



St. Gertrude Chicago

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www.stgertrudechicago.org

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

Letter from Cardinal Cupich

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection This Weekend

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During the weekend of December 11-12, 2021, our parishes will hold the Retirement Fund for Religious collection, an annual appeal that benefits some 30,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Pope Francis often highlights the role older adults play in conveying faith from one generation to the next. Recently, he noted that “there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel.” As we approach the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection—an appeal that benefits some 26,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests—I am reminded that senior religious never retire from their vows.

Instead, the prayer and ministry of older religious are an ongoing witness to the Gospel. In their younger years, they laid the foundation for Catholic schools, hospitals, and works of mercy. Today, many serve in volunteer ministry. Others are frail and need assistance. Yet all remain wholly committed to their vocations, accepting the limitations of aging and embracing the opportunity to spend more time praying for our Church and world.

Most senior religious worked for little pay, and now their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings.

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious offers support that helps religious communities provide loving care for older members while ensuring younger ones can continue the good works of their elders. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more. If you are unable to give during Mass, please mail your offertory envelope to your parish or donate through your parish’s online giving platform, if available. You can also send your contributions to: *National Religious Retirement Office, 3211 Fourth Street NE, Washington DC 20017-1194*. Please make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.

Please join me in praying for God’s continued blessing on our nation’s elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Cardinal Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago



From Father Rich

Third Sunday of Advent

In last week's gospel, we met John the Baptist as he was introduced as the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah that one would come to proclaim a baptism of repentance that everyone might prepare for the coming of the Messiah. In today's gospel, John responds to the question of the crowd, "What should we do?" by giving the most obvious reminders to share with others, to stop cheating people, to refrain from extortion and false accusations, and to be satisfied with your wage.

Many respond to this instruction with a certain sense of disbelief. As if to say, "We thought he was going to ask us to do something really difficult!" And the implied response is always, "He just did!" God is never going to ask us what we can't do. But God will always ask us to do what is best for us, and for others.

We often discount and devalue the individual, personal choices each of us makes every day of our lives. Our suspicion is that we count for so little, whatever we do will have no impact. What both John the Baptist and Jesus make clear is that it is in each of us doing exactly what we can for the good of ourselves and others, we will, in fact, impact the entire planet.

Consider for moment the implications of reducing the sin especially prominent in the First World of wasting what we have been given. We live with such abundance we have a hard time appreciating all we have. And part of the way that is evident is in the damage we have done to the planet. No one of us can fix it. But unless every one of us changes our behavior and, for example, stops littering the globe with plastics that will be clogging our utilities and waterways long after we are dead, we will, inevitably, kill our planet. But it is not hopeless! Each of us can make changes in how we use the resources entrusted into our care so that future generations can also enjoy the beauty of creation. And we all can work together to influence governments to enact policies that will lead to less fossil fuels polluting the air and water, and policies that restrict our over-consumption of the natural resources we have thrived on. When we begin doing these things individually, we will also affect others, building a consensus that will change our world, and also make possible those who today live without basic necessities finally having a fair share of the gifts God has entrusted to us.

It is our turn to ask the question his listeners asked John the Baptist, "What are we to do?" If we are truly getting ready for the coming of the Lord more deeply into our lives and into our world, let us each start with the obvious and good each of us can do to make a difference. Perhaps one simple thing we can do is to evaluate how much we are spending on Christmas gifts this year. What if we chose to reduce what we spend by 10 or 15% and then gave that money to those in great need, or to those spear-heading actions to save the planet? If we do our part, God will take care of the rest.



Christmas Schedule

Please Note There is No 5:00 pm Mass on Christmas Day

Here is the schedule of services this holiday season. Please note two important changes from regular weekend schedules. Because Christmas Eve is a Friday and Christmas Day is a Saturday, we will have two morning Masses on Christmas Day. But there is no 5:00 pm evening Mass of anticipation for the Sunday Feast of the Holy Family.

