

Worship the
LORD
YOUR GOD,
and serve only him.

St. Gertrude Chicago

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**Bulletin for
Sunday,
February 22, 2026
The First Sunday of Lent**

News From St. Gertrude

The readings of this first week remind us that Lent is a time of decision. Each day we are presented with opportunities to choose trust over fear, generosity over self-interest, and faithfulness over distraction.

Even small sacrifices and moments of intentional prayer can open space for God's grace to work within us. As we take these first steps into Lent, we do so knowing that transformation happens gradually, through daily commitment and openness to the Holy Spirit.

You are warmly invited to deepen your Lenten journey by participating in our parish gatherings this week. They include:

- Sunday, February 22, after the *Brewed at St. Gertrude* social gathering: *The Catholic Faith We Profess: Reflections on the Nicene Creed*
- Thursday, February 26: Simple Supper at 6:00 pm, followed by the 7:00 pm Lenten Spirituality Session titled *Prayer: The First Pillar of Lent* with Sr. Wendy Cotter, CSJ
- Friday, February 27:
 - ◆ 3:00 pm – Traditional Stations of the Cross
 - ◆ 6:00 pm – Lenten Season Meditation Series: Music, Stillness, Solidarity
 - ◆ 6:30 pm – Stations of the Cross: *Through the Eyes of the Youth*

A full list of all Lenten activities can be found on page 2 and 3, as well as on our website's Lenten page, <https://stgertrudechicago.org/lent-2026>.



Lenten Events & Activities

The Season of Lent

Almoners Lenten Ministry (Sunday and Sunday Vigil Masses)

Our parish's Almoners' Program will be held again through March 29. Each weekend, a second collection will be held, with funds used to distribute McDonald's cards to those who are in need.

At the end of each Mass, those wishing to participate in distributing cards to the needy will be invited to come forward, receive the cards, and be given a blessing as they go out in this charitable outreach.

Daily Mass

- Daily Mass: 7:30 am - Monday-Friday (No Saturday am Mass)
- Sunday Mass: 8:00 am, 10:30 am Church, 10:30 am Gym Mass; 5:00 pm - Saturday (Sunday Vigil)

Lenten Simple Suppers (Thursdays)

Simple Suppers are returning for Lent on Thursdays evenings! Parishioners are invited to meet in the Social Hall, 1401 W. Granville Ave., at 6:00 pm for dinner.

Each week, a different parish group will host the event. The schedule is:

- Thursday, February 26: Parish Pastoral Council
- Thursday, March 5: Adult Basketball Social Ministry
- Thursday, March 12: St. Gertrude's choir
- Thursday, March 19: Coalition for Spiritual and Public Leadership
- Thursday, March 26: TBD

Lenten Spirituality Sessions (Thursdays Immediately after the Simple Suppers)

This Lent, the Adult Spirituality and Formation Committee offers five opportunities to explore together the mystery of our Lenten journey. All sessions, except for session three, will take place from 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm in the Social Hall, following our Simple Supper, which begins at 6:00 pm. You are welcome to attend any or all sessions. Please come to Simple Supper and the Lenten series – and bring a friend!

- Thursday, February 26 – *Prayer: The First Pillar of Lent* – Sr. Wendy Cotter, CSJ
- Thursday, March 5 – *Finding the Sacred On Our Lenten Journey* – Patrick T. Reardon
- Thursday, March 12 – *Return Again To The Land of Your Soul: An Evening of Contemplative Music* - Jonathan Hannau
- Thursday, March 19 - *Fasting: The Second Pillar of Lent* – Chris Countryman
- Thursday, March 26 - *Almsgiving: The Third Pillar of Lent* – panel of St. Gertrude parishioners





LENT
GIVE.
PRAY.
FAST.

The Season of Lent: Events and Activities (*continued*)

Here is the description for the first session, *Prayer: The First Pillar of Lent with Sr. Wendy Cotter, CSJ*:

When we think of preparing for Holy Week and Easter, one of the three great themes of Lent is Prayer.

