

St. Gertrude Chicago

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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 23, 2022

From Fr. Rich

Moving to Virtual Meetings for a While

Just a reminder - at least until February 7, all scheduled parish meetings will be virtual due to the COVID Omicron variant. If you are part of a meeting in this timeframe and you don't know if the parish staff person associated with



ONE BODY many parts

your group has your email (in order to receive the Zoom link), you can get staff emails here: <https://bit.ly/stgertrudechicagostaff>.

Fr. Bradley's Retirement

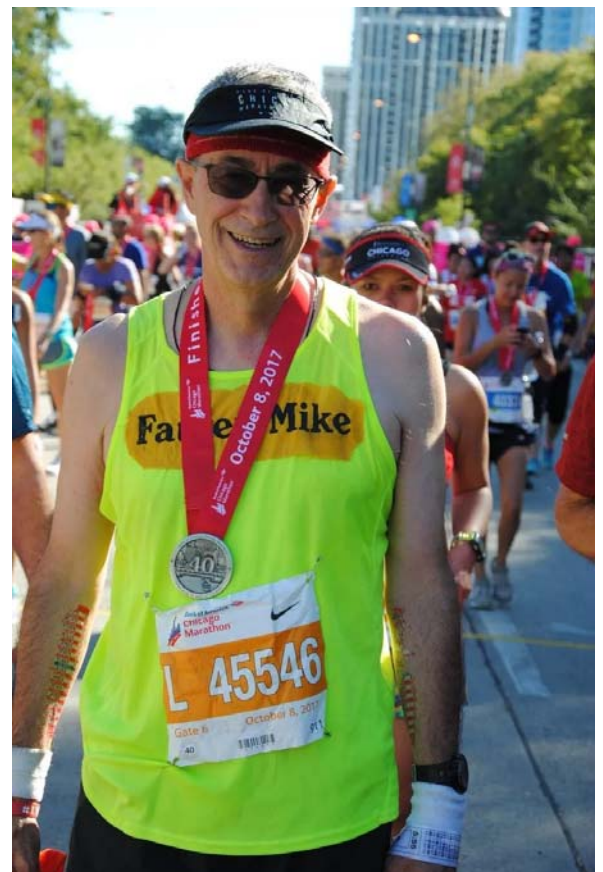
Last weekend, Fr. Mike Bradley let the parish know that he is retiring after 44 years of service to the Archdiocese of Chicago and 15 years of service here at St. Gertrude. Fr. Bradley's final weekend with us is next weekend, January 29-30.

Fr. Mike will speak at all the Masses and there will be hospitality after each Mass to allow everyone a chance to wish him well. He will be at the back of church to hand everyone a small bag of cookies from Misericordia and a small bottle of water. Please join us as we thank Fr. Mike for his excellent ministry here among us!

Catholic Schools Week - January 30 - February 5

The CSW 2021- 2024 theme is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service." Catholic schools have a specific purpose—to form students to be good citizens of the world, to love God and their neighbors, to enrich society with the leaven of the gospel, and to be example of faith.

As communities of faith, Catholic schools instill in students their destiny to become saints. Academic excellence is the hallmark of Catholic education intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person – mind, body, and spirit. Finally, service is fundamental to Catholic education and the core of Catholic discipleship. Service is intended to help form people who are not only witnesses to Catholic social teaching, but also active participants through social learning.



Fr. Rich (cont.)

The CSW logo emphasizes that Catholic schools, like the Catholic Church, is not a building or an institution, but is the people. As the people of God, we work together to bring the Kingdom of God to Earth and raise up the next generation to do the same. The image of teachers and students forming the foundation of the school shows that they are active people of faith who serve others and God.

May we all strive to live in active service of Jesus and his mission as we nationally join together during Catholic Schools Week and always.

Who will take Fr. Bradley's Place?

Last week, after Fr. Bradley's retirement announcement, a few parishioners asked if we would be getting another priest to take Fr. Bradley's place. I explained that it is unlikely. That's why all the parishes in the Archdiocese have gone through the Renew My Church process which led to so many parishes being consolidated or closed. We have been, and continue to be, very fortunate to have so many priests here at St. Gertrude. Fr. Mike Gabriel is still here and we have a priest studying at Loyola living here as well, Fr. Pius. We are also lucky have Sunday "supply help" from the local Jesuit community and from Fr. Dominic Grassi.

As an Archdiocese we are in a singular and somewhat strange temporary situation. Because the Renew My Church process is pretty much completed, the various parishes have been consolidated or closed, and the clergy that were assigned there are now available for reassignment. So there is a temporary "surplus." However, most of those priests will be pastors in the near future. The last two large ordination classes, Fr. Bradley's class and my class (1978 and 1979) will be retiring this year and next. Those currently "surplus" priests will be filling the pastorates and other positions of those retiring. Once that is completed, we will be settling into the new reality of being a diocese with fewer parishes, but all of them appropriately staffed.



