

St. Gertrude Chicago

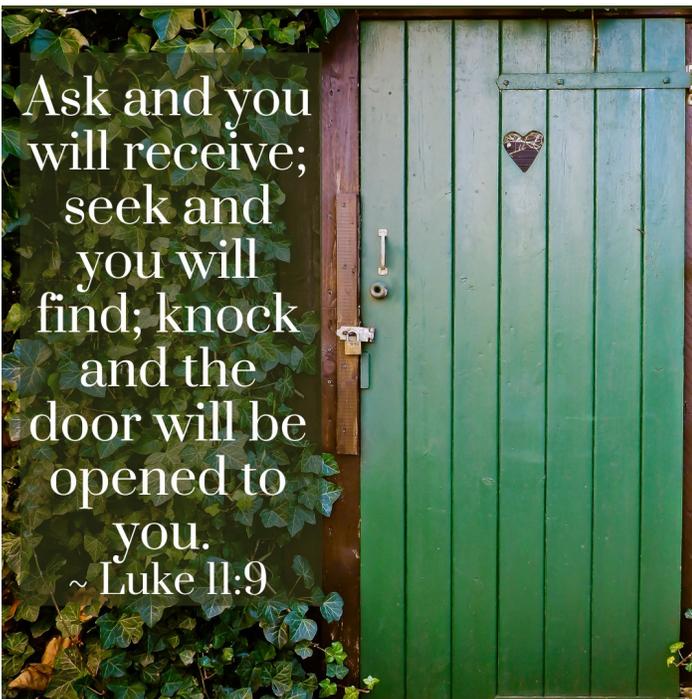
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Bulletin for Sunday, July 27, 2025

17th Sunday
in Ordinary Time



From Fr. Sergio

It's been almost a month since my arrival at St. Gertrude, so I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the warm reception I have received. Having been at my previous parish for 16 years meant having to say goodbye to many relationships that had been formed throughout that time.

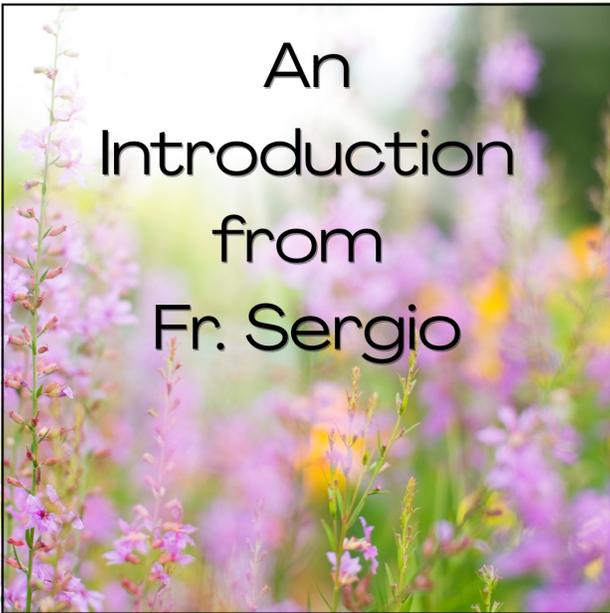
While that has definitely not been an easy thing to do, I've been encouraged by the many people I've met and the excitement of new relationships to be built at Saint Gertrude. I try very hard to remember people's names, but you may have to help me by reminding me several times.

At my first Mass at St. Gertrude, I gave a little introduction of myself, but I know many could not be there, so for their benefit, I'll introduce myself once again. My name is Sergio Romo. You can call me Sergio or Fr. Sergio, but please refrain from calling me Fr. Romo, which to me is a little too formal.

I am the oldest of seven children, born on the southeast side of Chicago to parents who emigrated to the United States from Mexico. My father passed away in 2003 after a long battle with lupus. My mother still lives in my childhood home. Except for a sister who lives in northwest Indiana, the rest of my siblings still live on the south side of Chicago.

My awareness of my vocation to the priesthood began at an early age, which led me to attend Quigley South, the archdiocesan high school seminary. I then attended Niles College Seminary of Loyola University and St. Mary of the Lake University, Mundelein Seminary. I was ordained a priest by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin in 1993.





An Introduction from Fr. Sergio

From Fr. Sergio (continued)

My previous assignments have included parish ministry in Belmont Cragin, Logan Square, Schaumburg, Lakeview, and seminary work at the archdiocesan college seminary.

