



St. Gertrude Chicago

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The Solemnity of Pentecost

June 5, 2022

From Fr. Rich

Today's feast of Pentecost brings the Easter Season to its joyous conclusion. Fulfilling His promise to His disciples, Jesus now sends the Holy Spirit upon them and the Church, not abandoning us, but filling us with His Spirit to

guide us in all our ways.

In today's Gospel account, the brief story leaves us immediately after the Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples. What we don't see in today's reading is the immediate response they have to this gift. It frees them from their fear, and they leave the place they had been locked in for protection and begin their mission to go out to all the world and tell the good news.

Everyone who has prepared for Confirmation knows the gifts of the Holy Spirit are these: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. All are of such great importance in living out our Christian life. But alongside those seven gifts is the one gift Jesus brought each time he appeared to his disciples after His resurrection - the gift of peace. Peace in our hearts and in our homes can lead to peace in our communities and our world.

Perhaps of even greater importance than receiving the gift of peace, is our mission to then bring His peace to everywhere we go in the world, in our homes and places of work and play. If we find there is no peace present, it is up to us to try to share that in how we live and speak and care for one another.

In light of the Feast of Pentecost, where might I use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to bring Christ's peace more fully into my own life, and that of my family, my friends, my co-workers, my community?

Domestic Terrorism and our Response

Last week, 21 people were killed in a mass-shooting at a grammar school in Texas. One right wing senator couldn't even wait for their funerals to excuse this horrific act. As one commentator has noted, this is the country the gun-lobby wants. It is not only awful that we keep lamenting the death of thousands of people every year through gun violence, but that our politicians have sold out to the gun lobby.

Assault rifles have nothing to do with hunting. They are weapons for the military. And the list could go on and on. But because of a very distorted understanding of what the right to

From Fr. Rich (cont.)

bear arms means in our Constitution, our courts continue to support this mental illness. For what else can we possibly call it when we willingly allow mass shootings in school after school, in our homes, and on our streets.

What is going on is evil. How can we, as Christians, claim to be pro-life, and let this go on year after year? I don't have a magic answer or solution. Right now, I am favorably inclined to a suggestion that began, I don't know where. But it is simply this, unless any politician has a public, written policy in favor of an assault weapons ban and increased gun registrations restrictions, I will not vote for that person or give them any campaign contributions. It's not a perfect solution, but it is a start.



What follows is from a statement by Cardinal Cupich in response to this latest massacre: *We know that gun safety measures make a difference. A 2021 Northwestern Medicine study (linked here: <https://bit.ly/GunArticle>) found that the Federal Assault Weapons Ban prevented ten mass shootings during the ten years it was in effect.*

Researchers also determined that if the ban had remained in place in the years since it was allowed to expire, it could have prevented another 30 public mass shootings that killed 339 people and injured 1,139 more.

As I reflect on this latest American massacre, I keep returning to the questions: Who are we as a nation if we do not act to protect our children? What do we love more: our instruments of death or our future?

The Second Amendment did not come down from Sinai. The right to bear arms will never be more important than human life. Our children have rights, too. And our elected officials have a moral duty to protect them.

(This article is adapted from a statement by Cardinal Cupich originally published on the website for the Archdiocese of Chicago.)



Help for Ukraine

If you would like to donate to help the Ukrainian people, please consider making a contribution to Catholic Relief Services for emergency aid to the people in Ukraine at <https://support.crs.org/donate/donate-ukraine>.

Pictured: Refugees from Mykolaiv, Ukraine being helped by Catholic Relief Services in Poland.

Please Join Us Next Weekend as We Wish Kevin Cheers and Jane Callahan-Moore Best Wishes on their Retirements

Next weekend, June 11-12, everyone is invited to stop by the back of church after all of the Masses to enjoy some hospitality and to express fond wishes to our pastoral associate, Kevin Cheers, and our Heart to Heart director, Jane Callahan-Moore, as they bid us farewell and begin this new phase in their lives.



SOCIAL JUSTICE INFORMATIONAL WEEKEND

Putting
faith
into
action



June 4-5: Social Justice Informational Weekend

This is our "Putting Faith into Action" event weekend! We have invited groups both from within the parish and from the larger community to set up tables in church this weekend to offer our parishioners information about the various Missions these groups have to help the forward march for justice.

