

St. Gertrude Chicago

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Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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!

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.



From Father Rich (cont.)

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.



Religious Ed Classes Begin This Sunday, Sept. 19

The first day of class and a parent meeting is planned for Sunday, September 19 at 9:15 am in the Social Hall (1401 West Granville Avenue, the lower level). The full Religious Ed program's schedule available online at <https://stgertrudechicago.org/religious-education-news>. Of course, everything is subject to change due to COVID.

Applications, a handbook, information about fees, sacraments, and three important documents regarding COVID-19 protocols from the Archdiocese of Chicago are available online at <https://stgertrudechicago.org/religious-education-news>. Completed forms and any questions about the program should be emailed to Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.

Attention Middle & High School Students: 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 at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.





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 773.764.3621 or eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.

Ushers, Greeters, Ministers of the Word, and Eucharistic Ministers Needed

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 at kchears@stgertrudechicago.org. Thank you!



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.



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

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. Information about this piece's national tour can be found here, <https://engage.catholic.edu/events/angels-unawares-national-tour-2020-2021>.

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



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.



Interested in Becoming Catholic? First RCIA Meeting Set for 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.

If you are interested in learning more about the RCIA process at St. Gertrude, contact Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate, at kchears@stgertrudechicago.org or call 773.764.3621.



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. 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.

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.juvar.com/IL-IDPH/qqvjg-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.

New Parishioners

- Jacob & Mary Kate Kreiner and son, Joseph

This Weekend's Cantors, Musicians, Ministers of the Word, and Eucharistic Ministers

Ministers of the Word:

- 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

Eucharistic Ministers:

- 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

Cantors and Musicians:

- 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

Mass Intentions

- 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

Rest in Peace

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

Baptisms

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

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

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

Donate to our Parish

Parishioners can donate to St. Gertrude:

- Text the word *Donate* to 1.773.741.9505.
- PayPal link - visit our parish website at www.stgertrudechicago.org
- GiveCentral: www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevnts

Email esoto@stgertrudechicago.org for additional information.

Our Heart to Heart office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am-2:30 pm. Contact them at 773.973.5464.

Parish Staff

Rev. Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor
Rev. Michael Gabriel, Associate Pastor
Rev. Michael Bradley, Resident Priest
Mary Clare Barker, Minister of Music
Jane Callahan-Moore, Director, Heart to Heart
Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate
Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate for Religious Education and Youth Ministry
Margie Guadagno, Office Manager
Laurie Hasbrook, Office/Heart to Heart Staff
Tracy Shields, Communications
Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management