

## St. Gertrude Chicago

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Bulletin for

**February 12, 2023**

*Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

### From Fr. Mike Gabriel

#### St. Gertrude Happenings:

Truth be told folks, it has been like a whirlwind around here this past month. Many good things

are happening, and some unexpected events as well. Please forgive me for missing some things along the way.

Thanks to the pastoral staff and the help of other priests, I am going to take this coming week off to recharge and get ready for Lent.

Here are some things to know.

- Next weekend, we will have a Lenten resource table. On the table will be a couple of resources to help make this Lent a prayerful and holy one. These resources, along with the many Lenten programs we have in place (listed below in this bulletin), will make this a well-spent Lent.
- The sign-up continues for our Lenten discussion group using the book, *The Crucible of Racism*. They are on sale this weekend and next weekend.
- As you heard last weekend at Mass and in a letter from Bishop Bartosic in this bulletin, a search committee is being formed to help interview candidates for the school administrator. The bishop is asking each parish that is a part of the NCA family to have one person be part of this team. If interested, let me know at [mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org).
- Speaking of search committees, as most of you know, Mary Clare Barker, our Director of Music will be retiring at the end of June. A search committee is being formed to search for a new director. I have asked the choir and cantors to pick one or two representatives and I am requesting that one or two parishioners also be part of the committee. If interested, please let me know by March 5th.
- Ash Wednesday is February 22. The Mass times are 7:30 am, 8:30 am, and 6:30 pm. From 12:00-1:00 pm, there will be distribution of ashes (only).



# 2023 Lenten Activities

## **Lenten Study: The Crucible of Racism by Patrick Saint-Jean, SJ**

The Lenten book study this year will continue the work begun last year on racism, which Pope Francis has likened to "a virus that lurks in waiting...only to emerge and show that our supposed social progress is not as real or definitive as people think."

We will be reading *The Crucible of Racism*, the second book by Patrick Saint-Jean, author of the book we shared together last year, *The Spiritual Work of Racial Justice*. In this book, Saint-Jean shows how Ignatian Spirituality and faithful hope can, in fact, change us, the Church, our nation, and the world.

We have 50 copies of the book available for \$20. Study groups will meet in the Ministry Center on Thursday mornings at 9:00 am and Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm beginning February 23 and ending March 30. Each meeting is about an hour. Sign-up sheets are on the tables in the back of the church. For further information, contact me at [mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org).

## **Almoners Lenten Ministry**

Alms are money, food, or other material goods donated to people living in poverty. Providing alms is one of the three disciplines of Lent, along with fasting and prayer. Almoners are those who distribute alms on behalf of the Church community.

This year, we will have a weekly second collection for the Almoner's Program. The funds raised from that collection will be used to purchase \$10.00 McDonald gift cards which parishioners can then pick up at the weekend Masses and distribute to the poor and homeless encountered on the streets of our city.

At the end of each Mass, those who wish to be Almoners will step forward to receive the gift cards and be commissioned with a special blessing give them to those less fortunate.

Remember that all of us are Almoners, charged with taking care of our brothers and sisters in need. If you cannot go out and distribute cards, please consider donating to the second collection each week. Perhaps you can do both - providing the alms and taking them out to those on the streets.

## **Stations of the Cross: Starting on February 24th**

Every Friday during Lent, we will take time from our busy schedules to reflect on the suffering journey of Christ and others in the world. On Friday afternoons at 3:00 pm, we offer the traditional way of the Cross. At 6:30 pm, we will also have stations of the Cross, joining Jesus' journey recognizing the present struggles and crosses that challenge modern world.

## **Mystic Path in Song**

On Wednesday, March 15th, we will have a special evening in the Church. Titled "The Mystic Path in Song", the evening will feature Gerry Digman. It will be a time of reflection on the spiritual journey of the great saints and the up and downs they faced in their own life.

Gerry will provide brief commentary for each of the eight stages of the Path, followed by songs that bring us to prayerful contemplation, deepening our understanding of the presence of God in the lives of the saints as well as in our own life. The presentation will last about an hour.





## Annual Catholic Appeal: *Walking the Road with Jesus*

This weekend is the commitment weekend for the Catholic Appeal. This appeal supports the work of our parish, our diocese, and the Catholic Church around the world. 93 cents of every dollar raised goes directly to the critical work of the schools, parishes, agencies and ministries of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The Annual Catholic Appeal is an invitation for every Catholic family to respond with a generous heart. Your gift will provide inspiration, education, and services to the less fortunate in our Archdiocese and throughout the world.

