



## St. Gertrude Chicago

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Bulletin for

Sunday, August 21, 2022

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

### From Fr. Rich

In today's epistle reading from the Letter to the Hebrews, the author is reflecting upon a topic many find uncomfortable: discipline.

One of the very first troubles we have is that we often mistake discipline as an attack upon our all-too-fragile egos. Our egos tell us we can do whatever we want, which might have worked for a while when we were children. But if we are ever going to grow into mature adults, it means we have learned how to delay our desire for we want right this second for a deeper desire to find satisfaction for a longer period of time.

As the reading states, "whom the Lord loves, he disciplines." Or put another way, the parent or responsible adult in a child's life must also be a disciplinarian, or they are only pretending to love. Love means we are willing to make the sacrifice of being temporarily on the child's bad list for their own good. If we cannot or will not love our children in that way, we become responsible for mis-forming them.

It seems to me another way of thinking about this is within the context of patience. In many ways, discipline and patience are twin siblings. We cannot have everything we want, and we cannot have it whenever we want it. Such a self-indulgent style of living is certainly going to end in disaster for all involved. If we could have everything we wanted whenever we wanted it, as children we would do some serious damage to ourselves physically, mentally, emotionally, and psychologically.

Being denied certain things for certain lengths of time can teach us so many important lessons. First, it is the way we realize we are not God or even gods! Second, we are part of a community -- perhaps it is initially limited to only family, but eventually it expands to include friends, neighbors, classmates, co-workers, and teammates and we have to get along with them, learn from them, and be enriched by our relationships. Third, it helps us come to realize that contrary to what my ego may be telling me, I really don't need whatever I want right now, or I think I will be devastated. But, in fact, I **can** survive that absence. And it may even be helpful to me!

What might I choose to learn this week that will require that I discipline myself? How might I practice patience in a more positive and creative way? Discipline and patience can be tremendous helpers in learning to be more inclusive, flexible, and open to other people and other experiences. Temporarily being deprived of what I want is not the end of my life! In fact, it may provide a whole new understanding of myself that I otherwise might never have encountered.

## Pastor Column

God, Every now and again I come across someone's writing that clarifies for me in a succinct way some of my own thoughts. Recently I was reading an article on the 50th anniversary of Pax Christi.

First, the story: Recently at celebrations of Pax Christi USA's 50th anniversary, Bishop John Stowe, president of the organization, positioned peacemakers and justice advocates as lambs in the midst of the world's many wolves, including Catholic wolves.

Stowe preached, alluding to LGBTQ+ couples at one point: "As a Church it does not seem that we were sufficiently vigilant about those who were being excluded, about promoting the nonviolence of Christ, about challenging oppression wherever it was, about promoting equality and equal dignity among all our members. We seemed to be part of an institution living in fear, not heeding that most frequent admonition of Jesus, to be not afraid. . .

We don't have to wander very far to encounter the wolves: when Catholics are promoting the death penalty and awarded for doing so, are eager for vengeance and retaliation, when we are willing to bless armaments but not some couples, when the voices of women are not being heard in the fights about abortion, when the institution cannot bring itself to say 'Black lives matter,' and when the self-proclaimed uber-Catholics insist that they know more and better than the pope."

I don't know Bishop John Stowe, but I thought his insights were important. There is a strengthening division in our church and in our nation about how we ought to behave, believe, etc. It tends to be in the realm of the "it's my way or the highway." Suffice it to say, ultimatums are rarely beneficial to healthy relationships. And too much of our conversations about our behavior and our morality and our ethics has been falling into this category.

In the realm of the church, many people tend to fall either on the "I'm here to pray and talk to God. Don't bother me with all that social justice stuff." Or the other extreme, "I am only concerned with helping to remedy the injustices of my fellow human beings, don't give me all that "holy" talk." Whoever makes this kind of ultimatum has already invalidated what the Catholic Church teaches and believes. It isn't one or the other. It is about finding out how we can always be connecting both of those important dynamics. For whenever we let one fade to make the other prominent, we always end up compromising the message of Jesus Christ.

Like each of us, the Church also is not perfect. It is always on the same journey we are on. There is that wonderful old Latin expression which explains this, "Semper reformanda, numquam reformata." (Always reforming, never reformed.) This comes from the Reformed movement in Protestant denominations. But it is equally true for all Christians. We are always being called to doing better. But we must never give in to discouragement when we fail.

