



St. Gertrude Chicago

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Bulletin for Sunday, December 15, 2024

The Third Sunday of Advent

From Fr. Mike Gabriel

Rejoice! Rejoice! Today is the Third Sunday of Advent when we light the rose candle.

Traditionally this Sunday has been called Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of joy. Throughout the liturgy, you will hear in our prayers and readings, "Rejoice!" Why? Because the Lord is near. The joyful good news is that everyone is welcomed and loved by God, who has come to save us and put joy into our hearts, where often there is sadness and despair. Share that joy with all you encounter this coming week.

This Sunday after the 10:30 Masses, all are welcome to "Brewed at St. Gertrude" hospitality in the Social Hall, featuring the Heavenly Horns brass quintet, coffee, cocoa, and pastries. It's a great way for all of us to get into the Christmas spirit.

This Monday, December 16th, we will host a Deanery Reconciliation service at 7:00 pm. There will be many confessors who speak a variety of different languages.

We are still accepting gift cards in increments of \$20 for our Giving Tree program. These cards can come from Target, Aldi, or even a Ventra Card. We also welcome \$10 gift cards to McDonald's or Dunkin' Donuts.

Also, on Saturday, December 21st, St. Gertrude is hosting the Longest Night Homeless Persons' Remembrance. There will be a vigil at 4:00 pm to remember those who have died, followed by a 5:00 pm liturgy.

I hope you have received the parish Christmas letter! If not, there are some at the back of the Church.

Let's make this Christmas a special one by joining as one family, bringing light to all, especially to those who have struggled this year. Remember, it is great to invite others to join you when coming to one of our Christmas masses!



St. Gertrude's Christmas & New Year's Schedule

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24

- Rectory office closed
- 5:00 pm Family Mass
- 8:00 pm Caroling
- 8:30 pm Mass

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25

- Rectory office closed
- 8:00 am Mass
- 10:30 am Mass
- No Gym mass

Thursday, December 26

- 7:30 am Mass

New Year's Eve

Tuesday, December 31

- 7:30 am Mass
- 5:00 pm - Mass



**New Year's Day - Mary, Mother of God
Wednesday, January 1**

- Rectory office closed
- 10:30 am Mass
-

Events & Activities at St. Gertrude

listed in chronological order



"Brewed at St. Gertrude" Hospitality Event Planned this Sunday, Featuring our Parish's Heavenly Horns Brass Quintet, Pastries, and More

Save the date for our first monthly parish hospitality event, "Brewed at St. Gertrude," this Sunday, December 15th. Following the 10:30 am church and gym masses, come to the Social Hall for pastries, coffee, tea, and hot cocoa.

St. Gertrude's very own "Heavenly Horns" will be there to help everyone get into the holiday spirit

with a selection of festive brass music.

All are welcome, new and long-time parishioners, families, and visitors! We would love for the entire parish to be there!



Buy Your Trees, Garland, and Wreaths from St. Gert's This Weekend

Time is quickly coming to an end for St. Gertrude's annual Christmas greenery sale of balsam pine trees, wreaths, and garland. Proceeds benefit St. Gertrude's ministries.

Each 6' Christmas tree is \$55. Three different sized wreaths are available—the 18" wreath is \$25, the 24" is \$27, and the 36" is \$35. Garland is also available for \$40 per 5' length.

Greenery will be sold at the playlot this Sunday, December 15 and December 22 on the west side of the Social Hall, 1401 W. Granville Avenue, from 11:30 am-1:00 pm. Only cash and checks will be accepted for in-person purchases. Greenery can also be purchased online at <https://bit.ly/StGertsChristmasGreenery>.