Free At-Home Rapid COVID Test Kits Available

This week, every household in the U.S. became 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. Orders are expected to ship in 7-12 days and will be delivered by the U.S. Postal Service.

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

Retirement Announcement & Message from Fr. Mike Bradley

In the summer of 2007, I was assigned by Cardinal Francis George to be a “resident priest” at Saint Gertrude Parish. During this time, I’ve also served at the headquarters of the Archdiocese, where I’ve done work in the Church’s canon law department.

Ever since the first day I arrived at this parish, God has blessed me with the steadfast and inspiring leadership of our pastors Father Dominic Grassi and Father Rich Prendergast, and the excellent pastoral staff here. In addition, I was very fortunate 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, I submitted to our Archbishop, Cardinal Blase Cupich, my request to be allowed to retire, and he recently approved that request. Thus, the time has arrived for me to retire and say farewell to Saint Gertrude Parish.

I’m very grateful to each one of you for your amazing kindness over the years. With you, I have shared in many joyful moments, which I will always cherish. I have also shared in your times of sorrow and loss, times of sickness and death, when our hearts were broken, and our faith was tested. Your great courage has lifted me up more than my words can ever express!

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 (5:00 pm on Saturday, 8:00 am, and a combined 10:30 am on Sunday), I will be in the vestibule of the church to greet you. So, on your way out of church, please be sure to stop by and take a cookie (from the bakery at Misericordia) and some juice or water. Rest assured, safety protocols due to the pandemic will be strictly followed.

The other day, a parishioner asked me what gift I’d like for my retirement. My reply is that my material needs are provided for, and so if someone wants to give me a gift, I ask that you please make a donation to “Heart to Heart,” Saint Gertrude’s outreach program for the elderly and homebound persons in our Edgewater community. A donation to “Heart to Heart” – along with your prayers for me – would be greatly appreciated!

With much joy, I thank God every day for the privilege I have had to be with you here in our wonderfully diverse and welcoming community! May God bless you, and may God bless Saint Gertrude Parish!

~ Father Mike Bradley



Combined 10:30 am Mass Planned for Next Sunday: 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 of service here.

Heart to Heart November Report

Further maintaining our commitment to the value of gentle personalism, our Heart to Heart staff and volunteers reached out to those actually in our Ministry as well as those in our Edgewater community throughout November.



Bringing our volunteers into VIRTUS compliance has been another focus. (VIRTUS is a program sponsored by the Archdiocese to train those working with vulnerable adults and children to prevent abuses from occurring.) These mandated online training sessions took place throughout December.

Heartfelt thanks to all of the good people who support these programs.

~ Jane Callahan-Moore, Director of Parish Social Services



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 hasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org. Thank you!

Palms Up for Lent

Are you weary of the same Lenten experiences each year— pray more, give more, eat less? Have you wanted to help others, but didn't know where to start or what you could do? Or have you hoped to have a new perspective about our faith traditions?

The parish's Peace and Justice Ministry is planning to create additional meaningful opportunities this Lent, which begins on Wednesday, March 2. We'll share our plans in the weekly bulletins and on our website!

~ Fr. Mike Gabriel



Student Essay Contest

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.



Pictured: Ms. Nguyen Ticarro

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 Sam Butler's submission.

Ms. Caroline Nguyen Ticarro: A Catalyst for Hope

In 1999, Caroline Nguyen Ticarro founded the Catalyst Foundation. At the age of four, she fled from Vietnam along with thousands of other Vietnamese people and came to America. She loved Vietnam and returned 23 years later and adopted two children. Inspired by her return, she wanted to help the country she came from and loved.

Caroline has been doing good by walking straight across the line of poverty and suffering and lending a hand, a house, and help to those suffering in Vietnam. She fights against poverty, human trafficking, and child human rights. She and her impressive nonprofit organization help hundreds of people, offering humanitarian aid and charitable work.

The Catalyst Foundation is a catalyst for change, good, and hope. I myself would not be here today if it weren't for her efforts. And thanks to her incredible knowledge and skill in Vietnamese adoption, I was able to find and meet my Vietnamese mother. She is the reason I and hundreds of children and families stand here today. She catalyzed my life into prosperity and hope.

In 2001, the UN set seventeen goals for sustainable development. That was to be used to address their policies and work targets for the upcoming 15 years. These goals had no effort or word towards the issues of human rights and economic development. Caroline quickly resolved to make people aware of these issues and let the world know that her message along with the UN's would not be silenced. Everyone has a part to play in economic development and the future of humankind.

