

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 2

St. Gertrude Chicago

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www.stgertrudechicago.org

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 27, 2022

Mass Times:

- 7:30 am
- 10:00 am
(NCA Mass)
- 7:00 pm

From Fr. Rich

Annual Catholic Appeal

This is the final weekend of the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA). The brochure explaining the good work accomplished because of the ACA, the Pledge Cards and

pencils are at the end of the pews and on the tables in the back of church. If you haven't already done, so, please consider making a pledge to the ACA.

Ash Wednesday

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.)

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross are prayed every Friday during Lent, beginning this Friday, March 4. We will be praying the Stations at both 3:00 pm and 6:30 pm. The 3:00 pm Stations will be using the traditional text. The 6:30 pm Stations will be using a contemporary, social justice text. Leaders at the 3:00 pm Stations will be members of the pastoral staff. Leaders at the 6:30 pm Stations will be members of the Social Justice Committee or one of the members of the parish youth group. Please join us!

Lenten Regulations for Fast & Abstinence

Abstinence from meats is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

By the threefold discipline of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer, the Church keeps Lent from Ash Wednesday until the evening of Holy Thursday. All of the faithful and the catechumens should undertake the serious practice of these three traditions. Failure to observe penitential days totally or a substantial number of such days must be considered serious.

Our U.S. bishops issued in 1966 this statement on penitential observance: "On weekdays of Lent, we strongly recommend participation in daily Mass and self-imposed observances of fasting. In light of grave human needs which weigh on the Christian conscience in all seasons, we urge particularly during Lent, generosity to local, national, and world programs



*Ashes will also be available
in church between 5:00-6:00 pm.*

of sharing of all things needed to translate our duty to penance into a means of implementing the right of the poor to their part of our abundance.”

Parish Pastoral Council

Recently, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) resumed meeting. Our top priority is to encourage parishioners to consider becoming members of the PPC in the next few weeks, 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 our new members from St. Ignatius, and parishioners who may not have been active, but would like to be more involved.

As part of the process of encouragement, articles will be in the bulletin for the next few weeks providing information and insight on what the PPC is and does as well as a short introduction from each of the current members explaining why they are serving on the PPC. Please take time to read them and consider joining the Parish Pastoral Council.

What is the Commitment of the Parish Pastoral Council?

To ensure a well-functioning and responsive group, we agree to live by the following commitment: We have been chosen, recommend by other members of this faith community and confirmed by the Holy Spirit. We acknowledge our unique role as representatives of the many voices of the people of this parish.



To effectively function in this role, we realize the need to come prepared to all meetings of the Pastoral Council, to share honestly, accurately, and freely, entering fully into all discussions. We must strive to possess:

- a willingness to listen
- a desire for spiritual growth
- an openness to study and reflection
- an eagerness to see a vision or direction
- an ease in working with groups
- an ability to animate others' gifts
- a freedom to delegate responsibilities
- a resolve to make needed decisions
- an excitement about the parish
- a willingness to be a liaison to a given group



Why I am a Member of the Parish Pastoral Council by Michelle Nickerson

Hi, my name is Michelle Nickerson. I have been a member of the St. Gert's parish with my husband and child for about 10 years.

I joined the PPC, at first, because I was asked to serve and felt that I should at least participate in the discernment process since this parish has so warmly received my family.

I decided to ultimately sit on the council for a few reasons. First, it has given me a better view of all the different ministries of our parish. It is our business on the council to maintain a universal vision of the community it all its different parts; and I like that because my fulltime job and parenting responsibilities limits my ability to participate in anything. I feel like I know St. Gert's better

than I did before joining.

My second reason also has to do with my schedule. I can meet one evening every couple of months. The work of the PPC is not onerous. Nor does it make excessive demands on my time. My third reason has to do with the people in the PPC. They are interesting, generous, and full of faith. They also have more knowledge of the parish and larger church than I do. I am learning a lot from them.

Please consider joining us. There are many reasons to do so beyond my own.