Beyond parish ministry, my interests also include gardening, cooking, and traveling. I also love to ride my bike for leisure and exercise. Look out for a bright orange bike and a rider wearing orange gear (please wave hello and give way).

I also like to make art in various media. Lately, I've been studying iconography and writing/painting icons. In time, I will share with you some of my

creations.

For now, I look forward to sharing in our faith together. This is what interests me the most—walking together on the journey to our heavenly God. Along the way, we will learn more about each other—not just our hobbies and interests, but more importantly, how God has loved us.

~ Fr. Sergio

Parish Calendar

Sunday, July 27

- Care for Real collection drive before/after masses

Friday, August 1

- 7:00 pm - Guadalupanos Rosary Group in the Ministry Center

Saturday, August 2

- 5:00 pm - Care for Real collection drive before/after mass

Sunday, August 3

- Care for Real collection drive before/after masses

Friday, August 8

- 7:00 pm - Guadalupanos Rosary Group in the Ministry Center

Tuesday, August 12

- 6:30 pm - Book Club in the Ministry Center

Thursday, August 14

- 11:30 am - Friendship Club in the Ministry Center

Friday, August 15

- 7:00 pm - Guadalupanos Rosary Group in the Ministry Center

Friday, August 22

- 7:00 pm - Guadalupanos Rosary Group in the Ministry Center

Sunday, August 24

- After the 10:30 am mass - Brewed at St. Gertrude hospitality gathering in the Social Hall

Events & Activities at St. Gertrude

listed in chronological order (Activities & events in Edgewater are listed after parish events, reflections, and news)

Collection Drive for Care for Real is This Weekend/Next Collection is August 2-3

St. Gertrude has its monthly collection drive for our neighbors in need this weekend! Please place donations in the bins at the back of church. Items will be donated to Care for Real.

Our collection drive for Care for Real is always the fourth calendar weekend every month, and our asylum seekers' collection is the first weekend of each month, which is August 2-3 .

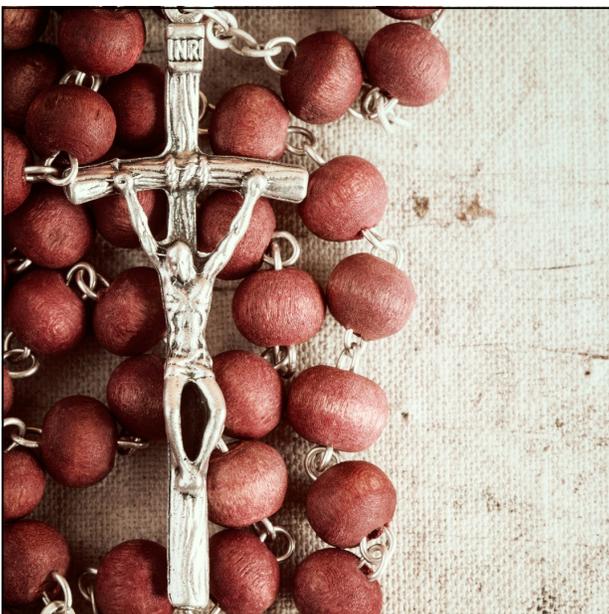
We are so grateful for your help supporting Care for Real as they work to provide food and much-needed supplies to our neighbors who are struggling.

Care for Real Volunteers Needed on Thursdays

Additionally, Care for Real urgently needs volunteers in Rogers Park for the new extended food distribution on Thursdays from 3-6pm. Apply to volunteer at www.careforreal.org/volunteer to sign up for a shift!



Right now, Care for Real is experiencing the highest demand for food assistance in their history, serving 1,400 families each week.



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

All are warmly invited to take part in our weekly Rosary group, held every Friday evening at 7:00 pm.

This bilingual gathering takes place in the Ministry Center dining room at 6214 N. Glenwood Ave. Whether you're new to the Rosary or have prayed it for years, you're welcome to join us in this peaceful time of prayer and reflection.



Book Club Gathering is Tuesday, August 12 - Please Note New Time

The book club will discuss *Life After Life: a Novel* by Kate Atkinson on Tuesday, August 12. The gathering is now held at 6:30 pm in the Ministry Center, located at 6214 N. Glenwood Ave.

New voices and opinions are welcome! Contact Lea Cloninger at 773.213.0509, or Sue Benjamin at 773.551.8401 with questions.

Friendship Club is Thursday, August 14

The St. Gertrude Women's Friendship Club meets monthly on the second Thursday of every month in the Ministry Center, 6214 N. Glenwood Ave. .

