

Love your enemies,  
do good to those who hate you,  
bless those who curse you,  
pray for those who mistreat you.

Give to everyone who asks of you,  
and from the one who takes what is  
yours do not demand it back.  
Do to others as you would have them  
do to you.  
~ Luke 6: 27-31

## St. Gertrude Chicago

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**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
February 20, 2022

### From Fr. Rich

#### Annual Catholic Appeal Commitment Weekend

This weekend, we have a recorded homily from Cardinal Cupich encouraging participation in the Annual Catholic Appeal.

The commitment cards and pencils will be at the end of every pew. After the Cardinal's talk, I will walk through the process of completing a pledge card and making a contribution to the Appeal. I realize this is not anyone's idea of having a good time, but it is necessary and a proven method leading to the success of the appeal.

#### NCA Soiree: Now a Virtual Event

Northside Catholic Academy's primary fundraiser is next Saturday, February 26. Originally, this was going to be at the Restaurant on the Lake, but prudent decision-making in light of COVID led to the decision weeks ago to make this again a virtual event.

Join NCA parents and alum for a night of casino-themed fun this Saturday. You can log into the 16th annual NCA Soirée Bidding for Good website at [ncasoiree.com](http://ncasoiree.com) to purchase tickets. Additionally, 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.

#### Ash Wednesday is Coming!

Wednesday, March 2 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all the Masses on Ash Wednesday at 7:30 am, 10:00 am (NCA school Mass), and 7:00 pm. Ashes will also be available in church between 5:00-6:00 pm. (Not a Mass.)

#### Parish Pastoral Council

After a two-year pandemic-hiatus, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) resumed meeting last week. Our top priority in the next few weeks is to encourage parishioners to consider becoming members of the PPC in time for our next scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 28 at 7:00 pm. Specifically, the current PPC members will be speaking to anyone they think might be a good candidate for the Council.

We would like to see members more reflective of the diversity in the parish. We are hoping for some younger members, some NCA school parents, some youth group parents, some of

## Fr. Rich *(continued)*

our new members from St. Ignatius, and parishioners who may not have been active, but would like to be more involved.

Starting this week, articles will be in the bulletin providing information and insight on what the PPC is and does. The first of these articles are below, please take time to read them and consider joining the Parish Pastoral Council.

### **What is the Parish Pastoral Council?**

The parish pastoral council is a unique, collaborative body. It does not have the power of vote or veto, but it is called to share with the pastor in determining all the important matters that affect the life of the faith community. It is to be a representative group of serious, faith-filled Christian men and women who try to lead their parish into becoming what a community of baptized people is supposed to be!

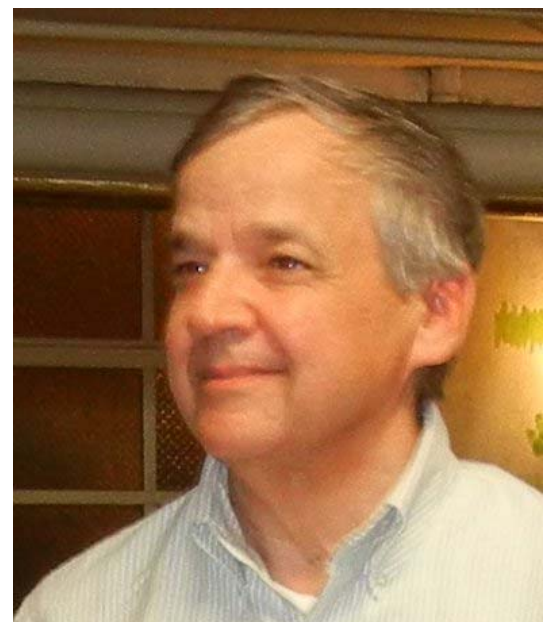
To achieve its goal in the parish effectively, the council must be a body which envisions, plans, oversees, coordinates, communicates, and evaluates. The first thing for a council to develop is a vision of church. Grasping this vision is a challenging job. It requires reading and prayer, reflection, and learning, often from outside sources. The first responsibility of the parish council is to plan. It looks to the future. It determines priorities and works to achieve them. The council oversees by engaging its committees in discussing their year's work in advance and then in getting reports and evaluating accomplishments at year's end.

The coordinating role of council in a parish is called to keep projects and people related. Often this requires diplomacy and sensitivity to the feelings and opinions of others.

### **Why I am a Member of the Parish Pastoral Council** *by Allen Stryczek*

I serve on the parish council because my Catholic Christian faith is the central point of my life, and this is a deep and meaningful way to connect with other parishioners and the pastor. I enjoy and appreciate listening to other viewpoints, even when they are different from mine. I think being a good listener and reflecting on what you have heard is an important part of serving the community of faith in this capacity. I've been involved in a wide variety of parish and community activities over the 40 years that my wife and I have been parishioners and I'm able to bring insights from these involvements to the current opportunities that the parish is facing.

In particular, I have current strong interests in both environmental concerns, as well as ecumenical and interfaith activities.



