

## St. Gertrude Chicago

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[www.stgertrudechicago.org](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org)

Sunday, Sept. 5, 2021

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

### From Father Rich

#### Labor Day

This Monday, September 6 is Labor Day. Mass on Labor Day will be at 9:00 am in church. (There is no 7:30 am Mass on Labor Day.) In honor of the Labor Day holiday, the Rectory

office will be closed the Friday before -- September 3 and on Labor Day, September 6. The Friday holiday is one of three additional holidays the Archdiocese has given to all employees in gratitude for their work and many accommodations during the pandemic.

I hope you have a great holiday -- maybe a great bar-b-que, etc. on Monday. And I encourage you also to consider this holiday, how we got it, and the importance of organizing and unions in our nation's history and in protecting the rights and benefits of employees. Having a job is so much more involved than simply "working" someplace. Our employment partially determines how we will live, what we will eat, how we will meet our health concerns, etc. Today, many people dismiss the importance of unions, apparently unaware that most of the rights and benefits so many workers take for granted have only happened because unions organized large segments of the workforce and through negotiating, striking, walking out, etc. forced the owners and the managers to treat them fairly and justly. This fight is never over!

There is a certain irony in this year's Labor Day. Many of those same legislators who opposed any sort of financial aid to workers as a buffer against the economic hardship caused by the pandemic are now outraged that, at least according to their perception, lots of the workers who received a temporary increase in unemployment benefits, didn't return to the workforce yet. And because of that, not only have many employers not had sufficient workers for their business (e.g. almost any restaurant or health care facility), they are now being forced to offer more than yesterday's minimum wage! (Which was another of those things many of those same legislators refused to increase!)

It is no accident that every Pope since Leo XIII has written about the value of work, workers, the importance of the rights of workers, and the benefits all workers should be guaranteed. These issues are issues of social justice and equality. These are human rights issues.

Have a great Labor Day!

## From Father Rich (cont.)

### Welcome Back Sunday is Next Week!

Next week, we will celebrate returning to church in this new version of "normal" after 18 months of pandemic AND welcoming all our new parishioners -- especially those who have joined St. Gertrude after the closing of St. Ignatius parish -- with a Welcome & Welcome Back Sunday!

We will celebrate this at the 10:30 am Mass, followed by hospitality. Originally, we were planning on a pancake breakfast, but the mandates for masks for everyone seemed to indicate that was probably not a good idea -- putting a lot of people into a room for breakfast. In its place, we will have a food truck! The Girl Cupcake Co. will be here with delicious cupcakes and a variety of drinks.



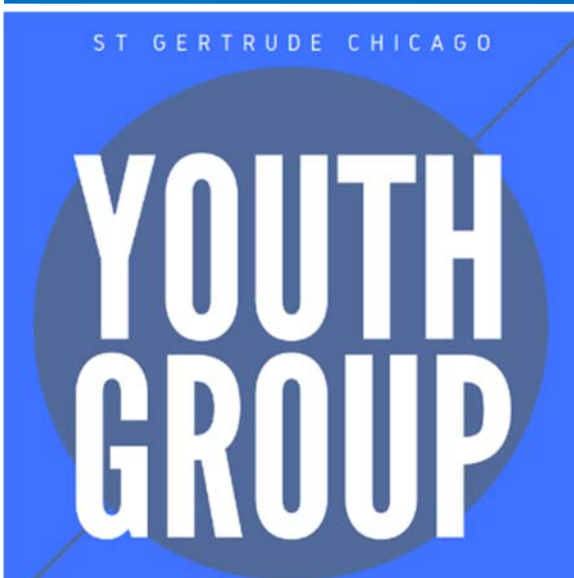
After you get your cupcake and drink after Mass, please join us for socializing and live music in the side yard of the rectory or in the courtyard between the church and Ministry Center. Hope to see you then! Special thanks to Fr. Mike Gabriel and his committee for pulling this all together.

### Fr. Mike Runs for Heart to Heart Again

Fr. Mike Bradley WILL run another marathon -- to benefit Heart to Heart - on Sunday, October 10. Keep checking for more information!

### Strength for the Journey

NCA's theme this year is, "Strength for the Journey". Spend a moment considering what strength you need on your life's journey and what strength you can give to others to encourage them on their life journeys.



## 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, Pastoral Associate for Religious Education and Youth Ministry, at [eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org).

Thank you!



## Our Religious Ed Program: Classes Held In-Person on Sunday Mornings

Our 2021-2022 Religious Education Religious Ed classes will begin this month! The plan this school year is to have in-person instruction on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 am. 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 of Northside

Catholic Academy's Gym). The full Religious Ed program's schedule available online at <https://stgertrudechicago.org/religious-education-news>.