She overcame judgement and prejudice towards the Asian community and worked against Asian prejudice on both sides of earth. Caroline changes the world. She doesn't back down. Her mission stays the same. She worked 20 years in the poorest parts of Vietnam fighting against sexism and racism. She supplies when there is need. She helps when no one will, she brings up generations and leads them into growth. She helps families adopt Vietnamese children and aids as soon as issues arise.

In conclusion, she is changing the world and fights for good in a world of unfairness, poverty, sexism and racism, bringing light into darkness and breaking the glass ceiling and putting a ceiling over the heads of those in need. She is a true force for change and good.

Growing in Faith

It's not often we hear stories of refugees who return to their country of origin after years in exile as was the reality for the people of Israel during the time of Nehemiah and Ezra. In fact, many of those exiled to Babylonia either remained there or later moved to other countries, adapting to those new cultures.

From time to time, when the painful realities of poverty, violence, and political corruption in her home country pierce her wounded heart and stir up in her a justified anger, my bride speaks of wanting to return to her birth home to rid it of all that has destroyed its goodness. Whether one remains in their country of exile or returns to their birth country, it is not easy and there is always some mourning and weeping. As with the people of Israel, strength and joy in time come by the hand of the Almighty, from a supportive community, from hearing and singing a redemption song, from breaking bread together and from channeling one's own exile pain into sharing from brokenness and abundance with those who cannot provide for themselves.

Each of us has our own internal story of exile from our spiritual homeland, whether because of violence done to or by us, because of addiction, ego, and/or disenchantment with religion's institutions. In whatever distance we have experienced, from our Creator, our spiritual center, our source of life and hope, may we too find that strength and joy that we need.

~ Jim Manzardo



Online Religious Ed Classes Planned

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 this week.

Second Collection for Church in Latin America

This weekend, our special collection supports the Church in Latin America.

Your generosity makes a difference for our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean.



NCA Soiree 2022

Join NCA parents and alum for a night of casino-themed fun on Saturday, February 26. The 16th annual NCA Soirée will be held at the Theater on the Lake, located at 2401 N. Lake Shore Dr., and will celebrate NCA teachers, staff, and families.

Tickets includes food, drink, entertainment, and more! Log in to NCA's Bidding for Good website at ncasoiree.com to purchase tickets today!

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.

The advertisement is a blue rectangular graphic with white and yellow confetti scattered around the edges. At the top, the text 'Want Cash or an Amazing Vacation?' is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, the text 'JOIN NCA SOIREE'S GRAND RAFFLE AND CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE FUNDRAISERS!' is written in a smaller, white, bold, sans-serif font. In the center, there are three main elements: a yellow ticket icon with 'TICKET' written on it, a circular logo for Northside Catholic Academy featuring a cross and the text 'NORTH SIDE CATHOLIC ACADEMY', and a green palm tree icon. Below the ticket icon, the text '\$5,000 GRAND PRIZE!' is written in white. Below the palm tree icon, the text 'ALL EXPENSE PAID VACATION! 6 CHOICES!' is written in white. At the bottom, a white rectangular box contains the text 'FOR MORE INFO AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS, VISIT NCASOIREE.COM' in blue.

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

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

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, January 22 at 5:00 pm in church - Kathleen Dawson
- Sunday, January 23 at 8:00 am - Wes Dingman
- Sunday, January 23 at 10:30 am in church - Patrick Robinson
- Sunday, January 23 at 10:30 am in Gym - TBA

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, January 22 at 5:00 pm in church - Steve Monti
- Sunday, January 23 at 8:00 am - Brian Devarenne
- Sunday, January 23 at 10:30 am in church - Debra Novak, Carlos Barragan
- Sunday, January 23 at 10:30 am in Gym - TBA

Cantors and Musicians:

- Saturday, January 22 at 5:00 pm in church - Paula Dempsey, cantor; Owen Ruggiero, pianist
- Sunday, January 23 at 8:00 am - Carol Ann Munro, cantor; Owen Ruggiero, pianist
- Sunday, January 23 at 10:30 am in church - Rob Schroeder, cantor; Owen Ruggiero, pianist
- Sunday, January 23 at 10:30 am in Gym - TBA

Mass Intentions

- Monday, January 24: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
- Tuesday, January 25: 7:30 am - Maggie Callaway (in thanksgiving)
- Wednesday, January 26: 7:30 am - Daniel Moore +
- Thursday, January 27: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, January 28: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- Saturday, January 29: 7:30 am - Eleanor Valvassori +; 5:00 pm - St. Gertrude parishioners
- Sunday, January 30: 8:00 am - Paul Foley +; 10:30 am Combined Mass - Edward J. Miller + and Judy Pier +

+ indicates the person is deceased

New Parishioner

- Geoffrey Zokal

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