None of us needs to look far when seeing places our Church has failed to live out the gospel of Jesus Christ in any number of areas, even while still proclaiming that gospel. I think Bishop Stowe has well captured the underlying problem -- it is fear. Fear is what happens when someone says, "Did you ever think about doing this differently?" Today's topics that might be named in those speculations include the role of women in the church; the way we look at others who are not Christian or not Catholic; the "bargains" we make with the dark side because it keeps me comfortable where I am; and so on.

It is a good idea to periodically ask ourselves if we are limiting our visions and behaviors out of fear. And then ask God's help to move us beyond the fear.

## Religious Ed Classes Begin September 18!

Registration is now open for our 2022-2023 Religious Education program! Classes will begin on Sunday, September 18, with in-person instruction held on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 am at Northside Catholic Academy.

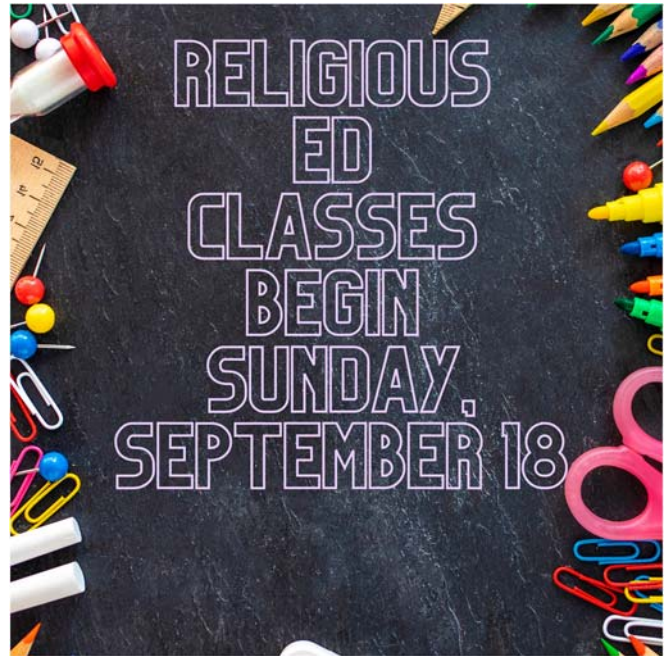
All Religious Ed forms can be found at <https://stgertrudechicago.org/religious-education-news>, including a Religious Ed registration form, the calendar of classes for the year, and this year's handbook in English and Spanish.

Parents of students making their First Communion/Reconciliation or their Confirmation this year should also fill out a sacramental registration form. Confirmation candidates also require additional paperwork, which can be found at <https://bit.ly/ConfirmationForms>, along with the deadlines. Please note that students must receive two years of preparation in order to make these sacraments.

The fees for the 2022-2023 school year are \$210 for one child and an additional \$30 for each student from the same family. Tuition can be paid online at <https://bit.ly/RelEdTuition>.

An additional sacramental fee of \$65 is required for children making their First Communion and First Reconciliation, or their Confirmation. That fee can be paid at <https://bit.ly/SacramentalFee>.

Completed forms and any questions about the program should be emailed to Eloy Escamilla at [eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org). Please register before the start date.



## Catechists Needed to Teach Religious Education

We are looking for catechists to teach in our parish's Religious Ed program this Fall!

Catechists are usually not professional teachers, just willing parents and parishioners who enjoy kids and want to help them grow in a personal relationship with God, participate in the sacraments, 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 pastoral associate Eloy Escamilla at [eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org) or call 773.764.3621.

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

## Fireside Chat — Discussion on the Seamless Garment Planned for September

The Peace and Justice Ministry will host the final Fireside Chat on Monday, September 19. We will discuss and explore how our Christian faith informs how we feel about the Seamless Garment (sanctity of life, conception to natural death) from 7:00-8:30 pm on the Rectory lawn. Bring your lawn chair, a beverage of your choice and snacks to share, if you choose.

Attendees are asked to be mindful of the rules of engagement, outlined below. Attendees are asked to read articles about the Seamless Garment. Link to the readings will be shared in future bulletins. Email Fr. Mike at [mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org) with any questions.



