priests nor ministers of communion are ever meant to be “Communion Police.”

We are better than that! As a Church and as individual Catholics. So don’t be cowed by extremists announcing they alone know how you should vote. That is nonsense! On the other hand, also don’t presume voting is anything less than a sacred duty of citizenship. This means we have to do our homework, know where candidates stand, and vote for the candidates we feel will do the most good and the least harm when in office.

Update on First Communion & Confirmation Catch-Ups - Part II

We have been following up on the departure of our Coordinator of Religious Education a few weeks ago. We are back on track to begin the postponed celebrations of First Communions and Confirmations starting next weekend. Our first group of First Communion candidates will be at the 5:00 pm Mass next Saturday, October 3. The first group of Confirmation candidates will be at the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday, October 4.

Special thanks to Kevin Cheers for gathering up all the schedules and contacts with families to get this moving again. And thanks to all the families for their patience and understanding.

If there is a First Communion at a weekend mass, the candidates and their families will sit together in the front section of church -- one pew per family which will be marked with “reserved” signs.

At Communion time, the ushers will hold off on letting anyone else out of

their pews to receive Communion until the First Communicants and their families have received Communion.

If there is a Confirmation at a weekend Mass, the Confirmation will take place immediately after the homily. The candidates and their sponsors will be called forward. I will celebrate the Confirmation and afterward, the newly confirmed will return to their pews and Mass will continue as usual. The candidates and their families will each have one pew in the front section of church which will be marked with “reserved” signs.

Renew My Church

A total of 128 Renew My Church surveys were received and the results tabulated and shared with the Renew My Church Parish Committee and the grouping at last Monday’s RMC meeting. You can read the report further down in the bulletin. Special thanks to Mark Huffman and Lisa Erceg for designing the survey and tabulating the results.

St. Gertrude's Refugee and Immigrant Ministry

The work of St. Gertrude's Refugee and Immigrant Ministry is being highlighted this weekend! There will also be a second collection to raise funds for it, click [HERE](#) to make a donation online.



Growing in Faith

Ezekiel recalls the all-too-human tendency to say, “That’s not fair!”, whether it’s related to how someone treats us or to whatever circumstances in which we find ourselves. Fair or not, we’ve all learned these past months what it’s like to deal with crushing uncertainty, but we have done so blessed by being rooted in our community.

What is it like to lose even that? We may not have that first-person experience of being completely adrift, but some of our neighbors have. Ours is a neighborhood that, generation after generation, has welcomed people who simply want to build a home for themselves and their family. Many are refugees. They embody resilience and hope. And their new home, our home, however flawed, is an embodiment of the mercy of God.

Today’s readings reassure us of God’s mercy, and of our call to live that mercy in our own relationships to others. This faith community has steadfastly looked out for the interests of these refugee families. Since 2015, the St. Gertrude Refugee and Immigrant Ministry has helped families from all over the world, seven as official sponsors, with additional help to three more. As G.K. Chesterton said, “Gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.” What a wonder, what a privilege, to live in a time when each of us can contribute to tangible change for the better!

~ Denise Goodman for *Growing in Faith*

[Click here to donate to the Refugee and Immigrant Ministry](#)



St. Gertrude Refugee and Immigrant Ministry: Kadidja Finds Grace and Refuge

“We were able to start a new life here by the grace of God,” Kadidja says. A devout Muslim, Kadidja puts her full faith in God, and is very thankful for the hard work and generosity of many Catholics who have positively impacted her family since their arrival in Chicago more than a year ago.

Her Islamic faith has served her well through many tragedies and upheavals in her life. Kadidja, her husband, and daughter fled civil war in their homeland of Central African Republic, seeking refuge in Chad. They lived in Chad for five years, during which time another younger daughter was born and her husband died suddenly of a heart attack.

Although she speaks fluent French and has many family members in France, when the family left Chad in April 2019, they were assigned to live in Chicago, where her stepmother had moved three years earlier.