Sr. Wendy, Professor Emeritus of the New Testament and First Generation Christianity at Loyola University Chicago, will share some of Jesus' encouraging counsel to us about our prayer from the heart, and also what the Gospels tell us were times when Jesus felt a special need to pray. We will have an

opportunity to share our thoughts with one another, to reflect on our own experiences of prayer, and on how prayer touches our own lives and transforms the world.

Lenten Season Meditation Series: Music, Stillness, Solidarity (Fridays)

We live in incredibly troubled times. Injustice after injustice and a stream of never ending tragedies show through social media algorithms designed to distract us. It is difficult to digest it all, let alone find a moment of stillness to reflect and potentially act on it.

This year we bring back "Music, Stillness, Solidarity". It will happen every Friday night until March 27. From 6:00-6:30 pm, St. Gertrude's will be open as a safe space where ALL are welcome to come, sit, pray, and meditate as we navigate these realities as a community.

Contemplative music will be played through the duration of the time to help guide and promote reflection on the day.

Stations of the Cross (Fridays)

Each Friday at 3:00 pm during Lent, we will offer a traditional Way of the Cross.

Another Stations of the Cross will be held at 6:30 pm on Fridays after our *Lenten Meditation: Music, Stillness and Solidarity*. These Stations of the Cross will have a social justice theme:

- February 27: Through the Eyes of the Youth
- March 6: LGBTQ+
- March 13: Refugees and Migrants
- March 20: Through the Eyes of Mary
- March 27: The Way of the Cross for Our Time

Sacrament of Reconciliation Opportunities (Saturdays and on Monday, March 23)

Every Saturday from 4:00-4:45 pm, private confession is available. There is also a bilingual communal confession for all the parishes in our deanery (Deanery 2B) on Monday, March 23 at 7:00 pm at the [St. Nicholas campus of St John XXIII Parish in Evanston](#), located at 806 Ridge Ave. in Evanston.

Parish Events & Activities

Please Take our Parish's DMI Survey

St. Gertrude is on a journey to know, love and serve Christ better and thrive---and we want to hear from our parishioners!

The survey assesses our unique strengths and opportunities. Share your perspective now to help strengthen St. Gertrude and better prepare us for the future!

Access the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey link at <https://bit.ly/DMIsurveyStGerts> or scan the QR code.



Brewed at St. Gertrude This Sunday

After the 10:30 am masses on Sunday, February 22, all are invited to our monthly "Brewed at St. Gertrude" hospitality event in the Social Hall, featuring pastries, coffee, tea, and hot cocoa.

All are welcome—new and long-time parishioners, families, and visitors!

Collection Drive for Care for Real is This Weekend

Thank you to those who brought items for our Care for Real collection drive. Please drop your donations off in the vestibule before and after mass.

For our March 7-8 collection, please visit <https://linktr.ee/cfrchicago> for information about what they are specifically looking for at this time.



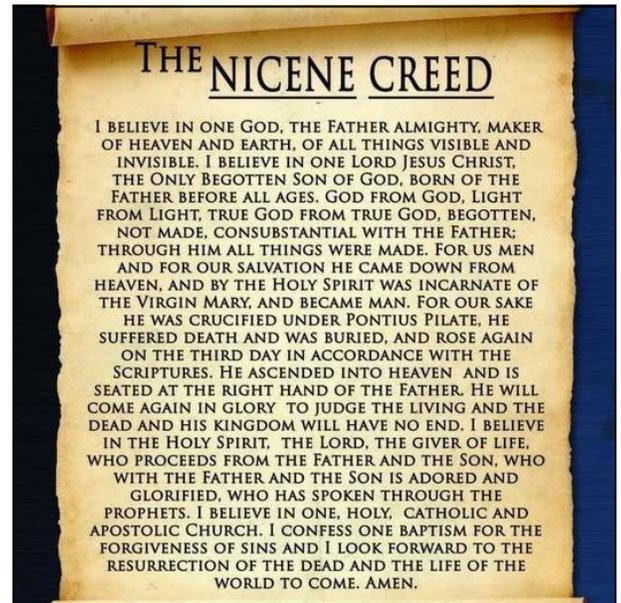
This Sunday, February 22 – The Catholic Faith We Profess: Reflections on the Nicene Creed

On Sunday, February 22, in the Social Hall after Brewed at St. Gertrude's (approximately 12:15 pm), Fr. Peter Bernardi, SJ, will lead a presentation and discussion on the Nicene Creed, which Catholics and other Christian communities have professed for 1,700 years.

