

Injustice
anywhere
is a threat to
justice
everywhere.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



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Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 16, 2022

From Fr. Rich

Moving to Virtual Meetings for a While

Last weekend in church, I announced that for at least the next four weeks, all scheduled meetings at St. Gertrude will be virtual.

Because the COVID Omicron variant is so

contagious, it seems prudent to make this move.

With the hope that this strain of the virus will continue to operate the way it has already been tracked in places such as South Africa, we can continue to pray that although it has spread far and wide, it will be less destructive and quickly stops being a problem. If you are part of a regularly scheduled parish meeting, the staff member responsible for your group needs your email address to share the Zoom link for whatever your meeting may be. If you are unsure if that person has your email address, you can email them. All the parish staff email addresses can be found at <https://bit.ly/stgertrudechicagostaff>.

Week of Prayer For Christian Unity: January 18–25, 2022

Ever since the Second Vatican Council reopened the conversation between and among the many Christian churches, many have regularly prayed the prayer of Jesus at the Last Supper, "that all may be one." The history of divisions among Christians is long and filled with amazing stories of how various groups within the broader Christian church responded to abuses and challenges to the core dogmas of the faith by splitting off from the main group in order to protect whatever was perceived as a threat to the Church.

Since the call of Vatican II to begin to talk and work together for a renewed unity among the Christian churches, much good has come about. In historic theological dialogues among some of the mainline denominations, centuries-old divisions have been healed. And even when every problem could not be solved yet, the renewed relationships is itself a great cause for rejoicing. All of these initiatives fall under the umbrella of the Ecumenical movement which supports and encourages the ongoing discussion and prayers for unity among the Christian churches.

Here in this part of Chicago, the Edgewater Community Religious Association (ECRA), of which we are a member, is an interfaith association of religious organizations who work toward fostering friendships and understanding of other faiths, nurturing a thriving and just neighborhood, and creating solutions to local problems. ECRA includes other faith traditions than Christianity and is an active group that brings together all people of good will from various faiths.

For over 100 years - even before Vatican II -- there has been a Week of Prayer for Christian

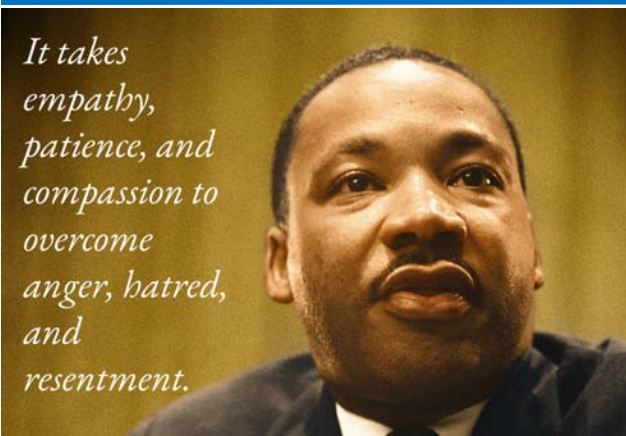
Unity. This year, the Prayer for Christian Unity service will be held on Thursday, January 20 at 7:00 pm at Immanuel Lutheran, located at 1500 W. Elmdale Ave. The in-person service will also be live-streamed on Immanuel's YouTube channel, <https://bit.ly/ImmanuelYouTube>.

Featured participants include Pastor Fred Kinsey, Unity Lutheran church; Pastor Erika Takacs, Episcopal Church of the Atonement; Pastor Michael Ware, North Shore Baptist church, Pastor Monte Johnson, Immanuel Lutheran church, and myself. We hope to see you there!



**Week of Christian Unity
Prayer Service**

Thursday, January 20 at 7:00 pm
Immanuel Lutheran Church
1500 W. Elmdale
or live on YouTube
[@ImmanuelLutheranChicago](https://www.youtube.com/@ImmanuelLutheranChicago)



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: A Legacy of Love

Tomorrow, the U.S. will honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose grand dreams of peace and equality, though not fully realized, continue to take root in the simple dreams of everyday people and plant the seeds of reform and renewal. Thus, King imagined a world not just free of racial discord, but free from war, poverty,

and injustice of any kind. And true to his Christian roots, he believed that the fight for these freedoms had to be nonviolent. "I've seen too much hate to want to hate, myself," King announced to his enemies. "Do to us what you will and we will still love you."