Catholic Charities coordinated the move with U.S. Immigration and furnished an apartment for Kadidja and her daughters Falmata, 8, and Fatma, 5, in Rogers Park.

That's where we came in! The parish's Refugee and Migrant Committee, with funding from generous St. Gertrude Church parishioners, brought everything the family needed (linens, household products, cleaning supplies, etc.) to start their new lives in a new home. In one night, the committee pulled everything together to make the apartment welcoming upon their arrival.

The biggest changes in their lives moving to Chicago were the cold weather (of course!) and getting used to riding CTA trains (Africa mass transit only has buses), according to Kadidja.

Another surprise was the ongoing generosity of Catholic Charities and St. Gertrude parish - particularly Catrine, a member of the Refugee Committee who speaks fluent French and has provided invaluable support to Kadidja as she learns English. The committee paid the security deposit and rent for several months on the apartment while Kadidja started a new life.

As the family acclimated, Catholic Charities also coordinated with Chicago Public Schools to enroll the girls in school and helped with practical things for Kadidja, such as establishing medical care and helping her create a resume.

Kadidja landed a role at a hotel housekeeping. Then the pandemic hit and she was out of a job. A skilled seamstress, she began sewing about 30 masks a week that were sold by members of the Refugee Committee to family, friends, and acquaintances. For the first time since she arrived in the U.S., she was able to buy new clothes for herself with the money she made from mask sales.

When she arrived in Chicago, she had requested to be in Evanston close to her stepmom and younger siblings. Instead, the family was sent to Rogers Park. She had no one to watch the girls once she started a new job.

The Refugee Committee once again came to the rescue! A committee member heard about a vacant apartment in Kadidja's extended family's building in Evanston. Committee members and others helped them move the day the governor called for a quarantine.

Life continues to improve for the family. Both girls love school (Fatma says

she wants to be a teacher and Falmata wants to be a doctor!) and Kadidja continues to learn English. She recently landed a new job cleaning operating rooms at a hospital.

She is happy for the work but doesn't have many opportunities to build her English skills. She hopes to go to school herself once the kids are back in the classroom.

"I hope my children thrive in school," she says. "I want to become more independent, start school myself, and continue to learn English."

The Refugee Committee thanks you for your ongoing support. Your generosity helps improve the lives of refugees and immigrants from around the world as they resettle in our neighborhood. Please keep Kadidja and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

[Click here to donate to the Refugee and Immigrant Ministry](#)

El Pueblo Canta will be a Virtual Online Concert.

12 Annual El Pueblo Canta

الناس يغنون
the people sing

Saturday October 3, 2020

SPECIAL GUESTS: El Wadi Ensemble



PLUS: special performances by VOICES, the Wellington Choir and the "Dare to Dream" Centro Romero Youth Choir

Cosponsored by Centro Romero, CRLN, and Wellington Ave. UCC

Online Concert: 6:45 PM - 8:30 PM
Suggested Donation: \$25 - general admission
\$15 - students / limited income | Kids 12 and Under FREE
Donations & Sponsorship: waucc.org/2020ElPuebloCanta
Call 773-935-0642 for more details

HOLDING ON TO HOPE AND HUMANITY WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME!

El Pueblo Canta will be a Virtual Online Concert.

Find all updates via: waucc.org/2020ElPuebloConcert
All proceeds will go to support the immigrant justice work of Centro Romero, CRLN, and Wellington Ave. UCC.



Mark Ring-Jensen - designer 2020 / audio by Hannah Frank

St. Gertrude's Refugee and Immigrant Ministry to Sponsor El Pueblo Canta (Virtual) Concert - Saturday, October 3

The St. Gertrude Refugee and Immigrant Ministry is once again a sponsor of this annual concert that celebrates and raises funds for the immigrant justice movement. The 12th Anniversary El Pueblo Canta concert is now a virtual concert for October 3 from 7:00-8:00 pm, with a pre-concert slideshow at 6:45 pm. This year, performers include El Wadi Ensemble, VOICES, the Wellington Choir, and the "Dare to Dream" Centro Romero Youth Choir.

