



Solemnity of the
Ascension of
Our Lord
May 29, 2022

St. Gertrude Chicago

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From Fr. Rich

Today's Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord is, in many respects, similar to the many graduation ceremonies that take part at this time of the year. We often call graduation exercises, "Commencement Ceremonies",

which seems like an odd name to call something that is celebrating an ending.

But the wisdom of that description is that this is only a waystation. And as soon as these ceremonies are concluded, something new and different is set to begin. Depending on the level of education, it may simply be a new level. But if this is where someone's formal education is finishing up, it usually means leaving the academic world to begin your career.

Those same dynamics are happening on this feast day. Jesus is commending the disciples for their faithfulness to Him and to the Gospel, and he is affirming their status as witnesses. This is all He needs to confidently send them out to spread the Gospel he has proclaimed. And with that spoken affirmation, he blesses them and then returns to heaven, leaving them to carry on the work for which he has prepared them. All they are lacking is the coming gift of the Holy Spirit which is next week's Feast.

NCA Graduation

We congratulate all those who are graduating this year! And we wish them well in whatever their next step is. May God continue to bless them in all their endeavors.

Parish Staff Updates

In two weeks, we will be saying thank you and congratulations to two members of our Parish Pastoral Staff as they retire from active ministry. Our pastoral associate, Kevin Cheers, and Jane Callahan-Moore, our Heart to Heart director, are both wrapping up their time here and set to explore many other possibilities in retirement.

Jane will retire next month. For the past three years, she has worked with our Ministers of Care, coordinated visits to all our sick and elderly parishioners, provided workshops to assist our seniors in planning for their wills and health care decisions, and worked with Laurie Hasbrook, the coordinator of the Medical Lending Closet. We wish Jane all the best as she moves into this next phase of her life!

Please join us the weekend of June 11-12 when they say their farewells at the end of each of the weekend Masses and join us for hospitality afterwards in the back of the church to wish them both good things.

From Fr. Rich (*cont.*)

Memorial Day Weekend

This holiday weekend, we remember all those men and women who have served our nation in the Armed Forces. In a special way, we remember all those who given their lives in defense of our nation's freedom. Please keep them and all their families in your prayers. Mass on Monday, Memorial Day, is at 7:30 am. The Rectory office will be closed.

NCA Graduation - Thursday - 6:00 pm Holy Child Jesus (St. Margaret Mary)

Congratulations to all our NCA graduates who will be together for their Graduation Mass and Ceremonies this Thursday, June 2nd at 6:00 pm at St. Margaret Mary/Holy Child Jesus church. Everyone is welcome to join them in this wonderful celebration as they complete their grammar school education.

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>.

Ascension This Weekend -- Now Always on the Weekend

If you grew up knowing the Ascension Holy Day was always Ascension Thursday, that is no longer the case! The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord has permanently moved from Thursday to the following weekend.

Care for our Common Home

In a recent study, nine out of ten people said they would recycle if it were "easier." We all want to do our part to help the earth, but sometimes we feel we just don't know how. Visit <https://bit.ly/5RecyclingTips> for five simple tips to become a "recycling regular."

Construction Update

You may have noticed ALL the scaffolding that has been up for years for the masonry work on the Ministry Center is now taken down and gone back to where it came from! This long project has been completed. Thank you for your patience these many years.



Peace & Justice Ministry: Pentecost Sign-Up Event Next Weekend

On Saturday, June 4th and Sunday, June 5th, we will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. It is also a reminder that when we receive the Holy Spirit, we see things differently.

As the disciples huddled together, they were unsure of their future. They knew tragedy, pain, and sorrow. They also knew hope when, miraculously, Jesus returned, only to leave them once more while promising to send the Holy Spirit among them. Doubt and confusion threatened to break their will and their sense of solidarity.

What shock they felt, when the Spirit was upon them—especially as it came not with a gentle rustle or in a soft hush, but as a “rush of a violent wind” and on “tongues, as of fire” (Acts 2:2–3). In this moment, their group became a church, and their doubt turned to resolve. That Spirit charged each disciple with specific missions.

The Peace and Justice Ministry is offering opportunities for those charged by the Holy Spirit to put their faith into action. In the back of the Church on Pentecost weekend, we will host five organizations who have connections to this parish and will be offering opportunities to put our faith into action. The groups include Ignatian Spirituality Project, Midwest Workers Association, United Power for Action and Justice, Kolbe House, and Refugee and Immigrant Ministry. Information about each organization is in the bulletin.

~ Fr. Mike Gabriel



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.





Join Midwest Workers Association to End Poverty & Build a Sustainable Future!

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/>.

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>.



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 gfpierce@aol.com or Kate Hibbs Davis at kate.hibbs.davis@gmail.com.

United Power
FOR ACTION AND JUSTICE



Office Hours Change/ Rectory Closed on Memorial Day

The Rectory office will temporarily close at 4:30 pm on weekdays. Weekend office hours may be limited.

We apologize for the inconvenience.

The Rectory office will be closed on

Memorial Day. Mass that morning will be held at 7:30 am.

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 call the Rectory at 773.764.3621 with any questions.

St. Gertrude 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, 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.

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.

Additional youth group gatherings have been planned for August 20, September 11, October 15, November 6, and December 10.

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



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.

