

St. Gertrude Chicago

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Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 13, 2022

From Fr. Rich

Two weekends ago, six engaged couples participated in one of our parish-based Pre-Cana programs to assist them in preparing for life as married couples. Also recently, the young

people preparing for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation in March participated in a retreat day, together exploring the gift of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

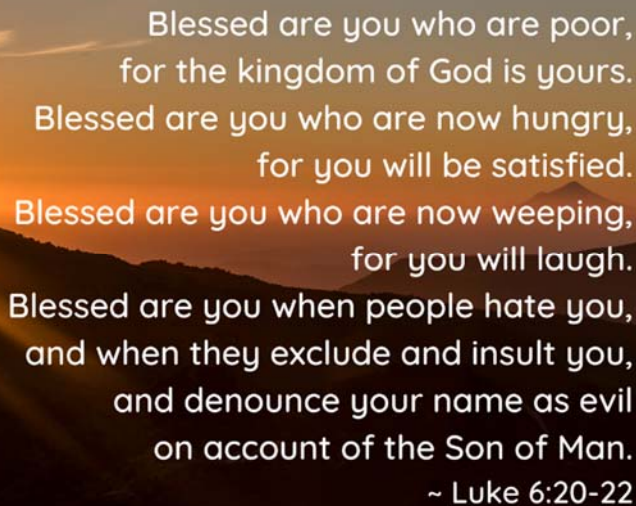
Some of our volunteers who help visit the sick and homebound have been working to bring their VIRTUS training up to the current requirement. And every week NCA is assisted by members of the Archdiocesan School Office in the many important nuances of COVID protocols and other, more traditional aspects of education. The Peace & Justice Committee has been working to get ready for the Lenten season and some parishioners are working with the jail ministry through Kolbe House.

I mention all these different activities and ministries because all of them are partially made possible by some of the different services/offices of the Archdiocese of Chicago of which we as a parish are members. The Archdiocese has a broader view and a much greater outreach that St. Gertrude or any individual parish. This includes our annual participation in the outreach of Catholic Relief Services to people in crisis throughout the world.

This weekend, we begin the annual three-weekend presentation for the Annual Catholic Appeal. It is important to be aware that we are always part of the universal church, not just our own small Christian community looking inward. As members of the larger church, it is fulfilling one of our gospel imperatives to look beyond ourselves to the greater world and its needs.

The Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) makes possible the training and facilitating of so many ministries and activities that no one parish could sustain by itself. Things such as training our facilitator couples for the parish-based Pre Cana program; assisting our young people throughout the Archdiocese with their sacramental preparation; keeping all our children safe through the VIRTUS program, Protecting God's Children; providing help and direction for our Catholic schools and Religious Education programs; offering guidance and resources for peace and justice initiatives, as well as outreach to all those who, as Pope Francis is always reminding us, are living on the periphery.

Anyone who has contributed to the ACA in the past should have received information on this year's Appeal. There is also information available in church this weekend.



Blessed are you who are poor,
for the kingdom of God is yours.
Blessed are you who are now hungry,
for you will be satisfied.
Blessed are you who are now weeping,
for you will laugh.
Blessed are you when people hate you,
and when they exclude and insult you,
and denounce your name as evil
on account of the Son of Man.
~ Luke 6:20-22

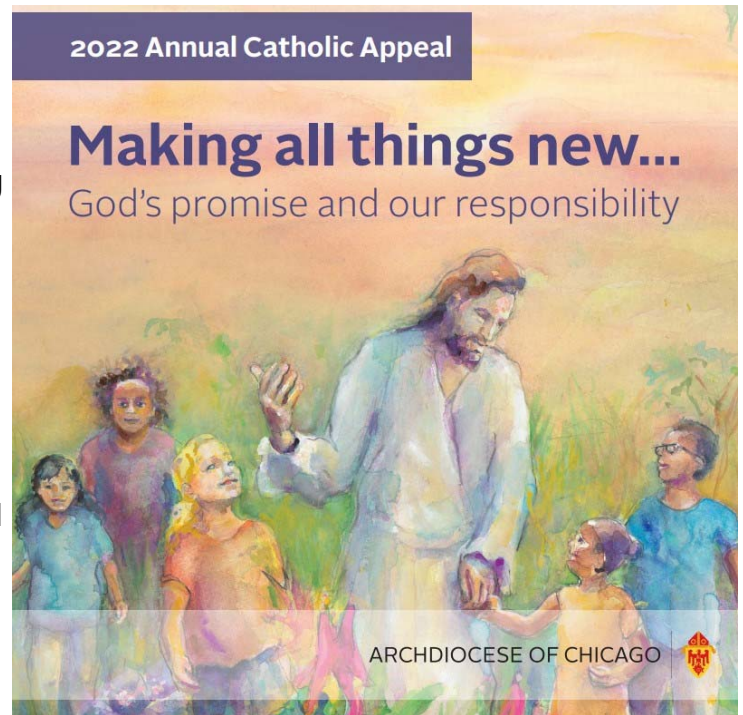
Fr. Rich *(continued)*

Next weekend, we will listen to a recorded homily by Cardinal Cupich, and then we will walk through the commitment process, using the forms that will be available in all the pews. On the third and final weekend, we will also direct anyone who has not yet made a pledge to the Appeal how to do so.