There is a suggested donation of \$25 for general admission, \$15 for students and those on a limited income, and kids 12 and under are free. All proceeds will go to support the immigrant justice work of Centro Romero,

CRLN, and Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ. Click [here](#) for tickets!



Click the image to be taken to a Google map (with lots of details) of Father Mike's official route! There is also a downloadable flyer of Fr. Mike's Run below with descriptions of each leg of his run.

Fr. Mike's Heart to Heart Marathon: Route Info

Fr. Mike Bradley will run 26.2 miles through the streets of Edgewater for Heart to Heart on Sunday, October 11! Beginning at 6:00 am, Fr. Mike will start his endeavor at Glenwood and Granville.

Click [HERE](#) to see a Google map where he's running and [HERE](#) for a downloadable flyer. There will be four different legs of his run, with the Church corner (Granville and Glenwood) being the center of it. He will run the route four times to complete the 26.2 miles.

Leg 1

- Starting point - the church corner of Granville and Glenwood
- West to Clark
- North on Clark to Highland
- East on Highland to Glenwood

- South on Glenwood back to the church
- Back to the church

Leg 2

- East on Granville to Sheridan Road
- South on Sheridan Road to Glenlake
- West on Glenlake to Glenwood
- North on Glenwood to Granville
- Back to the church

Leg 3

- West on Granville to Greenview
- South on Greenview to Elmdale
- East on Elmdale to Broadway
- North on Broadway to Glenlake
- East on Glenlake to Sheridan
- North on Sheridan to Granville
- West on Granville to Glenwood
- Back to the church

Leg 4

- North on Glenwood to Rosemont
- East on Rosemont to Broadway
- South on Broadway to Granville
- West on Granville to Glenwood
- Back to the church

There will be two official cheering stations (one more may be added) for Fr. Mike - one at the church corner of Granville and Glenwood, a second at Elmdale and Glenwood - but come cheer him on anywhere along his route!

Please consider being part of the Fr. Mike Marathon Support Team! Here are some ways to help!

- Make a donation to support his run [HERE](#).
- We are looking for [parishioners willing to be stationed at specified locations along the route to provide him with water and some nutritious snacks](#) to get him through the run.
- [Purchase a t-shirt.](#)
- [Purchase a lawn sign.](#)

St. Gertrude Renew My Church Scenario Feedback Summary Report

From September 6-20, data was collected from 128 St. Gertrude parishioners about Renew My Church options through paper or electronic surveys, collecting both quantitative data on Renew My Church scenario rankings and qualitative data on supporting reasons for highest- and lowest-scenario rankings and related feedback. Based on this data, the major findings are:

Feedback Summary

- Two-parish scenarios were preferred among most, though not all, St. Gertrude respondents; a single worship center approach was not generally preferred.
- While St. Gertrude respondents preferred scenarios that favored maintenance of their parish and church, these respondents also preferred scenarios that maintained St. Jerome as a parish and church.
- Northside Catholic Academy was a frequently-identified reason to sustain St. Gertrude with important costs and risks associated with its move.
- Respondents noted the tension among Renew My Church principles, emphasis on data used in the decision-making process, and foundational spiritual and community development, which face critical challenges from major forces within the Church itself.

More detailed information from the data collected are reported below:

Quantitative Data

Most (75%) respondents had been parishioners for >10 years compared with respondents who had been parishioners for 10 years or less.

Among the top three ranking scenarios, there was no majority scenario identified:

- Scenario 4, 47%
- Scenario 5, 41%
- Scenario 1, 40%

Among the bottom 3 ranking scenarios, Scenario 9 was selected by most parishioners:

- Scenario 9, 52%
- Scenario 10, 41%

- Scenario 3, 38%

Results were generally consistent across parishioner groups, though Scenario 8 was among the bottom 3 scenarios among respondents who had been in the parish 10 years or less.

Qualitative Data

Extensive, wide-ranging comments were captured from parishioners and were analyzed and synthesized by the Renew My Church team.

