



St. Gertrude Chicago

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www.stgertrudechicago.org

Sunday, December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is This Week!

The Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. It is

a celebration that brings Latino families together (especially Mexicans and Mexican-Americans) and invites the whole Catholic community to gather to celebrate and honor Mary. It is through this celebration that these communities identify with Guadalupe, a powerful symbol of devotion, where they show and express their faith in God.

The devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe is so embedded in the Mexican and Mexican-American culture that it is no longer possible to distinguish it from the daily activities of the people. After hundreds of years in Mexican life, Guadalupe has become the symbol of hope, humility, faithfulness, responsibility, and willingness to serve, but most importantly, a symbol of courage to continue doing God's will.

According to history, Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared in Mexico during very difficult times: The powerful were doing their will over the vulnerable, which is very similar to what we have been witnessing lately. Her presence was the beginning of a harmonious way of coexistence.

May this feast be an occasion to bring peace wherever we go.

~ Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate



From Fr. Mike

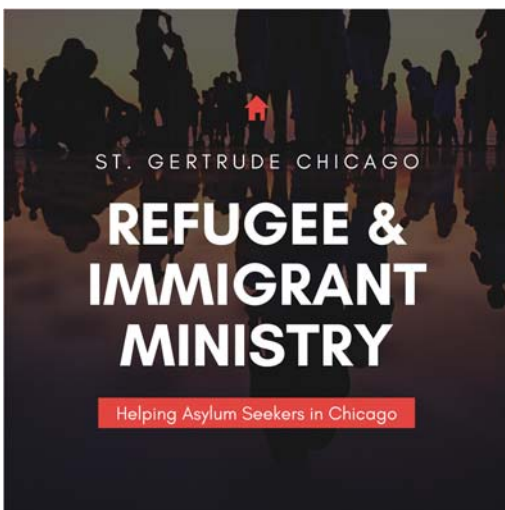
Today is the second Sunday of Advent. This week as we light our second Advent candle, it symbolizes *Faith*. It is a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. Their journey calls every one of us to prepare the way of the Lord. One of the ways we can be active in our Advent preparation is to practice hospitality.

"When I was a stranger, you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:27). That's what Jesus calls us to do: welcome the stranger.

St. Gertrude's will be hosting a family of four from Venezuela, thanks to the generosity of the Catholic Guild of Chicago and our parish's Immigrant and Refugee Ministry. The parish motto is "ALL ARE WELCOME," and as a parish, we are taking steps to be a place of hope by welcoming this family. Like parents all over the world, they want their children to be happy and safe. So today, we welcome Miguel, Angie, and their children to our parish family!

How can you help? First, pray for them and for all refugees and asylum seekers. Second, if you speak Spanish or know someone who does, these skills would be of great help with assisting this family.

You might want to invite them for dinner or make dinner for our new neighbors. Like any young family starting out, there are things they need that we haven't thought about. So, reflect on things your family needs! You might be willing to drive them to the grocery store, or to an appointment. I know this all seems rushed, but it is needed to get this family out of the shelter at Broadway Armory and into a safe, warm environment.



An Update from the Immigrant & Refugee Ministry

You may have seen Cardinal Cupich on TV stating that the Catholic Church is stepping up to house migrant families. At present, four parishes are participating and we are one of them. This all played out quickly this week over a few days.

The family, Miguel, Angie, and their two children, a 7-year-old girl and a 2-year-old boy, will stay at the St. Ignatius rectory. Father Mike has shown them the space and they are thrilled.

Also, you may know that for those arriving after September 1, there is a time limit on how long they can stay in a shelter. In a version of our very own Edgewater posada, they are scheduled to be sent out in just a few days, so this came together beautifully.

They are just settling in, so stay tuned as we figure out their needs going forward!

~ Denise Goodman (on behalf of the Immigrant & Refugee Ministry)



Fr. Paul's Visit to Nigeria

Fr. Paul recently returned to Chicago after a visit with his family in Nigeria. It was the first time he went home in eight years.

He's shared some pictures of his visit with the family and friends who were able to see him during his time there. We're so glad he was able to travel home and see his family, especially his beloved mother!

St. Gert's Greenery Sale

St. Gertrude's annual Christmas greenery sale is going on now! While Christmas trees have sold out, three different sized wreaths are still available—the 18" wreath is \$25, the 24" is \$27, and the 36" is \$35. Garland is also available for \$40 per 5' length.

