



St. Gertrude Chicago

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Bulletin for Sunday, November 16, 2025

33rd Sunday of
Ordinary Time

The Latest Parish News

Celebrate the Feast of St. Gertrude at our "Brewed at St. Gertrude" This Sunday,

Join us on this weekend as we celebrate the Feast of St. Gertrude! Like any family gathering, we'll come together to share food, connect with one another, and look with hope toward the future.

After the 10:30 am mass in church, all are invited to our monthly "Brewed at St. Gertrude" hospitality event in the Social Hall, featuring pastries, coffee, tea, and hot cocoa. All are welcome—new and long-time parishioners, families, and visitors!

A Huge Thank You From Heart to Heart

Many thanks to all who attended *Nazareth Revelation*, the parish play benefitting Heart to Heart Ministry on the evening of Saturday, November 8.

Laurie and Sr. Susan – along with all those who receive Heart to Heart services – are so grateful for the effort, time, and generosity of cast and crew, not to mention Mike Tobin, playwright and producer extraordinaire.

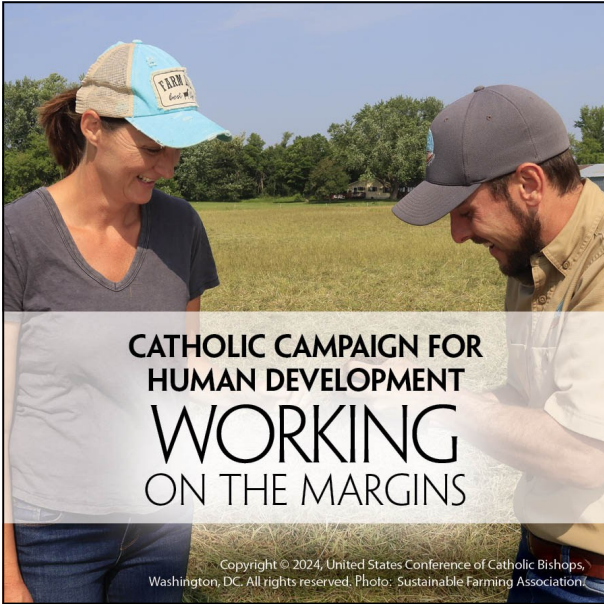
A total of \$5,952 was raised in ticket sales and donations, and most importantly, a good time was had by all.

If you'd like to keep the good feelings going, please think about volunteering as a Heart to Heart driver or "receptionist." Intrigued? Call 872.296.2537 to find out more.

More information about Heart to Heart's Ministry is on page 8!



Parish Events & Activities



Catholic Campaign for Human Development: Working on the Margins - Second Collection November 22-23

The annual Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) collection will take place the weekend before Thanksgiving. For more than 50 years, CCHD has partnered with community organizations to address the root causes of poverty in the United States.

By supporting groups that help people help themselves, CCHD works to break the cycle of poverty—an effort that lies at the very heart of our faith.

Through CCHD grants, community members come together to create jobs, improve neighborhoods, keep schools safe and enriching for children, and raise up future leaders right

Care for Real Collection is November 22 & 23: SNAP Benefits & Food Pantries

Our Care for Real collection drive is November 22 and November 23 before and after masses.

Please note, our food-insecure neighbors, and Care for Real, are in urgent need of support. As of the bulletin's publication date, the Trump Administration has not complied with court orders to provide full funding for November SNAP benefits.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees SNAP, this means that recipients will only receive about 50% of their usual monthly benefits in November, and it may be delayed. While a federal judge has ordered the Trump administration to fully fund the SNAP program for November, an appeal has been filed.

In Illinois alone, this impacts 1.9 million residents and food pantries like Care for Real are now facing an overwhelming surge in demand.

Please visit <https://linktr.ee/cfrchicago> to see what Care for Real is specifically looking for at this time. Thank you for your generosity!



ECRA Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - Sunday, November 23

The Edgewater Community Religious Association (ECRA) is an interfaith association of religious organizations who work toward fostering friendships and understanding of other faiths, nurture a thriving and just neighborhood, and create solutions to local problems.

ECRA hosts an annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service benefiting Care for Real that bring together Catholics, Baptists, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, as well as our friends from the Jewish, Muslim, and Hindu faith.