1. Reasons supporting highest-ranking (n=104 respondents) and lowest-ranking (n=88 respondents) scenarios:

- Two parish scenarios were generally preferred, and single worship site scenarios were generally not preferred. A single parish scenario was noted to be “the defeatist option with little hope in the future” with challenges in pastoral care to provide “ministerial and spiritual needs” that are part of the Renew My Church objectives, including evangelization.
- Northside Catholic Academy was frequently mentioned in both highest-ranking and lowest-ranking scenarios as a central consideration and transition to another facility was thought to be “very costly”. The positive influence of Northside Catholic Academy among young families, including “bringing back” parents to the Catholic Church was also noted.
- Recent capital investments and projected costs at St. Gertrude, which was identified as “our beautiful church”, which long-term parishioners see as part of their own and their neighborhood’s identities.
- St. Jerome’s strong Mass attendance was frequently noted by respondents and as an important consideration.
- The Loyola Mission Center has the potential to be an important institution and was generally identified as a positive option, but the pandemic makes this option appear uncertain at best, and “pie in the sky” at worst. The Jesuit order’s charism on education, rather than parish ministry, was also noted.
- Concerns about cultural and liturgical differences across parishes, including LGBTQ acceptance and inclusivity, and helping dispersed parishioners integrate into new faith homes.

2. Major implementation challenges (n=99 respondents) and additional feedback (n=60 respondents):

- Bridging the parish and neighborhood communities, including identifying a pastor and team with sufficient time, support, and language skills to provide leadership. Such demands may be “unrealistic” for clergy.
- Transportation, especially among older respondents, with greater difficulty expected based on closures at St. Gertrude and St. Jerome.

- The Covid-19 pandemic has made this process, which already felt rushed and difficult, even harder. The result of any decision will be painful for community members most closely affected.
- There was skepticism in decisions already having been made by the Archdiocese but also appreciation for the outreach from the parish team. Some respondents disliked the number and complexity of scenarios presented, and others disliked the survey presentation.
- Tension among declining attendance numbers, other key data across parishes, and potential for growth through reimagining the Catholic Church in Rogers Park/Edgewater through the Renew My Church process.
- Length of scenario consideration differed among respondents and inherent uncertainty in projecting the future of the neighborhoods over the next 10-20 years.
- Allocation of funds received from any sale or leasing of buildings was not clear in scenarios that reduce the number of buildings yet seems important in decision making.
- Larger forces driving down participation in the Catholic Church are being neglected in this process, including related to vocations, and the “downsizing in response to massive funding losses due to clergy abuse” will lead to “resentment”.
- “Spiritual formation and community” have been ignored over “numbers and dollars”, despite the importance of the former to influence the latter.
- RMC implementation planning with a “strong component of laity” was considered “very wise” at the current stage.

Readings for Sunday, September 20

Reading 1: Ez 18:25–28

Thus says the LORD: You say, “The LORD’s way is not fair!” Hear now, house of Israel: Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair? When someone virtuous turns away from virtue to commit iniquity and dies, it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die. But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed and does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life; since he has turned away from all the sins that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Reading 2: Phil 2:1–11

Brothers and sisters: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others.

Have in you the same attitude
that is also in Christ Jesus,
[Who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
something to be grasped.
Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness;
and found human in appearance,
he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.]

Gospel: Mt 21:28–32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: “What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, ‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.’ He said in reply, ‘I will not,’ but afterward changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, ‘Yes, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did his father’s will?” They answered, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him.”

Community Support Drive

Drive-Thru Donations to Care for Real



PACK THE TRUNK. FILL THE NEED.

Ismaili Jamatkhana Parking Lot • 6259 N. Broadway, Chicago

To maintain social distancing donations should be placed in the car trunk. Volunteers wearing face masks and gloves will remove items. Walk-up donations also welcome.



Household Cleaning Items



Canned & Boxed Food/Beverage



Personal Hygiene Items



Face Masks & Gloves

Click here or the image above for a PDF of the flyer for the October 3 event.