The 5:00 pm Family Mass on Christmas Eve will be live-streamed, as well as the 10:30 am Masses on Christmas Day, on Sunday, December 26, and Sunday, January 2, as well as the 10:00 am Mass on New Year's Day.



Advent Reconciliation Service

- Sunday, December 12 - 1:00 pm

Christmas Eve

- Friday, December 24 - 5:00 pm (live-streamed) & 7:00 pm

Christmas Day

- Saturday, December 25 - 8:00 am & 10:30 am (live-streamed)
- (No 5:00 pm Mass.)

Feast of the Holy Family

- Sunday, December 26 - 8:00 am & 10:30 am (live-streamed)

New Year's

- Friday, December 31 - 5:00 pm
- Saturday, January 1 - 10:00 am (live-streamed)

Feast of the Epiphany

- Saturday, January 1 - 5:00 pm
- Sunday, January 2 - 8:00 am & 10:30 am (live-streamed)



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Music

Please consider coming to our Christmas Masses a little earlier to enjoy the festive sounds of the season with Christmas carols performed as prelude music 15 minutes before Mass (10 minutes before the 8:00 am Christmas day Mass). Depending on the Mass you attend, you will hear trumpet, trombone, vocal, and piano arrangements of your favorite carols.

The Later Days of Advent - The "O" Antiphons

Although it is a short liturgical season of only four weeks, Advent is divided into the early and the later days in which we prepare for the coming of the Lord. The "later" days begin this week on December 17th when the Church uses a series of the prophetic titles that will be realized in the birth of Jesus as a focus for prayer. We know these titles from our singing of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel". Each of the seven verses of that Advent hymn contain one of these seven prophetic titles.



Part of the enjoyment of the arrangement of the O Antiphons is found in their original Latin spellings, in which the first letter of each of the titles, when strung together, spells out, "Ero Cras", which in English means, "I will be tomorrow." The final Antiphon is on December 23rd as the Eve was considered the beginning of the actual feast -- thus announcing the birth of the Messiah.

Each of the Antiphons is divided into three parts: 1) a particular title of Jesus proclaimed in the Hebrew scriptures (the Old Testament). 2) God's action in our lives, and 3) a prayer that we may respond to God's generosity.

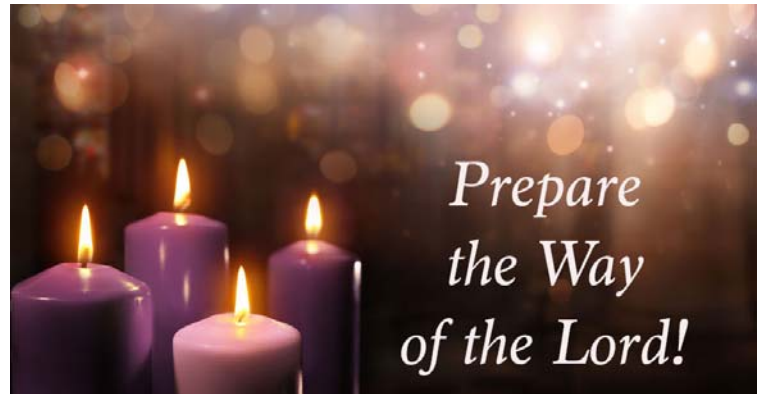
Perhaps you could use them in your own reflections in these final days before Christmas:

- **December 17:** O Wisdom, O Holy Word of God, You govern all creation with your strong, yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.
- **December 18:** O Sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed himself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai Mountain: Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.
- **December 19:** O Flower of Jesse's Stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples: Kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.
- **December 20:** O Key of David, O Royal Power of Israel, controlling at your will the gate of heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.
- **December 21:** O Radiant Dawn, Splendor of Israel, Sun of Justice: Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.
- **December 22:** O King of all the Nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man: Come and save the creature you fashioned from dust.
- **December 23:** O Emanuel, King and Lawgiver, Desire of the Nations, Savior of All People, Come and set us free, Lord our God!