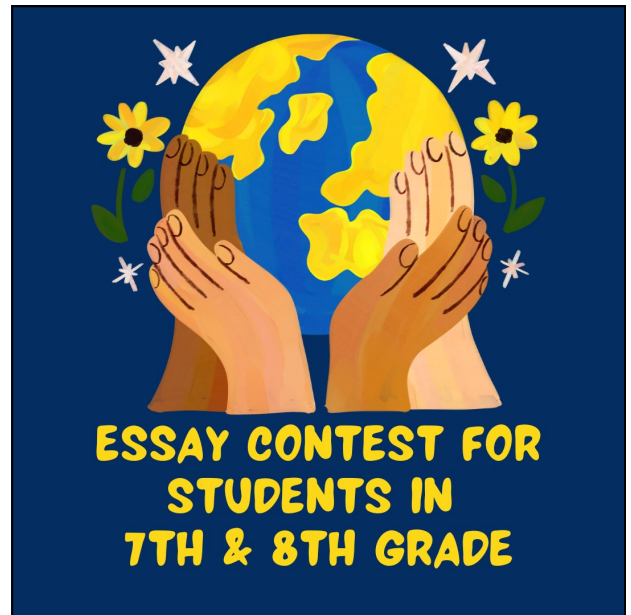
7th & 8th Grade Students: Essay Contest Deadline is Monday, December 16

Students in the 7th and 8th grade are invited to take part in our annual essay contest. Participants should write an essay based on this prompt: ***The Importance of Forgiving Others***. Entries should be 450 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 online (preferred method) or postmarked by Monday, December 16, 2024. Email essays

to eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org or mail them to Eloy Escamilla, 1420 W. Granville, Chicago, IL 60660.



Financial Report from December 14-15

Sunday Collection Envelopes: \$2,748.00

Loose Checks: \$395.00

Loose Cash/Coins: \$752.60

Online Donations: \$12,282.46

Total Collected: \$16,178.06

Budgeted: \$10,000.00

Difference: \$6,178.06

Year-to-date Collected FY 2025: \$229,287.28

Year-to-date Budgeted FY 2025: \$550,000.00

Difference: -\$320,712.72

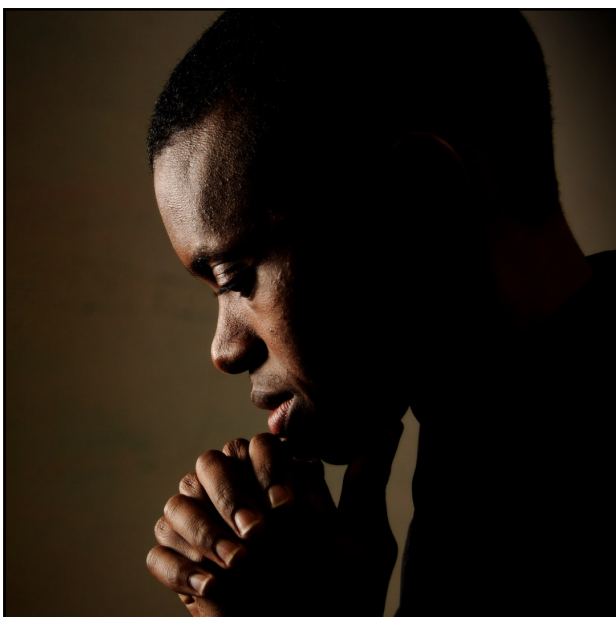
Retired Religious Fund: \$2,073.60

This Monday: Parent Meeting for Students Making Their First Communion in 2025

On Monday, December 16, parents of children planning to make their First Communion in 2025 are asked to attend a meeting at 6:00 pm in church.

Materials for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be distributed and details about what to expect for the January 27 service will be shared.

For more information, contact Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.



Deanery 2B Advent Reconciliation Service Planned for Monday, December 16

St. Gert's will host a deanery-wide reconciliation service on Monday, December 16 at 7:00 pm.

There will be many priests on hand speaking a variety of languages to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with participants.

Catechist Needed

Our Confirmation catechist recently needed to step down to address health issues. We are now in urgent need of a new Confirmation teacher. If you can help, please contact Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.



Giving Tree Deadline is December 20

The Giving Tree Program is winding down. Once again, we will be asking for gift cards rather than gifts and in increments of \$20. These cards can be from Target, Jewel, Walmart, Aldi, Dunkin' Donut, or even a Ventra card. Any way you can help is appreciated!