These are words we ignore at our own peril. If we choose violence over conciliation, hate over love, we will be rewarded with feelings of paranoia and alienation. Every misunderstanding becomes reason for mistrust and resentment; every slight becomes reason for war. A heart filled with hate knows no joy. Like new cloth sewn into an old cloak, the heart of hate can't bear the fullness of joy. It pulls and tears till it feels nothing. So Jesus, and King in his footsteps, urges us to love our enemies, no matter how deep the divide, no matter how bitter the struggle. We all have enemies. Who are yours? Take a moment to picture and name them—it could be our national enemies whom we send troops to fight, or a coworker who wishes you ill; perhaps it's a family member or friend who betrayed or abused you, or a neighbor whose political or religious views are abhorrent to you; maybe it's some thug who robbed you, or a bully who threatened someone you care for.

Can you love these people now or continue to love them even as their detestable acts and hatred toward you grows? Yes, answered Jesus; yes, answered Gandhi; yes, answered King. What will your answer be?

"Love," King said, "is the only force capable of transforming an enemy to a friend." Begin to win new friends today by looking at your enemies as people who need your love, even as you work to understand them or change their unjust and immoral behavior. Remember, braver ones than you or I died that we might live in love.

~ Patrice Tuohy (Excerpt reprinted with permission from preparetheword.com)

Retirement Announcement from Fr. Mike Bradley

When I first arrived here at Saint Gertrude Church, I was filling in for Father Dominic Grassi, who was the pastor at that time. He had taken ill and was hospitalized. My first Mass here took place on a Sunday morning – in fact it was Easter Sunday of 2007. Father Dominic had called me just the day before, asking me to assist at the 8:00 am Mass. I was sad that my friend, Father Dom, was ill, but I was also grateful for the opportunity to be with the parishioners of Saint Gertrude. Little did I know that this was just the beginning of my time with you here!



In June of that year, I was assigned by Cardinal Francis George as a “resident priest” at Saint Gertrude Parish. A “resident priest” usually has a “day job” or is a full-time student at Loyola University, as Father Pius is now. My “day job” since 1993 has been at the Quigley Pastoral Center, where I’ve served at the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Ever since you greeted me warmly on an Easter Sunday morning years ago, God has blessed me with the opportunity to be part of Saint Gertrude Parish with our pastors Father Dominic and Father Rich Prendergast, and the excellent pastoral staff here. In addition, I was blessed to become a friend of our beloved pastor emeritus, Father Bill Kenneally, whom we commended to our Savior Jesus just a couple months ago.

Because I am reaching 70 years of age this year, I asked Cardinal Blase Cupich to approve my request for retirement, and he recently approved my request. Thus, the time has arrived for me to retire and say farewell to Saint Gertrude Parish. As I begin to adjust to life as a retiree, I’ll be living not far from here, and then I plan to spend some time visiting my brothers and their families, all of whom now reside in other states. I plan to take part in pastoral ministry, improve my Spanish language skills, and even take up new hobbies such as kayaking and hiking.

I’m very grateful to each one of you, the parishioners and the pastoral staff of Saint Gertrude Parish, for your amazing kindness and thoughtfulness over the years. With you, I have shared in many joyful moments, including our parish’s 100th birthday celebration in 2012, and weddings, baptisms, graduations, and other special times. I have great memories of all those celebrations! I have also shared in your times of sorrow and loss, when our hearts were broken and our faith was tested. Your strong faith has lifted me up more than words can ever express!

During the last two difficult years, we have all experienced the challenges and heartaches brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, and I’m thankful to those who volunteered to get us through the most difficult days. Recently, I’ve been fortunate enough to welcome new parishioners who had belonged to Saint Ignatius Parish, Saint Matthias Parish, and other faith communities. We are all “pilgrims on a journey.”

With the permission and encouragement of Father Rich, I’ll speak at each of the Masses on the weekend of January 29–30. After each Mass, I would appreciate spending some

An Announcement from Fr. Mike Bradley (cont.)

moments with you in the vestibule of the church, so please be sure to stop by and have a cookie (from the bakery at Misericordia) and some juice or milk. Rest assured, safety protocols due to the pandemic will be strictly followed.

