



## St. Gertrude Chicago

1420 W. Granville

Chicago, IL 60660

773.764.3621

[stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org)

[www.stgertrudechicago.org](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org)

### **Bulletin for Sunday, December 8, 2024**

### *The Second Sunday of Advent*

### **From Fr. Mike Gabriel**

This is indeed a busy time of year as advertising ramps up, calendars fill, and the “to-do” list grows longer. It’s so easy to get caught up in the frenzy of the season.

But let’s remember that it’s Advent—a season that invites us to be still and ponder the mysterious ways God has chosen to break into our world and our lives. It’s a season of wonder at God’s incomprehensible love for humanity, and a season for hope, because God fulfills His promises. I love that image.

Mary and Joseph certainly held and treasured a secret that first Advent. Mary carried that secret within her—a truth known to few. Let’s not allow the busyness of these next few weeks to keep us from letting Advent truly be Advent. Carve out time to nurture the secret gift within yourself. Read the daily Scriptures or a daily inspiration. Spend a few moments at the start of your day asking for eyes of wonder to see God’s presence, or at the end of your day reflecting on where God was present.

Don’t let the gift of Advent become just another exercise in busyness. Here are some ways to make Advent a meaningful season:

- We are asking for gift cards in increments of \$20 for our Giving Tree program. These cards can come from Target, Jewel, Aldi, even a Ventra card. Or \$10 gift cards to McDonalds, or Dunkin Donuts. We will be helping the Refugee and Immigrant Ministry, Centro Romero, Catholic Charities and RefugeeOne.
- The youth group will be gathering next Saturday, December 14th to make Christmas cards and cookies.
- Our Deanery Reconciliation will be hosted here on Monday, December 16th at 7:00 pm. There will be many priests available from neighboring parishes to help accommodate a variety of different languages.
- On Saturday, December 21st, St. Gerts will host the Longest Night Homeless Person’s Remembrance. There will be a vigil at 4:00 pm to remember those who have died, followed by mass at 5:00 pm.

## Events & Activities at St. Gertrude listed in chronological order

*Activities & events at NCA, other parishes, and in Edgewater are listed after parish events, reflections, and news*



### Second Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious is This Weekend

Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need—usually for little or no pay.

Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously.

### RCIA Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance - Sunday, Dec. 8

On Sunday, December 8 at the 10:30 am Mass, our church will celebrate the Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance for RCIA members:

- Graciela Adame
- Cynthia Ann Arnold
- Olivia Yolanda Flores
- Jorge Garcia
- Linda Grande
- Glen Huisman
- Paul Daniel Mendez
- Anne-Marie Sara St. Germaine



Through the Rite, the church welcomes those who have been baptized in another faith or baptized Catholic as a child but never catechized in the Catholic faith, into the process of full communion with the Church.

The Rite of Acceptance recognizes the Catechumen's decision to begin the process of becoming a member of the Catholic Church through Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation.



## Order Your Trees, Garland, and Wreaths from St. Gert's Annual Greenery Sale!

St. Gertrude is once again hosting our annual Christmas greenery sale this Christmas season, with balsam pine trees, wreaths, and garland available for purchase. 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.

### Order Online

Purchase greenery online at <https://bit.ly/StGertsChristmasGreenery> or by scanning the QR code.

### Order via Paper Form

A paper order form is available for download at the above link.

Forms and checks or cash can be dropped off at the Rectory office, 1420 W. Granville Ave or placed in the mail slot in the side (west) red door next to the Rectory side yard if the Rectory office is closed. Checks should be made out to St. Gertrude. Please note "Greenery" in the memo line.

### Deliveries

Deliveries will be offered for a \$6 fee on Saturday, December 14 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. The greenery team will reach out to notify you when to expect your order.

Please note, the boundaries for deliveries are north to Oakton, south to Irving Park, and east of the North Shore Channel.

### In-Person Sales

Greenery will also be sold at the playlot on Sunday December 15 and December 22 on the west side of the Social Hall, 1401 W. Granville Avenue, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Only cash and checks will be accepted for in-person purchases.

Questions? Contact St. Gertrude Business Manager Eduardo Soto at [esoto@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:esoto@stgertrudechicago.org) or call the Rectory at 773.764.3621.