Buyers can purchase items online at <https://bit.ly/ChristmasGreenery>. A paper order form is available at <https://stgertrudechicago.org/christmas-greenery> and in church.

In-Person Sales Today After Mass

Greenery will also be sold at the playlot on the west side of the Social Hall, 1401 W. Granville Ave. today, Sunday, December 10 and Sunday, December 17 from 11:30 am-1:00 pm. Only cash and checks will be accepted for in-person purchases.



Second Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious is December 9 and 10

"Religious are blessed to serve," says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next week.

Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others.

Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.



Worldwide Candle Lighting for the Loss of a Child on Sunday, December 10

The Elizabeth Ministry of Queen of All Saints parish will host the annual Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting service on Sunday, December 10 at 6:45 pm in the basilica, 6280 N. Sauganash Avenue, Chicago.

The Compassionate Friends is an organization supporting grieving families in all fifty states and across thirty countries. Every second Sunday in December, families and friends around the globe unite in lighting candles to honor the memories of children of any age who have died, at any time, for any reason.

Everyone is welcome to participate in this non-denominational service of prayer and music as we remember children who have gone too soon. The service will also be live-streamed at www.qasparish.org. Email elizabethministry.qas@gmail.com with questions, or to request the name of a loved one to be read during the service.

Find more information about The Compassionate Friends organization and grief support at compassionatefriends.org.

Advent Journey with Jesus: New Bible Study Classes Offered on Mondays! All are Welcome to our Monday, Dec. 11 Classes

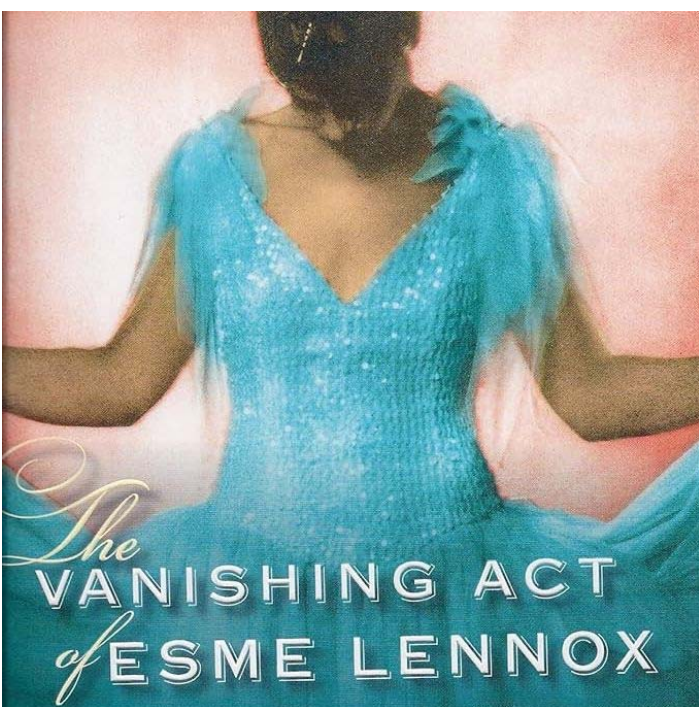
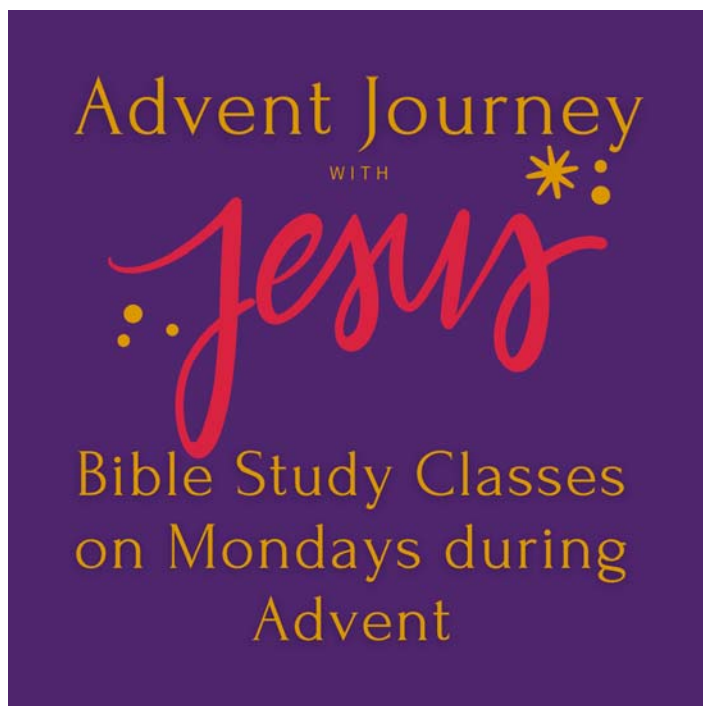
Please join Fr. Paul Adajà for a special Advent-focused Bible study on Mondays! The sessions will take place in the Ministry Center on December 11 and December 18 from 10:00-11:00 am and again from 7:00-8:00 pm.