### Fireside Covenant

As we engage in conversation, please observe the following:

- **Confidentiality** - What's said here, stays here.
- **No preaching** - We speak from our personal experiences, we are not here to judge, we avoid saying "we should" or "you should".
- **No cross talk** - We listen in silence while others are speaking. We do not comment or ask questions about what others say.
- **Respect time** - Our gathering is 90 minutes. Please respect time so we can all share.
- **All are asked to share** - By coming to this gathering, you agree to participate in some way. Even if it's just your name, we ask you to share something.



## Join our Mailing List

## Text STGERTS to 22828 to get started

## New Parish Email Marketing Platform

The parish e-blast platform switched from MailChimp to Constant Contact.

To join our email communications list (or if you unsubscribed in the past, and now wish to receive emails), text *STGERTS* to 22828. You'll be prompted to enter your email address and will receive our e-reflections and e-bulletins.

Additionally, if you prefer to just receive the weekly e-bulletin, typically emailed on Thursdays, email [news@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:news@stgertrudechicago.org) and your email will be added to a separate, e-bulletin-only list.

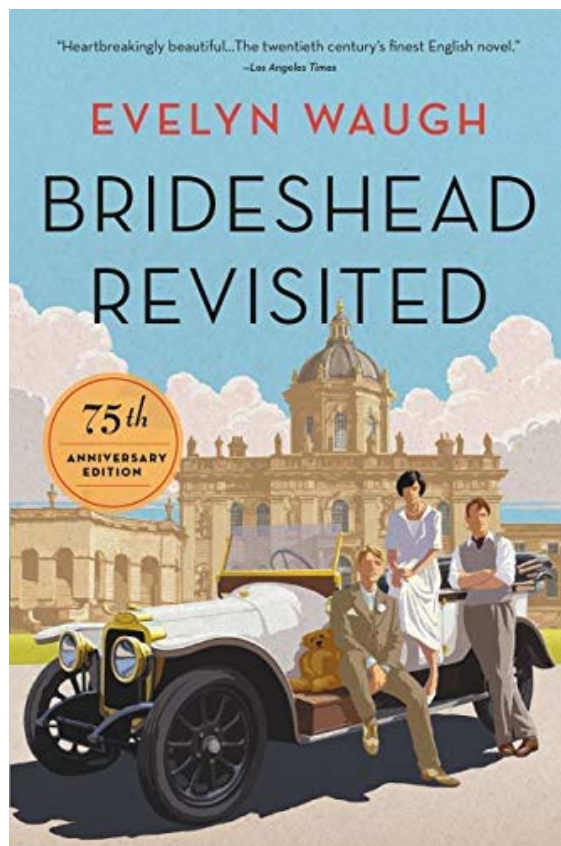
**Mass Times/Confession:** Sunday— 8:00 am & 10:30 am; Monday-Friday—7:30 am (Thursday is a Communion Service); Saturday—7:30 am & 5:00 pm. Reconciliation is offered on Saturday afternoons from 4:15-4:45 pm in Church or by appointment by calling the Rectory at 773.764.3621.

## Reading Group on *Brideshead Revisited* On Wednesday

Join St. Gregory's Hall for a reading group on *Brideshead Revisited* by Evelyn Waugh. The book explores the work of God's grace as an "unseen hook" in the lives of an aristocratic Catholic family in inter-war England as seen through the eyes of protagonist Charles Ryder. Waugh, an adult convert to Catholicism, was considered one of the greatest writers of the 20th century.

Book Two will be discussed on Wednesday, August 24 and Book Three & Epilogue will be reviewed on Wednesday, August 31. (Book One was covered on August 17.)

Participants are asked to obtain their own copy of the book. To RSVP, fill out the form at <https://www.stgregoryhall.org/brideshead.html>, email Mark Franzen at [mfranzen@archchicago.org](mailto:mfranzen@archchicago.org), or call the parish center at 773.561.3546.



## This Thursday: Pastoral Parish Council (PPC) Meeting

The next PPC meeting will be held on Thursday, August 25.

Meetings are held in the Ministry Center from 7:00 pm-8:30 pm and are open to parishioners.