## Growing in Faith

"Love your enemies. Give to anyone who asks. Lend expecting nothing back." I can only imagine the apostles cringing at these ethical requirements for discipleship. Can I ever reach these high bars if I want to be a genuine follower of Jesus?

I am challenged. When I was in retail, it took me a while to work through the anger and resentment I had from episodes of theft from my store. When a panhandler broadsides me with pestering requests for a handout, I often want to be left alone with my own thoughts, not wanting to engage in a meaningful encounter. I am also prone to making sure I keep close tabs on things I lend to others.

It's a struggle to live out Jesus' counter-cultural dream. Certainly it is not the American dream! I pray that I can be free to embrace Jesus' example. If I turn from His challenge, where can I go? I know Saint Peter was right when he declared to Jesus: "You speak words of eternal life."

~ Phil Bujnowski



## Deadline Extended to Attend the 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 now due by Sunday, February 20, 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](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org).

## Palms Up for Lent: Lenten Faith Activities Planned

As you may have seen or heard over the last few weeks, all are invited to participate in some Lenten devotions.

**Almoners Program:** These groups will meet on Mondays during Lent at 9:00 am and/or at 6:30 pm in the church for a brief prayer.

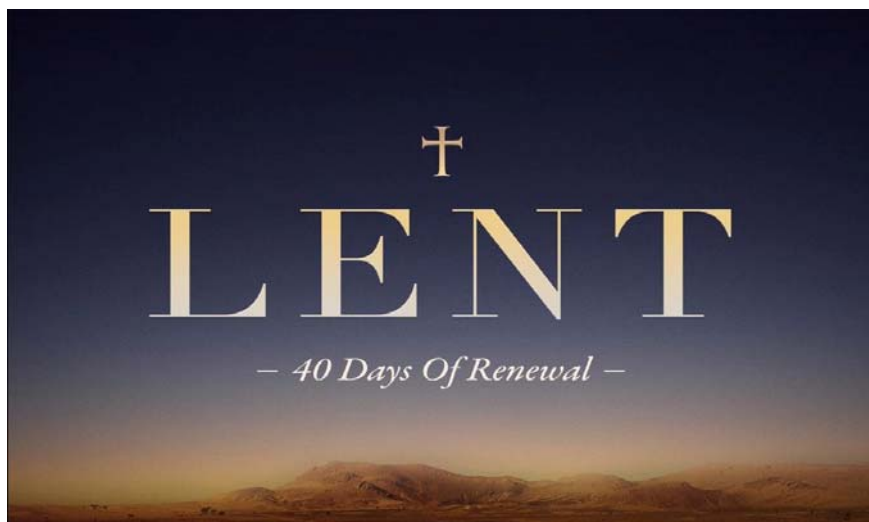
Participants will then go out to be more compassionate to the less fortunate by giving alms of \$10 McDonald cards.

There will be a second collection to support the Almoners program beginning February 26 and 27 and then each weekend each during Lent. If you are not able to join us on Mondays, we will have McDonald's cards available in the back of church for you to take and distribute to the needy.

**Stations of the Cross:** Beginning Friday, March 4 and then every Friday during Lent, we will take time from our busy schedules and reflect on the suffering journey of Christ and others in the world. On Friday afternoons at 3:00 pm, we will offer the traditional Way of the Cross and at 6:30 pm we will also have Stations of the Cross-joining Jesus' journey, recognizing the present struggles and crosses that challenge our modern world.

**Anti-Racism Discussion Groups:** Small prayer and discussion groups will be meeting in the morning and evenings using the book *The Spiritual Works of Racial Justice*, by Patrick Saint-Jean, S.J. These groups will offer us the opportunity to see that by taking on an anti-racist position we become all that God calls us to be. Books are available for \$15 after Mass this weekend. A sign-up sheet is available in the back of church.

Please email Father Mike at [mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org) or Maria Garcia at the Rectory office at [stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org) if you would like to sign up or need more information.



Thinking of  
Joining NCA?

Schedule an  
individual  
tour today!

Learn more at  
[NorthsideCatholic.org](http://NorthsideCatholic.org) or call  
773-743-6277 ext. 207