ECRA Community Drive Supporting Care for Real on Saturday, October 3 - Volunteers Needed

ECRA will host a collection drive for household and personal hygiene items on Saturday, October 3 from 12:00-3:00 pm at the Ismaili Jamatkhana, 6259 N. Broadway. St. Gertrude an active participant of the Edgewater Community Religious Association and back in early June, ECRA was able to collect about 3.5 tons of items for Care for Real.

We also welcome the donation of non-perishable food items, although the

greater need at present is for household supplies (toilet paper, paper towels, cleansers, disinfectants, face masks, gloves) and personal care products (soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, toothbrushes).

Items can be dropped off at the parking lot on the northeast corner of Broadway and Rosemont. (Entrance to the parking lot is on Broadway.) To maintain social distancing and limit personal contact, we request that when possible items for drop-off be placed in your vehicle's trunk. Volunteers equipped with face masks and gloves will remove items directly from your trunk. For those who walk to the drive, items may be dropped off on designated tables in the parking lot. In both circumstances, we ask that you follow social distancing protocols to limit personal contact.

With Care for Real serving the Rogers Park and Edgewater communities, we hope that the Edgewater and Rogers Park communities will come together to support this charity in its effort to provide these items to those most in need in our communities.

Care for Real 2020 Community Drive: Request for Three More ECRA Member Volunteers

To successfully conduct our Care for Real Community Support Drive on Saturday, October 3, we need to fill three more “ECRA Ambassador” positions – one more from 11:30 am-1:30 pm and two people from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

Here is what we are looking for in a volunteer:

- Be available from 11:30 am-1:30 pm and/or from 1:30-3:30 pm on Saturday, October 3.
- Bring your own face mask and gloves.
- Come with a kind heart and a thankful attitude for those who will be making donations.
- Meet at the Ismaili Jamatkhana parking lot, 6259 N. Broadway (at Rosemont).
- Be able to lift 25-pound bags of groceries/supplies from car trunks.
- Provide your email address for a brief (less than 30 minutes) Zoom training at 8:00 pm on Thursday, October 1.

Some of our volunteers will be in the parking lot helping to unload bags from trunks of cars while others will be at tables for those who walk up to the site with donations.

The Ismaili Jamatkhana is also exploring whether the volunteers need to sign a waiver while volunteering on their site.

If you are interested in helping, please send an email to Allen Stryczek at astryczek@sbcglobal.net, noting which one of the time slots you prefer.

This event will successfully take place rain or shine. Please also pray for good weather so that we need not employ our contingency plan.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful and timely reply to this request for help!



Blessing of Pets: Sunday, October 4

All creatures, great and small, are welcome to the blessing for animals on Sunday, October 4 at 12:00 pm. Father Mike Bradley will officiate the 20-30 minute ceremony, held in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures.

The blessing will be held in the St. Gertrude parking lot at the northwest corner of Thome & Glenwood. (This lot is fenced in.) Each family should situate themselves in one parking space.



Order a Breaking Bread Hymnal for 2021 for Personal Use

Due to COVID-19, we do not know when we will be able to put hymnals back in the pews for communal use. Parishioners are welcome to order their own personal copies of Breaking Bread 2021 for use at home or brought to/from church. The hymnals contain the scripture readings for Sundays and the music we use in church. The start date for using it is the First Sunday in Advent (November 29).

Missals are being sold at a discounted rate of \$7.00/hymnal. This includes tax and shipping. **Your order, along with payment, must be received by Monday, October 26.**

When the missals arrive, you will be contacted and can pick it up at the Rectory or at church when you come to Mass.

Purchases may be done two ways:

1. Online Purchase

Visit GiveCentral to order and pay online [here](#). (Links to order online also are available on our website and Facebook page.) Please note, Rectory staff will receive a notice from GiveCentral when an order/payment is made.

2. Order Form/Purchase by Check or Cash

Order forms are available [online](#) and printed copies are available in church on the greeter's table and at the Rectory. Completed order forms, along with

cash or check payments, can be dropped off in church by the greeter's table when you come to Mass or at the Rectory. Checks should be made out to St. Gertrude with *Breaking Bread hymnal* in the memo line.