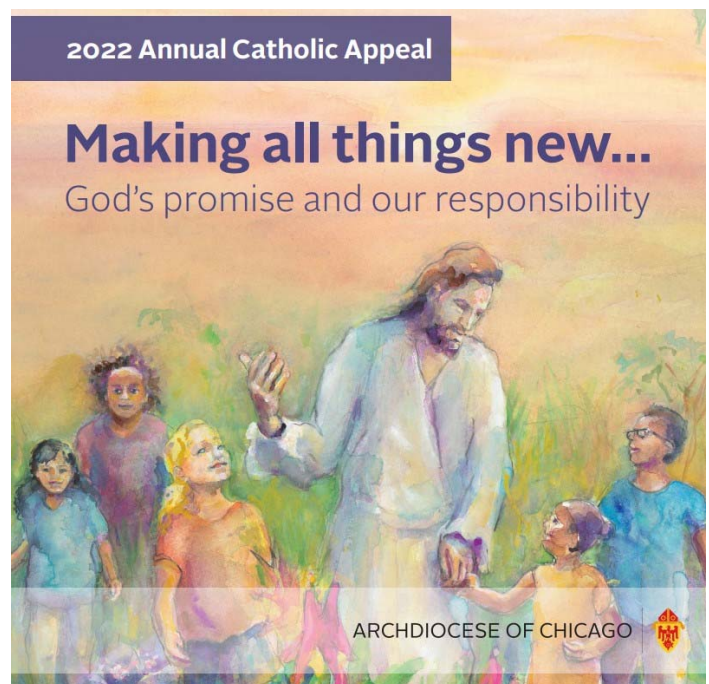
Annual Catholic Appeal

Our parish is conducting our campaign for the Annual Catholic Appeal. Please remember that the Annual Catholic Appeal is much different than a one-time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift payable in installments.

The new Annual Catholic Appeal theme, "Making all things new...God's promise and our responsibility," is an important theme as we prayerfully consider our support for the Appeal but also important for embracing the life that the Lord wants us to live.

Each pledge makes a difference! All parish communities participate in the campaign and the gifts of many enable our parishes, schools and ministries to deliver needed services. To make your gift, you can complete the mail-in giving envelope available at church or make a gift online at annualcatholicappeal.com.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.



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. 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.

There will be a second collection to support the purchase of the McDonald's cards used by the Almoners program beginning February 26 and 27 and then each weekend during Lent.

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.

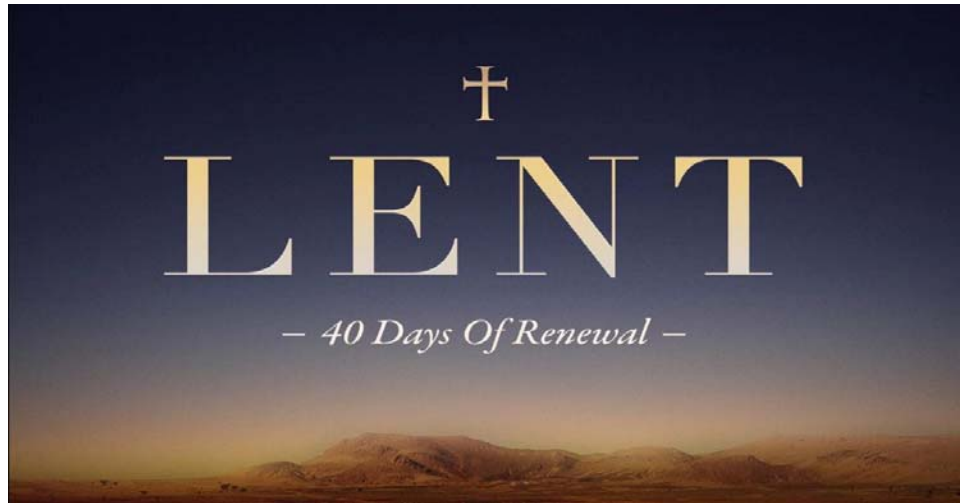
Please email Father Mike at mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org or Maria Garcia at the Rectory office at stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org if you would like to sign up or need more information.

Little Black Books/Parish Prayer Cards: Beginning Ash Wednesday, Little Black Books of Lenten Reflections and parish prayer cards will be available in Church.

Confirmation is Saturday, March 5

Please keep the young adults of our parish in your prayers as they prepare for their Confirmation on Saturday, March 5 at 2:00 pm.

We are so proud of these teens, who have worked towards receiving this sacrament for two years!



Music During Lent

The season of Lent will shortly be upon us and with it will come several changes as we transition from Ordinary Time.

There have already been several articles in our bulletin to alert us that our theme this year is to focus on anti-racism and racial justice. The music has been chosen with this focus in mind. The psalm that we will use

during the season of Lent is psalm 95: "If today you hear God's word, harden not your hearts." This implies some action on our parts; our prayer must include some listening time. If we are truly to change our views and thinking of other cultures and races, it must start first with a conversion in our hearts.

Our gospel acclamation is a new one this Lent. The lyrics are "Glory to you word of God, Lord Jesus Christ" composed by Sarah Hart. As is our custom for the past several years, we will have a moment of silence between the first reading and the psalm and between the second reading and the gospel acclamation. This is to give us more time to reflect on the scripture readings.

Our Mass parts this year will be the same as last year, the Deutsche Messe by Franz Schubert. Although the music is NOT in the Breaking Bread, the melody is strong and easy to sing.