Fr. Peter will discuss why we continue to profess the Nicene Creed, what controversies moved the Council of Nicaea to promulgate the Creed, and how the Creed expresses and safeguards the basic beliefs of our Catholic faith.

Please plan on being present for an informative and engaging reflection on the Nicene Creed. All are welcome!

This event is presented by the Adult Spirituality and Formation Committee.



Catholic Voters Guide to Be Distributed at Masses the Weekend of March 1

Catholic social teaching is an important body of thought in the Catholic Church that calls Christians to uphold the dignity of every person and to care for God's creation. Rooted in Scripture and developed through the Church's tradition, these teachings guide us in living out our faith not only in our personal lives, but also in our responsibilities as members of society.

In recent months, a group of parishioners has gathered to study and discuss Catholic social teaching and reflect on how it speaks to the challenges of our time. Their conversations have informed the development of a Voters' Guide designed to help us consider how these teachings may shape thoughtful and purposeful citizenship.

Copies of the Voters' Guide will be distributed at all Masses on Saturday February 28 and Sunday, March 1. We encourage you to take a copy and prayerfully reflect on how our faith calls us to engage in civic life with wisdom, compassion, and a commitment to the common good.

Coalition for Spiritual and Public Leadership (CSPL) Meeting Planned for Saturday, March 7

St. Gertrude is a member of CSPL, the faith-based organization that organized the recent People's Mass and Eucharistic Procession to the Broadview Detention Center.

Come together with other parishioners on Saturday, March 7, from 1:30-3:00 pm in the Ministry Center to build community and discuss how to help advance our parish's commitments to social justice, human concerns and faith formation through our participation in CSPL.

All are welcome!



**ST. GERTRUDE'S
YOUTH
MISSION
EXPERIENCE**

June 22
- June 26

TO RESERVE A SPOT OR TO GET MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
ELOY ESCAMILLA AT EESCAMILLA@STGERTRUDECHICAGO.ORG.

Teens Invited to Join St. Gertrude's Youth Mission Experience

Parish teens are invited to participate in St. Gertrude's Youth Mission Experience, taking place June 22–26. Open to students entering seventh grade through high school, this weeklong experience offers teens the chance to serve alongside Chicagoland organizations while growing in faith, friendship, and community.

Participants will enjoy meaningful service, have fun together, and earn volunteer hours. The cost for the week is \$125.

To reserve a spot or learn more, please contact Pastoral Associate Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.

Join Us for the Rosary at St. Gerts

Guadalupanos Rosary Group (Grupo del Rosario de Guadalupanos) on Friday Evenings

All are welcome to attend the bilingual weekly Rosary group held on Friday evenings at 7:00 pm in the dining room of the Ministry Center, located at 6214 North Glenwood Avenue.

Recitation of the Holy Rosary after 7:30 am Mass

Additionally, the Rosary is said every Monday through Friday in the church right after the 7:30 am mass. Please consider joining us in church—we would love to have you!

Parish News



Growing in Faith

And so we begin again, disciples of Jesus, walking 40 days into the desert moments of our lives. In these moments, we learn again the mystery of encountering the Divine in silent listening and prayerful response; in pondering, as we hold the pain and suffering of our brothers and sisters; in responding, in the hunger and thirst for justice. We learn again what it means to “rend our hearts and not our garments.”

For me, the desert seems only too real this year. Perhaps, some of you feel the same way. Battered by the, seemingly, unending images of cruelty and suffering, from the streets of Minneapolis to the

war-torn fields and streets of Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan, we feel the weight of worry and concern of so many that we, as a people, have lost our way. We are also so aware of our own brokenness and need for healing, peace, forgiveness, and new life. We, like the writer of Psalm 91 cry out: “Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble!”