**Join Us Today!**

## 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

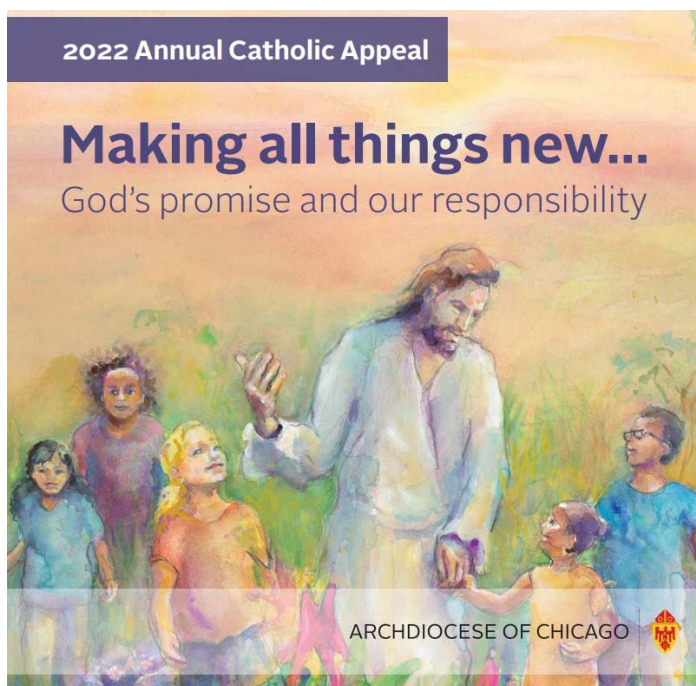
773.743.6277 ext. 207 or contact Jacob Utz at [jutz@ncaschools.com](mailto:jutz@ncaschools.com).

## Interfaith Climate Summit - Sunday, March 13

Join a unique and inclusive dialogue on climate change, bringing together both Eastern and Western faith and ethical perspectives on Sunday, March 13 at 3:00 pm. We will tap into the underlying wisdom of these traditions and identify ways this wisdom can inspire us in our own lives to respond to the growing climate crisis.



Come join us in-person at Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, 600 W. Fullerton Pkwy, or on our YouTube channel, and add your voice or comments to our discussion!



## Annual Catholic Appeal

I invite you to spend some time this week reflecting on the Annual Catholic Appeal materials you should have received in your bulletin or in the mail. The Annual Catholic Appeal is much different than a one-time special collection: It is a pledged commitment to make a gift over time. Your pledge can be made payable in installments.

Each pledge makes a difference because all parishes participate in the campaign and the gifts of many enable our archdiocese to deliver needed ministries and services to answer the call of "Making all things new...God's promise and our responsibility."

If you received your pledge form in the mail, please complete it and mail it back. This year, we also encourage our parishioners to make their Annual Catholic Appeal gifts online at [annualcatholicappeal.com](http://annualcatholicappeal.com).

~ Fr. Rich

## Misericordia Home is Hiring!

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

Please email [careers@misericordia.com](mailto:careers@misericordia.com) or call 773.273.3058 for more information.



**MISERICORDIA**  
**HEART OF MERCY**



## 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](mailto: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

## 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](mailto: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)

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

### Contact

✉ [NSCommunitymasks@gmail.com](mailto:NSCommunitymasks@gmail.com)

**SCAN HERE for more information**





## Demonstrate Love for Thy Neighbor with a Qualified Charitable Distribution Gift

Jesus told us "whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." Every day, we have the opportunity to be the face of Jesus to others.

You can help to support our faith community by making a qualified charitable distribution ("QCD") gift from your individual retirement account to the Annual Catholic Appeal. A QCD gift (a.k.a. IRA charitable rollover) allows individuals age 70½ or older to authorize their IRA administrator to make a direct transfer of funds from their IRA to qualified charities, tax-free. This way of giving does not generate taxable income, which may lower your annual income level, and the amount you transfer may count towards your required minimum distribution.

If you would like information on how to make a QCD gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal, please contact Eduardo Soto at [esoto@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:esoto@stgertrudechicago.org) or contact Krystina M. Campbell, Planned Giving Officer, Archdiocese of Chicago at 312.534.5404 or [kcampbell@archchicago.org](mailto:kcampbell@archchicago.org).

**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. 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 pm or at [lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org). Thank you!

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

### Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, February 19 at 5:00 pm - Susan McKean
- Sunday, February 20 at 8:00 am - Wes Dingman
- Sunday, February 20 at 10:30 am in church - Bob Backis
- Sunday, February 20 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

### Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, February 19 at 5:00 pm - Kathy Wall
- Sunday, February 20 at 8:00 am - Marty McDermott
- Sunday, February 20 at 10:30 am in church - Patrick Robinson, Carlos Barragan
- Sunday, February 20 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

### Cantors:

- Saturday, February 19 at 5:00 pm - Denise Goodman
- Sunday, February 20 at 8:00 am - Amir Ghazaleh
- Sunday, February 20 at 10:30 am in church - Cindy Lawson
- Sunday, February 20 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

## Mass Intentions

- Monday, February 21: 7:30 am - Rena Francis + *+ indicates the person is deceased*
- Tuesday, February 22: 7:30 am - Mary Jo Martin +
- Wednesday, February 23: 7:30 am - Michael McKenna +
- Thursday, February 24: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, February 18: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- Saturday, February 26: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners; 5:00 pm - James Johnston +
- Sunday, February 27: 8:00 am - St. Gertrude parishioners +; 10:30 am in church - Thomas Blim; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Maria Antonia Acevedo +

## Baptism

- Stephanie Oluwatemidayo Modupe, daughter of Olkunle and Mary Ewa Modupe

## 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](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org)
- GiveCentral: [www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevnts](http://www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevnts)

Email [esoto@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto: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