

## St. Gertrude Chicago

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### Feast of Epiphany

January 1 & 2, 2022

### From Fr. Rich

#### Feast of the Epiphany

This weekend's Feast of the Epiphany captures in beautiful images a core truth of our Christian faith: the birth of Jesus was not limited in scope to his own people who were awaiting the Messiah, His birth is God's gift to

all people of every nation! Those three Magi represent all people throughout the world. This feast reminds us to consider how we look at others who are different from us. Do I see in them the truth that they are all my sisters and brothers because of Jesus Christ? What do I need to change about my own perceptions, biases, and prejudices in order to more honestly reflect back God's love for every human being?

#### Thank You

In just a few short weeks we have celebrated many major feasts! Many thanks to all those who work so hard, in season and out of season, to help us pray well in church. Thank you to all our liturgical ministers -- lectors and Ministers of Communion, ushers and greeters, cantors, instrumentalists and choir members, our live-stream team, our art & environment team for the church — Kevin Cheers, along with our maintenance person, Andy Mueller — and all of our priests. The many celebrations were made possible and beautiful by your hard work and attention to every detail! May God continue to bless you in all you do!

#### Parish Calendars

We WILL have a limited supply of parish calendars -- sorry they are a little late. Thanks to Tim Harrington from Barr Funeral Home for providing us with our 2022 parish calendars!

#### Rectory Office Closed for New Year's Holiday

The Rectory office will be closed on Thursday, December 30, closed on New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31st, closed on New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1st, and closed on Monday, January 3rd. The Rectory office will be open on Sunday, January 2 from 8:30 am-12:00 pm. The Monday holiday is a special gift from the Archdiocese and completes the three additional holidays that were added to all employees' holidays in thanksgiving for their enduring the difficulties of the pandemic. The Rectory office will reopen on Tuesday, January 4th.

#### A Note from Care for Real

Recently we received a note from Gregory Gross, the Executive Director of Care for Real: "*Dear Friends of St. Gertrude's. Thank you for being such incredible supporters of Care for Real. We continue to see immense need in our neighborhood. We've had a 73%*

*increase in visits for food in 2021 over 2020. With your continued support, we know we will meet it. With gratitude, Gregory."*

### **COVID—Omicron Protocols**

As I write this, I don't know if there will be new protocols issued for how we gather and act safely and responsibly in light of the Omicron variant. It seems obvious that schools are trying to determine how to safely reopen after

their Christmas break. Here in church, beginning with the Christmas Masses, we resumed wearing the plexiglass face shields when distributing Holy Communion. Face masks are still required for everyone in church. As this ever-changing situation continues, we need to begin to shift our thinking from, "How do we beat this once and for all?", to a more realistic, "How do we manage this ongoing pandemic in the months and years to come?" It isn't pleasant to say, but we are not going to return to whatever we thought was "normal" before March 13th of 2019. Those days are gone, whether we like it or not.

As we enter into this unknown territory, we will really need to be practicing tolerance, respect, and a willingness to sacrifice some of our personal conveniences for the safety and health of the broader community. When Pope Francis speaks out about the moral necessity of vaccines, etc., that is what he is talking about. We are all members of a broader community. We have a moral obligation to care not only for ourselves but for each other. Adults acting like children, not wanting to be inconvenienced, etc., will really need to be held accountable for inappropriate behavior. Like the COVID virus, it really isn't about what any ONE of us wants or doesn't want, it must be about what is best for all of us.

This is a New Year unlike any other. And we must be willing to enter it in new and unknown ways, caring for ourselves and for each other. Making sacrifices for our own personal well-being and the well-being of the broader community is a spiritual concept every bit as much as it is simply good human behavior. Perhaps this can be the fountain from which we draw our New Year's Resolutions?!



## **Upcoming Mass Schedule & Rectory Office Closures**

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

- Mass is at 10:00 am (live-streamed) & 5:00 pm (Sunday vigil)
- 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 a Gym Mass.
- The Rectory is open.

### **Monday, January 3**

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

On Tuesday, January 4, the Rectory office will resume normal business hours. They are:

- Mondays-Thursdays from 8:30 am-7:00 pm
- Fridays from 8:30 am-4:30 pm
- Saturdays from 9:00 am-2:30 pm
- Sundays from 8:30 am-noon

*Please visit <https://stgertrudechicago.org/> for the latest parish news.*

## Daily Decalogue of Pope John XXIII

1. Only for today, I will seek to live the live-long day positively without wishing to solve the problems of my life all at once.

2. Only for today, I will take the greatest care of my appearance: I will dress modestly; I will not raise my voice; I will be courteous in my behavior; I will not criticize anyone; I will not claim to improve or to discipline anyone except myself.