The gathering begins at 11:30 am, and attendees should bring their own (brown bag) lunch.

friend

[frɛnd] noun.

a person known well to another and regarded with liking, affection, and loyalty. a friend is a person who knows all about you and still loves you

Parish News



Parish Garden Continues to Bless Our Community

Thanks to the dedication of our garden volunteers and the warm summer weather, our parish garden continues to thrive! Last week, we harvested more lettuce, a variety of herbs, and even a few peppers—the first of the season! These fresh veggies were donated to Care for Real's food pantry, where they were shared with neighbors in need.

If anyone has interest in helping water or harvest, please contact Max Schweikert at maxschweikert41@gmail.com.

Register Your Children for the 2025-2026 Religious Ed School Year in August!

Registration for the 2025-2026 Religious Ed school year will open in August!

Classes are held on Sundays from 9:15-10:15 am on the St. Gertrude campus. They will begin in September.

The fees for the 2025-2026 school year are \$230 for one child and an additional \$40 for each student from the same family. Children making their First Communion/Reconciliation or their Confirmation will also need to pay a \$75 sacramental fee.

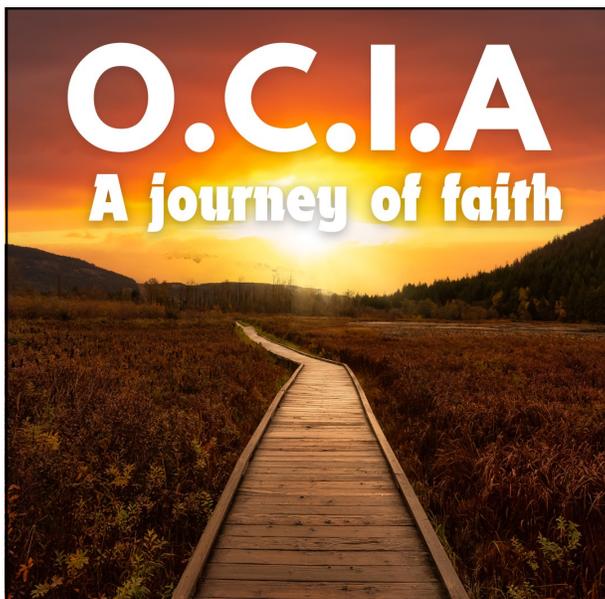
Questions should be emailed to Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.

REGISTER FOR RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES

Registration opens in August!

CLASSES BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER





Interested in Becoming Catholic?

The OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, formerly called RCIA) is a process by which adults learn more about the Catholic Church. This free program begins in the fall and meets until Pentecost.

Many people who begin OCIA are non-Catholics seeking to become Catholic or at least to explore whether Catholicism might be a good home. Others who take OCIA are already Catholic but want a deeper understanding of their faith foundation.

The OCIA process does not ask those who have been baptized in another faith to give up their denominational experiences. Rather, the OCIA process seeks to add new colors and designs to their existing faith life tapestry. In addition to attending Mass, the OCIA process includes weekly gatherings of breaking open the Word of God, sharing our stories, and learning about our faith traditions.

Contact Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org for more information.

Financial Report from July 19-20

Sunday Collection Envelopes: \$1,768.00
Loose Checks: \$370.00
Loose Cash/Coins: \$963.65
Online Donations: \$4,643.51
Total Collected: \$7,745.16

Budgeted: \$10,000.00
Difference: -\$2,254.84
Year-to-date Collected FY 2026 (as of 7/20/2025): \$26,279.38
Year-to-date Budgeted FY 2026: \$550,000.00
Difference: -\$523,720.62

Growing in Faith

Each Sunday, I try to find the “golden thread” the Church uses to connect the readings. These threads are often themes, images, or messages that unite the Hebrew Scriptures, the early Church, and the life of Jesus in the Gospel.

This Sunday, Abraham persistently questions God, hoping to understand how many innocent people it would take for God to spare Sodom and Gomorrah. In the Gospel, the disciples ask Jesus, “Teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” Jesus brings it all together by encouraging us to ask God for the Holy Spirit.

Asking for help can be tough. Our fear of being seen as weak or inadequate can keep us from reaching out—to God, to family, or to our community. But today's readings invite us to ask. God knows us completely, including our intentions.

