



Whoever is not
against us is for us.

Mark 9:40

St. Gertrude Chicago

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Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

From Father Rich

This week we move from September into October -- summer is over and we are now into fall. This is a beautiful season with the changing of leaves and the magnificent display of Mother Nature's palette! Be sure to

find time to go for walks and take in all the beauty that surrounds us.

Sign-Up Sunday

Next weekend is our annual Sign-Up Sunday weekend. We invite and encourage every parishioner to take some time and consider if they have the time (or can make the time) to be a parish minister or volunteer. The wide range of needs and available ministries will be posted. If a ministry or volunteer activity requires training, we will provide the training; if it requires a background check and the Virtus training for the safety of all children or vulnerable adults, we will help walk you through the process.

Some ministries or volunteer opportunities are recurring -- e.g. being a Lector or Minister of Communion might mean being scheduled to assist at one of the weekend Masses once or twice a month; and some activities have more and some have less frequencies in their usual schedules. Please give it some thought! Other ministries -- such as praying for the sick and homebound -- you can do on your own schedule at your preferred location.

There are three Parish Advisory Boards, or Councils, that we hope to restart by the end of October. Some of the councils have had some Zoom meetings since the pandemic started, but we have not met in-person since March of last year. As we anticipated resuming, we wanted to wait until the transition for the parishioners from St. Ignatius was completed so that they would feel welcome and also consider becoming part of these groups.

The **Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)** meets about once a month (but usually takes the summer off). As the name implies, this is the group of parishioners who consider the pastoral direction of the parish. Members listen to parishioners to get a sense of where the overall direction should be focused. They bring this wisdom to the PPC in order to determine how we might best respond to the needs and directions that are brought forward. The PPC goes through an annual discernment process to determine membership each year of both general members and then the PPC officers.

The **Parish Finance Council** meets about four or five times a year. Members review monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, and annual financial reports to keep updated on the financial condition of the parish.

From Father Rich (*cont.*)

With this information, they are able to make informed decisions about the annual parish budget and how we are staying on track or need to modify certain activities in order to stay within our budget. The Finance Council also approves the budget, and at the end of the fiscal year, also approves the Annual Report. Membership is open to any parishioners. It may be helpful if you can read financial statements but is not required.

The **Parish Development Council** tries to anticipate upcoming financial needs and how they might best be met. This includes everything from considering if the Sunday Offertory collections are meeting the budget and, if not, what fundraising steps need to be taken. They also look at some extraordinary needs -- such as maintenance and repairs to the buildings which make up the parish campus, and any special needs that might arise over the years, or due to unexpected situations such as severe storms, etc.

Please consider your own talents and how they might be of service to the broader parish community. Sign-up forms will be available in church next weekend!

Repair, Renew, Refresh

Last week, we launched the ***Repair, Renew, Refresh*** campaign to raise \$100,000 to supplement a recent gift from Ray Simon and the Polk Bros. Foundation. With these funds, we hope to be able to address five needs in the parish:

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.

A donation form is part of the ***Repair, Renew, Refresh*** brochure. Please complete the form, place it and your donation in the return envelope, in the Sunday Offertory, or drop it off at the rectory office, or mail back. Donations can also be made electronically by accessing GiveCentral through the parish webpage: <https://stgertrudechicago.org>.



Repair, Renew, Refresh (cont.)

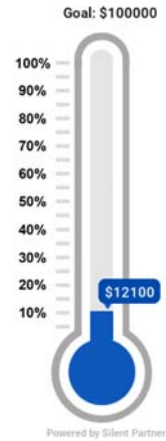
Please give as you are able. Gifts of \$500 and more can be paid over six months, if that is helpful. The **Repair, Renew, Refresh** campaign will run for eight weeks, ending on our parish Feast Day weekend, November 13-14.

Thank you for praying over the parish needs and considering what donation you are able to make.

~ Father Rich

REPAIR- RENEW- REFRESH CAMPAIGN

Donations
to Date:
\$12,100
of
\$100,000



Repair, Renew, Refresh Campaign:

Spotlight on Handrails: We hope to add handrails in three locations on the altar - two handrails between the main floor of church to the sanctuary, and a handrail from the lower sanctuary level to the altar level. This will make the altar far more accessible and safer. The estimated cost for this part of the campaign is \$3,800.

Swedish NorthShore Hospital & Heart to Heart Ministry Center Events Planned: Vaccine Educational Outreach This Saturday & Vaccine Drive Next Saturday, Oct. 2



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 2 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.juvenile.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.

Sign-Up Sunday Information

Next Sunday, October 3 is Sign-Up Sunday! Please consider how you can serve our faith community. In addition to the Parish Advisory Councils detailed in Fr. Rich's column, there are many different ministries and groups that truly make St. Gertrude special.

They include:

Religious Education and Youth Ministry (*working with Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate, Religious Education and Youth Ministry*)

- **Catechist:** Sign up to become a Catechist on Sundays from 9:15-10:15 am to help children to find the presence of God among us.
- **Kids Word Volunteer:** You would be sharing age-appropriate gospel to the children. Sundays during 10:30 am Mass in church.
- **Youth Group Volunteer:** You would facilitate activities supporting our parish youth's faith and personal development.

Liturgical Ministries (*working with Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate*)

- **Eucharistic Ministers:** Administer Holy Communion at Masses.
- **Lectors:** Proclaim the Word of God at Masses.
- **Ushers/Greeters:** Welcomes parishioners to Masses, takes up the collection. Volunteer can either do one or both at Mass.

Music Ministry (*working with Mary Clare Barker, Music Director*)

- **Cantors, Vocal Ensembles, Musicians:** Please consider joining our Music Ministry program! Opportunities abound to cantor at weekend Masses, participate in small vocal ensembles at the 10:30 am Sunday morning Mass, or accompany our Masses on a string, woodwind, or brass instrument. We regularly alternate small vocal ensembles with instruments at the 10:30 am Mass.