Please note, while you may bring your personal missal to St. Gertrude, you MUST bring it back home. Any missals left in the church will be discarded.

Contact Mary Clare Barker with any questions at 773.764.3621, ext 22 or mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org.

We hope that having your own personal hymnal will enhance your worship experience and continue to actively participate in the liturgy during this pandemic!

Order form flyer

A Message from Cardinal Cupich: Get the Flu Vaccine

Dear Archdiocese community,

We have faced unprecedented challenges this year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Loved ones have sickened and, in some cases died. We have had to adjust to drastic changes in the way we live our lives. As Catholics committed to defending life, we are called to take responsibility for the welfare and safety of our community. This year, that means wearing a mask, washing our hands, and taking other precautions to prevent the spread of this deadly virus.

Archdiocese of Chicago personnel have worked hard these past few months to plan and execute preventive measures so we could open our churches and schools safely. All our hard work might have less impact though if we don't take one more step and get our influenza immunizations as soon as possible.

While it's known as the common flu, there's really nothing common about influenza in 2020. Without a doubt, this will be the most important flu shot you will ever receive. In the coming weeks, we will witness a convergence

of both viruses – influenza and COVID-19. Common flu symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, and extreme fatigue are similar to COVID-19 symptoms. Health care providers can become overwhelmed by patients mistaking one infection for the other.

Influenza can be, in itself a serious illness. More than 200,000 Americans are hospitalized each year with the flu. While most people recover completely in one to two weeks, some develop very serious and potentially life-threatening complications such as pneumonia. Over the past decade, influenza and pneumonia have been linked to an annual average of 3,500 deaths in Illinois, alone.

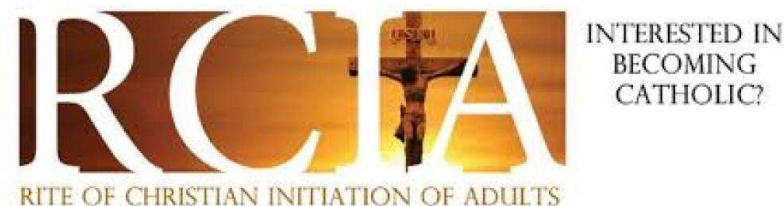
Nobody likes getting shots. I certainly don't, but I got mine this month. Getting a flu shot is easy and inexpensive and it is recommended for just about everyone, even children over the age of six months. It's available free through most insurance plans and public health clinics. You can find a vaccine provider near you by visiting [vaccinefinder.org](https://www.vaccinefinder.org).

Let's roll up our sleeves and take this simple step. You may save a life. You will certainly help make this unprecedented year less deadly for our community.

My prayers are with all of you and particularly with those who have suffered illness and loss. And I ask that you pray for me.

Yours in Christ,

Blase Cardinal Cupich



Interested in Becoming Catholic?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process by which adults learn more about the Catholic Church. This free program begins in late September and meets until Pentecost.

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.

This year, RCIA gatherings will be a mixture of Zoom meetings and in-person gatherings after Mass.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the RCIA process at St. Gertrude, contact me at kchears@stgertrudechicago.org or call the Rectory at 773.764.3621. We can set up a call or a Zoom meeting.

~ *Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate*

RCIA brochure

[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](#)
 - [One Northside: Tenant Eviction Rights Information](#)
 - [Heart to Heart Updated Hours](#)
 - [Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Retreat Offering](#)
 - [ABC-7 Will Air Masses at 9:30 am Through the Remainder of the Year](#)
 - [Volunteers Needed](#)
 - [The 2020 Census: Importance of the Data](#)
 - [Help for Seniors Facing Eviction/Fallen Behind on Mortgage or Rent](#)
-



Lectors, Cantors, Eucharistic Ministers, Set-up/Greeters/Clean-up Teams, Musicians, and Music Planned for This Weekend

Mary Clare Barker, our Music Minister, has created a song sheet for use at home with lyrics for music for our live-streamed 10:30 am Mass this Sunday at 10:30 am [HERE](#).