## Feast of the Immaculate Conception—Monday, Dec. 9

We will celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 9. Please note, the feast day is not a holy day of obligation.

Mass will be held on Monday, December 9 at 7:30 am and 8:30 am.

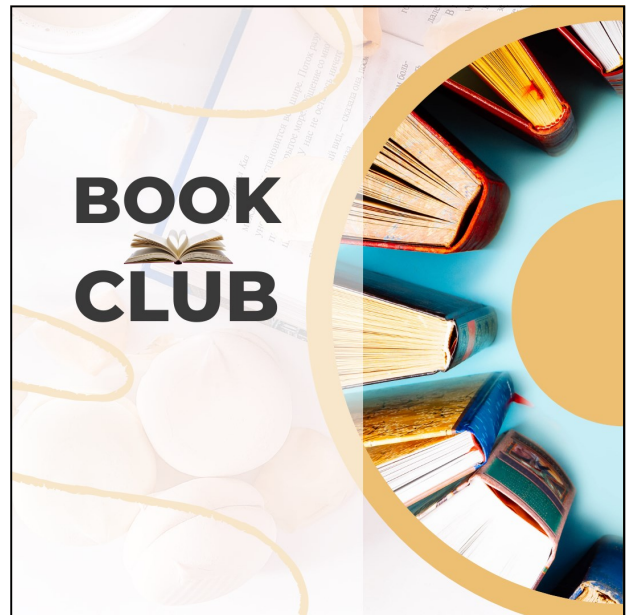
The rectory office will be open.

## Book Club Gathering is Tuesday, December 10

The book club will discuss *The Wind Knows My Name: A Novel* by Isabel Allende on Tuesday, December 10. Please note, we now meet on the second Tuesday of the month! The gathering is at 7:00 pm in the Ministry Center, located at 6214 North Glenwood Avenue.

We would love new voices and opinions!

Contact Lea Cloninger at her new number, 773.213.0509, or Sue Benjamin at 773.551.8401 with questions.



# friend

[frɛnd] noun.

a person known well to another and regarded with liking, affection, and loyalty. a friend is a person who knows all about you and still loves you

## Friendship Club is Thursday, December 12

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.





## Youth Group Event is Planned for Saturday, December 14

Attention students in 7th grade and up! Save the date! On December 14, we've planned an afternoon of Christmas card-making and cookie decorating. We'll gather in the Ministry Center from 1:00-3:00 pm.

Please reach out to Eloy Escamilla at [eecamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eecamilla@stgertrudechicago.org) for more information.

## "Brewed at St. Gertrude" Hospitality Event Planned on December 15 to Feature our Parish's Heavenly Horns Brass Quintet, Pastries, and More

Save the date for our first monthly parish hospitality event, "Brewed at St. Gertrude," next 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!



## Financial Report from November 30-December 1

Sunday Collection Envelopes: \$2,900.00  
Loose Checks: \$845.00  
Loose Cash/Coins: \$725.27  
Online Donations: \$3,802.04  
**Total Collected: \$8,272.31**

Budgeted: \$10,000.00

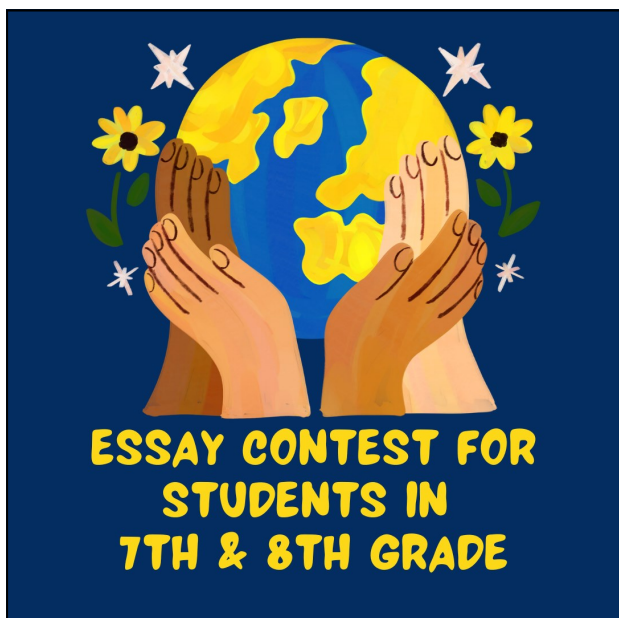
**Difference: -1,727.69**

Year-to-date Collected FY 2025: \$213,109.22

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

**Difference: -\$336,890.78**

**Thanksgiving Mass: \$609.00**



## 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](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org) or mail them to Eloy Escamilla, 1420 W. Granville, Chicago, IL 60660.