What has changed this year is who will be benefiting from the Giving Tree drive. Care for Real has made other plans for this holiday season, so we will be assisting the Refugee and Immigrant Ministry, Centro Romero, Catholic Charities and RefugeeOne. The parish is also asking for \$10 McDonald's gift cards to provide immediate meal assistance for those who request it.

Please place the gift cards in the boxes at the front of church, by the statue of Mary by December 20.



Christmas Eve Pageant/ Rehearsal on December 21

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 as magi, shepherds, angels, cows, etc.

We will have a one hour rehearsal for this play on Saturday, December 21 from 2:30 pm.

Email eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org if you your children are interested in being a part of this amusing and important event.

Thank you for Contributing to the Second Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious Last Weekend: Our women and men religious offer gratitude. A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them."

Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org.

"Longest Night" Homeless Persons' Remembrance on Saturday, December 21 - 4:00 pm Prayer Vigil and 5:00 pm Mass

The National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day takes place each year on the longest night of the year. At this time, we remember the brothers and sisters we have lost in the past year due to homelessness — the person at the intersection we used to see all the time, the person who lived in the tent in the park that is now empty, the person in the sleeping bag we drove past on Lower Wacker Drive who isn't there anymore — and we recommit to not letting this be the start of another year of growing homelessness.

Because December 21st falls on a Saturday this year, our remembrance will be included in the 5:00 mass, preceded by a prayer vigil at 4:00 pm. All are welcome. We invite you to join us in remembering those who are so often forgotten, except by their Creator.



Care for Real Collection is December 21 & December 22

Our monthly Care for Real drive is December 21 and 22. Please place nonperishable items in the bins at the back of church before and after mass times.

This month, Care for Real is urgently seeking donations of diapers in sizes 2-6, baby wipes, juice boxes, thermal layers (all sizes) gently used coats (all sizes), hand warmers, lotions and hand soap, shampoo and body wash, adult incontinence under bed pads.

Our collection drive for Care for Real is always the fourth calendar weekend every month, and

our asylum seekers' collection is the first weekend of each month.

Kids Word: Kids Word is offered during the 10:30 am Mass in church. This program provides children aged 4-7 years-old an age-appropriate Gospel message and to do fun, scripture-based activities such as coloring or crafts in the Rectory. Children are invited by the celebrant to come to the altar before the readings and return to church before the petitions.



CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 PM FAMILY MASS & PAGEANT

DURING THE GOSPEL, THE KIDS FROM ST. GERTRUDE
PARISH WILL ACT OUT THE CHRISTMAS STORY.



JOIN US FOR

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE
8:00-8:30 PM

BEFORE THE 8:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Heart to Heart News



Heart to Heart Christmas Schedule

The Heart to Heart and Lending Closet offices will be closed for Christmas on Tuesday, December 24 and Thursday, December 31.

Laurie and Sr. Susan are so grateful for the volunteers, donors, and all the friends and members of our community. You have shown us what Incarnation -- Jesus being born among us -- is all about. We wish everyone much joy during this season of light and love.

Growing in Faith

The third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday, is a day to rejoice. The church takes a break from the penitential violet colors. We rejoice that we are halfway through the Advent season and that much closer to the birth of Christ.

The readings remind us to rejoice in all circumstances over what God has done and what God will accomplish. In the Gospel, John's preaching leads to an eager anticipation of what God is about to do. Like the crowds in the Gospel, we might respond to the church by asking "what should we do?" How can we find joy in the midst of preparation, or more importantly, what place does joy have where happiness is already so hard to come by? But, as the popular Christmas carol starts out, "Joy to the world! The Lord has come!" The third Sunday of Advent offers us a foretaste of that joy. Zephaniah has God expelling his enemies, turning gloom into gladness, singing and exulting with His people. Let us give thanks on this Gaudete Sunday. May we find comfort in the divine assurance that joy will always win out.

Try "snacking on joy" as Washington Post columnist Richard Sima puts it. Savor little bites of joy found in the ordinary: A compliment from a stranger, a smile from a child, a particularly delicious meal, a breakthrough at work.