All are invited to this year's service on Sunday, November 23 at 3:00 pm, hosted this year at St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, located at 5649 N. Sheridan Rd. There will be a reception afterwards with light refreshments.

If you are able, please bring canned goods or a cash donated to share with our local food pantry, Care for Real.



Thanksgiving Weekend Office Closures

The Rectory office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, as well as Friday, November 28. Mass will be held at 10:00 am.

The Heart to Heart office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day too.

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

All are welcome to attend the bilingual weekly Rosary group held on Friday evenings at 7:00 pm in the dining room of the Ministry Center, located at 6214 North Glenwood Avenue.

Recitation of the Holy Rosary after 7:30 am Mass

Additionally, the Rosary is said every Monday through Saturday in the church right after the 7:30 am mass. Please consider joining us in church—we would love to have you!



Order Your Trees, Garland, and Wreaths from St. Gert's Annual Greenery Sale!

St. Gertrude is once again hosting our annual Christmas greenery sale, with a limited number of balsam pine trees, wreaths, and garland available for purchase. Our Christmas greenery sale is a great opportunity for parishioners to get ready for the holidays while supporting St. Gertrude ministries.

Each 6' Christmas tree is \$55. Three different sized wreaths are available—the 18" wreath is \$25, the 24" is \$27, and the 36" is \$35. Garland is also available for \$40 per 5' length.

In-Person Sales

Greenery will also be sold at the playlot on the west side of the Social Hall, 1401 W. Granville Avenue, on November 30, December 7, December 14, and December 21 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Only cash and checks will be accepted for in-person purchases.

Online Orders and Paper Forms

The option to purchase greenery online or via paper forms will be available soon.

Deliveries

Deliveries will be offered for a \$6 fee. They will take place on Sunday, December 7 and Sunday, December 14 from noon - 4:00 pm. The greenery team will do their best to accommodate your preferred delivery date and will reach out to notify you when to expect your order.

Please note, the boundaries for deliveries are north to Oakton, south to Irving Park, and east of the North Shore Channel.

Questions?

Contact St. Gertrude Business Manager Eduardo Soto at esoto@stgertrudechicago.org or call the Rectory at 773.764.3621.

November 8-9 Financial Report

Sunday Collection Envelopes: \$2,039.20
 Loose Checks: \$580.00
 Loose Cash/Coins: \$710.00
 Online Donations: \$12,218.02
Total Collected: \$15,547.22

Budgeted: \$10,000.00
Difference: \$5,547.22
 YTD Collected FY 2026: \$177,087.98
 YTD Budgeted FY 2026: \$550,000.00
Difference: -\$372,912.02

An Ignatian Retreat in Daily Life at St. Gertrude

An "Ignatian Retreat in Daily Life" will begin this coming January and end in June. The retreat follows the basic themes of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, but will take place in the midst of daily life rather than at a retreat center.

Participants commit to praying on themes from Scripture which will be selected for each day of the retreat. Small groups of retreatants will meet once a week to share their prayer experiences and receive guidance on the next week's themes.

The director of the retreat will be Jim Neafsey, a parishioner at St. Gertrude's who has given Ignatian retreats for 50 years.

There will be a basic orientation to the retreat offered in December. Information sessions will last 45 minutes. Information sessions will take place in the Ministry Center on Tuesday, December 2 at 7:00 pm, Sunday, December 7 at 11:30 am (after Mass), and Saturday, December 13 at 9:00 am.

Each session will cover the same content, so you only need to come to one session. They are intended to help clarify what the retreat entails and whether it fits with your desires and pattern of life at this time. If you are interested, but cannot make any of these meetings, please call or text Jim Neafsey at 773.580.5212. This series is sponsored by the Adult Spirituality and Faith Formation Committee.



Advent at St. Gertrude: A Journey in Hope

"The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before. It is not possible to keep it from coming because it will. That's just how Advent works. What is possible is to not see it, to miss it, to turn just as it brushes past you.

So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder. For now, stay. Wait. Something is on the horizon."