## 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](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org).



## Thank You for Your Generosity!

Thank you to the many parishioners who dropped off donations for Care for Real this weekend for asylum seekers and two weekends ago for our other neighbors in need!

We are so grateful for your help supporting them as they work to provide food and much-needed supplies to our neighbors who are struggling.

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 the month.







## 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.

## Giving Tree Deadline is December 20

The Giving Tree Program has started. 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.



## 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](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org).





## 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](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org) if you your children are interested in being a part of this amusing and important event.

## "Longest Night" Homeless Person's 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.



**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.

## Growing in Faith

"Take off your robe of mourning and misery" - so begins today's readings. That's probably good advice in these times that too often feel mournful and miserable. But -- with the news coming at us--it may be easier said than done. I find myself thinking of Pope John 23rd's invitation to do so, if "only for today."

*Only for today, I will seek to live the lifelong day positively without wishing to solve the problems of life all at once.*

*Only for today, I will have no fears. In particular, I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful and to believe in goodness.*



"Indeed," as the saint puts it, "For 12 hours this is something I can certainly do."

Enjoying what is beautiful, and believing in goodness, one day at a time, is what the Advent season invites us to do. Each day we get a new chance. We open a window. We prepare the way of the Lord.

On this journey, with its oh-so-winding path (nobody told me there'd be days like these) we are made confident by the reassurances of St Paul in his letter to us (from prison): "the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it." "God is my witness."

Tis the season to take off that robe of mourning and misery and heed the prophet's call: To put on the cloak of justice and the splendor of glory from God forever - at least for today.

~ Madeleine Philbin

## Events & Activities at NCA/Edgewater/Other Parishes



### Worldwide Candle Lighting for the Loss of a Child - Sunday, December 8

The Elizabeth Ministry of Queen of All Saints parish will host the annual Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting service on Sunday, December 8th at 6:45 pm in Queen of All Saints basilica, 6280 N. Sauganash Avenue, Chicago.

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.





## Weekly Caregiver-Toddler Playdates at NCA

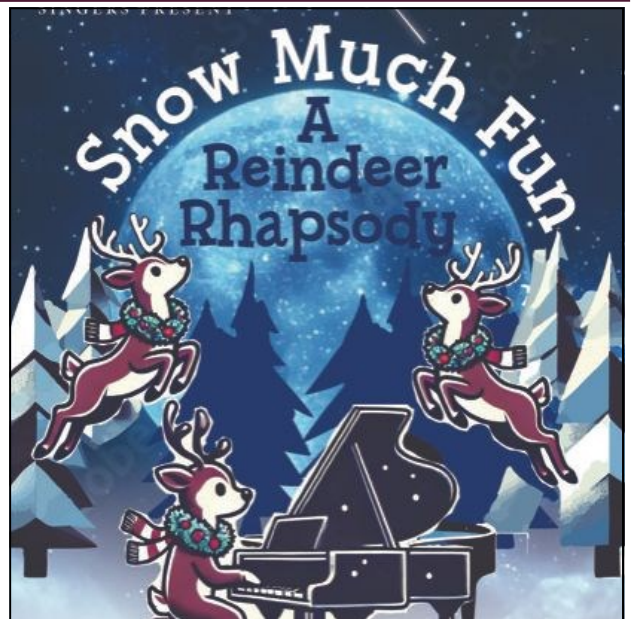
Looking after your child/children or caring for a little one? You're invited to our weekly get together for caregivers and toddlers! Held at Northside Catholic Academy, 6216 N. Glenwood, every Monday morning from 9:30-10:30 am, the hour is filled with a story, craft, and sing-along for kids, and adult interactions for the grown-ups.