Like you, I received requests from so many organizations doing good work, it is difficult to decide where to give. I encourage you to consider a gift to the ACA. It is not only good for the ongoing ministries and services here at St. Gertrude, it is also a way for us to extend out Christian compassion to those most in need here in our own Archdiocese as well as reaching out to those in need throughout the world. Please consider your gift to the ACA this year.

Thank you.

~ Fr. Rich



Pick-up Your MWA Super Bowl Tamale Benefit Orders

The Midwest Workers Association (MWA) will be in the back of church this Saturday, February 12 in the evening and Sunday, February 13 after Mass to distribute orders for their Super Bowl Sunday Tamale Benefit.

If you are interested in tamales and did not place an order, please check with a MWA volunteer to see if they have extra. The suggested donations for the

homemade tamales are \$10 for a half dozen and \$20 for a dozen. There are three kinds to choose from and they come in half-dozen bags of a kind. Choices include chicken in a green sauce, vegetarian "queso y rajas" (cheese and jalapeno), and vegan black bean and cactus.

This benefit generates critical support for MWA's Winter Survival Campaign. The campaign includes winter door-to-door membership canvasses, utility bill advocacy (to stop shutoffs and restore service for members), warm coat & blanket distributions, check-in calls to members and more.





Growing in Faith

In today's Gospel, we hear the familiar words of the Beatitudes which appear in both Luke and Matthew. Unlike Matthew's Sermon on the Mount, Luke's version is often called the Sermon on the Plain. Jesus is "on the level" with his disciples. Jesus "raises his eyes toward his disciples" before speaking, not toward heaven as I mistakenly assumed. What must it have felt like to have that eye contact with Jesus?

Again, I incorrectly expected to read "blessed are THE poor... THE meek...THE merciful..." as it in Matthew's version. But no, we are in Luke, who writes "Blessed are YOU who are poor...Blessed are YOU who are hungry...". There's an immediacy and directness to Jesus' words. And just as I'm feeling comforted, I read "woe to YOU who are rich...woe to YOU who are filled... woe to YOU who laugh now...". My pantry is overflowing with

food. I love to laugh more than anything...which "side" am I on?

I don't want to sanitize or spiritualize any of the power of this Gospel. Jesus is deeply concerned with the economics of injustice and the societal sins of exclusion and oppression. I imagine it was a mixed crowd of "haves" and "have nots" on the plain that day, perhaps not unlike our city and country today. Out of his radical love for all of us, Jesus meets us where we are, "levels" with us. We are all hungry for hope and healing. The Beatitudes guide us to follow Jesus' path of compassion and love.

~ Mary Ann Goode



Deposit Due This Weekend for Summer Mission Trip to Lake Traverse, South Dakota

The youth group's Summer Mission Trip is scheduled for July 17-22. The group will travel to Lake Traverse, South Dakota. All teens in

grades 7-12 who attend parish youth group meetings regularly are welcome to take part in this jam-packed week of service, friendship, and fun! Space is limited.

The cost is \$379 per person, not including transportation. **A nonrefundable \$50 deposit is due by Sunday, February 13, 2022.** A nonrefundable half payment of \$100 is due by Monday, February 28. The final payment deadline date will be shared in the future. We are organizing some fundraising events to offset these expenses.

Please consider two factors when deciding about the Mission Trip - the pandemic is likely to still be ongoing in July and we are traveling to and from South Dakota in a passenger van. (A close space considering the pandemic.)

For more information about the mission trip, please visit the Lake Traverse Youth Mission Trip YouthWorks website at <https://youthworks.com/trips/lake-traverse/>. If you have any questions, please email Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.

