



The **LORD**
is my light and
my salvation.

St. Gertrude Chicago

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Bulletin for Sunday, March 16, 2025

*The Second Sunday
of Lent*

From Fr. Mike Gabriel

As you are reading this, the parish pilgrimage will be walking still towards Rome. Regardless of where we are, we are all working on praying, fasting, and giving alms.

As all of us continue our journey, mostly the journey of our hearts, I like for everyone to see Lent as an opportunity to come home, to find our way back into the loving embrace of God if we have strayed.

This Lent is situated within the jubilee year of hope. We have already learned this jubilee year is a time to forgive debts, to restore broken relationships, to return to the Lord, all of which are part of the Lenten disciplines. These themes should be applied individually to our lives and collectively to our society.

The church gives us the gift of Lent to focus and look within our hearts and discern how God might be calling us to pattern our lives more and more after Jesus. It is a personal decision, and each person's response is equally important.

It is a good time to realize that all around the world, the Church helps us with this journey home seeking hope to be fulfilled.

~ Fr. Mike



The Season of Lent at St. Gertrude

Lenten Events & Activities



Almoners Lenten Ministry—Sundays

Our parish's Almoners' Program will be held again. Each weekend, a second collection will be taken, with funds used to distribute McDonald's cards to those who are in need.

At the end of each Mass, those wishing to participate in distributing cards to the needy will be invited to come forward, receive the cards, and be given a blessing as they go out in this charitable outreach.

Lenten Simple Suppers & Scripture Study—Wednesdays

Simple Supper and Bible Study are returning for Lent on Wednesdays. Beginning March 12, parishioners are invited to meet in the Ministry Center, 6214 N.

Glenwood Ave., at 6:00 pm for dinner, followed by bible study at 7:00 pm. Each week, a different parish group will host the event.

The schedule is:

- March 19: Northside Catholic Academy (NCA)
- March 26: Men's Basketball
- April 2: Music Ministry
- April 9: Commonwealth Dialogue
- April 16: Porch Prayer Group

Stations of the Cross—Fridays at 3:00 pm and 6:30 pm

Each Friday at 3:00 pm during Lent, we will offer a traditional Way of the Cross.

Another Stations of the Cross will be held at 6:30 pm on Fridays after our Lenten Meditation: *Music, Stillness and Solidarity*. These Stations of the Cross will have a social justice theme:

- March 14 - Walk the Stations about social justice
- March 21 - Walk the Stations with the LGBTQ community
- March 28 - Walk the Stations about social justice
- April 4 - Walk the Stations through the eyes of Mary

Lenten Season Mediation Series: *Music, Stillness, Solidarity*—Fridays from 6:00-6:30 pm

We live in incredibly troubled times. Injustice after injustice and a stream of never ending tragedies show through social media algorithms designed to distract us. It is difficult to digest it all, let alone find a moment of stillness to reflect and potentially act on it.

You are invited to a new series titled *Music, Stillness, Solidarity* every Friday night until April 11. From 6:00-6:30 pm, St. Gertrude's will be open as a safe space where ALL are welcome to come, sit, pray, and meditate as we navigate these realities as a community.

Contemplative music will be played through the duration of the time to help guide and promote reflection on the day.

The Season of Lent (continued)

Daily Mass

- Daily Mass: 7:30 am - Monday-Saturday
- Sunday Mass: 8:00 am, 10:30 am Church, 10:30 am Gym Mass; 5:00 pm - Saturday (Sunday Vigil)

Sacrament of Reconciliation Opportunities— Saturdays and Monday, April 14

Every Saturday from 4:00-4:45 pm, private confession is available. There is a communal confession for all the parishes in our deanery (Deanery 2B) on Monday, April 14 (the Monday of Holy Week) at 7:00 pm at the St. Ita campus of Mother of God Parish.

Little Black Books

A limited number of *Little Black Books of Lenten Reflections* have been kindly donated by a parishioner. These small books offer daily six-minute meditations on the Passion.



Events & Activities at St. Gertrude

listed in chronological order (*Activities & events at NCA, other parishes, and in Edgewater are listed after parish events, reflections, and news*)

Confirmation is Tuesday!



Confirmation Rehearsal is This Sunday and the Sacrament of Confirmation is Tuesday, March 18!