Specific class locations will be shared in the near future. Of course, everything is subject to change due to COVID.

Applications 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](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org).

This school year, fees are \$200 for one child and \$225 for two or more children. An additional sacramental fee of \$60 is required for children making their First Communion, First Reconciliation, or Confirmation. Religious Education class fees and sacramental fees can be paid online at <https://www.givecentral.org/location/8/event/30788>.

## Catechists Needed to Teach Religious Education This School Year

We are looking for catechists to teach in our parish's Religious Ed program! 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](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org) or call 773.764.3621.

Thank you for your consideration!



## Growing in Faith

As I reflect on this Gospel, my mind goes to healers. Then, I think about my father, who was a doctor by profession. But, more than that, he was a healer. He passed away in 1990 at age 82 of Alzheimer's disease.

So you get the idea of the culture of medicine when he was practicing compared to today. His office was in the small town that we grew up in, and he practiced at two hospitals in the city of Joliet. A man I met years later happened to know of my father. He called my dad a shaman. My dad had saved his cousin's leg after a motorcycle accident. Other doctors were going to amputate, but he said he didn't think that was necessary.

He often saw patients at his office until 1:00 or 2:00 in the morning after making rounds at the hospitals where he had privileges. People called our home at all hours of the night with all kinds of problems. He even made house calls. It occurs to me that we, my seven siblings and I, often criticized him for being a workaholic.

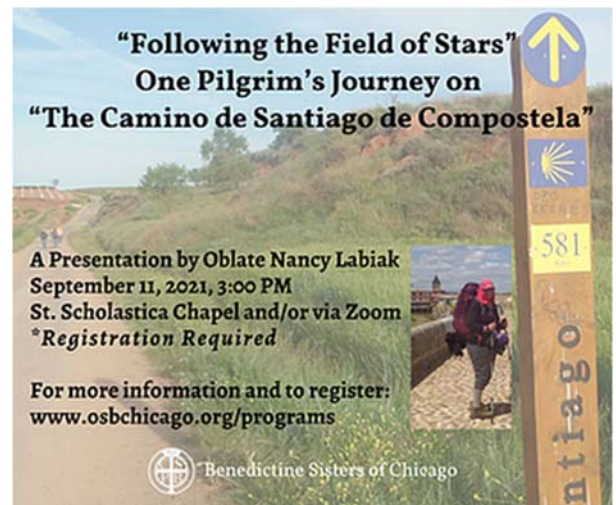
When I think of all of the people in our town that he helped, how many owed him money that he never collected, and how many folks came to his wake to pay tribute, I feel so proud of him. We heard wonderful stories about the side of our dad that we didn't know.

~ Maggie Blondis

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## Benedictine Sisters of Chicago Program: One Pilgrim's Journey on The Way of St. James

All are welcome to join the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago on Saturday, September 11 at 3:00 pm for an afternoon of reflection as Oblate Nancy Labiak discusses her 2014 pilgrimage across Northern Spain to the shrine of the Apostle James the Greater. The 500 mile long El Camino de Santiago de Compostela, also known as "The Way of St. James", would be the most physically challenging ordeal—and the most life-giving accomplishment of her life.



The presentation will be held at St. Scholastica Chapel as well as on Zoom. Registration is required. Visit [www.osbchicago.org/programs](http://www.osbchicago.org/programs) for more information and to sign up.

Nancy Labiak is an Oblate of St. Scholastica Monastery, mother of one amazing son, and resides in the Edgewater community. She divided her career into Ministry to the Elder Community and working as an international travel director—leading groups to all seven continents. Now retired, she volunteers in hospice and interfaith relations and --after a pause for the pandemic—continues to explore the world.

## Annual Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration Planned for September—New Mass Location in Niles

The Archdiocese of Chicago's Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass is scheduled to be held on Sunday, September 19 at 2:30 pm at St John Brebeuf Parish in Niles. This Mass is planned as a live event but may be moved online.

Couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary can learn more about the Mass and register at <https://pvm.archchicago.org/events/golden-wedding>.



## Care for our Common Home: Compost Your Way to a Healthier Environment

According to the Composting Council, if everyone in the United States composted all of their food waste, the impact would be equivalent to removing 7.8 million cars from the road.

This short YouTube video is an excellent resource to learn about composting and caring for our common home: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x\\_jXNS3U9OI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_jXNS3U9OI).

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

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, email Kevin Cheers at [kchears@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:kchears@stgertrudechicago.org). Thank you!