Attendees are encouraged to read the assigned passages beforehand and come with their bibles.

Each week will feature a different reading and topic:

- Monday, December 11: The Parents II: Mary and Elizabeth (*Luke 1: 26-56*)
- Monday, December 18: John the Baptist, Jesus, and Me (*Luke 1:59-66; Luke 2: 1-7*)

Questions? Email Fr. Paul at padaja@stgertrudechicago.org.



Book Club is Monday, December 11

On Monday, December 11, the book club will discuss *The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox* by Maggie O'Farrell at 7:00 pm in the Ministry Center.

Contact Lea Cloninger at 773.973.2465 or Sue Benjamin at 773.551.8401 with questions.

Sign Up for Emails from St. Gertrude Parish! If you would like to receive emails from our parish or your email address has changed, please let us know! Send an email to news@stgertrudechicago.org and specify if you would prefer just the weekly bulletin, distributed on Thursday afternoons, or our daily prayer/reflection with notices about upcoming parish events.



PPC News: Next Mtg. is Dec. 13/ Greeters Wanted

The parish council is getting a Welcoming Committee up and running to foster a sense of hospitality, ensuring that every parishioner, both longstanding and new, feels a genuine connection to our faith community.

We are starting the committee by looking for greeters to welcome those into church. If you are interested, please contact Tim Love at tim.1love@gmail.com.

The next parish pastoral council meeting will be on Wednesday, December 13 at 7:00 pm in the Ministry

Center.

NCA Special Event Planned for Wednesday, December 13

All are welcome to attend NCA's Holiday performance on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 pm in church!

Titled "Lessons and Carols," the performances will feature our talented NCA students.



Friendship Club is Thursday, December 14

The St. Gertrude Women's Friendship Club meets monthly on the second Thursday of every month in the Ministry Center.

The gathering begins at 11:30 am, and attendees should bring their own (brown bag) lunch.

Holy Ground Documentary Premiere is December 14 (and Fr. Paul Àdajà is Interviewed!)

The documentary *Holy Ground* is a history of Catholics in Chicago from the discovery of the area, all the way into the post-World War II era.

The film looks at the role Billy Caldwell (a.k.a. Chief Sauganash) had in helping immigrants become settled to Chicago and the Grosse Pointe area. *Holy Ground* features engaging historians and showcases dozens of parishes and individuals, including St. Gert's associate pastor, Fr. Paul Àdajà!

There is a free screening of the film on Thursday, December 14 at Landmark Glen, 1850 Tower Dr. in Glenview. Tickets are available at the box office for 5:30 pm and 8:00 pm.

ST. MARY OF THE WOODS IN ASSOCIATION WITH SS. PETER & LAMBERT PRESENTS
HOLY GROUND
MOVIE PREMIERE
Thursday, December 14th
Landmark Glen
1850 Tower Drive, Glenview, IL 60062

The new documentary, *Holy Ground*, tells the story of Chicago from the perspective of the Catholics. All are welcome to a **FREE** screening. Tickets only available at the box office the night of, but we strongly encourage you to RSVP through "Sign Up Genius." Questions? E-mail holyground@smow.org.
Holy Ground is not rated; running time of 100 minutes.