## Parish Potluck Planned for Sunday, September 11

The St. Gertrude Parish Council invites you to join us on Sunday, September 11 for a potluck picnic. We will gather at 11:30 am after Mass in the parish parking lot. The parish will provide fried chicken, but bring your own chair, beverage, and your favorite dish to share. Enjoy an afternoon of music, friends, and fun!

Please RSVP to <https://bit.ly/ParishPotluck> and sign up for a dish to bring.

Are you interested in participating in this gathering, but can't attend an in person event at this time? Please RSVP and in the comments write, "*Can't attend in person*" with your phone number. We will reach out to you about a virtual option.



## Misericordia Family Fest Planned for Sunday, September 11

Misericordia will host its 40th annual Family Fest on Sunday, September 11 from 11:00 am-6:00 pm!

The campus at 6300 N. Ridge will bring families, friends, and neighbors together for a fun day of sunshine, smiles, great food and entertainment! All proceeds support Misericordia's programs for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Tickets are available online and at the door. Visit <https://www.misericordia.com/store/fest-tickets/> or call 773.273.2768 for more information.

### Volunteers are Needed!

This one-day event takes approximately 2,000 volunteers to pull it off and your help would be greatly appreciated. Volunteer shifts are generally broken down into 2 ½ -3 hours.

At this time, the state is requiring that all volunteers must be up-to-date with COVID vaccinations. The coordinator for each area will be checking vaccination records as volunteers arrive to their shifts. Please have a digital copy or hard copy of your vaccination record available on the day of the Fest.

For more details about volunteering opportunities, please contact Paul Schwartz at 773.273.4161 or email [pauls@misericordia.com](mailto:pauls@misericordia.com).



## Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

Couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary from across the Archdiocese of Chicago are invited to gather together for the Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass that will be celebrated by Cardinal Cupich on Sunday, September 18 at 2:30 pm.

The Mass will be held at Holy Name Cathedral. For more information and to register, visit <https://pvm.archchicago.org/events/golden-wedding>.

## October PreCana Class at St. Gertrude

If you are an engaged couple planning on getting married at St. Gertrude, or a parishioner planning on getting married anywhere else, attendance at a PreCana is part of the marriage preparation process for all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Our parish-based PreCana will be held on Saturday, October 15.

Please call the Rectory office at 773.764.3621 to register or to request additional information.





## 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 me at [eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org) or call the Rectory at 773.764.3621. The RCIA meeting schedule is available here: <https://bit.ly/RCIACalendarUpdated>.

~ Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate

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## Art & Environment Volunteers Needed

Want to get involved in something? We are looking for parishioners who are interested in being part of an Art and Environment Committee. The team's goal is to create an environment inside and outside the church that enhances prayer and worship according to the liturgical seasons.

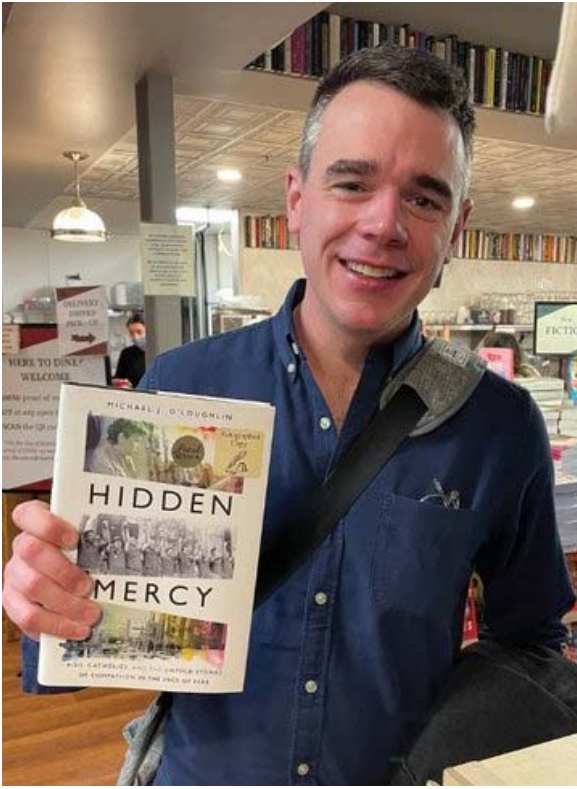
A variety of talents are needed. Having a background in art and interior design, woodworking, lighting, sewing, and floral arrangements would be good, but not necessary! The team meets as needed to plan and/or prepare. To get involved, contact Fr. Mike at [mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org).



