

## St. Gertrude Chicago

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*Combined Bulletin for  
Christmas 2022*

*& the Solemnity of Mary,  
Mother of God*

*December 25, 2022 & January 1, 2023*

## From Fr. Rich: Christmas & New Year's

This bulletin spans the holiday season and connects the two years as we transition. On behalf of the entire parish staff, our hopes for a blessed and Merry Christmas to you and all those you hold dear. May the celebration of Our Lord's birthday renew your hopes and dreams and bring you closer to all those with whom you share your life and your love.

And Happy New Year to everyone! The entrance into the new year invites us to consider our many blessings this past year, and to consider how we can best use each day of this new year which is always a blessing.

This article is my final message as I move into retirement. My thanks to all the parishioners of St. Gertrude, and to the parish staff who have been so wonderful to work with these years we spent together.

My special thanks to Fr. Mike Gabriel who now becomes administrator of St. Gertrude Parish on January 1st, and then will become pastor on July 1st. Fr. Mike has been a blessing to me as we have worked together in a number of assignments. And I am so happy he will be taking the reins at St. Gertrude.

May God continue to bless us in all our worthwhile endeavors, especially as we care for each other. I hope to see you again in the near future, whether it is at a service in church, bumping into each other on the street, or in a store.

Please keep me in your prayers as I will keep you in mine. God bless you all.

P.S. Special thanks to Joe McMahon for coordinating the Giving Tree this year! And to all of you who donated gifts cards to the Giving Tree for Care for Real, for the Refugee Committee, and for feeding the homeless with an immediate need of a hot meal. The gift cards make it possible for us to meet so many of these needs throughout the year!







## Father Rich's Retirement Mass & Reception

Thank you to all who joined us to celebrate Fr. Rich and his many years of service as a priest and his time at St. Gertrude!

We especially thank the singers and musicians, particularly the Heavenly Horns, Jim Szmurlo, Tona Palomino, Peter Buttitta, Fran Guenette, Nicholas Bussey, Erik Hull, and Amir Ghazaleh who played after Mass, our photographer, Maria Ugarte, and other parishioners who stepped in to make the event run smoothly.

Fr. Rich will soon move to his home in St. Joseph, MI and start a four month trip around the U.S. in January!





## Growing in Faith: Christmas Reflection

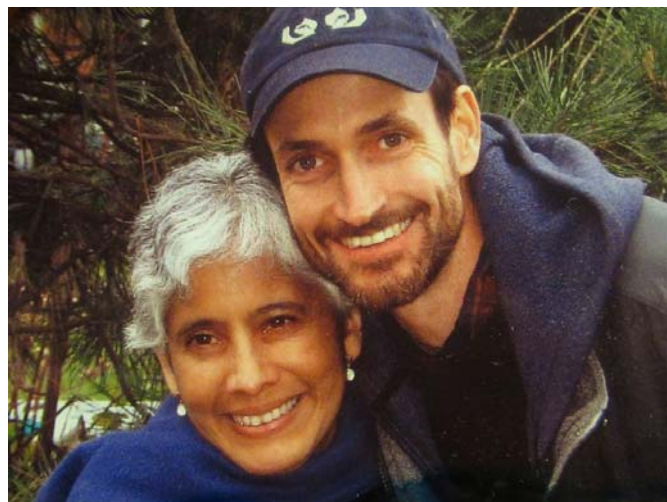
In his book, *Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim*, Edward Hayes writes of Christmas, "Gift my all-too-calculating heart with the excitement of anticipation to truly receive the gifts of life, the capacity to feast and rejoice. Give birth within me to a spaciousness of heart that can celebrate this feast of the birth of Christ, the Child, as a child."

We are drawn to the notion of the divine present and active in a spacious heart. How is your heart on this Christmas day? Perhaps heavily burdened, in darkness and gloom from grief, depression, betrayal, abuse or poverty, and hearing of and seeing the joy of others, you want to run, turn inward or simply isolate. May the light, peace, hope and compassion of Christ touch, soothe, and fill your heart, may the angels of mercy come to your aid, and may our precious Mother Earth pulsing beneath your feet sustain you.

Maybe your heart is full of gratitude, joy and love for all the goodness in your life and you want to share that with whomever you are and see. May the light, peace, hope and compassion of Christ radiate through your eyes, your hands, your smile, your words and your acts of kindness to all you encounter, especially those most in need of new life, courage, acceptance and love.

May we each be ready and open to receive the grace waiting and wanting to come to us, through each person and living being we meet.