SHOWTIMES
5:30pm & 8:00pm



Donate to our Giving Tree Program by December 17

The Giving Trees are in the back of Church. We will again be asking for gift cards, rather than gifts. This allows flexibility for individuals to get what they need. The benefactors of the Giving Tree collections will be Care for Real and the St. Gertrude Refugee and Immigrant Ministry.

Care for Real is asking for gift cards in \$20.00 increments to Target, Jewel, and Walmart. They are also asking for Ventra passes. The Refugee Ministry is requesting \$20 gift cards to Target. We are also asking for \$10 McDonald's gift cards to provide immediate meals for those who request them.

There are two boxes at the front of church, by the statue of Mary. One will be for Care for Real and one for the Refugee Ministry. Please place your gift cards into whichever organization you would like to support. The McDonald's gift cards can be placed in either box. The last chance to donate gift cards will be Sunday, December 17 at noon.

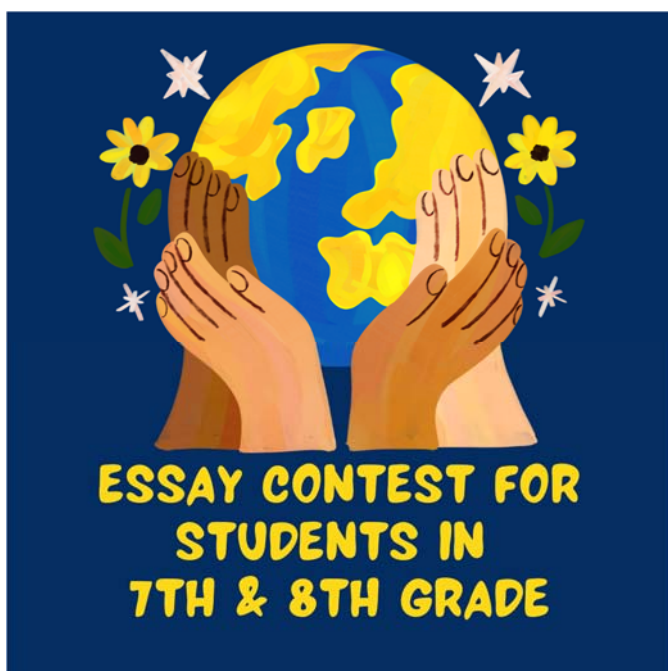
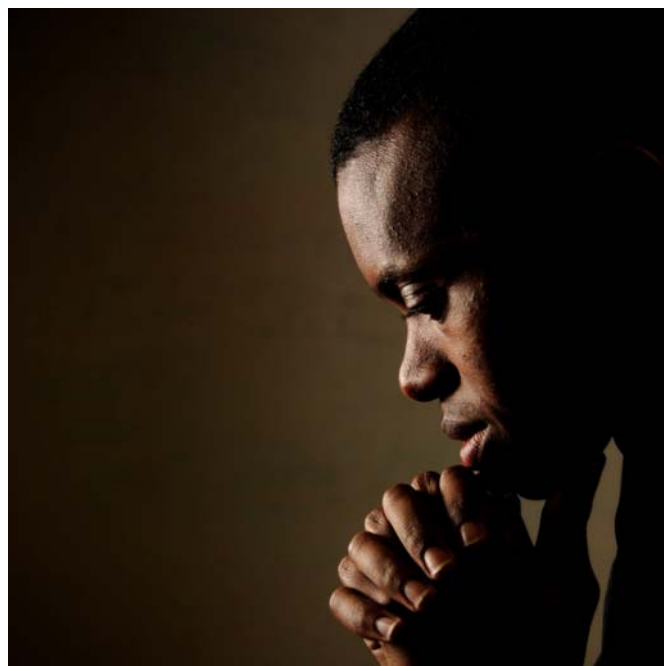
We hope that in this most joyous of seasons you will be able to support the Giving Tree program. Each gift card will allow others to be able to have a blessed and happy Christmas celebration.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Giving Tree Program coordinator Joe McMahon at jpmgmu@aol.com or at 708.525.5051.

Our Advent Reconciliation Service is Next Sunday, December 17

On Sunday, December 17, at 1:00 pm in church, we will celebrate our Advent Reconciliation. Please join us for this special service of scripture, hymns, and guided reflection, offering us some "quiet in the midst of the storm" as we celebrate the forgiveness of our sins in preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

Everyone is welcome. This service usually lasts about 45 minutes.