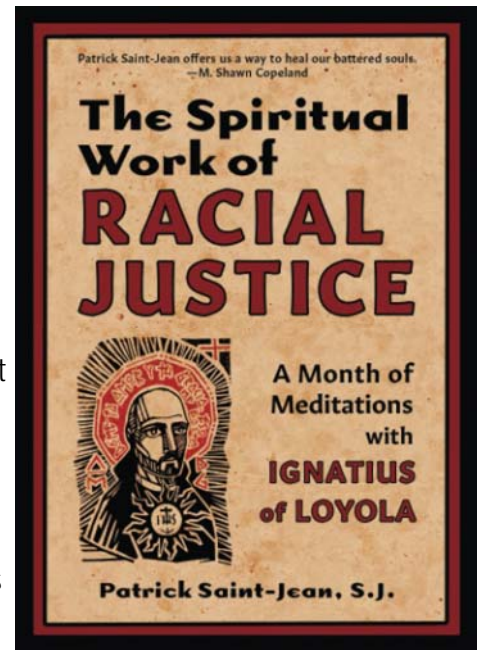
Palms Up for Lent: Additional Lenten Opportunities

With Lent quickly approaching (Ash Wednesday is March 2), the Peace and Justice Ministry invites everyone to participate in social justice focused Lenten devotions that are being offered. As mentioned in previous bulletins, we will be offering Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 6:30 pm in addition to the traditional 3:00 pm. The Almoner's program of McDonald's gift card distribution will be offered again this year.

This week, we are highlighting another option. St. Gertrude's will be offering small prayer and learning groups focused on anti racism. The groups will be using The Spiritual Works of Racial Justice, written by Patrick Saint Jean, S.J. His work offers reflections on how taking an anti-racism position is not an optional aspect of a spiritual life, but rather it is essential to becoming all that God calls us to be. This will be an opportunity to come together in reflection and prayer using this resource. The book is available for purchase at the Rectory office as well as in the back of church this weekend after Masses for \$15.

It's not too late to sign up and be part of one of these groups, which will be hosted both in the morning and the evening! Or if you are part of an ongoing group that would be interested in exploring this topic during Lent, or willing to be a group leader, please let us know! Email Maria Garcia at the Rectory office at stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org or Father Mike at mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org.

~ Fr. Mike Gabriel



A Tax-Savvy Way to Support the Annual Catholic Appeal

One way you can reclaim God's promise and once again take up your responsibility is by making a direct gift of securities and mutual funds that have appreciated in value and have been held for more than one year.

When you donate appreciated securities or mutual funds to the Annual Catholic Appeal, you can reduce or even eliminate federal capital gains taxes on the transfer. You may also be entitled to a federal income tax charitable deduction based on the fair market value of the securities at the time of the transfer. For more information about donating stock or securities, please contact your financial advisor.

To make a stock donation to the Annual Catholic Appeal, please visit archchicago.org/stockgiftform and complete the electronic Letter of Intention form. Once you have submitted the form, you will receive a confirmation email with detailed instructions.

Grand Raffle!

Win \$5,000, \$2,500, and \$1,000

Games of Chance!

Buy entries to win exciting prize baskets and more

Choose Your Own Adventure!

Win a fabulous vacation of your choice

Live Auction!

Amazing prizes: vacation homes, sports tickets, and more

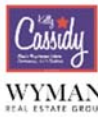


Saturday, Feb 26
Virtual | 6pm-8pm

Your Ticket to Virtual Fun & Prizes



**Thanks
to our
sponsors!**



NCA Soiree 2022 - Now Virtual

Join NCA parents and alum for a virtual night of casino-themed fun on Saturday, February 26. The 16th annual NCA Soirée has moved online and will be held from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Log in to NCA's Bidding for Good website at ncasoiree.com to purchase tickets!

NCA is currently running two fundraisers for the 2022 NCA Soiree, a grand raffle with a grand prize of \$5,000 dollars and a choose your own vacation with six options!

All proceeds from the 2022 NCA Soirée support the students and programs of Northside Catholic Academy.

NCA Offering Individual Tours

NCA is now registering for the 2022-2023 school year! Thinking of joining Northside Catholic Academy? If so, consider signing up for one of our individual tours!

To come explore our campus or learn more about our curriculum, call 773.743.6277 ext. 207 or contact Jacob Utz at jutz@ncaschools.com.



Thinking of
Joining NCA?

Schedule an
individual
tour today!

Learn more at
NorthsideCatholic.org or call
773-743-6277 ext. 207

Join Us Today!

For the latest information about upcoming events, Mass times, staff emails and more, visit St. Gertrude's website at www.stgertrudechicago.org/

Heart to Heart Ministry Seeks Volunteer to Help with Spreadsheets

Our Heart to Heart Ministry staff requests the services of a volunteer adept at using Excel spreadsheets to update our volunteer and member rosters. If interested, please contact me at 773.973.5464 or jcallahanmoore@stgertrudechicago.org. I will respond promptly!

Thank you for your consideration, and blessings to you all!