*~ Jim and Matilde Manzardo*



## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Staff/ Christmas Blessing

Thank you for choosing to be a part of St. Gertrude parish and helping to making 2022 such a wonderful year!

Great churches don't just happen, they are created and nurtured by active,

generous parishioners. We are so grateful for each and every person in our community of faith. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your loved ones and may 2023 be filled with blessings and joy!

*~ Father Rich, Fr. Mike, and the staff of St. Gertrude parish*

### A Christmas Blessing by Wilda English

God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas, which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice; the belief in Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

# Holiday Schedule at St. Gertrude Parish

## Christmas Eve

**Saturday, December 24th**

- 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Mass for families with children (live-streamed)
- 8:00 pm - Vigil Mass - Adult choir & instruments (choral music from 7:30 pm - 8:00 pm)

## Christmas Day

**Sunday, December 25th**

- 8:00 am
- 10:30 am (live-streamed) in church; No Gym Mass

## Monday, December 26

- Rectory office closed.

## Friday, December 30

- Rectory office closed.

## Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

**New Year's Eve, Saturday December 31st**

- 5:00 pm  
(There is a 7:30 am Mass.)

**New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1st**

- 8:00 am
- 10:30 am (live-streamed) in church; No Gym Mass



## Monday, January 2

- Rectory office closed.

## Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

**Saturday, January 7th**

- 5:00 pm

**Sunday, January 8th**

- 8:00 am
- 10:30 am in church (live-streamed)
- 10:30 am Gym Mass

*Religious Ed classes resume on Sunday, January 8.*



## Thank You to our Musicians

Mary Clare Barker, our talented Music Minister, wrote a special note for her volunteers:

*"I want to extend a heartfelt and sincere thank you to all of the cantors and musicians who contributed mightily to the beauty of our Christmas liturgies.*

*We are so blessed at St. Gertrude to have so many talented musicians who give so freely of their time and share their prodigious talents with our community. I am deeply appreciative of all that they do."*



## Thank You for Supporting our Greenery Sale

Thanks so much to those parishioners and neighbors that purchased trees, wreaths, and garland this holiday season. All proceeds went to support St. Gertrude's ministries.

Special thanks to Robert Clark and Quinn McCarthy, who generously volunteered as our delivery drivers.

~ Eduardo Soto, Business Manager



## Year-End Giving

As you consider your year-end charitable donations, please think about making an additional contribution to St. Gertrude.

Your generosity has helped support us during these past trying years. We hope that you will continue to support us now and into the coming year as we carry out our service and our ministries to our parish and our community. Information about making a donation can be found at <https://stgertrudechicago.org/donate-to-st-gertrude>.

Thank you so much for all you have done and are doing!

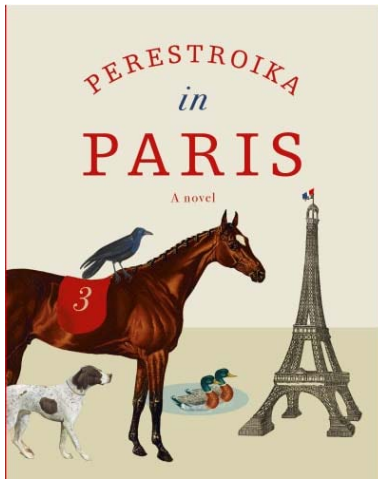
Together, we are St. Gertrude!

## Request for Heart to Heart Lending Closet Donations

The Heart to Heart Lending Closet is looking for donations of wheelchairs, transport chairs, and rollators to loan to those in need.

If you know of anyone no longer using this equipment, please contact either Laurie Hasbrook or Pat Sullivan at the Heart to Heart office at 773.973.5464 or email [heart2heart@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:heart2heart@stgertrudechicago.org).





## Book Club Planned for Monday, January 9

Our Please join us in the Ministry Center on Monday, January 9 at 7:00 pm. We will discuss Jane Smiley's book, *Perestroika in Paris* and we would love new voices and opinions.

Contact Lea Cloninger at 773.973.2465 or Sue Benjamin at 773.551.8401 with questions. Please note, we may go virtual if the weather is stormy.

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## PreCana Class at St. Gertrude on January 21

Are you an engaged couple planning on getting married at St. Gertrude? Couples that have established a connection with Fr. Rich, Fr. Mike, or another priest are invited to attend St. Gertrude's PreCana course on January 21, 2023.

