



You are
**MY BELOVED
SON;**
WITH YOU I
AM WELL
PLEASED.

St. Gertrude Chicago

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The Baptism of the Lord

January 8 & 9, 2022

From Fr. Rich

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Today's Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a bridge between the Christmas season and the return to Ordinary Time. The Christmas season comes to its conclusion as the Lord comes to

the Jordan River, and, in asking John to baptize him, begins his public ministry. This period of Ordinary Time runs from today until the day before Ash Wednesday, which this year is on March 2.

In today's feast, Jesus models for us the life of a believer. Our faith is not simply a private or personal matter but must be reflected in everything we say and do. We can't compartmentalize our life into the parts which are influenced by our faith and the parts that aren't. We only have the one life to live. Every part of who we are is affected. During these two months, it is worth our while to consider each day of our lives how we might be a living witness to the Gospel Jesus preached and lived and died for.

On Thursday, January 13, the parents of students preparing for Confirmation will come together with our Director of Religious Education, Eloy Escamilla, to review the two-year Confirmation preparation program. An important part of the preparation process is found in the so-called "service projects." These projects provide the young people preparing for the sacrament the opportunity to "try out" what it means to live their faith.

There is a great difference between proclaiming our faith and actually living it. The bridge of baptism takes us outside of ourselves and into contact and relationship with others. We are always members of a broader community of sisters and brothers that reaches around our entire world. It is impossible to say, "I love God!" unless we are also saying, "I love all my sisters and brothers." Service projects help those preparing for Confirmation to have the personal, physical contact with some of those sisters and brothers. And in that relationship we see the fullness of our baptism realized -- our faith lived out.

As we celebrate Our Lord's baptism today, let us also commit to praying for our young people and all those striving to make the gospel alive and active in our lives and in our world.

Giving Tree Report

Again this year, many parishioners were so generous to those in need in our community.

Because of the pandemic, this year rather than purchasing specific gifts for those in need, everyone who wished to participate purchased gift cards from local stores that could then be distributed through Care for Real or our Refugee Ministry.

In total, \$7,577 in gift cards was donated, with Care for Real receiving \$3,000 and our Refugee Ministry receiving \$4,577 to support their work. This will make it possible for many families to have adequate food and clothing in these winter month and possibly beyond.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Giving Tree this Advent and Christmas season!

An Update on St. Ignatius

As you may recall, the last parish Mass at St. Ignatius was celebrated on July 31, the Feast of St. Ignatius. Since then, except for a few weddings that had been in the planning stages for some time, and the special series of prayer services and Masses for each of the three shrines that had been part of St. Ignatius Parish for many years, there have been no other services in the church.

During this same time period, some of the members of the former parish had filed an appeal to the appropriate office in the Vatican. They received permission to pursue their appeal and are now in the process of deciding what their next steps will be. At this point in that process things get more complicated and more expensive. The court (the Signatura) requires that those making such an appeal must use a recognized canon lawyer (church laws collectively are Canon Law) who is in Rome.

This is very much like our own Supreme Court where only pre-certified lawyers may address the court. Those who know this process expect this stage to take between six and twelve months. While this goes on, the church building, which is what the petitioners would like reopened, cannot be sold or used for any other purpose. The appeal process also means we will not be cleaning out or moving any of the church furnishings, etc.

As a result, the other buildings on the property may be listed and sold, but, until the Appeal is finalized, not the church building.

In the meantime, the three shrines will be moved to their new home churches. The image of Our Lady of the Clouds will now permanently be at St. Padre Pio Parish. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be moved to the Archdiocesan shrine in DesPlaines. And the image of Our Lord of the Miracles is temporarily remaining at St. Ignatius but will be moved to its new home before the next celebration of that feast.

Calendars

We WILL have a limited supply of parish calendars in church this weekend -- sorry they are a little late. Thanks to Tim Harrington from Barr Funeral Home for providing us with them!

Ministry of Peace & Justice Meeting—Monday, January 10

All are welcome to attend the next meeting of the Peace and Justice Committee on Monday, January 10 at 6:30 pm in the Ministry Center, 6214 N. Glenwood Ave.

Call Fr. Mike Gabriel at 773.764.3621 or email him mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org if you plan to attend, or if you have any questions.



Upcoming Confirmation Meetings for Parents and Students/7th & 8th Grade Essay Contest Winners Will be Announced Later This Month

There are two important events coming for families of students being Confirmed this spring. On Thursday, January 13, both parents and students are asked to attend a meeting at 6:30 pm in the Social Hall, 1401 West Granville Avenue. Then on Saturday, January 29, the first retreat for Confirmation Candidates will be held in the Social Hall from 9:00 am-12:00 pm. If you have questions about the meeting or the retreat, please contact Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.