There's one major hurdle: do we believe God can do it? In the busyness of life and the chaos of the world, it can feel like God is powerless. But that mindset makes God small. Abraham and Jesus knew how big God truly is. Their boldness in asking reflected their deep trust in God's limitless power.

So I invite you to consider: How big is my God? When we ask our God—who is greater than anything we can imagine—we will receive.

~ Steven Patzke



Neighborhood News



Free Summer Nights Concert Series in Edgewater

Enjoy free live music every Wednesday evening this summer in the beautiful garden behind the Edgewater Historical Society Museum (5358 N. Ashland Ave.). These weekly concerts feature talented local musicians and offer a great opportunity to relax, connect with neighbors, and make new friends.

The concerts are family- and pet-friendly, and take place from 6:00 to 8:00 pm through August 20. For a schedule of performers, visit <https://www.edgewaterhistory.org/ehs/content/summer-nights-edgewater>.

Parish Information

Rest in Peace

- Elena Rivera

New Parishioners

- Robert & Suzanne Teberg

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

Ministers of the Word

- Saturday, July 26 at 5:00 pm - Art Lyons, Christine Lincoln
- Sunday, July 27 at 8:00 am - Rob Sierzega, Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, July 27 at 10:30 am - Rafael Melendez, Rose Karasti

Eucharistic Ministers

- Saturday, July 26 at 5:00 pm - Kathy Wall
- Sunday, July 27 at 8:00 am - Josephine Delgado
- Sunday, July 27 at 10:30 am - Steven Monti, Carlos Barragan, Michael Kowalsky

Altar Servers

- Saturday, July 26 at 5:00 pm - cross bearer: Esteban Campuzano
- Sunday, July 27 at 10:30 am - cross bearer: Angel Garcia; acolytes: Xavier Lassus, Mathios Paulos

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| • Mary Amelse | • Marie Galoney | • Claude Poulsen |
| • Victor Ayes | • Thomas Hajduch | • Willy Spalla |
| • Carlos Barragan | • Anne Marie Hamde | • Mary Pierce Spalla |
| • Patrick Barton | • Rochelle Hernandez | • Floret Spalle |
| • Zara Bradley | • Tricia Hernandez | • Frannie Swaine |
| • Hallie Burhoe | • Maria Hertl | • Christopher Thomas |
| • Aida Calvopina | • John Kahoun | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Marta Carlson | • Paul Kapczuk | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • Terrence Carmichael | • Mary E. Kelley | • Tayana Wallace |
| • Cavicke Family | • Marilyn Klein | • King Wallace |
| • David Denegas | • Joseph Lambin | • Christian Wallace |
| • Ann Collins Dole | • River Malik | • Leon Ward |
| • Darlene Durso-Clark+ | • James Mann | • Ron Whitfield |
| • Renee Elhoumaidi | • Alex Marks | • Janice Wittenberg |
| • Mr. and Mrs. Emin Euman | • Nancy Michael | • Dawn Wyman |
| • Luke Fitzgerald | • Steve Monti | • Yyes Yoza |
| • Adolf Gabriel | • Hilda Mora | • Joel Pozzi Zio |
| | • Dealina Peon | |

Contact the Parish Pastoral Council

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

Upcoming Mass Intentions

- Monday, July 28: 7:30 am - Elena Rivera+
- Tuesday, July 29: 7:30 am - Meka Glover
- Wednesday, July 30: 7:30 am -Roberto V. Cabrera, Jr. +
- Thursday, July 31: 7:30 am - Communion service
- Friday, August 1: 7:30 am - Peter and Mary Tunney+
- Saturday, August 2: 7:30 am - John Staggs+; 5:00 pm - Shannon Boylan+
- Sunday, August 3: 8:00 am - Ricardo Martinez+; 10:30 am - John Skaggs+

Mass Times/Reconciliation/Rectory Office Hours

- Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 am Mass in Church; Monday-Friday: 7:30 am (Thursday is a Communion service); Saturday: 7:30 am & 5:00 pm. (The Gym Mass is on summer break.)
- Reconciliation is offered on Saturdays from 4:15-4:45 pm in Church or by appointment by calling the Rectory at 773.764.3621.
- The Rectory office is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 am-4:30 pm and is closed on weekends.

Donate to our Parish

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

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

Sherl Patterson, Secretary—spatterson@stgertrudechicago.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 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.

Visit our Parish Website

For the latest parish events and information, including our weekly live-stream, bulletins, images from recent events, rectory hours, staff members, funeral announcements, and updates about our various ministries, please visit our website at stgertrudechicago.org.