Students Essay Contest Deadline is December 18

Students in the 7th and 8th grade are invited to take part in our annual essay contest. Participants should write an essay in response to this question: *What is your role as a Christian Catholic to obtain world peace?*

Entries should be 500-600 words. Spelling and grammar count! The top three winners will receive gift cards and have their essays published online and in the bulletin.

Entries must be submitted by Mon., Dec. 18. Email eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org or mail them to Eloy Escamilla, 1420 W. Granville, Chicago, IL 60660.

St. Gertrude's Advent and Christmas Schedule

Advent Reconciliation Service, Sunday, Dec. 17

- 1:00 pm in church

Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24

- 5:00 pm Family Mass (live-streamed)
- 7:30 -8:00 pm Choral music
- 8:00 pm Vigil Mass, adult choir & instruments

Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25

- 8:00 am
- 10:30 am (live-streamed)
- Rectory office closed

Tuesday, Dec. 26

- Rectory office closed
- 7:30 am mass

New Year's Eve, Sunday, Dec. 31

- 5:00 pm Mass

New Year's Day - Mary, Mother of God, Monday, Jan. 1

- Rectory office closed
- 8:00 am mass
- 10:30 am mass (live-streamed)



Longest Night of the Year: Homeless Persons Memorial Vigil is Thursday, December 21

On Thursday, December 21st at 6:00 pm in church, we will host the Longest Night of the Year: Homeless Persons Memorial Vigil. This vigil is to remember and honor our sisters and brothers who have died while living on the streets.

We hope you can join us.

Thank You for your Donations to Care for Real!

Thank you to the many parishioners who dropped off donations for asylum seekers last weekend! These donations will be sent to Care for Real, who is providing support to families sheltering at the Broadway Armory in addition to feeding other neighbors in need.

We appreciate your generosity!



Financial Report from Dec. 2-3

Sunday Collection Envelopes: \$2,584.50

Loose Checks: \$1,050.00

Loose Cash/Coins: \$706.26

Online Donations: \$6,510.13

Total Collected: \$10,850.89

Budgeted: \$10,000.00

Difference: \$850.89

Year-to-date Collected FY 2024: \$223,426.31

Year-to-date Budgeted FY 2024: \$386,400.00

Difference: -\$162,973.69



Growing in Faith

I've been pondering today's scripture and praying for the Holy Spirit's guidance. These words continue to jump out: "Prepare the Way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!" This is the beautiful season of Advent, when we are called to prepare the way for Jesus.

Last year, I had the life-changing experience of being led through the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius. Of the many revelations of those weeks, the most significant change for me was the repeated entreaty to see Jesus as my friend.

When I think of preparing the way for my friend, Jesus, I imagine how I would prepare for a friend's visit to our home: I would clear

the walkway, clean the sitting room of mail and papers, move my many knitting bags upstairs, etc. So, how am I called to prepare for my friend, Jesus? I want to sweep the path clean of resentments, judgements, quick irritations, and self-focus. As soon as an irritation pops up, sweep it away, clear the path for the Love of God. Or, at least I'm going to try!

"Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed!" That introduces part two of my Advent plan: To take the time to pray and acknowledge the glory of Jesus revealed all around us. We see it in the kindness of friends and strangers, smiles, the connections in our community, the gift of family. I am regularly astonished by Jesus' quick response to a prayer. I may ask Him to accompany me as I enter a difficult place. I walk in and am warmly greeted, as if Jesus is saying, "I'm with you. I'll be here." The glory of the Lord is revealed!

~ Dorothea Tobin

Christmas Eve Pageant at 5:00 pm Mass: Children & Adults Needed

As is our tradition during the Gospel at the Christmas Eve 5:00 pm Family Mass, the kids from St. Gertrude parish will act out the Christmas story.

We are looking for children ages 5 and older to participate in this charming production, and adults to help organize or be part of the event.

Email eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org if you and/or your children are interested in being a part of this special Mass.