~ Jane Callahan-Moore, Director, Parish Social Services/Heart to Heart Seniors Ministry



Heart to Heart Medical Lending Closet Needs Shower Chairs and Other Items

The parish's Medical Lending Closet is in need of shower/bath chairs for their clients. These have been "hot ticket" items lately, and we are having trouble keeping up with the need. Transport chairs, wheelchairs, and rollator walkers are also in high demand. We take thoroughly cleaned items in excellent working condition.

Contact Laurie Hasbrook, the Lending Closet manager, at 773.973.5464 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am-2:30 or at lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org. Thank you!

Misericordia Home is Hiring!

Misericordia is looking for CNAs and DSPs/caregivers to look after their residents.

Please email careers@misericordia.com or call 773.273.3058 for more information.



MISERICORDIA
HEART OF MERCY

Free At-Home Rapid COVID Test Kits Available: Every household in the U.S. is eligible to order four at-home COVID-19 tests from the government. The tests are completely free! Visit [COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) and fill out the contact information and shipping address. The test kits are delivered by the U.S. Postal Service.

[COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov)

North Side Community Mask Drive

North Side Community Mask Drive is a community wide effort to collect child-size respirator masks, child-size surgical masks, and cleaning supplies and distribute them to local neighborhood schools facing urgent need.

The NS Community Mask Drive is currently partnering with local businesses, as well as the Edgewater Community Religious Association (ECRA), which includes St. Gertrude parish.

The group is collecting:

- Child-size N95/KN95/KF94 masks (also accepting adult sized masks for older kids)
- Child-size surgical masks
- Clorox/disinfecting wipes
- Hand sanitizer

Items can be dropped off in a marked bin at Edge of Sweetness, 6034 N. Broadway, the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce, 5217 N. Clark, or shipped to/dropped off at Church of Atonement, 5749 N. Kenmore.

Please email NSCommunityMasks@gmail.com with any questions or if you would like to help amplify, join our efforts, or receive supplies.



The **North Side Community Mask Drive** is a parent-and-community driven effort to ensure that the PPE needs of schools and communities are met.

We are accepting donations of:

- ▶ Child-sized N95/KN95/KF94
- ▶ Child-sized surgical masks
- ▶ Cleaning supplies (wipes and hand sanitizer)

SCAN HERE for more information



DROP OFF SUPPLIES at the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce: 5217 N. Clark
Open Monday thru Friday 7:30am-4:30pm

Contact

NSCommunitymasks@gmail.com

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

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, February 12 at 5:00 pm in church - Pat Reardon
- Sunday, February 13 at 8:00 am - Mark Kollar
- Sunday, February 13 at 10:30 am in church - Debra Novak
- Sunday, February 13 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, February 12 at 5:00 pm in church - Tim Harrington
- Sunday, February 13 at 8:00 am - Brian DeVarenne
- Sunday, February 13 at 10:30 am in church - Bob Backis, Troy McMillian, Rafael Melendez
- Sunday, February 13 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Cantors:

- Saturday, February 12 at 5:00 pm in church - Paula Dempsey
- Sunday, February 13 at 8:00 am - Jon Blake
- Sunday, February 13 at 10:30 am in church - Mary Clare Barker
- Sunday, February 13 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Mass Intentions

- Monday, February 14: 7:30 am - Shirley Lowry Haas +
- Tuesday, February 15: 7:30 am - Kathleen Naughton +
- Wednesday, February 16: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- Thursday, February 17: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, February 18: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
- Saturday, February 19: 7:30 am - St. Gertrude parishioners; 5:00 pm - Jacqueline Elwood +
- Sunday, February 20: 8:00 am - Gerardo Carpio +; 10:30 am in church - Isabelle Laczkowski +; 10:30 am Gym Mass - St. Gertrude parishioners

+ indicates the person is deceased

Rest in Peace

- Ruben Villa-Ignacio

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Pamela Sherrod Anderson | • Caloy Desembrana | • Molly Morris |
| • Helen Banta | • Ann Collins Dole | • Karey Myers |
| • Jean Bautista | • Christine Frisoni | • Tina Piemonte |
| • Zara Bradley | • Shirley Marie Gonzales | • Charley Scantlebury |
| • Sharon Brown | • Gina Heidkamp | • Richard Seitz |
| • Connie Bueck | • Maria Hertl | • Peggy Stoffel |
| • Lilly Buie | • Daniel Hidalgo | • The Sullivan family |
| • Claire Bushey | • Patti Irwin | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Maggie Callaway | • Bernice Kiedysz | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • Aida Calvopina | • Dean Mattoni | • Valerie Williams |
| • Connie Cool | • Larry McCauley | • 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
- GiveCentral: www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevnts

Email esoto@stgertrudechicago.org for additional information.

Heart to Heart Office

Our Heart to Heart office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am - 2:30 pm. Contact them at 773.973.5464.

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