3. Only for today, I will be happy in the certainty that I was created to be happy, not only in the other world but also in this one.

4. Only for today, I will adapt to circumstances, without requiring all circumstances to be adapted to my own wishes.

5. Only for today, I will devote ten minutes of my time to some good reading, remembering that just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is necessary to the life of the soul.

6. Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it.

7. Only for today, I will do at least one thing I do not like doing; and if my feelings are hurt, I will make sure that no one notices.

8. Only for today, I will make a plan for myself: I may not follow it to the letter, but I will make it. And I will be on guard against two evils: hastiness and indecision.

9. Only for today, I will firmly believe, despite appearances, that the good Providence of God cares for me as no one else who exists in this world.

10. 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, for twelve hours I can certainly do what might cause me consternation were I to believe I had to do it all my life.



## 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."*

## Cardinal Cupich: Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine is a Moral Imperative



There is good news about how Catholics view the COVID-19 vaccines. According to new polling data from the Public Religion Research Institute, the acceptance rate by white Catholics went from 68% in March to 82% currently, and among Hispanic Catholics, it jumped from 56% to 90% over the same period. This is remarkable, and something to celebrate.

Just as promising is the news that 60% of Americans agree with the statement, “Because getting vaccinated against COVID-19 helps protect everyone, it is a way to live out the religious principle of loving my neighbors.”

Pope Francis has often advocated for vaccinations using similar language. “Being vaccinated with vaccines authorized by the competent authorities is an act of love. And contributing to ensure the majority of people are vaccinated is an act of love — love for oneself, love for one’s family and friends, love for all people,” he said in a public service announcement released Aug. 18.

In other words, deciding whether to get vaccinated is not only a choice about one’s own health. The unvaccinated who contract the virus, whether or not they experience symptoms, commonly spread the disease, and every person who catches it and infects others adds to the likelihood of the virus mutating in more dangerous ways.

While it is true that there are breakthrough cases among the vaccinated, studies have shown that such people tend to experience lower viral loads than the unvaccinated, and thus do not spread the COVID-19 virus at the same levels. What’s more, the disease experienced by those with breakthrough infections tends to be dramatically less severe than that of the unvaccinated who catch the virus — they sadly have much higher rates of hospitalization and death.

Moreover, as the virus continues to spread, with the resulting rise in hospitalizations among the unvaccinated, our healthcare system is being terribly overwhelmed. The medical community and the wider public are paying the price.

A Nov. 19 report from the Centers for Disease Control notes that “surges in COVID-19 cases have stressed hospital systems, negatively affected health care and public health infrastructures, and degraded national critical functions.” In other words, as resources are diverted to care for those contracting COVID-19, normal preventive and elective procedures are being suspended, putting at risk those who could benefit from treatment of

serious illnesses, such as heart attacks, strokes and diabetic emergencies.

For example, in Minnesota, which is experiencing one of the worst COVID surges in the nation, CEOs of health-care systems took out full-page ads across the state, raising alarms over the threat the pandemic is posing to their ability to provide care not only to the infected — but to anyone at all.

“Our emergency departments are overfilled, and we have patients in every bed in our hospitals,” the ad reads. “This pandemic has strained our operations and demoralized many people on our teams. Care in our hospitals is safe but our ability to provide it is threatened.”

What’s equally chilling is that if intensive care unit bed use nationwide reaches 75% capacity, “an estimated 12,000 additional excess deaths would occur nationally over the next two weeks,” according to that CDC report. “As hospitals exceed 100% ICU bed capacity, 80,000 excess deaths would be expected in the following two weeks.”

In other words, if our hospitals fill, many thousands of people will die who could have otherwise lived — in addition to the nearly 800,000 Americans who have already died from COVID-19. That’s more than the number of Americans who lost their lives in the Civil War (750,000), the 1918 flu pandemic (675,000), and World War II (405,399).

Controlling the growth of the contagion is critical, making universal vaccination a moral imperative. Receiving the full series of vaccination injections, as well as considering boosters that could augment our protection against the latest variant, is not just about protecting oneself from this scourge. It is also about protecting others from the virus. It is about each of us doing our part to stop helping the virus mutate, and to ensure that this disease will not paralyze our health care systems.

The virus has taken the lives of so many of our brothers and sisters. It has driven the rest of us first into isolation and now into a strange two-step of normalcy and abnormalcy. In that way, it has attacked our very nature as human beings, which is to be social, to be with one another. So let us hold fast to that essential aspect of humanity, and pull together, all of us, to finally defeat this disease.



## WHY GET VACCINATED IT ALL STARTS WITH YOU

Building defenses against COVID-19 is a team effort. And you are a key part of that defense.

Protect yourself, your coworkers, your patients, your family, and your community.