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## Wanted: Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, & Ministers of the Word

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 Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate, at [eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org).



## **Hidden Mercy - A Conversation with the Author Happening in October**

Everyone is invited to join a conversation with Michael O'Loughlin, author of *Hidden Mercy: AIDS, Catholics and the Untold Stories of Compassion in the Face of Fear*, on Tuesday, October 18 at 7:00 pm.

This is a jointly sponsored event between St. Gertrude and The Hank Center for Catholic Intellectual Heritage at Loyola University.

The event will be held in Loyola University's McCormick Lounge, located on the first floor of Coffey Hall, 1000 W. Sheridan Rd.

We hope to see you there!

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## **Heart to Heart Volunteers**

Volunteers are the backbone of Heart to Heart. There are opportunities for volunteering to service the homebound seniors and disabled individuals in our Edgewater/Rogers Park areas like:

- Home visits, bringing Communion upon request;
- Driving a person to pick up groceries and other errands;
- Taking a shopping list, picking up and delivering groceries; and
- Dropping off individuals for doctor appointments.

If you cannot commit every week to a regular schedule, consider being a backup on call. How about doing phone visits from the ministry center or from your home? Heart to Heart is also looking for someone with geriatric social worker background that could help us make referrals when necessary.

If you desire to be a Minister of Care bringing communion to the homebound, there is training available near the end of September. We are committed to making the Archdiocese of Chicago VIRTUS training an easy requirement to fulfill.

If these volunteer activities are not a fit, consider signing up for the Ministry of Prayer. Each month you will receive a flyer, with petitions to include in your daily prayer from wherever you may be on a given day.

Together, being part of the body of Christ, our faith moves us to service those in need. Help Heart to Heart continue to support the elderly and disabled, so that they may stay in the comfort of their homes.

Contact Pat Sullivan at [psullivan@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:psullivan@stgertrudechicago.org) or call 773.973.5464.





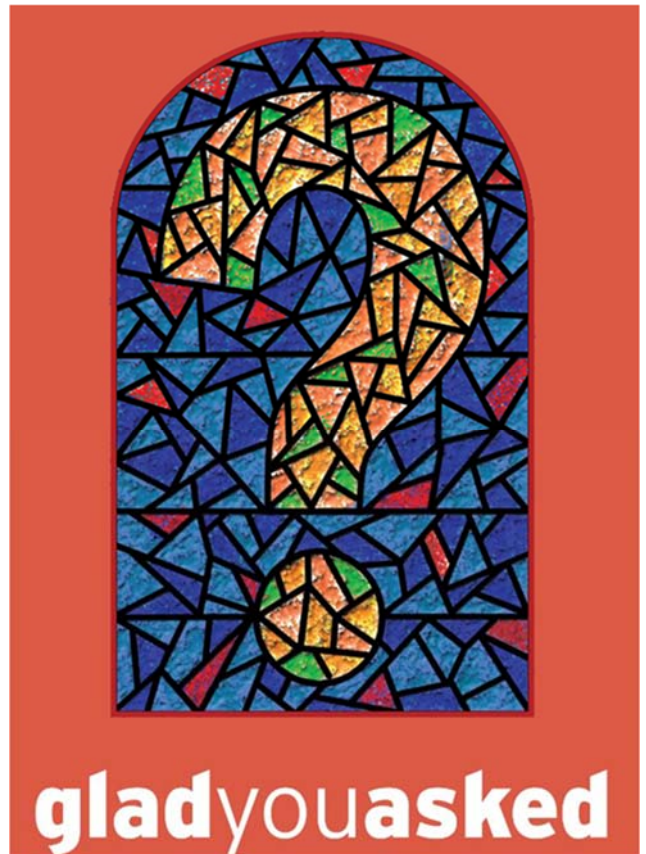
## New Catholic Podcast

Have you ever had a question about Catholicism that you couldn't find an easy answer to? Or a question about a teaching or tradition that seemed to have five different answers, none of them satisfactory? Or maybe you even had a question you felt you weren't allowed to ask. The new podcast from U.S. Catholic, *Glad You Asked*, may be just what you are looking for.