Finally, our Communion meditation song every week during Lent will feature music by an African-American composer, beginning with the spiritual, *Precious, Lord, Take My Hand* by Thomas Dorsey.

We hope these changes will lead you to a meaningful and prayerful Lenten season.

~ Mary Clare Barker, Music Minister



NCA Mask Policy to Change on Monday, February 28

On Wednesday, February 23, NCA received news from the Archdiocese of Chicago [announcing their decision to make masks optional](#) in schools for students, teachers, and staff. This will go in effect on Monday, February 28.

At NCA we have been fortunate that our COVID cases have dropped dramatically, with no reported cases last week. Of course, that does not mean COVID is over, we will still need to follow the other guidelines that are in place.

As I speak with our teachers about going mask optional, one of the main concerns we will need to address is accepting the choices of students, teachers, and staff who choose to continue to wear a mask or to not wear a mask. We all must be accepting and respectful in our decisions, and our teachers will talk with the students about this.

I am proud of the accomplishments we have made as a community to keep our school open and providing in-person learning through this pandemic. I am confident we can continue keeping our buildings safe for everyone while also providing the instruction our students need and deserve.

~ Christine Huzenis, Principal, Northside Catholic Academy

(Read the letter to families from the Archdiocese at <https://bit.ly/ArchMasksLetter>.)

St. Gertrude Refugee Ministry Updates

New Family Sponsored/Help Requested

The Refugee Committee welcomed a new family at the beginning of this month, a family of five from Syria - parents and three kids ages 14, 12, and 9. They are settling in and, thanks to your generosity, their apartment is set up and beginning to look like home!

Also thanks to your generosity and our recent fundraising, we are in good shape to welcome another family. This is especially important with the continued expected influx of families from Afghanistan.

This gets me to my first request - we've been in good shape to provide material support for these families, including rent, a Welcome Pack of household goods, or both. I'm asking if you can give the gift of accompaniment. This is where you visit the family at some regular interval, providing friendship and a familiar face. You don't have to have any "official" skills (Catholic Charities takes care of job training, health needs, etc.) but instead you might just visit, or show them how to use the library or the CTA, or anything else.

If you are curious, please reply to me at dmg321@comcast.net or email Jim Manzardo at jbmanz@att.net. We will connect you with Catholic Charities. You will be required to complete Virtus training, so there is a bit of investment even before you are connected with the family. Please give this some thought, prayer, and discernment.



El Pueblo Canta will be an In Person & Live Streamed Concert.

Find more details at - www.waucc.org

13th Annual
El Pueblo
Canta الناس يغنون
the people sing
Saturday, March 26, 2022

El Pueblo Canta

Next, I'm delighted to say that the Refugee Ministry will again sponsor El Pueblo Canta. This is an immigrant justice benefit concert on March 26 at North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Ave, with both in person and live-stream options. Performers include El Wadi Ensemble, Wanda Pabellon-Garcia, Dare 2 Dream Centro Romero Youth Choir, VOICES, LeRob K. Rafael, the Wellington Community

Choir, and more.

Doors open at 5:30 pm, with the concert and live-stream held from 7:00-8:30 pm. Traditional Latino and Middle Eastern food will be available for purchase.

In-person attendance is limited to 100 people, but an unlimited number can watch the live-stream. Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$15 for students and those on a limited income. Children under 12 are free.

Even if you cannot attend, you can make a donation and help us spread the word. Visit <http://waucc.org/2022-el-pueblo-canta/> to purchase tickets, be a sponsor, or donate. All proceeds support the immigrant justice work of Centro Romero, CRLN, and Wellington UCC.

~ Denise Goodman

Interfaith Climate Summit



Sharing Wisdom in a Time of Crisis

Interfaith Climate Summit - Sunday, March 13

On Sunday, March 13 at 3:00 pm, Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church will host an Interfaith Climate Summit, bringing together representatives from the Baha'i, Buddhist, Sikh, Protestant, Jewish, and Catholic faith communities to talk about

issues related to climate change.

The event will be held at Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, 600 W. Fullerton Pkwy, and also will be live-streamed on the church's on our YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/InterfaithClimateSummit>.

The summit is free and open to everyone. Masks and social distancing will be required for attendees at the church. Visit lppchurch.org for more details.

Growing in Faith

This Sunday's Gospel reading gets us ready for Lent with Jesus' relentless insistence on integrity and compassion. I can feel his pointed critique when he asks if the blind can lead the blind, or if my log-jammed eye can truly see the speck in my neighbor's.

Why is it that I'm so keenly aware of the slightest faults of others but blind to my own staggering imperfections? Jesus isn't out to shame us, but I can sense here his special exasperation at human hypocrisy, especially when it's exhibited by those in authority. Living in the Kingdom of God requires a constant and honest struggle to integrate what I truly believe with how I live.