This full day, in-person gathering is dedicated to considering your life together as a married couple. Led by a facilitator couple from St. Gertrude, the session begins at 9:00 am and features presentations, prayers, and discussions with your partner and 5-10 other couples. Lunch and snacks are provided.

The cost of PreCana is covered by the church fee couples planning a wedding at St. Gertrude are charged. Couples can register for the January session by calling the Rectory office at 773.764.3621 or by filling out an online form at <https://stgertrudechicago.org/marriage>. Additional PreCana classes at St. Gertrude will be offered on April 15, 2023 and September 9, 2023.



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## Save the Date! Our Parish Cabaret Night Will be Held on Saturday, January 28

Our rescheduled Cabaret Night has a new date - Saturday, January 28. It will be held from 7:00-9:00 pm in the gym.

People wishing to perform or help with set up or breakdown should contact Mary Clare Barker at [mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org).

## Help Needed with Collecting Food for Care for Real

We have all felt the uptick in food prices in recent months and while this is not pleasant for the vast

majority of us, we are still able to put food on the table and pay our rent. Sadly, there are many families in Edgewater who cannot make this statement.

Greg Gross, the director of Care for Real, outlined the dire situation that many families are facing on a weekly basis. On a recent day, Care for Real served 295 families in one day. On the same date last year, they served 156 families. They now serve over 1,300 families per week.

And while the need continues to escalate, unfortunately there has been a decrease in the amount of food they receive from their suppliers. Care for Real used to receive 7,500 pounds of food a week from Chicago Food Depository. Now they receive 5,200 pounds; that is one TON less than what they used to receive.

The need in our community is great and the need is very real. I would like to propose as a parish that we have a monthly food drive for Care for Real. We would need a few adults to organize this (get bins out, collect the food after Masses, notify the parish with an article in the bulletin which weekend we are collecting, and coordinate with Care for Real any special needs for a particular month, etc.)

It would not involve a lot of time and effort and hopefully if this is a regular operation, we can arrange things with Care for Real for them to pick up the food. A few adults along with perhaps some teen help could really make a big difference in our community.

Please consider getting involved in this ministry and if you are so inclined, contact Mary Clare Barker at [mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org). Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

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## Help Needed with Baptismal Classes

We are looking for a volunteer(s) for pre-baptismal talks.

A pre-baptismal talk is done once a month and is delivered to those who will be baptized in the Catholic Church, typically parents of babies and young children.

If interested, please contact Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate, at [eescamilla@stgertrude.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrude.org) for details.







## Christmas 2022 Letter From Cardinal Cupich

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“The Word was made flesh, and he made his dwelling among us.” These momentous words from the beginning of John’s Gospel describe exactly what we celebrate at Christmas. Jesus, the eternal Son of God, has indeed come among us and become a part of our human family.

He shared our joys and our sorrows. He

came to know the full expanse of our human experiences, those that lift us up and those that cast us down. Through his death and resurrection, he has transformed our lives and our very world. The One born among us as Son of God and Son of Mary has given us a new birth in hope.

We know the challenges that marked his life from the very beginning. We recall how the Holy Family shared the plight of refugees, when they had to flee to Egypt to protect their newborn child from violence. These challenges find an echo in our world today. We see people flee the violence of war and oppression and crushing poverty. Their plight moves our heart to do whatever we can to alleviate their pain. Their story, framed within the story of the Holy Family, also reminds of the unfailing hand of God’s providence that leads us and saves us. And that gives us joyful confidence.

Whatever the challenges we face as individuals and communities—from war, violence, disease, injustice, natural climate disasters—we do not lose hope. We know that the Word was made flesh and made his dwelling among us. He walks with us. He sustains us. He gives us a hope that will not disappoint.

Join me in prayer this Christmas season. Let us ask God to deepen our faith in the Incarnate Word. Let us ask God to renew our hope and lift us up when we are weary. Let us ask God to keep our hearts joyful in all circumstances, because we have come to know God’s love for us.

God bless you and all your loved ones. As I celebrate the Eucharist in this Christmas season, know that I bring all of you to the altar with me.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Cardinal Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago*





## Mass Times/Reconciliation/Rectory Office Hours

- Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:30 am in Church, 10:30 am Gym Mass (*No Gym Mass on December 25, January 1*); Mon-Fri: 7:30 am (Thursday is a Communion Service.); Sat: 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 Rectory at 773.764.3621.
- The Rectory office is open Mon-Fri from 8:30 am-4:30 pm and Sat from 9:00 am- 2:30 pm. The office holiday hours are outlined on page 4.