This weekend, our cantors will be:

- Saturday, September 26 at 5:00 pm - Siobhan O'Neill Meluso, cantor
- Sunday, September 27 at 8:00 am - Carol Ann Munro, cantor
- Sunday, September 27 at 10:30 am - Rob Schroeder, cantor, George Siegle and Jim Szmurlo, trumpets

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

Our Eucharistic ministers are:

- Saturday, September 26 at 5:00 pm - Kathleen Dawson
- Sunday, September 27 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, September 27 at 10:30 am - Debra Novak

Our readers this weekend are:

- Saturday, September 26 at 5:00 pm - Kathleen Dawson
- Sunday, September 27 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, September 27 at 10:30 am - Bob Backis

Our set-up/greeter team this weekend is:

- Saturday, September 26 at 5:00 pm -Dorothea Tobin, Dan Killelea, Ginevera Clark, Michelle Kuehlhorn, Suzan Cibulskis
- Sunday, September 27 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe, Barb Daly, Carol Ann Munro, Mark Kollar, Peter Morin, Brian DeVarenne
- Sunday, September 27 at 10:30 am - Nancy Kuhn, Patrick Robinson, Michael Kowalsky, Mark Huffman, Joan Dowdle

Our clean-up team this weekend is:

- Saturday, September 26 at 5:00 pm - Jeff Dunning
- Sunday, September 27 at 8:00 am - Rich Martin
- Sunday, September 27 at 10:30 am - Debra Novak, Michael Kowalsky, Patrick Robinson, Tom O'Brien, Denise Plunkett, Troy McMillen

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.

**[New for the November 3, 2020 Election:
Secured Drop Boxes to return your Vote
By Mail "Ballot Return Envelope"](#)**

From October 14-November 3, secured drop boxes with date/time stamps available at every early voting site for vote by mail voters to submit their ballot return envelopes

Mailings of ballots to voters, by law, will begin September 24. If you need to apply to Vote By Mail or check the status of your application or ballot mailing, [click here](#).

Secure Drop Box Schedule and Locations: September 24 - November 3

The **24-hour** Drop Box will be at **69 W. Washington St.**, through 7:00 pm on Election Day, November 3.

Open October 1-13 - Loop Super Site Info

- Loop Super Site at Clark & Lake - 191 N. Clark St.
- Monday-Friday - 8:30 am-7:00 pm
- Saturday-Sunday - 9:00 am-5:00 pm
- November 3, Election Day - 6:00 am-7:00 pm

October 14 through November 3 - 50 Ward Sites for Early Voting and Loop Super Site

Early Voting Sites in all 50 Wards - plus the Loop Super Site

Monday-Friday - 8:30 am-7:00 pm

Saturday-Sunday - 9:00 am-5:00 pm

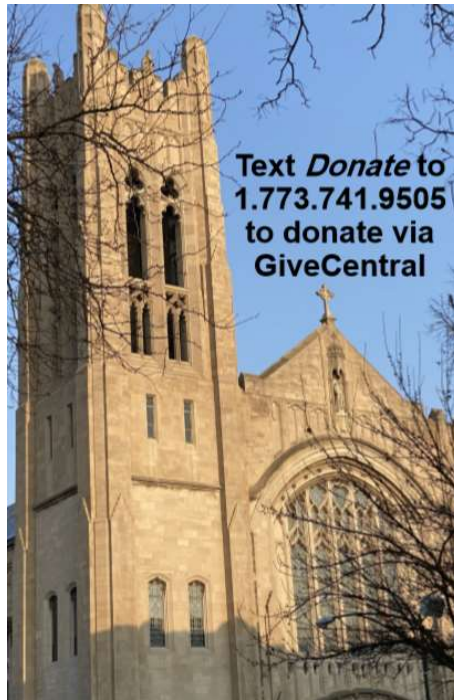
Election Day, November 3 - 6:00 am-7:00 pm

Loop Super Site at Clark & Lake - 191 N. Clark St.