— Text © Jan Richardson from *Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas*. janrichardson.com. (used with permission)

As Jan Richardson reminds us, Advent calls us to slow down—to watch, wait, and open ourselves to the mystery that is already unfolding in our midst. It is a season of quiet anticipation and spiritual renewal, inviting us to notice what is coming to birth within us and within our community. (Continued on page 6)

Advent at St. Gertrude (continued)

This Advent, the Adult Spirituality and Formation Committee invites you to join a special three-part series designed to deepen that journey of awareness and hope. Each session offers a unique way to encounter the sacred—through prayer, art, and reflection—as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

All sessions will take place from 7:00–8:30 pm in the Ministry Center Chapel. You are welcome to attend any or all.

- Session One: Wednesday, December 3:
Pondering in Our Hearts: *Lectio Divina and the Virtue of Hope* – with Patricia Sullivan and Karen Spear
- Session Two: Wednesday, December 10: A Pre-Instagram Birth: *The Nativity of Jesus Told Through Art* – with Fr. Sergio Romo
- Session Three: Wednesday, December 17: *Encountering the Mystery of God's Presence Through Sacred Art* – with Jim Neafsey

Please consider being part of this Advent journey. While all are welcome to “drop in,” we ask that you email Mary Ann O'Connor at maryann.oconnor@rcn.com and indicate which session or sessions you will attend.

Come, stay, and wait with us this Advent season. Something beautiful is on the horizon.

Parish Photo Directory: Sign Up to Get Your Family Portrait Taken!

It's time for a new St. Gertrude photo directory!

Photography sessions will take place December 18–20. Every participating household will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a free parish directory.

Appointments can be made after Mass or online at schedule.ucdir.com (Church code: IL 457, Password: photos). Questions? Email Jen Reyes at stgertrudeparishcouncil@gmail.com.



7th & 8th Grade Students: Essay Contest Entries Due December 22: Students in the 7th and 8th grade are invited to take part in our annual essay contest. Participants should write an essay based on this prompt: *What is the impact of Christianity on human rights?* Entries should be 500-550 words. Spelling and grammar count! The top three winners will receive gift cards and have their essays published online and in the bulletin. Entries must be submitted online or postmarked by Monday, December 22, 2025. Email essays (preferred method) to eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org or mail them to Eloy Escamilla, 1420 W. Granville, Chicago, IL 60660.

Who was St. Gertrude?

St. Gertrude the Great, also known as St. Gertrude of Helfta, was born on January 6, 1256, in Germany. At just four years old, she entered the monastery school at Helfta, where she was educated in Scripture, theology, and the writings of the Church. She later joined the Benedictine Order, dedicating her life to study and prayer.

At age 25, Gertrude began receiving visions that deepened her devotion and inspired her to write for the spiritual benefit of others. One of her most well-known visions came when she rested her head near Christ's wounded side and heard the beating of His Sacred Heart—a symbol of divine love for all humanity.

Acknowledged as mystic and theologian, St. Gertrude remains a model of contemplative love, learning, and compassion, inspiring devotion to the Sacred Heart and a deeper love for God.



Growing in Faith

Sometimes, to keep myself from losing it, so to speak, about the times we are living in—the violence, oppression, genocide, injustices, racism, the complete devaluing of the humanity of individual persons and whole communities, the rampant abuse of and disregard for our Holy Mother Earth, without whom none of us would be here—I tell myself: none of this is new.

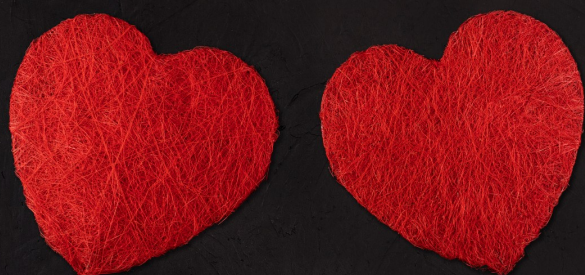
What we are witnessing today has been happening around the world for most of human history. The only difference for us today is that technology makes it possible for us to know about much more of it—if we allow ourselves to know.

How do I—how does anyone—keep from losing it? Well, some do lose it, and that hurts. It cuts us deeply, because when one from our human family breaks, we are all left broken. Some of us, having been broken, find it difficult to put ourselves in harm's way—to speak up against injustice, to advocate for the oppressed, to confront the kings and governors and others who persecute. Or we simply stop believing that real, substantial change is possible—that speaking up and speaking out will actually make any difference at all.