In the journeys of our lives, even though many of us will try to avoid doing so with every part of our being, few of us will be spared the experience of walking in the desert. Like Jesus, we will be tempted to take the “quick fixes” offered by the Tempter, relying on our own strength and power, worshipping the false gods of power, prestige, money, and empire rather than remembering that “the Lord is our light and our salvation, whom shall we fear!”

Surviving our journey in the desert is only possible if we believe in the depths of our beings that we are held close and passionately loved by the One who is closer to us than our next breath. Resisting the false lures in the desert is possible only if we know in our bones that we are the Beloved of God.

In these difficult and challenging times, it is so easy to become fearful and paralyzed. But Jesus says, if we wish to experience the power and the glory of the Resurrection, our faith factor must be greater than our fear factor. Washed in the waters of Baptism, anointed in the power of the Spirit, and nourished with the Bread of Life, let us boldly proclaim in these Lenten days: “I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back.”

~ Bob Backis

February 14-15 Financial Report

Sunday Collection Envelopes: \$1,865.00
Loose Checks: \$325.00
Loose Cash/Coins: \$743.00
Online Donations: \$2,211.00 Budgeted:
\$10,000.00

Total Collected: \$5,144.00
Budgeted: \$10,000.00
Difference: -\$4,856.00
YTD Collected FY 2026: \$348,457.02
YTD Budgeted FY 2026: \$550,000.00
Difference: -\$201,542.98

Activities Around the Archdiocese



Visit NCASOIREE.COM

TICKETS ON SALE!

OR BECOME A SOIREE SPONSOR*

*Tickets are included at several sponsorship levels

2026 NCA Soiree Ticket Deadline Extended to February 25!

You are cordially invited to attend a night out with friends of Northside Catholic Academy at our annual NCA Soirée fundraiser on Saturday, March 7! Proceeds from this event go directly to supporting NCA's students, faculty, and staff, helping to provide scholarships and keep Catholic education affordable and accessible to all.

This continued investment allows our school to carry forward NCA's legacy of providing a quality Catholic education to the children of our far North Side Chicago community.




49TH WARD TOWN HALL
Wednesday, March 4 @ 6pm-8pm
 Sullivan High School Auditorium
 6631 N Bosworth Ave

- ★ Celebrate Chicago's birthday with community, music, and food!
- ★ Hear updates from your Alderwoman, plus your State and County elected officials.
- ★ Connect to activities at our resource fair.



Spanish Interpretation will be provided.

Se proporcionará interpretación en español.

www.49thward.org | office@49thward.org | 773-338-5796 | FB/Instagram @alderwoman49

PARKINSON SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND PUBLIC HEALTH

BRIDGES TO HEALTH

Free & Open to the community! All ages welcome!



March 14th 10am - 1pm

Loyola University Chicago
 Damen Student Center
 1032 W. Sheridan Rd

RSVP encouraged
Walk-ins welcome



A free community wellness event connecting individuals and families to local health resources, education, and support.

Get connected to local services, learn about your health, and take home helpful resources.

What to Expect:

- Local organizations sharing valuable community resources
- Hands-on activities and health education
- Free health screenings (optional)
- Free food, healthy snacks, and giveaways
- Near CTA bus/train
- Parking validation available

QUESTIONS: CONTACT PARKINSONSTUDENTLIFE@LUC.EDU

Is your organization interested in tabling at this event? Register here:



New Parishioners

- Erin Power

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

Ministers of the Word

- Saturday, February 21 at 5:00 pm - Roman Reyes, Patrick Reardon
- Sunday, February 22 at 8:00 am - Jennifer Kiedaisch, Jacalyn Meier
- Sunday, February 22 at 10:30 am - Rose Karasti, Theo Fletcher

Eucharistic Ministers

- Saturday, February 21 at 5:00 pm - Millie Slane
- Sunday, February 22 at 8:00 am - Barb Daly
- Sunday, February 22 at 10:30 am - Rafael Melendez, Sarah Millar, Troy McMillan