Envelopes are available in church. You can also take a picture of the QR code in the above image or on the in-pew envelope to make a donation online, or visit <https://bit.ly/AnnualCatholicAppeal2023> to make a credit card one-time gift, a recurring sustaining gift, or pledge to the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Checks can be mailed to the Annual Catholic Appeal: 835 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2030. Gifts made through stock, Donor Advised Funds, and IRA distributions can also be made by calling 312.534.7959.

Thank you for your generosity!

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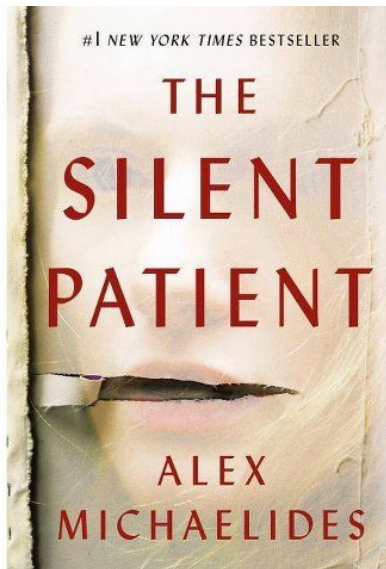
## St. Gertrude Super Bowl Tamale Benefit for Midwest Workers Association: Pick-Up Your Orders This Weekend!

This weekend, Midwest Workers Association (MWA) will deliver orders of tamales after Mass for their annual Super Bowl Tamale Benefit.



The tamale benefit generates critical support for MWA's Winter Survival Campaign, which includes door-to-door membership canvasses, utility bill advocacy to avert utility shutoffs and restore service, winter-watch phoning and warm clothing distributions.

If you are interested in ordering tamales, please stop by their table at the main church entrance to see if there are extras. Orders are packaged by the half dozen and include chicken in green sauce, cheese & jalapeno (vegetarian), or black bean & cactus (vegan). The homemade tamales are available for a suggested donation of \$10 for a half dozen or \$20 for a dozen.



## Book Club Planned for Monday, February 13

Please join us in the Ministry Center on Monday, February 13 at 7:00 pm. We will discuss *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides, and we would love new voices and opinions.

Contact Lea Cloninger at 773.973.2465 or Sue Benjamin at 773.551.8401 with questions.

The gathering may be virtual if the weather is stormy.

## Pastoral Parish Council Meeting on Thursday, February 16

The next PPC meeting is on Thursday, February 16 at 7:00 pm in the Ministry Center. All meetings are open to the public.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us at [stgertrudeparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:stgertrudeparishcouncil@gmail.com).

~ Bob Backis, Michelle Nickerson, Jen Reyes, Ellen Buttitta, Denise Goodman, Tim Lacy, Tim Love, and Sean Williams



## No Religious Ed Classes on Sunday, February 19/Rectory Closed on February 20

Presidents Day is celebrated on Monday, February 20. Due to the long weekend, there will be no Religious Ed classes that weekend.

Additionally, the Rectory office will be closed on Monday, February 20.

**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. Contact Eloy Escamilla at [eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org) for details.



## The NCA Soiree 2023

### Online Auction Ends This Sunday, February 12

Northside Catholic Academy's annual fundraising gala, the 2023 NCA Soirée, will take place on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at the Ravenswood Event Center.

This is NCA's largest fundraising event, and helps to raise funds to support academic enhancements, facility improvements, and our Guardian Angel Scholarship program. There are a number of ways you can help support NCA in bringing quality Catholic education to students in our community.

#### TICKETS FOR THE NCA SOIRÉE ARE NOW ON SALE!

All tickets (event, raffle, *Choose Your Own Adventure*, *Sponsor-a-Staff*) can be purchased at [ncasoiree.com](http://ncasoiree.com).

- Enter the **Grand Raffle** for a chance to win \$3,000, \$2,000, or \$1,000! Raffle tickets are \$20 or 6/\$100, and you don't need to be present to win.
- Enter the **Choose Your Own Adventure Raffle** for a chance to win your choice of one of 6 fabulous trips, including an Alaskan Cruise, Barcelona, Napa Valley, Mexico, and more. Tickets are \$100—only 100 tickets will be sold.
- Save \$50 by purchasing the **"All In For 2!" Deal**: includes 2 event tickets, 6 raffle tickets and 1 Choose Your Own Adventure ticket.
- Can't attend the event? Consider sponsoring a ticket for one of NCA's amazing faculty and staff!