I personally have had to fight that urge—or better, that inertia, that lack of hope and belief in the power of persevering in doing each day what is good, right, compassionate, kind, and honest—essentially, in giving testimony to how Jesus asks us to live, wherever and with whomever we are. Keep on walking forward.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Heart to Heart



Spotlight on St. Gertrude's Heart to Heart Ministry

Heart to Heart is a ministry of St. Gertrude that serves a critical and growing need in our community. As our population ages, more seniors are seeking the support necessary to remain safe, independent, and connected in their homes. Heart to Heart meets this need by assisting some of Edgewater's most vulnerable residents—our senior citizens.

Led by Director Sr. Susan Quaintance, OSB, and Lending Closet Manager Laurie Hasbrook, the ministry helps older adults who need minimal assistance by completing assessments and connecting them with community services and

agencies that provide financial, medical, and home care support.

Equally important as meeting practical needs is the human connection Heart to Heart provides. This ministry embodies faith in action—offering compassion through a listening ear, a kind word, or a helping hand.

Heart to Heart also operates a Medical Lending Closet, which has become an invaluable resource across Chicagoland. With demand higher than ever, the Lending Closet provides essential medical equipment—such as walkers, wheelchairs, and shower chairs—free of charge to those in need.

You can support Heart to Heart by volunteering or making a donation in church, at the Rectory, or online at givecentral.org/location/8/event/606. Checks may be made payable to St. Gertrude Parish with *Heart to Heart* in the memo line.

Thank you for helping us care for our neighbors with love, dignity, and faith.

Help Needed on our Sandwich Making Team

Our St. Gertrude Sandwich-Making Team is looking for an additional member to help prepare 35 bag lunches for our neighborhood Epworth Homeless Shelter. The group meets on the third Tuesday of each month, October through May, at 10:00 am in the Ministry Center.

Each group member purchases one item—bread, cheese, lunch meat, fruit, or chips—and brings it to the meeting, where the lunches are assembled. The item you are responsible for rotates monthly. Each session takes less than an hour.

If you are interested in helping on a regular basis, please contact Cecie Murphy at 773.338.3165 (h) or cmurphy@luc.edu.



A NOTE ABOUT ANNOUNCEMENTS



St. Gertrude Announcements

We've recently received a few questions about how information about parish events, updates, and neighborhood or Archdiocesan activities is shared. Here's a quick overview:

Bulletins and Daily Reflections/Event Updates E-Blasts

Almost all of our information is gathered from our bulletins. Information should be sent to stgerbulletin@yahoo.com, arriving about 10 days before the Sunday you'd like your announcement to appear. Early submissions are appreciated, as bulletin size can vary week to week, and both a print and e-bulletin are produced.

For parishioners who have signed up for our daily reflections, we list upcoming parish events and activities right after the prayers.

Announcements at Mass

We typically limit in-church announcements to three upcoming events, giving priority to parish-run activities happening over the next week. These are kept brief, as details such as times and locations can be found in the bulletin.

Social Media

We've been more active on social media, posting about everything on the bulletin and sharing some of our partners' posts too. Please consider following us on Instagram ([@stgertrudeinchicago](https://www.instagram.com/stgertrudeinchicago)) or Facebook ([@stgertrudechicago](https://www.facebook.com/stgertrudechicago)).

Events Around the Archdiocese

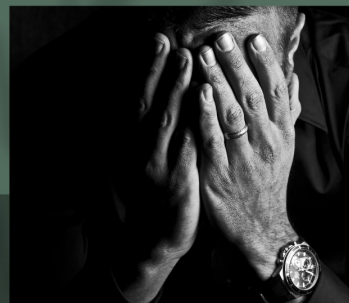
Living with Grief Workshop on Saturday November 22

How do you anticipate and want to move through winter and the holidays in a way that honors both your grieving and your loved one?

Join others who are also grieving the death of their loved one in a safe, understanding, non-judgmental space. Connect and share stories, explore ways of living with and without your loved one, and find ways to honor them.

An in-person grief workshop is being offered by parishioner Jim Mandardo, Board Certified Hospital Chaplain and licensed professional counselor (LPC). The program is Saturday, November 22 from 9:00 am to 10:30 am at the Center for Grief Recovery and Therapeutic Services, 1261 W. Loyola Ave. The cost is \$25 and is limited to 20 participants. Please RSVP to Jim Manzardo at 773.274.4600 or j.manzardo@griefcounselor.org.