The groups include Ignatian Spirituality Project, Midwest Workers Association, United Power for Action and Justice, Kolbe House, and St. Gertrude's Refugee and Immigrant Ministry. Information about each organization is in this bulletin.

Please take a few minutes to stop by as you are leaving church this weekend to

see if you might be interested in becoming active in any of these worthwhile efforts.

Office Hours Change: The Rectory office will temporarily close at 4:30 pm on weekdays. Weekend office hours may be limited. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Spotlight on Ignatian Spirituality Project

The Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP) offers experiences of hope, healing, and belonging to men and women recovering from homelessness and addiction. Their spiritual programs provide participants with the encouragement and empowerment necessary to make real, transformative life changes.

ISP believes spirituality has an important role to play in breaking the cycle of homelessness and substance use addiction. The opportunity to nurture an authentic, lived spirituality within a supportive community can be critical for those trying to rebuild their lives, secure stable housing and maintain long term sobriety.

All ISP Chicago programs are facilitated by local volunteers. Volunteers are needed to help facilitate spiritual reflection groups, provide for weekend retreats (including driving participants, serving as conversation partners and leadership), and support alumni and leadership training programs as drivers, facilitators, and participants. Training is provided and experience with 12-step recovery is helpful, but not required. For further information, visit ispretreats.org/Chicago.



United Power

FOR ACTION AND JUSTICE

Spotlight on United Power for Action and Justice

St. Gertrude's is one of the 36 members of United Power, a non-partisan organization of religious congregations, not-for-profit groups, health centers, and civic organizations from across Cook

County. United Power's mission is to train people to take responsibility for solving the problems in their own communities and to renew the interest of citizens in public life.

Volunteer leaders are the organization's backbone and are trained on how to build relationships with others in the parish and the neighborhood, to understand their concerns (what keeps them up at night) and to work to shape goals and strategies to address pressing issues. They work with leaders from other institutions across Chicagoland to understand how people of good will can work together to solve issues.

Issues United Power seeks to address include building and rehabbing homes on the south and west sides, writing grants for homebuyer subsidies to help hard-working families realize the American dream of homeownership, and partnering with other organizations' efforts to transform vacant and foreclosed buildings into homes and businesses.

United Power is also working to end the incarceration of people with mental illness by providing crisis training to police and by providing alternatives for the mentally ill instead of the criminal justice system and emergency rooms. The group also focuses their attention on political reform, stopping gun violence, lobbying for quality health care initiatives, and more.

For further information, contact parishioners Greg Pierce at gfapierce@aol.com or Kate Hibbs Davis at kate.hibbs.davis@gmail.com.



Spotlight on Midwest Workers Association

Midwest Workers Association (MWA) is a free and voluntary, private unincorporated membership association of the Chicago area's lowest-paid workers. Members do essential work in the economy including childcare, maintenance, security, temporary work in factories, in-home health care, landscaping, and construction, yet don't get paid enough to afford all the basics for their families. Since 1996, MWA has been uniting people from all walks of life

to deal with immediate needs of members while building a historic fight to end poverty.

MWA has had a relationship with the St. Gertrude community since 2011. Many of you know them through your support of their Winter Survival Campaign through their annual Super Bowl Sunday Tamale Benefit. They need your participation now more than ever!

MWA is expanding our medical and dental benefit, establishing a new benefit office on the campus of St. Ignatius, and canvassing new parts of the city to reach low-income workers who need organization. You can make a difference as a volunteer doctor, dentist, advocate, interpreter, driver, canvasser, graphic designer, and much more!

For more information about MWA and volunteer opportunities, visit <https://www.midwestworkersassociation.org/>.

Spotlight on Kolbe House

Kolbe House, the jail ministry of the Archdiocese of Chicago, was founded in March of 1983 at the direction of Cardinal Bernardin. He wanted people who sought the aid of Kolbe House to feel that they were not coming to an office to be treated as nameless clients, but that they were coming to a home to be treated as family. Today, hospitality and accompaniment continue to be a vital part of the Kolbe House mission.

The Kolbe House jail ministry provides services not only to those currently detained in jail or incarcerated in Illinois Correctional Facilities and Centers, but also to those released from incarceration reentering communities, victims of crime, officers working in the system, families of the detained, and individuals and families suffering from similar problems. Kolbe House seeks alternatives to incarceration, programs for prevention and deterrence, and aftercare for those released.