Ward locations close to St. Gertrude Church:

- Ward 40 - Mather High School, 5835 N. Lincoln Ave.
- Ward 46 - Truman College, 1145 W. Wilson Ave.
- Ward 47 - Welles Park, 2333 W. Sunnyside Ave.
- Ward 48 - Broadway Armory, 5917 N. Broadway
- Ward 49 - New Field Elementary School, 1707 W. Morse Ave.
- Ward 50 - Warren Park, 6601 N. Western Ave.

For more information about voting by mail, please click [HERE](#).



Ways to Help Our Parish: Text to Give, GiveCentral, PayPal, Archdiocese Link, and Amazon Smile

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.

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.

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](#)

Baptisms

- Freya Rose, daughter of Dan & Emily Valencia
-

New Parishioners

- The Barragan Family
 - Daniel Montalvo
-

Rest in Peace

- [Rita Simo](#), wife of Tomás Bisonnette
-



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, September 28: Jb 1:6-22; Ps 17:1bcd-3, 6-7; Lk 9:46-50

Tuesday, September 29: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a;
Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51

Wednesday, September 30: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16; Ps 88:10bc-15;
Lk 9:57-62

Thursday, October 1: Jb 19:21-27; Ps 27:7-9abc, 13-14;
Lk 10:1-12

Friday, October 2: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; Ps 139:1-3, 7-10,
13-14ab; Mt 18:1-5

Saturday, October 3: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Ps 119:66, 71, 75,
91, 125, 130; Lk 10:17-24

Sunday, October 4: Is 5:1-7; Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20; Phil 4:6-9;
Mt 21:33-43



Mass Intentions

Monday, September 28: 7:30 am - Parishioners of St. Gertrude

Tuesday, September 29: 7:30 am - William Hartnett +

Wednesday, September 30: 7:30 am - Larry Harnett +

Thursday, October 1: 7:30 am - Communion Service

Friday, October 2: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society

Saturday, October 3: 7:30 am Living & deceased parents of St. Gertrude

parishioners; 5:00 pm - John and Mary Philbin +

Sunday, October 4: 8:00 am - Jay Einhorn +; 10:30 am - Marjorie Feld +

(+ indicates the person is deceased)



Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends

- Walter Bradford
- Ester Bugler
- Aida Calvopina
- Maggie Callaway
- Geraldine Clark
- Connie Cool
- Lois DiFruscio
- Sara Fighter
- Lucia Hall
- Gina Heidkamp
- Maria Hertl
- Bernice Kiedysz
- Karey Myers
- Charley Scantlebury
- Richard Seitz
- Peggy Stoffel
- The Sullivan family
- Ruth Timmons
- Elinora E. Tolentino
- Norma E. Viray

Lyrics for September 27, 2020

Table of Plenty by Dan Schutte

REFRAIN: Come to the feast of heaven and earth! Come to the table of plenty!

God will provide for all that we need, here at the table of plenty.

VERSE: O Come and sit at my table where saints and sinners are friends.

I wait to welcome the lost and lonely to share the cup of my love. (to refrain)

Psalm 25: Remember Your Mercies, O Lord by David Haas

Remember your mercies, O Lord.

What Wondrous Love is This by William Walker

VERSE 1: What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul? What wondrous love is this, O my soul?

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

We Have Been Told by David Haas

REFRAIN: We have been told, we've seen his face and heard his voice alive in our hearts; "live in my love with all your heart, as the Father has loved me, so I have loved you."

VERSE: "I am the vine, you are the branches, and all who live in me will bear great fruit." (to refrain)

VERSE 2: "You are my friends, if you keep my commands, no longer slaves, I call you friends." (to refrain)

God Has Chosen Me by Bernadette Farrell

VERSE: God has chosen me, God has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. God has chosen me, God has chosen me to bring new sight to those searching for light;

REFRAIN: And to tell the world that God's kingdom is near, to remove oppression and break down fear, yes, God's time is near, God's time is near, God's time is near, God's time is near.

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