With much joy, I am very grateful to our loving God for the privilege to be with you at our wonderfully diverse and welcoming Saint Gertrude Parish! Thank you for reading this message, and may God bless you!

~ Father Mike Bradley

Combined Mass Planned for Sunday, January 30: On Sunday, January 30, our 10:30 am Masses will be combined and held in the church. All Masses that weekend will celebrate Fr. Mike and his many years in service here.



Online Religious Ed Classes Planned for January 23 and January 30

All Religious Ed classes will be held remotely on Sunday, January 23 and Sunday, January 30.

Eloy Escamilla, our Pastoral Associate for Religious Education and Youth Ministry, will reach out with Zoom links to Religious Ed classes next week.

Upcoming Confirmation Retreat for Students

There is a Confirmation retreat planned for Saturday, January 29 from 9:00 am-12:00 pm for students being Confirmed this spring.

Eloy Escamilla will share meeting information when the retreat date draws closer.



Celtic Spirituality Talk by Mary Deeley

The Benedictine Oblates of St. Scholastica Monastery invite you to a free presentation by Mary Deeley on Celtic Spirituality next Sunday, January 23 from 3:00-5:00 pm. Mary is the Pastoral Associate and Director of the Christ the Teacher Institute at Sheil Catholic Center at Northwestern University and is the author of *Mothers, Lovers, Priests, Prophets, and Kings: What the Old Testament Tells Us About God and Ourselves*, *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas*, and *Remembering God: Resting in the Midst of Life*, as well as numerous reflections and articles.

Register to attend in person or by Zoom by emailing communications@osbchicago.org by January 21. For more info, visit www.osbchicago.org/programs or call 773.764.2413 x232.

Student Essay Contest Winners Announced - Winning Essays Shared



Congratulations to the three winners of our student essay contest - Hazel Tabora of Peterson Elementary School, Sam Butler of Pritzker Elementary School, and Sammie

Devitt of NCA! The essay prompt challenged students to write about finding the good news within the bad news and how this good news reflects the message of Jesus.

All three essays can be read on our parish website here: <https://stgertrudechicago.org/student-essay-winners>. Our bulletins will feature each of the three winners' essays over the next few weeks. Thank you to all who participated and to our judges! Below is Hazel Tabora's submission.

When we hear about the bad news it brings a sense of community and action for people striving to help stop injustices or to protect our environment. Natural disasters and pandemics, as unfortunate as they are, have a way to bring people together. The recent fires and hurricanes have made people realize that we have to start working to protect the world that God gave us. Our resources are not infinite, and natural disasters are making that message clear to all of us. This bad news, natural disasters, somehow brings out the best of the human race. The pandemic that the world has been suffering for the last two years has taught people empathy and the importance of the safety of others. Because we are all going through the same experience it has brought understanding and kindness to people. We have learned the importance of trusting others and reliable sources.

In school, the ostracization, bullying, and unkindness of students is evident. Hearing about how kids at school treat others is another example of bad news. Personally, I find it difficult to take a grand gesture of action, but instead I will talk to bullied students and make them included. This is an example of how one can make a positive difference in the lives of others. During recess I often see another student sitting alone in the corner of the field. He has a disability, and many students ignore him or bother him when they do interact with him. I often converse with him or kick a soccer ball with him. He seems happy to have someone to play with and I'm happy to help him have a sense of belonging. I think these smaller gestures are as important as bigger ones that draw more attention. The good news can be delivered in different ways and this is my way of delivering it.

The two instances above both reflect the message of Jesus in different ways. Jesus spread the good news by sharing his personal stories and this brought people together. He was always trying to find the sparks of good news through the bad that showed what a Christian was. Treating others with kindness no matter who they are was something that Jesus often preached. He believed that all people should be shown respect and inclusion. He also believed that working together for a common goal, whether that goal be to stop injustices or stopping the spread of the pandemic, can bring the human race together. These examples are ways that Jesus' message is still alive and relevant today. When we follow His word it brings out the best in humanity.

Growing in Faith

Gifts of the Spirit -- I Corinthians 12: 4-11

This reading brings to mind the gifts of the people we've lost from St. Gertrude parish these past two years. Here are just a few I'm remembering today. There are so many from this community alone.