Volunteer opportunities can be reviewed at Kolbe House Jail Ministry, <https://pvm.archchicago.org/human-dignity-solidarity/kolbe-house-jail-ministry>.

Spotlight on St. Gertrude's Refugee & Immigrant Ministry

As the Syrian refugee crisis unfolded in the fall of 2015, our parish stepped up in partnership with Catholic Charities to start the Refugee & Immigrant Ministry.

The Ministry partners with formal refugee resettlement agencies (usually Catholic Charities) and has sponsored a new family roughly every six months. Families have been from Afghanistan, Syria, Bhutan, Uganda, and Central African Republic, and received rental assistance, housewares, help setting up their apartment, and, if someone is open, accompaniment and friendship.

The group also has presented educational sessions to the parish, including movies related to conditions on the border, presentations by immigration lawyers and the former CEO of Catholic Relief Services, and partnered with a theater group for a presentation on human trafficking. Additionally, they have organized prayer services where immigrant issues are the focus.

In our small corner, the St. Gertrude community has been and is a source of blessing and a light of healing. If you are interested in helping, the commitment is as much or as little as you'd like! Please consider being added to our information email list to be alerted to volunteer opportunities, including helping set up apartments for new families, or assisting with set up, take down, or refreshments at a Refugee & Immigrant Ministry sponsored program.

Email Jim Manzardo at jbmanz@att.net or Denise Goodman at dmg321@comcast.net if you are interested in helping or receiving email updates.



Tax Credit Scholarship Program

Looking for a way to decrease your Illinois state income tax liability? What if you could decrease what you owe to the state and potentially increase your state tax refund, while also helping fund scholarships for low-income students to attend the Catholic school of their choice?

More than 30 children are on the waitlist for Northside Catholic Academy. Help fund a child's future and donate to the Archdiocese Tax Credit Scholarship Program.

Every contribution to the Tax Credit Scholarship Program is eligible for a 75 percent credit on state income taxes. Help a child attend NCA today. Learn more at archchicago.org/tcs.

Growing in Faith

Preparing to send my youngest son to college has me thinking about sending and being sent. Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." God did not send Jesus on a safe, smooth path. Jesus is sending us on a vulnerable journey.

I feel anxious of the potholes in my sons' roads, excited for their future and for my opportunity to spend more time with my husband, lonely thinking about how quiet the house will be, and curious how I will grow. I, also, am being sent.

Sent where? I do not know for sure.

Sent how? Jesus says, "Receive the Holy Spirit." In other stages of life, I focused on the hope of having a Helper. Now I hear the word "receive." The Holy Spirit is given. I need to actively receive and welcome Her.

"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven, and whose sins you retain are retained." It sounds like being sent means I need to be ready to encounter sin, and probably not just the sins of other people. What a huge responsibility! As I am sent, I must learn compassion from the Spirit. When I retain or hold onto others' sins, I could expect God to retain my similar sins.

How is Jesus sending you?

~ Pamela Horan-Bussey



St. Gertrude Garden Update: Garden Prep Day Held Last Week, Herbs & Veggies Planted Saturday

Thank you to the team of volunteers (pictured) that turned out to do prep work on the parish garden last Saturday, May 28! The group included Mary Clare Barker, Hallie Burhoe, Laurie Hasbrook, Gunther Heidkamp, Henry Jacobson, Jeanne McCurry, Beth Nelson, Allen Stryczek, Evelyn Voukides, Anna Ward, and Elizabeth Wyman. The team weeded, tilled the soil, added fences, and planted Easter lilies

from our Easter Sunday services, preparing for the planting day this weekend. An additional thank you to the crew that planted vegetables and herbs on June 4! All harvests will be shared with both Care for Real and the St. Thomas of Canterbury soup kitchen.

If you wish to pitch in with weeding and watering the garden throughout the summer, please reach out to Mary Clare Barker at mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org.

We Appreciate You!

God places gifts inside each of us. Most of the time these gifts grow into skills and abilities for serving others. Some of you have chosen to put into practice those skills and abilities here in St. Gertrude. Your willingness to serve has helped make us the kind of dynamic and creative parish in which "all are welcome".

On behalf of the entire parish staff, we want you to know how much we appreciate your consistent presence and participation in our church community, and your degree of engagement in parish life. We are excited to see what the Holy Spirit has in store as we continue ministering the people of God. We hope you are as well, and we look forward to our continued relationship.