*Glad You Asked*, hosted by editors Emily Sanna and Rebecca Bratten Weiss, explores some of the questions about Catholicism that don't have obvious answers—questions that open doors to more in-depth discussion of Catholic history, tradition, and the development of teachings.

Whether you're unfamiliar with Catholicism and simply interested in learning more about a major world religion, a convert trying to find your way around a new faith community, or a lifetime Catholic with a longing for thoughtful, empathetic, responsible conversation, the *Glad You Asked* podcast has something to keep your mind and your heart engaged.

You can subscribe to *Glad You Asked* on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or at <https://mailchi.mp/usatholic/glad-you-asked-podcast> to receive updates about new episodes.



**Legacy Planning Information:** Please be a light to others by considering a gift through your individual retirement account (IRA) in support of our parish. By naming St. Gertrude as a beneficiary, you'll provide crucial financial support to our parish and the entire value of your gift will be transferred to us free from federal estate and income tax. It costs nothing to change the beneficiary on your retirement plan and will mean everything to our parish. Contact Eduardo Soto at [esoto@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:esoto@stgertrudechicago.org) or 773.764.3621 for details.

## Cantors, Ministers of the Word, and Eucharistic Ministers

### Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, August 20 at 5:00 pm - Patrick Reardon
- Sunday, August 21 at 8:00 am - Jacalyn Meier
- Sunday, August 21 at 10:30 am - Debra Novak

### Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, August 20 at 5:00 pm - Mary Cook
- Sunday, August 21 at 8:00 am - Brian DeVarenne
- Sunday, August 21 at 10:30 am - Steve Monti, Victoria Healy, Bob Backis

### Cantors:

- Saturday, August 20 at 5:00 pm - Bernie O' Connor
- Sunday, August 21 at 8:00 am - Jon Blake
- Sunday, August 21 at 10:30 am - Matt Heimer

## Mass Intentions

- **Monday, August 22:** 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
- **Tuesday, August 23:** 7:30 am - Living and deceased Torreano family members
- **Wednesday, August 24:** 7:30 am - Ted Baran +
- **Thursday, August 25:** 7:30 am - Communion Service
- **Friday, August 26:** 7:30 am - Living and deceased Torreano family members
- **Saturday, August 27:** 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society; 5:00 pm - Parishioners of St. Gertrude
- **Sunday, August 28:** 8:00 am - Living and deceased Torreano family members; 10:30 am - Virginia Stecky + (*+ indicates the person is deceased*)

## Baptisms

- Hazel Stephanie Mitchell Cook, child of Timothy Cook and Natalie Garner Cook
- Delilah Amado Kresge, child of Kyle Kresge and Cheryl Amado Kresge

## New Parishioner

- Sr. Matilde Adeboye

## Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- |                           |                          |                        |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Pamela Sherrod Anderson | • Christine Frisoni      | • Molly Morris         |
| • Zara Bradley            | • Shirley Marie Gonzales | • Karey Myers          |
| • Sharon Brown            | • Gina Heidkamp          | • Richard Seitz        |
| • Lilly Buie              | • Maria Hertl            | • Peggy Stoffel        |
| • Claire Bushey           | • Daniel Hidalgo         | • The Sullivan family  |
| • Maggie Callaway         | • Bernice Kiedysz        | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Aida Calvopina          | • Marilyn Klein          | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • KC Conway               | • Roy Lipscomb           | • Leon Ward            |
| • Connie Cool             | • Sheila McGuire         | • Ken & Vyes Yoza      |
| • Caloy Desembrana        | • Dean Mattoni           |                        |
| • Ann Collins Dole        | • Larry McCauley         |                        |

## 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/allevants](http://www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevants)

Email [esoto@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:esoto@stgertrudechicago.org) for additional information.

## Parish Staff

Rev. Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor  
Rev. Michael Gabriel, Associate Pastor  
Mary Clare Barker, Minister of Music  
Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate  
Maria Garcia, Rectory Office Manager  
Laurie Hasbrook, Heart to Heart Lending Closet Manager  
Andy Mueller, Parish Buildings Engineer  
Tracy Shields, Communications  
Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management  
Patricia Sullivan, Heart to Heart Director