#### OUR ONLINE AUCTION ENDS THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12!

The online auction takes place until February 12th. We have lots of great items to bid on—theater and sports tickets, gift cards to local restaurants and businesses, museum passes, and more! Visit [ncasoiree.com](http://ncasoiree.com) to view items and place your bids.

#### LOOKING FOR SPONSORS!

Do you know of an individual or business interested in sponsoring this year's NCA Soirée? We have sponsor levels ranging from \$150-\$2500+. Contact Jackie Blake, [jahoffma@hotmail.com](mailto:jahoffma@hotmail.com), or Leigh Holzman, [holzman@ncaweb.org](mailto:holzman@ncaweb.org), for more information.

Thank you for your continued support of NCA!!

**Request from Heart to Heart:** The 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 email [heart2heart@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:heart2heart@stgertrudechicago.org) or call 773.973.5464.

# Care for Real Food Drive in Church on Saturday, February 25 and Sunday, February 26

*If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one. ~ Mother Teresa*

Welcome to the season of love. Love of God, love of your own goodness (a child of God), and love of your neighbor (all children of God, without exception).

As we celebrate our blessings given in love, perhaps consider sharing your gifts and donating to the St. Gertrude monthly food donation benefiting Care for Real. The first donation opportunity will be February 25-26 in the back of the Church.

Care for Real currently serves more than 1,300 families per week (almost double the need from one year ago), while its share of food donations from the Chicago Food Depository has declined dramatically (from 7,500 lbs. per week to 5,200 lbs. per week).

Please see the list of requested items in the above image. Show some love and care, for real.



## Help St. Gertrude Support Care for Real

*With a Monthly Continuous Food and Supply Drive!*

Let's help families in need all through the year!

Please fill our bins for Care for Real outreach in our community



### Donations Needed:

Canned goods

Non-perishable foods

Rice, cooking oil, flour, pasta, peanut butter,

Personal hygiene products are desired, especially:

diapers size 4, 5 and 6, underwear. Full size toiletries like shampoo, toothpaste, body wash, etc.

**Drop off location: Bins in back of the church**

For more information contact:

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

## Thank You for Supporting

A big thank you to those who attended the Refugee Ministry Luncheon on Sunday, February 5! We are also appreciative of our speakers, Emily Parker, Catholic Charities Case Management Supervisor, and Sr. Wendy Cotter, who has worked directly with migrants in El Paso.

We truly appreciate the financial support from the parish. The second collections last weekend for the Refugee Ministry totaled \$2,982.49! All funds will go towards helping refugees and immigrants build new lives in Chicago.

## A Note From Bishop Bartosic About NCA

Last week, Northside Catholic Academy learned of the need for leadership change at the end of this academic year. Parents, teachers and clergy were invited to a meeting on Thursday night to discern a new path forward. The goal is to grow a robust, diverse, urban Catholic school serving the North side of Chicago. The wellbeing of children, the stability of the school, and a shared vision for a bright, sustainable future are of paramount importance as this community embarks on the journey of change.

Our first step is to assemble a collaborative team of people to serve on a committee to select a leader. I am looking for volunteers from these groups:

- NCA teachers
- School administrators
- Parents of current NCA students
- Board of Specified Jurisdiction members
- Clergy from sponsoring parishes
- Members of sponsoring parishes
- Community partners (business, education, government)

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please speak to your pastor, who has a tool that will help me learn more about you. I will keep you informed of our progress.

With humility, I ask that you pray for the process, trust in it, and offer suggestions aimed at a bright future for Catholic education in our neighborhood.



## Student Essay Winners

Congratulations to the three winners of our student essay contest - Gus Berlinghof, Evan Dumstorff, and Dominic Millar!

The essay prompt challenged students to write about the most important contribution that Christians can make to society. The contest was open to all seventh and eight-grade students.

Gus, Evan, and Dominic will receive gift cards as a prize. All three impressive and insightful essays can be read on our parish website at <https://stgertrudechicago.org/student-essay-winners>. Thank you to all who participated and to our judges!



## Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) Group

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.

Since 1979, LOSS has helped guide individuals and families through this challenging grieving process. 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.

LOSS groups are also supported by licensed mental health professionals who meet survivors wherever they are in the grieving process.