Thank you in advance for your continued active engagement in our parish.

With a grateful heart,

~ St. Gertrude Staff



ST. GERTRUDE CHICAGO **RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION WEEKEND**

Saturday, June 25 &
Sunday, June 26

Please join us on Saturday, June 25 and Sunday, June 26, when we will recognize all those doing ministry in our parish with a special blessing during Masses and hospitality afterwards in the back of church.



Catechists Needed to Teach Religious Education Next School Year

We are looking for catechists to teach in our parish's Religious Ed program this Fall! Catechists are usually not professional teachers, just willing parents and parishioners who enjoy kids and want to help them grow in a personal relationship with God, participate in the sacraments, and develop a mature conscience, and integrate faith in all areas of their lives.

Please consider offering your time and talents to help our young people learn about and grow in their faith. If you have any questions, please reach

out to Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate, Religious Education and Youth Ministry, at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org or call 773.764.3621.

Amate House Accepting Applications

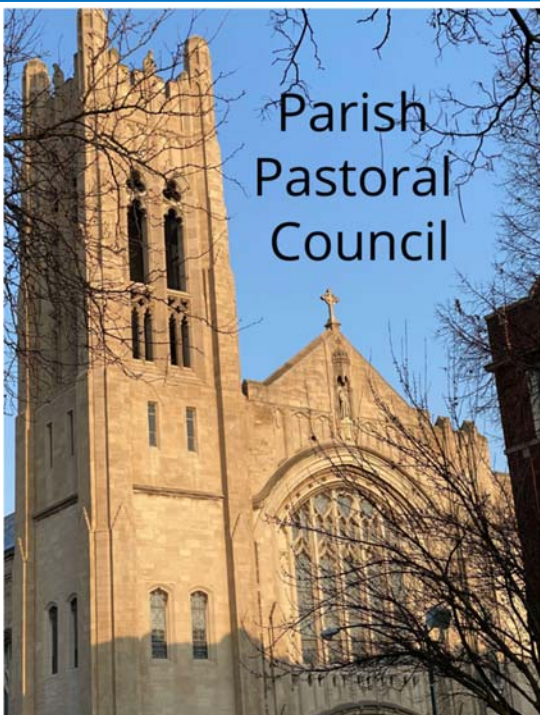
Amate House is a year-long social justice leadership development program for college-educated adults between the ages of 21-29.

Based on their professional interests, Amate House matches young adult leaders with full time volunteer

positions in non-profit organizations, schools, and ministries in Chicago's most under-resourced communities. These young people live together in an Amate House residence and receive faith formation based on Catholic Social Teaching and intensive leadership development programming.

Amate House's mission is to develop young adult leaders into life-long social justice advocates who serve their communities while deepening their faith. Ultimately, the program aspires to build a more just and loving society through leadership development for the Church and the world.

Applications for the program year beginning in July are being accepted now. For more information, please contact Amate House at volunteer@amatehouse.org or visit <https://amatehouse.org>.



What is the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)?

The PPC is a unique, collaborative body made up of faith-filled men and women who try to lead the parish into becoming what a community of baptized people is supposed to be. They work with the pastor in determining the matters that affect the life of the faith community.

Who is on the PPC?

- Michelle Nickerson, Co-Chair
- Bob Backis, Co-Chair
- Jen Reyes, Secretary
- Fr. Rich Prendergast
- Ellen Buttitta
- Denise Goodman
- Timothy Lacy
- Tim Love
- Meghan Toomey
- Sean Williams

All meetings are OPEN to parishioners and are held in the Ministry Center. Our next meeting is on Thursday, June 23. Please join us.

If you would like to discuss anything with the PPC, please email us at stgertrudeparishcouncil@gmail.com.



Congratulations to the NCA Class of 2022!

Congratulations to all our NCA students who graduated on Thursday, June 2. We wish them the very best as they move on to high school!

Thank You for Joining Us on May 29 at our Prayer Vigil

Thank you to those 25 parishioners and neighbors that joined us on Sunday, May 29 for a prayer vigil after last week's school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

We are so grateful to those that came together to unite our voices in prayer for an end to violence of every kind and for peace in our hearts, homes, schools, workplaces, communities, churches, cities, nation, and world. We are also thankful to those that were not able to come, but paused to lift up their prayers in solidarity with those gathered.