Heart to Heart Ministry for Seniors (*working with Jane-Callahan-Moore, Director of Parish Social Services*)

- Volunteers help their neighbors aged 60 and above who need support to sustain their independence by driving our seniors to medical appointments and procedures, grocery stores, and more. Other volunteers are needed to call our homebound seniors weekly to ensure their well-being, while others commit to praying for those who have requested prayers at least once daily using the Ministry of Praise letter mailed to them each month.

New! Social Justice: Peace and Justice Committee (*working with Fr. Mike Gabriel*)

- As people of faith, we are commissioned to call out many of the injustices in our world. There is an urgent need more now than ever for us at St Gertrude's to be a church not only of statements and prayers but one of action, where God's love, justice, and mercy can grow. We are looking for people who would be willing to be part of this committee, to help focus on some specific injustices and to facilitate social justice activities in our parish.



Care for Real 50th Anniversary Community Celebration This Sunday

Care for Real is celebrating its 50th anniversary this Sunday, September 26! Everyone – clients, volunteers, supporters, neighbors, friends – is welcome to attend our 50th Anniversary Community Celebration from 2:00-5:00 pm.

The free block party-style event will take place just outside our doors at 5339 N Sheridan Rd. on Balmoral between Sheridan and Kenmore. Join Care for Real's supporters for food, entertainment, special guests, a raffle, and more!



Please note that all CDC and City of Chicago guidelines and recommendations will be followed to ensure the health and safety of all attendees.



Growing in Faith

Let Go and Let God. We've all seen the bumper sticker even if we haven't studied 12-step spirituality.

If you're anything like me, you might feel helplessly dismayed as you read the news and look at the state of the world and the choices others are making, whether they be political or church leaders, or the man on the street. In this week's readings, Jesus lets us know he isn't worried about his territory being threatened. He's not about power and control: as long as they're not causing trouble, let them be. "Whoever is not against us is for us." Let Love — generous, un-jealous Love — take its course. Let the people preach! If they are truly doing it in His name, in the name of Love, and not a vainglorious desire for power and control, it will bear fruit, as will the smallest of loving gestures.

Perhaps the only kind of control God is interested in our exercising is Self- Control, learned by his "little ones" only when raised with the nurturing firmness that neither caves nor retaliates, but allows them to metabolize loss while maintaining their connection to Love. This is the pruning our Gardener does best.

So, when I read the news, I have to remind myself: there's next-to-nothing I can do about most things. My sphere of control extends as far as the reach of my arms and legs.

I can work to be and do as much loving kindness as I can, and to avoid being and doing anything un-loving. Tend my own garden. That's plenty enough work right there.

~ Janet Kirby

Pet Blessing Scheduled for Next Sunday, October 3

All creatures, great and small, are welcome to the blessing for animals on Sunday, October 3 after the 10:30 am Masses.

The 20-30 minute ceremony is annually held in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures.

We hope to see you there!



No Christmas Bazaar This Year

Given the uncertainty of the COVID variants, as well as concerns about social distancing and the safety of our staff and volunteers, the Christmas Bazaar will not be held.

~ Father Rich



Interested in Becoming Catholic? RCIA Still Open for Those Interested

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process by which adults learn more about the Catholic Church. RCIA began with an informational meeting last Sunday, September 19 in the Ministry Center after 10:30 am Masses. **People who are interested are still welcome to join us after this Sunday's 10:30 am Masses!**

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



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 Sculpture on Display at Loyola's Lakeshore Campus Until Oct. 4

"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.

NCA is Hiring

Are you up early and looking for something to do? NCA Morning Care is looking for someone nurturing to watch children at school a couple mornings a week from 6:15-8:15 am.

If interested, please contact Deborah Gaddini at dgaddini@ncaweb.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!

New Parishioners

- Elizabeth Briggs & Steven Schwartz, children Colette, Margaret and Rowan Schwartz
- Perry & Stephanie Marchant, daughter Gertrude

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

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, September 25 at 5:00 pm - Steve Monti
- Sunday, September 26 at 8:00 am - Marty McDermott
- Sunday, September 26 at 10:30 am in church - Rafael Melendez
- Sunday, September 26 at 10:30 am Gym Mass -TBA

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, September 25 at 5:00 pm - Tim Harrington
- Sunday, September 26 at 8:00 am - Barb Daly, Brian Devarenne
- Sunday, September 26 at 10:30 am in church - Debra Novak, Rafael Melendez, Carlos Barrigan
- Sunday, September 26 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Cantors and Musicians:

- Saturday, September 25 at 5:00 pm - Siobhan O'Neill Meluso
- Sunday, September 26 at 8:00 am - Paula Dempsey
- Sunday, September 26 at 10:30 am in church - Michael Callahan; Dana Sullivan, flute and Denise Goodman-clarinet
- Sunday, September 26 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Mass Intentions

- Monday, September 27: 7:30 am - Hipolito Viera+ + indicates the person is deceased
- Tuesday, September 28: 7:30 am - St. Gertrude Parishioners
- Wednesday, September 29: 7:30 am - For all school and religious education students and their families
- Thursday, September 30: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, October 1: 7:30 am - Robert Hatley+; 8:30 am - NCA Mass - For all students and teachers
- Saturday, October 2: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society; 5:00 pm ~ Dr. Jerry Wessel+
- Sunday, October 3: 8:00 am - Robert Hatley+; 10:30 am - Galoney Strubbe Family+; 10:30 am Gym - Sophia Benson+

Rest in Peace

- Dr. Jerry Wessel, brother of Ginger Williams

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

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