Music Shift During Advent: We have made some musical changes to highlight the beauty and intensity of the Advent season. Beginning with the psalm, we will sing the beautiful *Turn To Me* hymn (#658) by John Foley every week during Advent. The hymn reminds us to turn to God where our salvation lies and away from the busyness and commercial aspects of this season. For the gospel acclamation, we will sing the lively *Advent Alleluia* composed by Michael Joncas. Finally, the Mass parts will be from the haunting chants of the *Missa Emmanuel*. We hope these changes will deepen your Advent experience for 2021.

Our Advent Reconciliation Service is Sunday, Dec. 12

Our annual Advent Reconciliation Service will be on Sunday, December 12 at 1:00 pm in church. This is a reflective service, offering songs, scripture readings and a guided examination of conscience. It usually lasts about 45 minutes.



During the holiday season, it is a great opportunity to spend some quiet time in church, to reunite with the Lord, have our sins forgiven and be ready for the celebration of Our Lord's birth.

St. Gertrude's Giving Tree—Deadline of Wednesday, Dec. 15

This Advent, St. Gertrude Parish's Giving Tree will once again support people in need in our community. Gift cards to Target, Jewel, and Aldi will be collected in support of Care For Real and the Refugee & Immigrant Ministry.



The gift cards may be brought to church or dropped off/mailed to the Rectory, 1420 W. Granville, Chicago, IL 60660. (Even if the Rectory office is closed, you can always put mail through the mail slot in the side (west) red door next to the Rectory side yard.)

Purchased cards can be placed in one of two boxes, one for Care for Real and the other for the Refugee Ministry, on the table in front of Blessed Mother's shrine in the front of church. When you have placed your gift in the box, please take one of the ornaments and place it on the Giving Tree in the back of church. Please be sure all gift cards are delivered by Wednesday, December 15.

Care for Real is collecting \$20 gift cards to Target to give to their clients with children. Last year, they were able to give one gift card for every child so that parents/guardians could purchase a gift for the child.

St. Gertrude Parish Refugee & Immigrant Ministry

We are also collecting gift cards for the refugee families sponsored by St. Gertrude Parish. For these families, we are requesting gift cards from Target, Jewel or Aldi for gift items, household needs, and groceries.

Your contributions are most appreciated! Participation in our St. Gertrude Parish Giving Tree is a blessing for all, gift givers and receivers, in this holy season of Advent, and makes the lives of all those who are touched truly filled with Christmas joy! Thank you for your generosity to those most in need in this special time of the year.



Last Call for Christmas Greenery!

A limited number of balsam pine Christmas trees, wreaths, and garland is available for in-person purchase, with proceeds benefiting St. Gertrude's ministries!

Greenery will be sold on Sunday, December 12 from 11:30 am-1:00 pm at the playlot on the west side of the Social Hall, 1401 W. Granville Avenue. Only cash and checks will be accepted for payment.

Call the Rectory at 773.764.3621 with any questions.

Breaking Bread 2022 eMissal Available for Android and iOS Smartphones and Tablets

All The USCCB-approved Breaking Bread 2022 eMissal is now available for Android and iOS smartphones and tablets. The app can be

downloaded for instant access to songs, readings and the Order of Mass, as well as daily readings. The eMissal app is simple and easy to use, and it's a wonderful resource for preparing for Mass, active participation in the liturgy, and for personal devotion.

The app is \$4.99 and can be found on either the App Store or Google Play.



THE LITTLE BLUE BOOK ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASONS 2021-2022

Six-minute reflections
on the Advent/Christmas Season
Weekday Gospels

Little Blue Books

The Little Blue Book - Advent and Christmas Season are available in the back of church. These booklets provide a six-minute reflection each day. The readings are a great way to slow down, focus, and dedicate some time to God during this holy season.

There is a suggested donation of \$1.