As St. Paul commands in his letter to the Philippians, "Rejoice in the Lord. I shall say it again: Rejoice!"

~ Steve Monti

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Third Sunday of Advent



Rejoice

In the Lord & be glad
(Psalm 32:11)

Parish Information

Schedule for Ministers of the Word, Eucharistic Ministers, & Altar Servers

Ministers of the Word

- Saturday, December 14 at 5:00 pm - Roman Reyes, Mary Clare Barker
- Sunday, December 15 at 8:00 am - Rob Sierzega, Jennifer Kiedaisch
- Sunday, December 15 at 10:30 am - Eric Ameyaw, Patrick Robinson

Eucharistic Ministers

- Saturday, December 14 at 5:00 pm - Tim Harrington
- Sunday, December 15 at 8:00 am - Kathryn Stimac
- Sunday, December 15 at 10:30 am - Sarah Millar, Lisa Schneider, Steven Monti

Altar Servers

- Saturday, December 14 at 5:00 pm - Addison Regan, cross bearer; Carter Dant and Wyatt Dant, acolytes
- Sunday, December 15 at 10:30 am - Dominic Rubino, cross bearer; Angel Garcia and Henry Villareal, acolytes

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| • Mary Amelse | • Mr. and Mrs. Emin Euman | • Dealina Peon |
| • Victor Ayes | • Luke Fitzgerald | • Claude Poulsen |
| • Andrea Banicki | • Marie Galoney | • Joan Ross + |
| • Carlos Barragan | • Estelle Guardino | • Bill Salek |
| • Patrick Barton | • Thomas Hajduch | • Willy Spalla |
| • Zara Bradley | • Rochelle Hernandez | • Floret Spalle |
| • Lilly Buie | • Maria Hertl | • Frannie Swaine |
| • Hallie Burhoe | • John Kahoun | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Maggie Callaway | • Marilyn Klein | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • Aida Calvopina | • Carleen Lorys | • Tayana Wallace |
| • Cavicke Family | • River Malik | • King Wallace |
| • Claire Conley | • Matilde Manzardo | • Christian Wallace |
| • Denise DeBelle | • Nancy Michael | • Leon Ward |
| • David Denegas | • Steve Monti | • Ron Whitfield |
| • Ann Collins Dole | • Hilda Mora | • Janice Wittenberg |
| • Renee Elhoumaidi | • Donald Nyderek | • Yyes Yoza |
| | | • Joel Pozzi Zio |

Contact the Rectory office at 773.764.3621 or email stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org

Visit our Parish Website

For the latest parish events and information, including our weekly live-stream, bulletins, images from recent events, rectory hours, staff members, funeral announcements, and updates about our various ministries, please visit our website at stgertrudechicago.org.

Upcoming Mass Intentions

- Monday, December 16: 7:30 am - Pat Veccie+; 7:00 pm - Deanery Advent Reconciliation Service
- Tuesday, December 17: 7:30 am - Larry McCauley+
- Wednesday, December 18: 7:30 am - Jeff Thomas
- Thursday, December 19: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, December 20: 7:30 am - Eileen McGuire+
- Saturday, December 21: 7:30 am - Mary Amelse+; 5:00 pm - Joseph & Isabelle Laczkowski+, Jean Laczkowski
- Sunday, December 22: 8:00 am - Peter & Mary Tunney+; 10:30 am - Mark Schreiner+ ; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Maggie McSweeney+

Mass Times/Reconciliation/Rector 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 Rector at 773.764.3621. See page 4 for our Deanery Reconciliation info.
- The Rector office is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 am-4:30 pm and is closed on weekends.

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

Parish Staff and Contact Info

Rev. Michael Gabriel, Pastor—mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org
Patricia Branigan, Events/Room Booking Contact—pbranigan@stgertrudechicago.org
Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate—eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org
Jonathan Hannau, Music Director—jhannau@stgertrudechicago.org
Laurie Hasbrook, Heart to Heart Lending Closet Manager—lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org
Edgar Osorio Leon, Maintenance Director—eosorioleon@archchicago.org
Sherl Patterson, Office Manager—spatterson@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.