The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place next week. We ask that families of these students please note these important dates:

- **Sunday, March 16** - After the 10:30 am Mass in Church, there is a rehearsal for Confirmation.
- **Tuesday, March 18** - The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place at 7:00 pm in Church. Confirmation candidates are expected to attend a

meeting with Bishop Bartosic at 6:30 pm in the Ministry Center.

- **Thursday, May 1** - There is a second Confirmation Retreat planned in the Ministry Center from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

Questions? Contact Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.

Please keep these students in your prayers as they prepare for this sacrament.

Top Needs



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Care for Real
FOOD • CLOTHING • SUPPORT

- **Hot hands and toe warmers**
- **Gently used coats and jackets (all sizes)**
- **New socks and underwear**
- **Baby diapers (sizes 4 to 6)**
- **Shampoo**
- **Hand soap**
- **Adult Incontinence briefs (Large sizes)**

Drop off between 12-3pm Monday-Saturday at the rear entrance of 5339 N Sheridan Rd or shop to donate via our Amazon, Target, and Chewy Wish Lists!

Care for Real Collection is March 22-23

Our next collection drive for Care for Real is March 22-23.

Care for Real is urgently seeking donations of hand and toe warmers, gently used coats (all sizes), new socks and underwear, diapers in sizes 4-6, shampoo, hand soap, and adult incontinence briefs.

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.

Next "Brewed at St. Gertrude" Gathering Planned for Sunday, March 23

Please join us next Sunday, March 23rd for a parish hospitality event, "Brewed at St. Gertrude!" Following the 10:30 am church and gym masses, come to the Social Hall for pastries, coffee, tea, and hot cocoa.

All are welcome: new and long-time parishioners, families, and visitors! We would love for the entire parish to be there!



Youth Mission Experience

Parish teens are invited to take part in St. Gert's Youth Mission experience this summer from June 23-27. Teens in seventh grade through high school will volunteer with a different Chicago organization each day.

This is an excellent opportunity to have fun and earn volunteer hours! There is a \$100 fee for the week. A \$50 deposit is required at the time of registration. Participants will receive a t-shirt, water bottle, and a sports drawstring backpack.

To reserve a spot or for more information, email eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.



The Parish Pastoral Council is Looking for New Members!

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is renewing its search for new members. If you are interested in learning more about the PPC or are interested in joining, please complete an interest form at <https://bit.ly/JointhePPC>.

Questions or comments for the PPC can be sent to stgertrudeparishcouncil@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed

The pastoral staff has been taking on increasing responsibilities, and they have been doing an excellent job. However, they cannot carry this weight alone—they need your help.

We need more volunteers to sustain the programs and ministries we currently offer and to continue moving forward.

Here are a few immediate areas where your assistance is needed:

- **Baptismal Preparation:** We offer a monthly class for families having their babies baptized for the first time.
- **Live Streaming:** The 10:30 am Mass is livestreamed to bring the liturgy into the homes of those who cannot attend in person.
- **Choir:** The choir is looking for singers and musicians. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. All voices are welcome.
- **Heart to Heart Ministry:** This outreach program offers aid and support to older adults in need.
- **Church Environment:/Decoration:** As we approach Easter, there is need for help making the church look beautiful.



If you have any interest in any of these ministries, please reach out to Fr. Mike Gabriel at mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org.

Growing in Faith: Transfigurations

As we reflect on the Transfiguration today, I share a humble experience of spiritual transfiguration.

For most of my life I have struggled with the prayer, thy will be done. I have benevolently wrestled with God asking "What about my hopes and desires and plans for my life?" How do I reconcile this dichotomy?

Not long ago, I had a moment of epiphany/spiritual transfiguration which brought me closer to an acceptance of thy will be done. As a bit of background info, I was born and raised on a family farm, so I've been a nature-child since the start. The natural world has always been my most clean and transparent window to the divine: Orion in the winter sky, the smell of fresh hay, watching angry storms approach over the western cornfield, the smell and blaze of campfires.

One winter night, while shivering and admiring the constellation Orion, I unexpectedly said out loud, "Yes." At that moment, I realized it was to the God of Orion, the life force and intelligence that created this infinitely beautiful and complex universe that I could say a confident YES. I accepted the profound paradox that this incomprehensible God lives within us. God of creation is our truest and deepest self, so therefore when we find God, we find ourselves

In John 14:20 Jesus affirms "...you are in me, and I am in you." To you, loving God of Orion, who knows me better than I know myself (Psalm 139), thy will be done.