Visit St. Gertrude's website at www.stgertrudechicago.org for the latest parish information, details about our office hours, Mass times, staff contact information, our ministries, phone numbers, Religious Ed program, bulletins, and more!

Essay Contest for 7th & 8th Graders—Due Date is Monday, Dec. 13

Students in 7th and 8th grade are invited to submit essays based on this prompt: *We have been experiencing a lot of different catastrophes all over: the pandemic, fires, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados, war, etc.*

What we also see on the news are “bad news” stories that tell of people expressing hatred, violence, discrimination, and other evils demonstrating the worst of humanity. But there are many people who are making the world a better place...you!

The essay should focus on where the good news can be found within the bad news and explain how the good news you are sharing in your essay reflects the message of Jesus

Entries should be 500–650 words. Spelling and grammar count. Students may send their essay entry to Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org or mail/drop it off at the Rectory at 1420 W. Granville Ave., Chicago, IL 60660.

Entries must be submitted online or postmarked by Monday, December 13, 2021. The three best essays will receive a gift card and will appear on our website.



Youth Group Gathering Planned for Thursday, Dec. 16

The next gathering of the parish youth group will be Thursday, December 16 at 6:30 pm. The teens will gather in the Ministry Center in the second floor parlor.

All teens in middle and high school are invited to consider joining the parish youth group. Students interested in going on this summer's mission trip must attend youth group meetings regularly.

For more information, contact Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate for Religious Education and Youth Ministry, at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.

Heavenly Horns Performance After Mass on Sunday, December 19

A Saint Gertrude tradition has always included the lovely music from our very own “Heavenly Horns” (Jim Szmurlo, Tona Palomino, Peter Buttitta, Fran Guenette, Nicholas Bussey, and Amir Ghazaleh) at the Christmas bazaar. Because of COVID, the bazaar has been cancelled, but the group would still like to serenade us with their unique arrangements of traditional Christmas carols.



So this year they will perform after the 10:30 am Mass in the church on Sunday, December 19. We encourage you to stay and absorb the beautiful sounds of the season.

Archdiocese Annual Posada - Friday, Dec. 17 from 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Join us in walking and praying in solidarity with our immigrant sisters and brothers who— as the Holy Family sought a place to stay—have been knocking on the doors for legislative shelter, or “Posada,” year after year, even during a pandemic.



ROUTE

- 101 West Ida B. Wells Drive (*meet here*)
- Metropolitan Correctional Center (71 West Van Buren Street)
- DePaul University (1 East Jackson Boulevard)
- Federal Plaza (West Adams Street and South Dearborn Street)
- St. Peter's Church (110 West Madison Street)

For more information, please visit pvm.archchicago.org/xvi-annualposada.



Join Our Weekly Friday Night Spanish Language Rosary Gatherings

Continuing a long tradition from St. Ignatius Parish, all are welcome to attend weekly Friday evening gatherings to say the Rosary. The group meets at 7:00 pm, and the Rosary is said in Spanish in the church.

The group will not meet on Friday, December 10. Their last gathering for 2021 will be on December 17.

Help Needed with with our RCIA Ministry

Do you feel called to help others journey with the Catholic faith? Please consider being part of our RCIA Ministry!

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process by which adults learn more about the Catholic Church. 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.

If you are interested in joining our RCIA team, please reach out to Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate, at kchears@stgertrudechicago.org.



Help Needed with Live-Streaming

The live streaming of Mass started as a response to the COVID-19 protocols for gathering together. Even after these protocols were relaxed, we have continued to broadcast the 10:30 am Mass every Sunday, as well as other special Masses through out the year.

Our ability to join as community both in person and via the live stream keeps us connected. What started as an answer to a problem has become a ministry and a way of being of service to others.

We are looking for assistance with these live-streams! The process is simple, you do not have to have a technical background, a special camera or phone, just a willingness to help. If you are interested in being part of the live stream ministry, please contact Kevin Cheers at kchears@stgertrudechicago.org.