Parish Information

Rest in Peace

- Connie Engelmohr

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- Carlos Barragan
- Zara Bradley
- Lilly Buie
- Hallie Burhoe
- Maggie Calloway
- Aida Calvopina
- Claire Conley
- Denise DeBelle
- David Denegas
- Ann Collins Dole
- Mr. and Mrs. Emin Euman
- Luke Fitzgerald
- Gina Heidkamp
- Rochelle Hernandez
- Maria Hertl
- Erica Maria Kast
- Marilyn Klein
- Ignacio Lopez
- Matilde Manzardo
- Janet McCulley
- Jack McDermott
- Nancy Michael
- Andy Mueller
- Karey Myers
- Donald Nyderek
- Denise Plunkett
- Claude Poulsen
- Charley Scantlebury
- Richard Seitz
- Willy Spalla
- Elinora E. Tolentino
- Manuel & Norma Viray
- Leon Ward
- Ron Whitfield
- Janice Wittenberg
- Yyes Yoza
- Joel Pozzi Zio

Contact the Rectory office at 773.764.3621 or email stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org if you would like to add a name to the prayer list.

Cantors, Musicians, Ministers of the Word, Eucharistic Ministers, & Altar Servers for This Weekend

Ministers of the Word

- Saturday, December 9 at 5:00 pm - Patrick Reardon, Susan McKean
- Sunday, December 10 at 8:00 am - David Sullivan, Mark Kollar
- Sunday, December 10 at 10:30 am - Tim Love, Rhiana Damalerio

Altar Servers

- Sunday, December 10 at 10:30 am - Cross bearer - Carter Dant, Acolytes - Wyatt Dant, Mathious Paulus

Eucharistic Ministers

- Saturday, December 9 at 5:00 pm - Kathleen Dawson
- Sunday, December 10 at 8:00 am - Barb Daly
- Sunday, December 10 at 10:30 am - Lisa Schneider, Patrick Robinson, Michael Kowalsky

Cantors and Musicians

- Saturday, December 9 at 5:00 pm - Bernie O'Connor
- Sunday, December 10 at 8:00 am - Jon Blake
- Sunday, December 10 at 10:30 am - Rob Schroeder

Mass Intentions

- **Monday, December 11:** 7:30 am - Gabrielle Albarillo
- **Tuesday, December 12:** 7:30 am - Bernice Kiedysz+
- **Wednesday, December 13:** 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- **Thursday, December 14:** 7:30 am - Communion Service
- **Friday, December 15:** 7:30 am - Jacqueline Elwood+
- **Saturday, December 16:** 7:30 am - Pat Veccie+; 5:00 pm - Emmet McKee+
- **Sunday, December 17:** 8:00 am - Kevin Kirland+; 10:30 am in church - Bernice Kiedysz+; 10:30 am Gym Mass - People of God

Donate to our Parish

- 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

Questions? Reach out to Eduardo Soto, St. Gertrude's business manager, via email at esoto@stgertrudechicago.org for additional information.

Mass Times/Reconciliation/Rectorry Office Hours

- Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:30 am in Church, 10:30 am Gym Mass; Monday-Friday: 7:30 am (Thursday is a Communion Service.); Saturday: 7:30 am & 5:00 pm
- Reconciliation is offered on Saturday from 4:15-4:45 pm in Church or by appointment by calling the Rectorry at 773.764.3621. **Our Advent Reconciliation Service is Sunday, December 17 at 1:00 pm in church.**
- The Rectorry office is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 am-4:30 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am - 2:30 pm.
- For the most up-to-date information, visit stgertrudechicago.org.

Parish Staff and Contact Info

Rev. Michael Gabriel, Pastor—mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org

Fr. Paul Adajà, Associate Pastor—padaja@archchicago.org

Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate—eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org

Kathryn Flynn, Minister of Music—kflynn@stgertrudechicago.org

Sherl Patterson, Office Manager—spatterson@stgertrudechicago.org

Laurie Hasbrook, Heart to Heart Lending Closet Manager—lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org

Andy Mueller, Parish Buildings Engineer—stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org

Sr. Susan Quaintance, OSB, Heart to Heart Director—squaintance@stgertrudechicago.org

Tracy Shields, Communications Director—stgerbulletin@yahoo.com

Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management—esoto@stgertrudechicago.org

Heart to Heart Contact Info

To reach our Heart to Heart director, Sr. Susan Quaintance, OSB, call her at 872.296.2537 or email her at squaintance@stgertrudechicago.org. To reach Laurie Hasbrook, our Lending Closet manager, please call 773.973.5464 or email her at lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org.