## Altar Servers, Cantors, Musicians, Ministers of the Word, & Eucharistic Ministers

### Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, December 24 at 5:00 pm - Jennifer Kiedaisch, Kathleen Dawson
- Saturday, December 24 at 8:00 pm - Jacalyn Meier, David Sullivan
- Sunday, December 25 at 8:00 am - Mark Kollar, Marty McDermott
- Sunday, December 25 at 10:30 am - Patrick Reardon, Steven Monti
- Saturday, December 31 at 5:00 pm - Millie Slane, Kathleen Dawson
- Sunday, January 1 at 8:00 am - Wesley Dingman, Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, January 1 at 10:30 am - Rose Karasti, Bob Backis

### Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, December 24 at 5:00 pm - Maria Ugarte
- Saturday, December 24 at 8:00 pm - Michael Kowalsky, Bob Backis, Debra Novak
- Sunday, December 25 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, December 25 at 10:30 am - Carlos Barragan, Tim Love, Michelle Kuehlhorn
- Saturday, December 31 at 5:00 pm - Kathy Wall
- Sunday, January 1 at 8:00 am - Michelle Kuehlhorn
- Sunday, January 1 at 10:30 am - Carlos Barragan, Michael Kowalsky, Maria Ugarte

### Altar Servers:

- Sunday, December 25 at 10:30 am - Cross Bearer - Mariyam Agdubai; Acolytes - Henry Villareal, Adonai Agdubai
- Sunday, January 1 at 10:30 am - Cross Bearer - Ethan Cross; Acolytes - Henry Jacobson, Mariyam Agdubai

### Cantors & Musicians:

- Saturday, December 24 at 5:00 pm - Jim Manzardo; Andrea Lanctot-trumpet
- Saturday, December 24 at 8:00 pm - Michael Callahan, Andrea Lanctot-trumpet, Fran Guenette-euphonium, Dana Sullivan- flute
- Sunday, December 25 at 8:00 am - Paula Dempsey; Andrea Lanctot-trumpet
- Sunday, December 25 at 10:30 am - Cindy Lawson; Andrea Lanctot -trumpet; Jim Szmurlo-trumpet
- Saturday, December 31 at 5:00 pm - Bernie O' Connor
- Sunday, January 1 at 8:00 am - Mary Clare Barker
- Sunday, January 1 at 10:30 am - Cindy Lawson

## Mass Intentions

- **Monday, December 26:** 7:30 am - Glenn & Mary Jo Martin †
- **Tuesday, December 27:** 7:30 am - Living and deceased Torreano Family Members
- **Wednesday, December 28:** 7:30 am - Joe McMahon
- **Thursday, December 29:** 7:30 am - Communion Service
- **Friday, December 30:** 7:30 am - Grace V. Cabrera †
- **Saturday, December 31:** 7:30 am - Mary McGuinness; 5:00 pm – Jenny & Austin Wyman †
- **Sunday, January 1:** 8:00 am - Parishioners of St. Gertrude; 10:30 am - Parishioners of St. Gertrude
- **Monday, January 2:** 7:30 am - Living and Deceased Torreano Family Members
- **Tuesday, January 3:** 7:30 am - Teresa McGearly
- **Wednesday, January 4:** 7:30 am - Laura McGuire †
- **Thursday, January 5:** 7:30 am - Communion Service
- **Friday, January 6:** 7:30 am - Kathleen Marsh
- **Saturday, January 7:** 7:30 am - Living and deceased Torreano family members; 5:00 pm - Tom DiProva †
- **Sunday, January 8:** 8:00 am - Paul Perrin †; 10:30am – Julie Lauricella Wons †; 10:30 am Gym – Matt Bussey †

## Rest in Peace

- James Corbett, husband of Carol, father of James, Steve, Laurie, the late Kevin, John, Karen, Brian, Dennis, Jennifer, and Kenneth (*Wake & funeral on Saturday, January 14; 9:00 am visitation; 11:00 am funeral Mass*)
- Larry McCauley (*arrangements pending*)

## Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- |                           |                   |                        |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| • Pamela Sherrod Anderson | • Gina Heidkamp   | • Richard Seitz        |
| • Zara Bradley            | • Maria Hertl     | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Sharon Brown            | • Mary Horan      | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • Lilly Buie              | • Bernice Kiedysz | • Leon Ward            |
| • Aida Calvopina          | • Marilyn Klein   | • Yyes Yoza            |
| • KC Conway               | • Sheila McGuire  |                        |
| • Luke Fitzgerald         | • Karey Myers     |                        |

## 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