**Rectory Office Closed Friday and Monday of Labor Day Weekend:** The Rectory office will be closed on Friday, September 3 and on Labor Day, Monday, September 6. Mass will be held at 9:00 am on Labor Day. Please note, Mass on Friday, September 3 will be at 7:30 am.

## Heart to Heart Needs Wheelchairs

St. Gertrude's Heart to Heart Ministry is looking for wheelchairs to loan to those who need them. Currently, there are none to share.

Contact Laurie Hasbrook at the Heart to Heart office at 773.973.5464 from 10:00 am-2:30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays or call Jane Callahan-Moore at 773.595.9992 Monday through Friday from 10:00 am-5:00 pm.



## 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 the fall 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.

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

# HELP WANTED

## Help Wanted - Part-Time Front Desk Staff

We are looking to restart evening hours at the Rectory office and are looking for a part-time worker. The hours are in the late afternoon/evening Monday-Thursday as well as Sunday mornings.

Applicants must be over the age of 18 and undergo a background check and either be Virtus trained or make time to be trained.

Please email Kevin Cheers at [kchears@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:kchears@stgertrudechicago.org) if you are interested!

# NCA Early Learning Center: Full and Part-Time Options Available

Northside Catholic Academy's preschool provides a child-centered learning program where children participate in meaningful play in a stimulating and joyful environment that enables them to make a comfortable transition from home to school.



Our preschool program options include five full days a week, five half-days a week, three half-days a week, and Extended Care. Details about all of these programs and fees can be found on the NCA website, [www.northsidecatholic.org](http://www.northsidecatholic.org).

Please email Shakira Morrisette, NCA's admissions director, at [smorrisette@ncaweb.org](mailto:smorrisette@ncaweb.org) or call 773.743. 6277 ext. 207 for more information or to schedule a tour.



## Career Transition Services Offers Free Help to Jobseekers

Are you or a loved one unemployed, underemployed, or unfulfilled? Career Transitions Center, founded by Catholic parishes, helps people get jobs. They are currently offering virtual training and support, including a virtual career coaching program.

There are all kinds of virtual information sessions available to help with job searches, networking, how to find programs to be retrained, and more. Visit the Career Transitions Center at <https://ctcchicago.org/> for more information.

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

### Cantors:

- Saturday, September 4 at 5:00 pm - Cindy Lawson
- Sunday, September 5 at 8:00 am - Carol Ann Munro
- Sunday, September 5 at 10:30 am - Kate Hibbs Davis

### Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, September 4 at 5:00 pm - Troy McMillian
- Sunday, September 5 at 8:00 am - Mark Kollar
- Sunday, September 5 at 10:30 am - Debra Novak

### Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, September 4 at 5:00 pm - Steve Monti, Kathy Wall
- Sunday, September 5 at 8:00 am - Peter Morin, Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, September 5 at 10:30 am - Debra Novak, Rafael Melendez, Carlos Barrigan

## Mass Intentions

- Labor Day, Monday, September 6: 9:00 am - St. Gertrude parishioners
- Tuesday, September 7: 7:30 am - Living & deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
- Wednesday, September 8: 7:30 am - Elizabeth Seitz+
- Thursday, September 9: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, September 10: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- Saturday, September 11: 7:30 am - For all returning school children and their parents; 5:00 pm ~ Olga Rodriguez+
- Sunday, September 12: 8:00 am ~ Living & deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners; 10:30 am - Galoney Strubbe Family+

*+ indicates the person  
is deceased*

## Rest in Peace

- Mary Grover
- Ninette Joseph-Laroche

## Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- |                           |                          |                        |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Pamela Sherrod Anderson | • Ann Collins Dole       | • Karey Myers          |
| • Helen Banta             | • David Fisk             | • Bernie O'Connor      |
| • Jean Bautista           | • Shirley Marie Gonzales | • Tina Piemonte        |
| • Walter Bradford         | • Mary Grover            | • Braedon Rimpson      |
| • Sharon Brown            | • Felipe Hall and Family | • Charley Scantlebury  |
| • Connie Bueck            | • Lucia Hall             | • Richard Seitz        |
| • Lilly Buie              | • Gina Heidkamp          | • Peggy Stoffel        |
| • Maggie Callaway         | • Maria Hertl            | • The Sullivan family  |
| • Aida Calvopina          | • Bernice Kiedysz        | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Geraldine Clark         | • Art Lyons              | • Manuel Viray         |
| • Connie Cool             | • Sr. Terri McKenzie     | • Norma E. Viray       |
| • Caloy Desembrana        | • 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](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org)
- GiveCentral: [www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevnts](http://www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevnts)

Email [esoto@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto: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