YOUTH GROUP COOKOUT



**SUNDAY, JULY 10
AFTER THE 10:30 AM MASS IN
THE BACK OF THE RECTORY**

Save the Date! Youth Group Cookout Planned for Summer

Join the St. Gertrude Youth Group for food, friends, fun, and faith! Teens in 7th grade and older are invited to the parish youth group cookout, planned for Sunday, July 10 after the 10:30 am Mass in the back of the Rectory.

For more information, contact Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.

Priests' Health and Retirement Second Collection June 11-12

The Priests' Health and Retirement/PRMAA annual second collection will be June 11 and 12. This collection benefits the healthcare, wellness, and retirement for the priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Your generosity to this special collection directly impacts the 450 active and 254 retired archdiocesan priests who we have come to rely on throughout our lives. These men, who have dedicated themselves to ministry, play a significant role in our personal and spiritual lives, providing counsel and guidance as we deal with life's challenges. They serve our needs as Catholics from the moment we are baptized until we receive last rites before entering eternal life. And just as we have come to rely on the help of our priests, it is now our turn to show our gratitude and lend them some assistance with their needs.

As we're all aware, healthcare and retirement costs continue to rise, so there is an urgent need for your gifts to this fund. Your generosity will not only safeguard the health and well-being of our priests, but also support their ability to continue meaningful work in our parish and in the community.

In addition to the special collection envelopes that you will find in your pews today, you may also take a photo/scan of the QR code on the posters near the exit as you leave church or on the ads in the Chicago Catholic. In addition, gifts may also be made through your will as part of your estate plans.

Thank you for your support of the priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago. May God bless you.

Our annual collection benefitting
**HEALTHCARE, WELLNESS
AND RETIREMENT**
for the priests of the Archdiocese
of Chicago.



Please give today at prmaa.org.
Thank you for your generosity!



To make a gift today, please scan this QR code with your camera app to launch the secure donation page.

Priests' Health and Retirement/PRMAA

1400 South Wolf Road | Building 3, Floor 2 | Hillside, IL 60162 | 708.449.8026 | prmaa.org

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

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, June 4 at 5:00 pm - Steve Monti
- Sunday, June 5 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, June 5 at 10:30 am - Rafael Melendez

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, June 4 at 5:00 pm - Kathleen Dawson
- Sunday, June 5 at 8:00 am - Rob Sierzega
- Sunday, June 5 at 10:30 am - Bob Backis, Troy McMillian, Carlos Barragan

Cantors and Musicians:

- Saturday, June 4 at 5:00 pm - Siobhan O'Neill Meluso
- Sunday, June 5 at 8:00 am - Jim Manzardo
- Sunday, June 5 at 10:30 am - Michael Callahan, Tona Palomino - trumpet, Fran Guenette- euphonium

Mass Intentions

- Monday, June 6: 7:30 am - Marie Cristol +
- Tuesday, June 7: 7:30 am - David Ingram +
- Wednesday, June 8: 7:30 am - Lillian McCall + *(+ indicates the person is deceased)*
- Thursday, June 9: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, June 10: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- Saturday, June 11: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners; 5:00 pm - Bart McKee +
- Sunday, June 12: 8:00 am - Glenn & Mary Jo Martin +; 10:30 am in Church - Parishioners of St. Gertrude; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Andy Pluta +

Join our Community of Faith: To join St. Gertrude parish, download the registration form at <https://bit.ly/JoinStGerts> and email it to stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org.

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- Pamela Sherrod Anderson
- Helen Banta
- Zara Bradley
- Sharon Brown
- Connie Bueck
- Lilly Buie
- Claire Bushey
- Maggie Callaway
- Aida Calvopina
- KC Conway
- Connie Cool
- Caloy Desembrana
- Ann Collins Dole
- Christine Frisoni
- Shirley Marie Gonzales
- Gina Heidkamp
- Maria Hertl
- Daniel Hidalgo
- Patricia Irwin
- Bernice Kiedysz
- Sheila McGuire
- 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

The office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am-2:30 pm and by appointment. Contact them at 773.973.5464.

Parish Staff

Rev. Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor
Rev. Michael Gabriel, Associate Pastor
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
Andy Mueller, Parish Buildings Engineer
Tracy Shields, Communications
Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management

Visit stgertrudechicago.org for staff emails.