Many students from NCA, Religious Education, and other schools have submitted their essays. Judges are still reading the essays and deliberating on the best ones. We will post the top submissions in later this month!

Thank you to all who participated!



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.

**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.

Growing in Faith

Busy tending my own garden, which is no Eden, I am reminded that God made all the plants, and that a weed is merely a flower out of place. Jesus admonished us to be careful pulling up the weeds, lest we also uproot the desirable plant.

Similarly, in different settings, our faults can be our virtues. Persistence can eventuate success or self-sabotage by annoying others. Emotional sensitivity can be channeled into generous empathy or crippling fear of rejection. Distractibility can sidetrack us or ignite creativity.

How do we feel about ourselves? We have emotions, painful and pleasant. But the meaning we make, the words we put to their music, makes all the difference. "There is nothing... good or bad but thinking makes it so," says Hamlet.

After Adam and Eve ate from the tree they were not equipped to digest, they judged their perfect naked bodies as shameful, and hid. Often, we hide our psychic vulnerabilities too, ashamed of our naked need.

How wonderful to re-imagine our own baptisms and hear God's voice gently booming in a paradox of tender power, "You are my Beloved; with you I am well pleased!"

We are told Jesus came to rescue us from our separation from God occasioned by our original sin. Ashamed, Adam and Eve played hot-potato with responsibility rather than vulnerably 'fessing up and begging forgiveness. Jesus promises we are so very Beloved that if we will just do that, and stop hiding, we can return to the Garden, where there are no weeds.

~ Janet Kirby, MD



Knit or Crochet for a Cause

Please join our knitters and crocheters on the second Wednesdays of the month! We meet in the Ministry Center Dining Room, 6214 North Glenwood Avenue, from 7:00-9:00 pm.

Contact Victoria Healy for more info at vikihealy@hotmail.com.

Breaking Bread 2022 eMissal Available for Android and iOS Smartphones and Tablets: The USCCB-approved Breaking Bread 2022 eMissal is available for Android and iOS smartphones and tablets either in the App Store or Google Play for \$4.99. The app can be downloaded for instant access to songs, readings, and the Order of Mass.

2022-2023 Tax Credit Scholarship Application Day

NCA families are encouraged to complete both the Big Shoulders Fund Application and Empower Illinois (EI) Application. The Empower Illinois Application will go live on Wednesday, January 12th at 7:00 pm.



2022-2023 Tax Credit Scholarship



For more information, visit
EmpowerIllinois.org/apply

NCA will provide a computer lab for NCA families completing the Empower Illinois application beginning at 6:30 pm in Colletti Hall at the NCA Middle School campus, 7318 N. Oakley. Again, the application process requires a quick submission time, so arrive by 6:30 pm to begin the registration and then click submit at 7:00 pm.

Check out the Empower Illinois website for additional information at <https://www.empowerillinois.org>.

NCA will continue to keep our families updated as we receive additional information from Big Shoulders Fund and Empower Illinois.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Christine Huzenis (chuzenis@ncaweb.org) or Mrs. Leigh Holzman (lholzman@ncaweb.org).

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

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, January 8 at 5:00 pm in church - Pat Reardon
- Sunday, January 9 at 8:00 am - David Sullivan
- Sunday, January 9 at 10:30 am in church - Patrick Robinson
- Sunday, January 9 at 10:30 am in Gym - TBA

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, January 8 at 5:00 pm in church - Tim Harrington
- Sunday, January 9 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, January 9 at 10:30 am in church - Carlos Barragan, Debra Novak, Troy McMillian
- Sunday, January 9 at 10:30 am in Gym - TBA

Cantors:

- Saturday, January 8 at 5:00 pm in church - Bernie O' Connor
- Sunday, January 9 at 8:00 am - Jim Manzardo
- Sunday, January 9 at 10:30 am in church - Matt Heimer
- Sunday, January 9 at 10:30 am in Gym - TBA

Mass Intentions

- Monday, January 10: 7:30 am - Cecilia McGuire
- Tuesday, January 11: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- Wednesday, January 12: 7:30 am - Kathleen Naughton +
- Thursday, January 13: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, January 14: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
- Saturday, January 15: 7:30 am - Archbishop Desmond Tutu + ; 5:00 pm - Brandon Philbin +
- Sunday, January 16: 8:00 am - St. Gertrude parishioners; 10:30 am - Fr. Bill Kenneally + ; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Jay Einhorn +

+ indicates the person is deceased

New Parishioners

- Anne McMurray
- Paul Ruscheinski & Melaina Prest

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

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