Help end the global pandemic. COVID-19 vaccination will help reduce spread.

## Need help locating a vaccination site?

Search [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find locations near you. You can also contact the City's COVID-19 helpline at 312.746.4835.



## Growing in Faith

Today's scripture readings are laden with promise, discovery, and treachery. The Savior of the World was not born into riches and splendor fit for a king. From the start, there were designs on his life. It took a star in the night sky, a journey through deserts, and a foreign people to recognize a child destined for sovereignty.

What star leads us? Are we crossing a desert? Do we recognize Jesus in the faces of the poor, the immigrant, those suffering from climate disasters, and those whose skin is different from our own?

Can we still find truth in this treacherous and dishonest world in our dreams and longings for justice and non-violence? Let us set our feet on path of discovery! May all our steps into this New Year be guided by the Light of the World!

~ Nancy Bujnowski



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## Breaking Bread 2022 eMissal

The USCCB-approved Breaking Bread 2022 eMissal is available for Android and iOS smartphones and tablets either in the App Store or Google Play for \$4.99.

The app can be downloaded for instant access to songs, readings, and the Order of Mass.



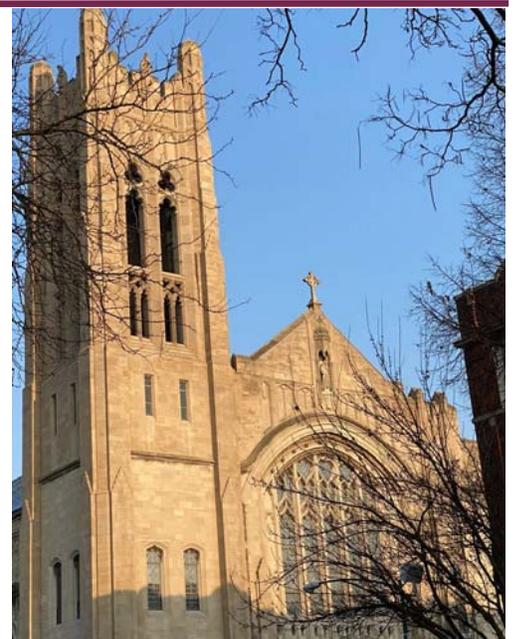
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## Year-End Giving to St. Gertrude

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 the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.

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

*Together, we are St. Gertrude!*



# Thank You for Making Advent & Christmas at St. Gertrude so Special

Christmas at St. Gertrude was wonderful! We appreciate all who attended our services, whether they attended Mass online or put on a mask and came to Mass in person. These holy days were a reminder that churches are created and nurtured by active, engaged, and generous parishioners. We appreciate you sharing your time with us and are thankful to have you as part of our St. Gertrude family!

We are also grateful for the hard work of so many who made Advent and Christmas at St. Gert's so beautiful and festive.

So many parishioners participated in our Giving Tree program, organized to make Christmas special for families in need! The gift cards went to Care for Real and the Refugee Ministry to support their work.

Thank you for your tremendous response to our call for help. Your donations were very much appreciated.



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

### Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, January 1 at 10:00 am - Pat Reardon
- Saturday, January 1 at 5:00 pm in church - Millie Slane
- Sunday, January 2 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, January 2 at 10:30 am in church - Steve Modde
- Sunday, January 2 at 10:30 am in Gym - TBA

### Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, January 1 at 10:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Saturday, January 1 at 5:00 pm in church - Kathy Wall
- Sunday, January 2 at 8:00 am - Brian DeVanne
- Sunday, January 2 at 10:30 am in church - Bob Backis, Carlos Barragan, Rafael Melendez
- Sunday, January 2 at 10:30 am in Gym - TBA

### Cantors:

- Saturday, January 1 at 10:00 am - Carol Ann Munro
- Saturday, January 1 at 5:00 pm in church - Mary Clare Barker
- Sunday, January 2 at 8:00 am - Paula Dempsey
- Sunday, January 2 at 10:30 am in church - Cindy Lawson
- Sunday, January 2 at 10:30 am in Gym - TBA

## Mass Intentions

- Monday, January 3: 7:30 am - Katie Batza
- Tuesday, January 4: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- Wednesday, January 5: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents
- Thursday, January 6: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, January 7: 7:30 am - Jacqueline Helen White +
- Saturday, January 8: 7:30 am - John Buckenmeyer + ; 5:00 pm - Alfredo Lukinskas +
- Sunday, January 9: 8:00 am - James Smith +; 10:30 am - John Ventrella +; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Billy Tobin +

*+ indicates the person is deceased*

## Rest in Peace

- Felicisima Magadan
- Eleanor Valvassori, mother of Steve Monti

## Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

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