



## St. Gertrude Chicago

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Sunday, December 19, 2021

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

### From Fr. Rich

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today's gospel picks up the story of Mary, having been visited by the angel, now rushing to be with her relative, Elizabeth, who is also, miraculously, now expecting a baby. John the

Baptist is the penultimate prophet announcing the coming of the Messiah, and Mary is the final prophet making that same announcement not with words, but with her actual body, mind, and spirit.

Mary's "fiat" ("Let it be done to me according to your word.") immediately brings joyous repercussions to the world, revealing God's presence. When Mary arrived, the baby Elizabeth was carrying leapt for joy! That wonderful image and others like it point the way for all those willing to pay attention!

The activities of all who are lowly, poor, oppressed, outcast -- these very same people Pope Francis refers to as those "on the peripheries" -- are now telling a new story. God is active in the world, bringing a new reality to birth! The established order is being turned upside down.

In this final week before Christmas, how might we respond to the mighty and wonderful things God is doing for us? Is it possible to pull myself back from the frantic pace of shopping and decorating to find some calm, quiet time for visiting with those who are important in my life? Can I re-direct some of my energies to reach out to those who are hurting from the absence of life's necessities -- food, shelter, proper clothing, a brief conversation, a kind word? The challenge is to become the hope we are preparing for. How might I let Christ more fully into my life right now that I may in turn bring that light and that love and that hope to those in need -- in my home, in my community, in my world?

~ Father Rich

**Live-Streamed Masses This Christmas:** 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.

The live-streams can be viewed on our parish's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/stgertrudechicago>. The Christmas Eve and Christmas Day live-streams Masses will also be broadcasted on our parish website, [www.stgertrudechicago.org](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org).

# Christmas Mass Schedule & Rectory Hours

Here is the schedule of services and Rectory hours this holiday season. Because Christmas Eve is a Friday and Christmas Day is a Saturday, we will have two morning Masses on Christmas Day. There is no 5:00 pm evening Mass of anticipation on Saturday, December 25.

## Monday, December 20-Thursday, December 23

- The Rectory office is open from 8:30 am-7:00 pm.

## Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24

- Mass at 5:00 pm (live-streamed) & 7:00 pm.
- The Rectory is closed.
- There is no 7:30 am Mass.

## Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25

- Mass at 8:00 am & 10:30 am in church (live-streamed).
- There is no 5:00 pm Mass, nor a Gym Mass.
- The Rectory is closed.

## Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday, December 26

- Mass at 8:00 am & 10:30 am (live-streamed).
- There is no Gym Mass.
- The Rectory is open.

## Monday, December 27

- Mass is at 7:30 am.
- The Rectory is closed.

## New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31

- Mass is at 7:30 am and 5:00 pm.
- The Rectory is closed.

## Solemnity of Mary/New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1

- Mass is at 10:00 am (live-streamed) and 5:00 pm.
- There is no 7:30 am Mass.
- The Rectory is closed.

## Feast of the Epiphany, Sunday, January 2

- Mass is at 8:00 am & 10:30 am (live-streamed) Masses.
- There is no Gym Mass.
- The Rectory is open.

## Monday, January 3

- Mass is at 7:30 am.
- The Rectory is closed.







## 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.

## St. Gertrude's Giving Tree—New Deadline of Sunday, Dec. 19

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 deadline has been extended until Sunday, December 19.**



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.

**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.

## 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 began 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 the 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 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!*





## 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 was cancelled, but the group will serenade us with their unique arrangements of traditional Christmas carols after the 10:30 am Mass in church on Sunday, December 19. We encourage you to stay and absorb the beautiful sounds of the season.



## Winner of 7th & 8th Essay Contest Announced in January!

Many students from NCA, Religious Education, and other schools' students have submitted their essays. Three judges are reading the essays and deliberating on the best ones. We will post the top submissions in January!

Thank you to those all who participated!

## 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.





## 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 throughout 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](mailto:kchears@stgertrudechicago.org).

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## Join our RCIA Ministry Team

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](mailto:kchears@stgertrudechicago.org).



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## Check out our Parish Website

Visit St. Gertrude's website at [www.stgertrudechicago.org](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org) for the latest parish information, including details about our Christmas office hours and closures, Mass times, and live-stream information.

The website also lists staff contact information, details about our various ministries, phone numbers, Religious Ed program, current and older bulletins, other volunteer opportunities, how to get married at our church, funeral resources, sacraments, and more!

## Growing in Faith

Today's gospel moved me to suddenly remember an afternoon when I was a doctoral student and in the hallway near the open door of a young professor. His wife came down the hall with their five-year-old.

When the little boy saw his father, he was transformed with glee. His legs went jumping up and down in a kind of joyful dance while his flushed face was all joy and smiles and shining eyes.

This is the effect that the presence of Jesus is meant to have on us, and it is the effect on the baby John the Baptist, within his mother Elizabeth, in the presence of Christmas is meant to affect us that way, for us to feel as that little boy felt, all dancing in joy, at God's unshakeable and joyous love for us.

The Holy Spirit fills Elizabeth with the knowledge that this girl is carrying the hope of the world, and she is overcome with awe, while the baby in her womb, leaps for joy.

Our baptism opens us up to the Holy Spirit's wisdom and insight...suddenly we recognize Jesus, in our everyday lives...and we can feel that radiant joy of his presence that love for all of us, Christmas joy, all year long!

~ Sister Wendy Cotter csj, Ph.D



## Baptisms

- August Jerome, son of Eric and Isabel Phung
- Amelia Isabel, daughter of Diego Chacon Reyes and Melissa Rojas Rico

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

### Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, December 18 at 5:00 pm - Susan McKean
- Sunday, December 19 at 8:00 am - Sr. Kathryn Stimac
- Sunday, December 19 at 10:30 am in church - Sarah Millar
- Sunday, December 19 at 10:30 am in the Gym - TBA

### Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, December 18 at 5:00 pm - Steve Monti
- Sunday, December 19 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, December 19 at 10:30 am in church - Nancy Merrill, Carlos Barragan, Rafael Melendez
- Sunday, December 19 at 10:30 am in the Gym - TBA

### Cantors and Musicians:

- Saturday, December 18 at 5:00 pm - Carol Ann Munro
- Sunday, December 19 at 8:00 am - Jim Manzardo
- Sunday, December 19 at 10:30 am in church - Rob Schroeder
- Sunday, December 19 at 10:30 am in the Gym - TBA



## Mass Intentions

*+ indicates the  
person is  
deceased*

- Monday, December 20: 7:30 am - Peter+ and Mary+ Tunney
- Tuesday, December 21: 7:30 am - Kathleen Keable+
- Wednesday, December 22: 7:30 am - Joe Dyra & living family members
- Thursday, December 23: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24: 5:00 pm - Parishioners of St. Gertrude Parish;  
7:00 pm - Parishioners of St. Gertrude Parish (No 7:30 am Mass.)
- Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25: 8:00 am - Parishioners of St. Gertrude Parish;  
10:00 am - Parishioners of St. Gertrude Parish
- The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, Sunday, December 26: 8:00 am - Fahey-  
Tracy Families; 10:30 am - Glenn+ and Mary Jo+ Martin; No Gym Mass.

### New Parishioners

- Gregory & Regina Kokes

### Rest in Peace

- Paul Knuerr

## 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](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.

*Contact our Heart to Heart office at 773.973.5464. The office will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, their normal operating hours, during the Christmas season.*

### 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  
Maria Garcia, Rectory Office Manager  
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