Growing in Faith

In a cold December day in 1531, Juan Diego, a Mexican peasant, was walking a winding footpath through the desolate hills of Tepeyac. He encounters a brilliant radiance. A lovely lady emerges from the light and says "Am I not your mother? No Te Inquietes". She asks a favor of this humble man, that a church be built for her in this forsaken spot. On her third appearance to Juan Diego, the lovely Lady instructs him to pick roses which are out of season but are growing nearby, to carry them in his tilma (poncho) to the Archbishop. When he reaches the Archbishop and opens his tilma, the roses fall out to uncover the beautiful image we now know as Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Over the centuries, we have come to celebrate December 12th as her feast day. Today, the once desolate hilltop offers a view of Mexico City rambling and ambling its way out past Tepeyac. A modern Basilica sits on the plaza below where 9 million Mexicans live and work in the shadow of Our Lady's holy love. Behind the altar hangs the tilma; beneath it, these words: "Am I not your mother? Do not be troubled or afraid".

This is what her words say to me:

*Do not be afraid of Her Radiance,
of Her sacred seeing of what is-not-yet,
of Her requests of you.
Do not be afraid to "ask the Archbishop",
Or to look for roses in winter,
and do not be afraid when you find them.*

- Maggie Roche

Donate Now to Keep Students Learning in Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools

As COVID-19 variants continue to spread through our community, our Catholic schools have maintained in-person learning, while providing excellence in education, lifelong lessons in faith and leadership and the spirit of community.

You can ensure a brighter future by investing in children from our most vulnerable communities. Contribute through the Illinois Invest in Kids program and make the lifelong advantage of a Catholic school education possible. Catholic schools have long set the standard for faith, excellence in education and service to society. They have provided spiritual growth and instruction to students, in order for them to overcome economic struggles and, in turn, contribute back to strengthen our communities.

Your donation is an investment that keeps our schools open and guarantees that our future generations will have the advantage of a quality Catholic education. A donation can be made using cash, check or appreciated stock.

Invest in kids now: 3 easy steps

1. REGISTER—These helpful guides from either Empower Illinois (https://empowerillinois.org/wp-content/uploads/How-to-Donate-Step-by-Step-Guide_091421.pdf) or the Big Shoulders Fund (<https://bigshouldersfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Steps-to-Reserve-a-Tax-Credit-for-the-Illinois-Tax-Credit-Scholarship-Program-Final.pdf>) will walk you through the process of obtaining a donor account. You will need the primary taxpayer's SSN and one of the following: IL Driver's License #, IL State ID #, or Adjusted Gross Income from the prior year's return.
2. RESERVE—Reserve your tax credit with the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR). Refer to this list of eligible schools (<https://schools.archchicago.org/documents/80540/704425/TCS+Donation+Match+Eligible+Schools.pdf/197a4368-470e-4ead-8af4-7cce2b12b365>) to determine where your school of choice is located and designate either Empower Illinois or Big Shoulders Fund as your Scholarship Granting Organization. You will receive your Contribution Authorization Certificate (CAC) via email. Once you have your CAC, you are ready to donate.
3. DONATE—Once you receive confirmation of your tax credit and your CAC from IDOR, you have up to 60 days to donate to the Scholarship Granting Organization of your choice.

THANK YOU!

These three simple steps make a difference in a child's life and will have a long-lasting, positive impact on our community because you have invested in Catholic education. For more information please contact the TCS hotline at 312.534.2617 or tcs@archchicago.org, or visit archchicago.org/tcs.



Heart to Heart Monthly Report

In October, we assisted people from 14 Chicagoland zip codes who were recovering from surgery, families caring for family members with mobility issues and in need of extensive assistance with daily tasks (including bathing, toileting, and eating), and home health outreach workers (including OTs, PTs, social workers, and RNs).