RSVP to [gmalfatti@ncaschools.com](mailto:gmalfatti@ncaschools.com).

## Edgewater Singers Holiday Concert is Saturday, December 14

The Edgewater Singers will perform their annual Holiday concert on Saturday, December 14th at 7:30 pm. The performance will be held at the beautiful Ebenezer Lutheran, located at 1650 W. Foster Ave.

We look forward to sharing fun, seasonal music, and hope to see you there!



## LOSS Group - Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide

Catholic Charities Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide Loss (LOSS) offers in-person and online support groups for adults who are grieving the loss of a loved one to suicide. Our individual and group sessions provide safe, nonjudgmental environments where survivors can share their feelings and experiences.

Participants receive information and hope from veteran facilitators who help new members realize that they are not alone, and that they will not feel this confusion and deep sadness for the rest of their lives. For more information contact us via email at [loss@catholiccharities.net](mailto:loss@catholiccharities.net) or call 312.655.7283.



## Parish Information

### Rest in Peace

- Mary Amelse
- Maggie McSweeney
- Arlene Kaspik
- Marie Schonberger

### New Parishioners

- Efrain Cortes
- Susan Sarran
- Ivon Muniz
- Karen Spear
- Paul Ross
- Isabella Strode

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

### Ministers of the Word

- Saturday, December 7 at 5:00 pm - Patrick Reardon, Joseph McMahon
- Sunday, December 8 at 8:00 am - Jennifer Kiedaisch, Kathryn Stimac
- Sunday, December 8 at 10:30 am - Anthony Myers, Edie Sheridan

### Eucharistic Ministers

- Saturday, December 7 at 5:00 pm - Kathy Wall
- Sunday, December 8 at 8:00 am - Barb Daly
- Sunday, December 8 at 10:30 am - Annie Hasselbeck, Stephen Hasselbeck, Michelle Kuehlhorn

### Altar Servers

- Saturday, December 7 at 5:00 pm - Esteban Campuzano, cross bearer; Danna Salinas and Addison Regan, acolytes
- Sunday, December 8 at 10:30 am - Diarmuid McKeown, cross bearer; Angel Garcia and Mathios Paulus, 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](mailto:stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org) if you would like to add a name to the prayer list.

## Upcoming Mass Intentions

- Monday, December 9: 7:30 am - Mary Amelse+; 8:30 am - NCA mass
- Tuesday, December 10: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- Wednesday, December 11: 7:30 am - Arlene Kaspik+
- Thursday, December 12: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, December 13: 7:30 am - Shabon Glover
- Saturday, December 14: 7:30 am - Maggie McSweeney; 5:00 pm - Richard Cenar, Sr+
- Sunday, December 15: 8:00 am - Michael Cannon+; 10:30 am - Jacqueline Elwogd+ ; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Marie Schonberger+

## Mass Times/Reconciliation/Rectory 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 Rectory at 773.764.3621. See page 9 for our Deanery Reconciliation info.
- The Rectory 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](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org)
- GiveCentral: [www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevants](http://www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevants)

## Parish Staff and Contact Info

Rev. Michael Gabriel, Pastor—[mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org)

Patricia Branigan, Events/Room Booking Contact—[pbranigan@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:pbranigan@stgertrudechicago.org)

Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate—[eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org)

Jonathan Hannau, Music Director—[jhannau@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:jhannau@stgertrudechicago.org)

Laurie Hasbrook, Heart to Heart Lending Closet Manager—[lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org)

Edgar Osorio Leon, Maintenance Director—[eosorioleon@archchicago.org](mailto:eosorioleon@archchicago.org)

Sherl Patterson, Office Manager—[spatterson@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:spatterson@stgertrudechicago.org)

Sr. Susan Quaintance, OSB, Heart to Heart Director—[squaintance@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:squaintance@stgertrudechicago.org)

Tracy Shields, Communications Director—[stgerbulletin@yahoo.com](mailto:stgerbulletin@yahoo.com)

Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management—[esoto@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto: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](mailto:squaintance@stgertrudechicago.org). To reach Laurie Hasbrook, our Lending Closet manager, please call 773.973.5464 or email her at [lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:lhasbrook@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](http://stgertrudechicago.org).