I've come to discover that my lack of self awareness is at the root of my own hypocrisy. My biases and self centeredness leads me to view the imperfect world around me as if I'm not a part of it, and I live in judgement and disdain rather than compassion.

Jesus' answer to our inconsistency and hypocrisy is the deep love of God--at least that seems to be his story. Just a couple weeks ago in the story of Jesus' own baptism, he comes to fully realize his truest identity as God's own beloved, and that sets the course for his Gospel mission. It's no less for us. If we want to bear good fruit we must truly know our real roots. We're fig trees, not thorn bushes, because we're so deeply loved and held precious by God.

~ Jim Zajakowski Uhl



Heart to Heart December Report

December 2021 continued to be very active for both the Heart to Heart Seniors Outreach Ministry and its durable medical equipment Lending Closet.

Our dedicated and compassionate volunteers took many seniors to and from physician appointments and procedures while offering their friendly support.

Staff members were actively engaged in planning educational events and workshops for 2022. Among them will be JourneyCare Hospice's staff presentation on Hospice & Palliative Care and Grief, which will be held on-campus in early June. (Information on other hospice organizations will also be included).

Also planned are free workshops held by the kind attorneys at The Center for Elder and Disability Law to create legal, notarized documents such as powers of attorney, living wills, and wills for parishioners who have made appointments with the Director of Heart to Heart, Jane Callahan-Moore. Please contact Jane at 773.973.5464 if you are interested in attending one of these workshops, so that she can gauge how many workshops should be scheduled for this summer and fall months.

"Thank you so much. You make me feel so important!" read a note from Linda, a senior who received a shower chair from our Lending Closet in December. What a privilege to affirm that everyone who calls us for assistance or to donate to the Lending Closet is indeed important!

During Advent, we fielded information, requests, and donation calls from 27 zip codes, many close at hand (Edgewater, Uptown, Rogers Park) and others a bit further (from Chatham on the South Side to Wood Dale near O'Hare). Some people who contact us have short-term post-surgery needs, while others are dealing with permanent mobility issues.

And, even as the busy holiday was in full swing, people found time to bring donations to us. We pray that for those coping with a first holiday season after the loss of a loved one, the act of passing along durable medical equipment to be used by others brings comfort. For further information, please contact Laurie Hasbrook, our Lending Closet Manager, at 773.973.5464.

Thank you all for your continuing prayers, generosity and support!

Lending Closet News

Due to the generous response on the part of our parishioners and neighbors, the Lending Closet is currently not accepting donations of walkers and crutches.

Thank you for your support!



Teens: Register to Attend the Summer Mission Trip

The youth group's Summer Mission Trip to Lake Traverse, South Dakota is scheduled for July 17-22. 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 next week, as well as a nonrefundable half payment of \$100 due early next month. The final payment deadline date will be shared in the future. We are organizing some fundraising events to offset these expenses.

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.

Misericordia Home is Hiring!



MISERICORDIA
HEART OF MERCY

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.

Rest in Peace

- Anthony Cherek, former parishioner
- Miriam Ward Faber, niece of parishioner Leon Ward

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

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, February 26 at 5:00 pm - Jen Kiedaisch
- Sunday, February 27 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, February 27 at Combined 10:30 am Mass in church - Troy McMillian

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, February 26 at 5:00 pm - Tim Harrington
- Sunday, February 27 at 8:00 am - Barb Daly
- Sunday, February 27 at Combined 10:30 am Mass in church - Patrick Robinson, Troy McMillian, Carlos Barrigan

Cantors:

- Saturday, February 26 at 5:00 pm - Siobhan O'Neill Meluso
- Sunday, February 27 at 8:00 am - Paula Dempsey
- Sunday, February 27 at Combined 10:30 am Mass in church - Cindy Lawson; Small vocal ensemble: Dana Sullivan-soprano, Therese Schreiner-alto, Joe Pindelski-tenor

Mass Intentions

- Monday, February 28: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
- Tuesday, March 1: 7:30 am - Kathleen Naughton +
- Ash Wednesday, March 2: 7:30 am - Mildred J. Englehardt +; 10:00 am - NCA school Mass; 7:00 pm - St. Gertrude parishioners
- Thursday, March 3: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, March 4: 7:30 am - St. Gertrude parishioners
- Saturday, March 5: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society; 5:00 pm - Eric DeSouza +
- Sunday, March 6: 8:00 am - Greg Wall +; 10:30 am in Church - Mary Lou O'Toole + and Bobby Udrow +; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Thomas Howe +

Baptisms

Sophia Quinn Scarpone, daughter of Creighton and Michelle Pascavis Scarpone

New Parishioner

Emily Huguelet and family

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

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

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