I'm remembering Bob H. Bob was partially sighted and very active in the low-vision community. His kind soul was so alive to beauty in this world, he helped us all see more clearly and appreciate more deeply.

There's Ruth T., a brilliant, pioneering woman of color in the field of biochemistry. Most of us wouldn't know her for her scientific achievement but knew her quick wit, generous heart, and truly graceful presence.

Mary G., another dazzling intellect, fully occupied both hemispheres of her brain. Her passion and hunger for the written word was evident in her encyclopedic knowledge of poetry and literature, which she shared through Poetry Pilgrims and the Book Club.

Fr. Bill K. dreamed of a church where we all belonged. He celebrated and lovingly fostered gifts of the spirit in his congregation. He generously shared the power of the pulpit to reveal these gifts and the movement of the spirit among us.

These are but a few of the names we know among the vast rolls of known and unknown dead, here and around the world. They were everyone – kind, upright, messy, beloved, unloved, flawed-perfectly. Each brought something unique when they came and took something irreplaceable when they left. They are missed.

~ KC Conway



Heart to Heart Medical Lending Closet Needs Shower Chairs: The parish's Medical Lending Closet is in need of shower/bath chairs for their clients. Contact Laurie Hasbrook, the Lending Closet manager, at 773.973.5464 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am-2:30 or via email at lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org. Thank you!



**WHY GET
VACCINATED**
IT ALL STARTS WITH YOU

Building defenses against COVID-19 is a team effort. And you are a key part of that defense.

Protect yourself, your coworkers, your patients, your family, and your community.

Do You or a Loved One Need a COVID Vaccine or a Booster?

Search [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find locations near you.

You can also contact the City's COVID-19 helpline at 312.746.4835.

Caring for our Common Home: 'Tis the Season for New Year's Resolutions!

In light of Pope Francis' encouragement to better care for our home planet, we periodically make available some suggestions for how each of us can do small things to help our planet and guarantee a future home for all people.



Here are a few earth-friendly resolutions to consider:

- 1) Use a reusable cup for coffee, water or juice.
- 2) Use a reusable tote bag for ALL your shopping needs, not just groceries.
- 3) Use paper straws - or better yet, reusable straws (metal, silicone, etc.)
- 4) Buy in bulk - fill a reusable container and save money on unnecessary packaging (double bonus!)
- 5) Use a razor with replaceable blades, instead of a disposable razor.

Rest in Peace

- Former parishioners Ann and Paul Kuick

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

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, January 15 at 5:00 pm in church - Jen Kiedaisch
- Sunday, January 16 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, January 16 at 10:30 am in church - Bob Backis
- Sunday, January 16 at 10:30 am in Gym - TBA

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, January 15 at 5:00 pm in church - Kathy Wall
- Sunday, January 16 at 8:00 am - Marty McDermott
- Sunday, January 16 at 10:30 am in church - Rafael Melendez, Patrick Robinson
- Sunday, January 16 at 10:30 am in Gym - TBA

Cantors:

- Saturday, January 15 at 5:00 pm in church - Carol Ann Munro
- Sunday, January 16 at 8:00 am - Denise Goodman
- Sunday, January 16 at 10:30 am in church - Cindy Lawson
- Sunday, January 16 at 10:30 am in Gym - TBA

Mass Intentions

- Monday, January 17: 7:30 am - Ron Bethia +
- Tuesday, January 18: 7:30 am - Kathleen Naughton +
- Wednesday, January 19: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- Thursday, January 20: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, January 21: 7:30 am - Laura Link +
- Saturday, January 22: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners; 5:00 pm - Claudia Kasperak +
- Sunday, January 23: 8:00 am - Harry Glotkowski +; 10:30 am - Eleanor Valvassori +; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Carol McRaith +

+ indicates the person is deceased

Baptisms

- Nora Synthia Nixon-Lopez, child of Michael Lopez and Erin Nixon-Lopez

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Pamela Sherrod Anderson | • Caloy Desembrana | • Karey Myers |
| • Helen Banta | • Ann Collins Dole | • Massielle Ojeda |
| • 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 |
| • Barb Daly | • Molly Morris | |

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