Altar Servers

- Saturday, February 21 at 5:00 pm - cross bearer: Carter Dant; acolytes: Wyatt Dant, Angel Garcia
- Sunday, February 22 at 10:30 am - cross bearer: Kora Cunningham; acolytes: Daniel Cunningham, Diarmuid McKeown

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| • Mary Amelse | • Rochelle Hernandez | • Joan Ross |
| • Victor Ayes | • Tricia Hernandez | • Willy Spalla |
| • Carlos Barragan | • Maria Hertl | • Floret Spalle |
| • Patrick Barton | • Gertrude Huisman | • Mary Pierce Spalla |
| • Zara Bradley | • Tony Hunter | • Frannie Swaine |
| • Maggie Callahan | • John Kahoun | • Marie Tarallo |
| • Aida Calvopina | • Mary E. Kelley | • Christopher Thomas |
| • Marta Carlson | • Marilyn Klein | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Terrence Carmichael | • Jim Laczowski | • Joe Touchstone |
| • Kathy Catrambone | • Joseph Lambin | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • Cavicke Family | • Carleen Lorys | • Tayana Wallace |
| • Mary DeBois | • River Malik | • King Wallace |
| • David Denegas | • James Mann | • Christian Wallace |
| • Ann Collins Dole | • Alex Marks | • Kevin Walsh |
| • Renee Elhoumaidi | • Nancy Michael | • Leon Ward |
| • Mr. and Mrs. Emin Euman | • Steve Monti | • Ron Whitfield |
| • Luke Fitzgerald | • Hilda Mora | • Janice Wittenberg |
| • Adolf Gabriel | • Patti Paul | • Dawn Wyman |
| • Marie Galoney | • Dealina Peon | • Yyes Yoza |
| • Thomas Hajduch | • Claude Poulsen | • Joel Pozzi Zio |
| • Anne Marie Hamde | • Delphine Richert | |

Upcoming Mass Intentions

- Monday, February 23: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Tuesday, February 24: 7:30 am - People of God
- Wednesday, February 25: 7:30 am - Joey Harris+
- Thursday, February 26: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- Friday, February 27: 7:30 am - Living & deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
- Saturday, February 28: 5:00 pm - Geoffrey Penar+
- Sunday, March 1: 8:00 am - Jim Ness+; 10:30 am - Monica Yurak+; 10:30 am Gym - Edith Herbin+

Mass Times/Rectory Office Hours/Reconciliation

- Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 am Mass in Church, 10:30 am Gym Mass; Monday-Friday: 7:30 am (Monday is a Communion service); Saturday: 7:30 am & 5:00 pm
- The office is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 am-4:30 pm and is closed on weekends.
- Reconciliation is offered on Saturdays from 4:15-4:45 pm in church or by appointment by calling the Rectory at 773.764.3621. There is a bilingual communal confession for all the parishes in our deanery on Monday, March 23 at 7:00 pm at the St. Nicholas campus of St John XXIII Parish in Evanston, located at 806 Ridge Ave. in Evanston.

Parish Staff and Contact Info

Rev. Sergio Romo, Pastor—sromo@stgertrudechicago.org

Patricia Branigan, Events/Room Booking Contact—pbranigan@stgertrudechicago.org

Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate—eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org

Jonathan Hannau, Music Director—jhannau@stgertrudechicago.org

Laurie Hasbrook, Heart to Heart Lending Closet Manager—lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org

Edgar Osorio Leon, Maintenance Director—esorioleon@archchicago.org

Sr. Susan Quaintance, OSB, Heart to Heart Director—squaintance@stgertrudechicago.org

Tracy Shields, Communications Director—stgerbulletin@yahoo.com

Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management—esoto@stgertrudechicago.org

Heart to Heart/Lending Closet 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. To reach Laurie Hasbrook, our Lending Closet manager, please call 773.973.5464 or email her at lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org.

Contact the Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) can be reached at stgertrudeparishcouncil@gmail.com.

Donate to our Parish

- PayPal link - visit our parish website at www.stgertrudechicago.org
- GiveCentral: www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevnts

Visit our Parish Website

For the latest parish events and information, visit our website at stgertrudechicago.org.