We have provided a local homeless encampment with mobility equipment for residents in need, a nursing home resident with personal care products she couldn't afford, Community Health (the largest volunteer-based health clinic in the nation) with nebulizers, CPAP breathing machines and masks, and a Cook County care coordinator with supplies for her outreach work. The vast majority of people we serve have limited resources and are often in need of equipment or supplies for extended periods of time.

Donations came in from people who live in eight different zip codes, most of whom have recently lost family members or close friends. Over and over again, we are told how much it means to surviving family members/friends that durable medical equipment and supplies that helped their loved ones can now be used by someone else in need. The generosity of people grieving the loss of a friend or family member is tremendously moving and greatly appreciated.

Please Pick Up Your Remembrance Altar Items: Thank you for sharing images and memories of your special someone with us during the month of November. If you have not yet picked up your photo or memento, please collect them from the Rectory office.

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

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, December 11 at 5:00 pm - Pat Reardon
- Sunday, December 12 at 8:00 am - David Sullivan
- Sunday, December 12 at 10:30 am in church - Steve Modde
- Sunday, December 12 at 10:30 am in the Gym - TBA

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, December 11 at 5:00 pm - Kathy Wall
- Sunday, December 12 at 8:00 am - Martry McDermott
- Sunday, December 12 at 10:30 am in church - Bob Backis, Debra Novak, Rafael Melendez
- Sunday, December 12 at 10:30 am in the Gym - TBA

Cantors and Musicians:

- Saturday, December 11 at 5:00 pm - Bernie O'Connor
- Sunday, December 12 at 8:00 am - Jon Blake
- Sunday, December 12 at 10:30 am in church - Peter Knippel, cantor, small vocal ensemble: Cindy Lawson-soprano, Therese Schreiner-alto, Michael Callahan-tenor, Fran Guenette; Instruments: Denise Goodman-clarinet; Dana Sullivan-flute
- Sunday, December 12 at 10:30 am in the Gym - TBA

Mass Intentions

- Monday, December 13: 7:30 am - Kathleen Naughton+ *+ indicates the person is deceased*
- Tuesday, December 14: 7:30 am - Kathleen Keable+
- Wednesday, December 15: 7:30 am - Jacqueline Elwood+
- Thursday, December 16: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, December 17: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society; 8:30 am - NCA Prayer Service
- Saturday, December 18: 7:30 am - Mary Ann Woodcock+; 5:00 pm - Emmett McKee+
- Sunday, December 19: 8:00 am - Pat Veccie+; 10:30 am - Joseph+ & Isabelle+ Laczkowski; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Kevin Burke+

New Parishioners

- Cynthia Sanchez & Roberto Lopez

Rest in Peace

- John Herbin, Father of Mary Herbin-Horan

Remembrance Altar Items: Thank you for sharing images and memories of your special someone with us during the month of November. If you have not yet picked up your photo or memento, please collect them from the Rectory office.

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- Pamela Sherrod Anderson
- Helen Banta
- Jean Bautista
- Zara Bradley
- Sharon Brown
- Connie Bueck
- Lilly Buie
- Claire Bushey
- Maggie Callaway
- Aida Calvopina
- Connie Cool
- Barb Daly
- Caloy Desembrana
- Ann Collins Dole
- Christine Frisoni
- Shirley Marie Gonzales
- Gina Heidkamp
- Maria Hertl
- Daniel Hidalgo
- Bernice Kiedysz
- Dean Mattoni
- Molly Morris
- Karey Myers
- Massielle Ojeda
- Tina Piemonte
- Charley Scantlebury
- Richard Seitz
- Peggy Stoffel
- The Sullivan family
- Elinora E. Tolentino
- Manuel & Norma Viray
- Valerie Williams
- 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/allevants

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
Laurie Hasbrook, Heart to Heart Lending Closet Manager
Samantha Lilly, Rectory Office
Andy Mueller, Parish Buildings Engineer
Tracy Shields, Communications
Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management