May we have spiritual transfigurations this Lent so we can then transfigure our world.

~ Beth Nelson



Rest in Peace

- Bob Radycki, friend of Carleen Lorys

New Parishioners

- Cassandra Grafstrom and Michael Waters

Financial Report from March 8-9

Sunday Collection Envelopes: \$2,005.00
Loose Checks: \$575.00
Loose Cash/Coins: \$651.55
Online Donations: \$8,403.83
Total Collected: \$11,635.38

Budgeted: \$10,000.00
Difference: \$1,635.38
Year-to-date Collected FY 2025: \$384,478.62
Year-to-date Budgeted FY 2025: \$550,000.00
Difference: - \$165,521.38
Almoner's Collection: \$1,103.00

Parish Information

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

Ministers of the Word

- Saturday, March 15 at 5:00 pm - Art Lyons, Millie Slane
- Sunday, March 16 at 8:00 am - Kathryn Stimac
- Sunday, March 16 at 10:30 am - Sarah Millar, Liam Benham

Eucharistic Ministers

- Saturday, March 15 at 5:00 pm - Kathy Wall
- Sunday, March 15 at 8:00 am - Josephine Delgado
- Sunday, March 16 at 10:30 am - Rafael Melendez, Patrick Robinson, Troy McMillan

Altar Servers

- Saturday, March 15 at 5:00 pm - cross bearer: Esteban Campuzano
- Sunday, March 16 at 10:30 am - cross bearer: Diarmuid McKeown; acolytes: Adaobi Okoli, Angel Garcia

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| • Mary Amelse | • Luke Fitzgerald | • Bill Salek |
| • Victor Ayes | • Adolf Gabriel | • Willy Spalla |
| • Andrea Banicki | • Marie Galoney | • Floret Spalle |
| • Carlos Barragan | • Thomas Hajduch | • Frannie Swaine |
| • Patrick Barton | • Tricia Hernandez | • Christopher Thomas |
| • Zara Bradley | • Maria Hertl | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Lilly Buie | • John Kahoun | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • Hallie Burhoe | • Marilyn Klein | • Tayana Wallace |
| • Aida Calvopina | • Joseph Lambin | • King Wallace |
| • Terrence Carmichael | • River Malik | • Christian Wallace |
| • Cavicke Family | • Matilde Manzardo | • Kevin Walsh+ |
| • Denise DeBelle | • Nancy Michael | • Leon Ward |
| • David Denegas | • Steve Monti | • Ron Whitfield |
| • Ann Collins Dole | • Hilda Mora | • Janice Wittenberg |
| • Darlene Durso-Clark+ | • Donald Nydereck | • Dawn Wyman |
| • Renee Elhoumaidi | • Dealina Peon | • Yyes Yoza |
| • Mr. and Mrs. Emin | • Claude Poulsen | • Joel Pozzi Zio |
| Euman | • Joan Ross + | |

Contact the Rectory office at 773.764.3621 or email stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org if you would like to add a name to the prayer list.

Contact the Parish Pastoral Council

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

Upcoming Mass Intentions

- Monday, March 17: 7:30 am - Cheryl Veccie+
- Tuesday, March 18: 7:30 am - John+ & Lillian McCall+; 7:00 pm - Confirmation
- Wednesday, March 19: 7:30 am - People of God
- Thursday, March 20: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, March 21: 7:30 am - Peggy Sue Riodan+
- Saturday, March 22: 7:30 am - Ezaristo Centeno+; 5:00 pm - Fr. James Stoeger+
- Sunday, March 23: 8:00 am - Abigail Phillips+; 10:30 am - Mark Schreiner+; 10:30 am - deceased of the Shields family+

Mass Times/Reconciliation/Rector Office Hours

- Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:30 am in Church, 10:30 am Gym Mass; Monday-Friday: 7:30 am (Thursday is a Communion Service.); Saturday: 7:30 am & 5:00 pm.
- Reconciliation is offered on Saturday 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

- 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

Parish Staff and Contact Info

Rev. Michael Gabriel, Pastor—mgabriel@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, Office Manager—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, upcoming events, bulletins, rectory hours, funeral announcements, visit stgertrudechicago.org.