Online Families Anonymous Meetings—Tuesdays at 6:00 pm via Zoom: Families Anonymous (FA) is a free 12-step program designed to help and heal family and friends of those suffering from substance abuse and other addictive behavioral issues. The Chicago Near North meetings are held on Tuesdays via Zoom and start promptly at 6:00 pm. Meetings last one hour, but some of the group stays on for a while after the meeting to socialize and to answer any questions from visitors or newcomers. Interested participants can join here:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81634932105?pwd=MHIUY2YyN2NReUMzRDhBaEVkMXhDZz09>
- Meeting ID: 816 3493 2105, Passcode: 705592
- Call in at +13126266799



Pictured: The new composter and last summer's garden.

St. Gertrude Garden Planting Day is Saturday, June 4

Work on the parish garden started this Saturday, with a small group of volunteers doing prep work including weeding, tilling the soil, adding fences, and planting Easter lilies from our Easter Sunday services.

Next Saturday, June 4, is our planting day! I am looking for a few volunteers to plant lots of vegetables and herbs from 9:00-11:00 am. Please bring your garden trowels, shovels, and knee pads if you have them and gather in front of the Rectory.

The vegetables and herbs grown from our garden will once again be shared with both Care for Real and the St. Thomas of

Canterbury soup kitchen!

If you are interested in helping on our planting day or wish to pitch in with weeding and watering the garden throughout the summer, please reach out to me at mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org.

April Lending Closet Report

April Showers bring... lifted spirits!

For Miss B's UIC-Hospital physical therapist referred her to the Heart to Heart Lending Closet for a rollator. Delighted to get a sturdy walker with a seat, Miss B patiently waited in the Ministry Center parlor for her PACE bus ride home to the west side.

As we watched the rain, she mentioned her years working at Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Elderly, including when Cardinal Joseph Bernardin's mother Maria lived there. "I got the call when the Cardinal's mother arrived - the staff wanted me to be there to welcome and care for her!" Miss B reminisced.

Her welcoming demeanor was confirmed not 10 minutes later, when Jacqueline rang the bell, desperate to borrow a Lending Closet wheelchair. Jacqueline's teen son, a varsity CPS high school basketball player in the Chatham neighborhood, had been injured in a game. He needed a wheelchair to attend school for the next six weeks and CPS suggested the Lending Closet. Miss B assured the worried mom that her son would do just fine and promised prayers of healing. As the rains softened and Miss B and Jacqueline each headed home, I imagined Maria Bernardin and her son Joseph smiling down on such chance meetings that lift all our spirits!

~ Laurie Hasbrook, Lending Closet Manager

heart 
to heart

Growing in Faith

Three times in this weekend's reading from the Act of the Apostles, we are reminded that, as Jesus was preparing to ascend into heaven to join the Father, he explained that he was leaving us in the care of the Holy Spirit. "In a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

The Holy Spirit, to my mind, doesn't get enough attention. This third person in the Trinity is also called the Paraclete, which is a Greek word for helper or advocate.

The Spirit is often portrayed in art as a dove. Not as an eagle, a warrior of the air. Not as a meek sparrow. The dove is an emblem of peace. In the Song of Songs, the beloved's eyes are described as doves. Jesus talked about doves when he sent his disciples to spread the gospel: "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be as wary as serpents, and as innocent as doves."

When I think of the Father, I think of the Cosmos, of all Nature from the Big Bang to the flowering sidewalk weed. Jesus, for me, was a guy you could meet if you were heading down the dusty road to Jerusalem. Maybe because I'm a writer, I think of the Holy Spirit as sweet inspiration. Of course, not just inspiring writers and artists, but inspiring every one of us to do the right thing.

The Holy Spirit is also called Comforter. And sometimes the Spirit is called she.

~ Patrick T. Reardon



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

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, May 28 at 5:00 pm - Wes Dingman
- Sunday, May 29 at 8:00 am - Sr. Kathryn Stimac
- Sunday, May 29 at 10:30 am - Steve Modde
- Sunday, May 29 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, May 28 at 5:00 pm - Tim Harrington
- Sunday, May 29 at 8:00 am - Marty McDermott
- Sunday, May 29 at 10:30 am - Bob Backis, Troy McMillian
- Sunday, May 29 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Cantors:

- Saturday, May 28 at 5:00 pm - Mary Clare Barker
- Sunday, May 29 at 8:00 am - Denise Goodman
- Sunday, May 29 at 10:30 am - Jon Blake
- Sunday, May 29 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Mass Intentions

- Monday, May 30: 7:30 am - For all those that have died serving our country
- Tuesday, May 31: 7:30 am - Patrick A. Murphy
- Wednesday, June 1: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society (+ indicates the person is deceased)
- Thursday, June 2: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, June 3: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
- Saturday, June 4: 7:30 am - Thomas O'Malley +; 5:00 pm - Jenny Wyman +
- Sunday, June 5: 8:00 am - Parishioners of St. Gertrude; 10:30 am Combined Mass in Church - Jack Taylor +

Rest in Peace

- Patricia Messbarger
- Ann McKenna Trausch, aunt of Marty McDermott, Class of '57

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Pamela Sherrod Anderson | • Ann Collins Dole | • Karey Myers |
| • Helen Banta | • 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 | • Patricia Irwin | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Maggie Callaway | • Bernice Kiedysz | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • Aida Calvopina | • Sheila McGuire | • Valerie Williams |
| • KC Conway | • Dean Mattoni | • Ken & Vyes Yoza |
| • Connie Cool | • Larry McCauley | |
| • Caloy Desembrana | • 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/allevants

Email esoto@stgertrudechicago.org for additional information.

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.

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.