For more information, email [loss@catholiccharities.net](mailto:loss@catholiccharities.net), call 312.655.7283, or visit <https://www.catholiccharities.net/behavioral-health-programs/loss-loving-outreach-to-survivors-of-suicide/>.

# CATHOLIC CHARITIES

## Archdiocese of Chicago



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



## VOCATIONS EVENTS

Do you think you might have a calling?

Fr. Tim Monahan, Vocations Director, wants to connect with you.

**High school** men are invited:

St. John Vianney College Seminary visit, Feb. 16–18

Quigley Discerners event, Feb. 25

**College** men are invited:

Seminary Sprint in Mundelein, Mar. 10–11

**Scan for details and sign up!**





## Growing in Faith

An old Christian tradition, "Candlemas", celebrated on February 2, is the last feast of the Christmas season. In that spirit, that's the day I took down my last remaining Christmas decorations. Not far off, around the bend, before the end of this month - we'll arrive at Ash Wednesday, Lenten season. In the meantime, in between time, here we are in "ordinary time".

This Sunday's readings suggest a good use of this time might be seeking reconciliation with any estranged brothers or sisters. It doesn't seem to matter much who's at fault. Jesus seems more concerned with forgiveness than fixing blame. (Pope Francis strikes a similar note.)

In the Gospel, Jesus is calling us to a radical way of life: to see one another through God's loving eyes. But anger or resentment or bitterness can block our ability to be the love of Christ in the world. We need to step up to the hard work of loving one another (and not hide behind 'loving God'). Sometimes we'll fail. Aren't we glad Jesus is more concerned with forgiveness than finding fault?

In my own experience, reconciliation is not necessarily a "one-and-done" act. On the other hand, you can travel far with that first step. "It's a doozy."

- Madeleine Philbin



## Rest in Peace

- Victoria D. Centeno, wife of Evaristo, mother of Eleanor and Vincent (Funeral held on Saturday, February 11.)
- There will be a memorial Mass at St. Gertrude for Phyllis Mahoney on Saturday, February 25 at 10:00 am.

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

### Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, February 11 at 5:00 pm - Susan McKean, Roman Reyes
- Sunday, February 12 at 8:00 am - Rob Sierzega, Marty McDermott
- Sunday, February 12 at 10:30 am - Steven Monti, Sarah Millar

### Cantors & Musicians:

- Saturday, February 11 at 5:00 pm - Denise Goodman
- Sunday, February 12 at 8:00 am - Amir Ghazaleh
- Sunday, February 12 at 10:30 am - Kate Hibbs Davis

### Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, February 11 at 5:00 pm - Kathy Wall
- Sunday, February 12 at 8:00 am - Barb Daly
- Sunday, February 12 at 10:30 am - Michelle Kuehlhorn, Michael Kowalsky, Carlos Barragan

### Altar Servers:

- Sunday, February 12 at 10:30 am - Cross Bearer - Alise Veleta; Acolytes - Ethan Craft, Grace Cashman

## Mass Intentions

- **Monday, February 13:** 7:30 am - Living and deceased Torreano family members
- **Tuesday, February 14:** 7:30 am - Sheila McGuire †
- **Wednesday, February 15:** 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- **Thursday, February 16:** 7:30 am - Communion Service
- **Friday, February 17:** 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
- **Saturday, February 18:** 7:30 am - St. Gertrude parishioners; 5:00 pm - Isabelle Laczkowski, Ed DeWolf †
- **Sunday, February 19:** 8:00 am - Living and deceased Torreano family members; 10:30 am - Jacqueline Elwood †; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Johnny O'Brien †

(† indicates the person is deceased)

## 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.
- The Rectory office is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 am-4:30 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am - 2:30 pm.

## Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- |                    |                   |                        |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| • Zara Bradley     | • Gina Heidkamp   | • John Nardella        |
| • Sharon Brown     | • Maria Hertl     | • Richard Seitz        |
| • Lilly Buie       | • Mary Horan      | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Aida Calvopina   | • Bernice Kiedysz | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • KC Conway        | • Marilyn Klein   | • Leon Ward            |
| • Ann Collins Dole | • Patricia Meade  | • Yyes Yoza            |
| • Luke Fitzgerald  | • Karey Myers     |                        |

If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please contact the Rectory office at 773.764.3621 or email [stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org). Names will remain on the list for three weeks. After that time, please renew the name using same contact information.

## 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. Michael Gabriel, Parish Administrator  
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 Director  
Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management  
Patricia Sullivan, Heart to Heart Director