LIVING WITH GRIEF WORKSHOP



Grieving and
Honoring Your
Loved One
Amidst
Holidays and
Celebrations

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER
22

Led by St. Gertrude parishioner
Jim Manzardo, Board Certified Hospital
Chaplain and Licensed Professional Counselor

NCA Events

Playdates at NCA Every Monday and Friday Through December 19

Even Bring your little ones (ages 0-5) and join us for fun-filled playdate! Held at Northside Catholic Academy, 6216 N. Glenwood, on Monday and Friday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 am. The hour is filled with a story, craft, and sing-a-long for kids, plus a chance to meet neighborhood families, and learn more about NCA.

Please scan the QR code to RSVP! Dates are:

Mondays

- November 17
- December 1
- December 8
- December 15

Fridays

- November 21
- December 5
- December 12
- December 19



A poster for NCA's Open House. It features the school's logo at the top left, which includes a cross and the text "NORTHSIDE CATHOLIC ACADEMY". Below the logo is the tagline "We educate minds that think, hearts that love, and hands that serve". The main text reads "NORTHSIDE CATHOLIC ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE". There is a photo of a group of children and another photo of children sitting on the floor. The date "Tuesday, November 18" and time "9:30 AM - 11:00 AM" are listed. At the bottom left is a QR code with the text "SCAN to RSVP or visit our website to learn more".

NCA Open House on Tuesday, November 18

Are you looking for a quality education for your pre-school, kindergarten, elementary, or middle school student? We're accepting in all grades!

Join us for our next Open House on Tuesday, November 18 at 9:30 am and see what makes Northside Catholic Academy such a special place for students and their families.

Please RSVP to the event or check out other scheduled open houses by visiting northsidecatholic.org.

Tag Us on Social Media! Attending any of our social events? Tag us on Instagram ([@stgertrudeinchicago](https://www.instagram.com/stgertrudeinchicago)) or Facebook ([@stgertrudechicago](https://www.facebook.com/stgertrudechicago)) so we see your great posts!

Parish Information

Upcoming Mass Intentions

- Monday, November 17: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Tuesday, November 18: 7:30 am - The Carrillo family
- Wednesday, November 19: 7:30 am - Michael J. Cronin+
- Thursday, November 20: 7:30 am - Nancy Quinn Jaskowiak+
- Friday, November 21: 7:30 am - Nathan, Joseph+, Libby+, Noreen Waters+
- Saturday, November 22: 7:30 am - Phyllis Raine+; 5:00 pm - Alanna McKee+
- Sunday, November 23: 8:00 am - Isabelle and Michael Laczkowski+; 10:30 am - Grace V. Carera+; 10:30 am Gym - Jake Wons+

Mass Times/Reconciliation/Rectory Office Hours

- Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 am Mass in Church, 10:30 am Gym Mass; Monday-Friday: 7:30 am (Monday is a Communion service); Saturday: 7:30 am & 5:00 pm.
- 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 office is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 am-4:30 pm and is closed on weekends. **The office will be closed on Thanksgiving and on Friday, November 28.**

Donate to our Parish

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

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

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/Lending Closet 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.

Rest in Peace

- Michael J. Cronin, CPD

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

Ministers of the Word

- Saturday, November 15 at 5:00 pm - Art Lyons, Martin Waide
- Sunday, November 16 at 8:00 am - Jennifer Kiedaisch, Mary Clare Barker
- Sunday, November 16 at 10:30 am - Eric Ameyaw, Edie Sheridan

Eucharistic Ministers

- Saturday, November 15 at 5:00 pm - Tim Harrington
- Sunday, November 16 at 8:00 am - Rob Sierzega
- Sunday, November 16 at 10:30 am - Sarah Millar, Michael Kowalsky, Steven Monti

Altar Servers

- Saturday, November 15 at 5:00 pm - cross bearer: Carter Dant; acolyte: Wyatt Dant, Bradley Phelps
- Sunday, November 16 at 10:30 am - cross bearer: Jayson Ameyaw; acolytes: Ethan Craft, Owen Craft

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

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

Contact the Parish Pastoral Council

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