



St. Gertrude Chicago

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www.stgertrudechicago.org

Bulletin for **Sunday, November 24, 2024**

*The Solemnity of Our Lord
Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*

From Fr. Mike Gabriel

Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, and enter the last week of the liturgical year before we begin the season of Advent.

This is a time to sharpen our focus on who really is the King of our lives and to make sure our lives reflect that belief in every way. It is also a time to continue giving thanks and using the gifts God has blessed us with for the good of others, especially those less fortunate, and for continuing to find ways to do our part to help the Church grow stronger and more vibrant.

I realize that Thanksgiving is four days away, but I thought I would offer you a few things to focus on this Thanksgiving before the days get clouded by the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and pumpkin pie. As we prepare for Thanksgiving, I believe it's a beautiful time to reflect on the countless blessings God has given us. It is, however, easy to overlook the gifts that surround us because of the busyness of the day. I invite you to join me in pausing for a moment to appreciate five things we should be thankful for, today and always.

The gift of our faith: Our faith is a light that guides us through life's trials and joys. It gives us purpose, hope, and strength to face the issues that come our way. Through prayer, our gathering around the altar of God to celebrate the Eucharist, and our St. Gertrude's parish community, we're reminded that we are never alone. As we reflect upon the gift of our faith, we cannot forget our Indigenous brothers and sisters who were the first to inhabit this land as well as all the men and women who have served our country in order that we can worship in freedom.

The support of family and friends: Our family and friends are a treasured gift from God, providing us with love, understanding, and honesty even when we don't want or need it. They stand by us in times of both celebration and sorrow. Cherish the people in your life who walk beside you on your journey of faith.

The beauty of creation: Each day, we're blessed with the wonders of nature, from a sunrise to a gentle breeze, from the falling leaves to the flowers that will bud in the spring. In this beauty, we see God's presence and creativity. May we be thankful for the earth and take every step we can to care for it.

Fr. Mike Gabriel (continued)

The strength of our parish community: St. Gertrude's has stood here in the heart of Edgewater for more than 112 years now. We come together to share at the altar of God, to grow in faith, to serve the needs of the hungry, and to be a voice against injustice in the world. In moments of both joy and hardship, this community serves to strengthen and encourage us so that we can "embrace our call to love, to serve, and to build a just world."

Lastly, **the blessing of new opportunities:** Every day is a new beginning, filled with possibilities to learn, grow and deepen our relationship with God. Let us be grateful for the challenges that help us become stronger and the opportunities that allow us to make a difference in building God's kingdom. As we reflect on these blessings, I urge you to remember to offer your gratitude in prayer and live each day with a spirit of thanksgiving for someone or something. I encourage you to do everything possible to join us for Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9:00 am.

I invite you to fill out the form below or in baskets in the back of church, so that we can present them at mass on Thanksgiving Day. I like to encourage family and friends to share this special meal and to give thanks to God for so many blessings. There is no better way to offer thanks on this special day than to gather at the table of the Lord at 9:00 am to celebrate the Eucharist. As I am sure you are aware, the word *eucharist* means *thanksgiving*. We are so blessed in so many ways, and eucharist is our very best way of offering our thanks to God. As you make your Thanksgiving Day plans, prepare to "come to the table of plenty," and make this a wonderful and meaningful Thanksgiving celebration.



I am thankful for:

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St. Gertrude's Giving Tree Program

The Giving Tree will start next weekend. Share in the spirit of giving to others this Christmas season. Once again, we will be asking for gifts cards, to places like McDonalds, Dunkin Donuts, Aldi, and Jewel. More info is on page 11.



ECRA Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - Sunday, Nov. 24

The Edgewater Community Religious Association (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 24 from 2:00-4:00 pm, hosted this year at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster Ave.

A reception will follow the service.

Weekly Caregiver-Toddler Playdates at NCA

Looking after your child/children or caring for a little one? You're invited to our weekly get-together for caregivers and toddlers! Held at Northside Catholic Academy, 6216 N. Glenwood, every Monday morning from 9:30-10:30 am, the hour is filled with a story, craft, and sing-a-long for kids, and adult interactions for the grown-ups.

RSVP to gmafatti@ncaschools.com.



Care for Real Drive is This Weekend/Next Collection is December 7 & 8

St. Gertrude has its monthly food drive this weekend!

Missed it? Donations can be dropped off between 12:00-3:00 pm every Monday-Saturday at the back entrance of 5339 N. Sheridan.

Our monthly collection for asylum seekers is December 7 and 8. Please place nonperishable items in the bins at the back of church. Items will be donated to Care for Real who is working hard to help these newly-arrived neighbors.



Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving Day Mass is at 9:00 am

We hope Thanksgiving Day is a wonderful one for you and your loved ones.

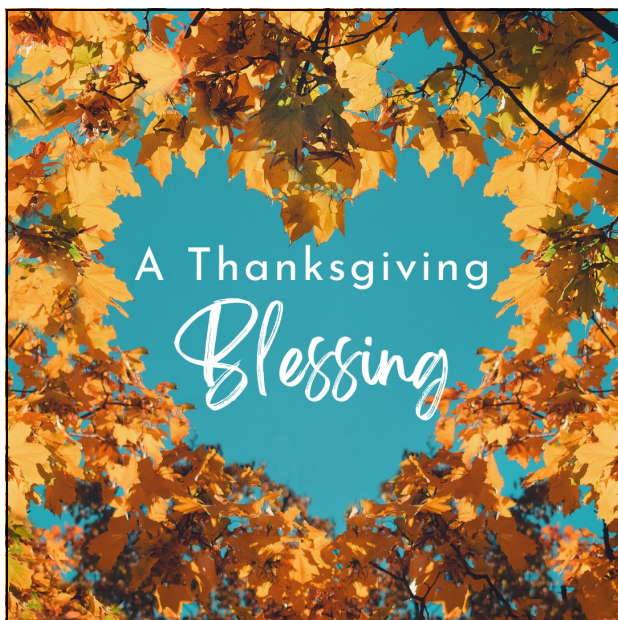
We are so grateful for our wonderful parishioners and neighbors who make our neighborhood and city a better place. And we thank those that are able to volunteer their time at St. Gertrude. We are so lucky to have you!

The rectory office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, November 28 and also on Friday, November 29. Mass on Thanksgiving will be held at 9:00 am and at 7:30 am on Friday.

A Thanksgiving Day Prayer

Loving God,
who created and sustains the universe,
who loved us all into being,
and who gives us every good thing,
we thank you for the blessings
that you bring into our lives.
We thank you for the gift of life itself,
which you gave us in our mothers' wombs.
We thank you for the fresh start of each new day,
which is a sign of your renewing and creative love.
And we thank you for our friends, our families,
our neighbors and our coworkers,
whose human love is an image of your divine care.
Increase our gratitude this Thanksgiving Day,
and help us to recognize all the good things
that we have, both large and small.
And magnify our desire to share
what we have with others,
so that they too may be
grateful to you, Loving God.

~ Father James Martin, SJ



Sign Up for Emails from St. Gertrude Parish! If you would like to receive emails from our parish or your email address has changed, send an email to news@stgertrudechicago.org and specify if you would prefer just the weekly bulletin, or our daily reflection with notices about upcoming parish events.

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

St. Gertrude is once again hosting our annual Christmas greenery sale this Christmas season, with balsam pine trees, wreaths, and garland available for purchase. Proceeds benefit St. Gertrude's 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.

Order Online

Purchase greenery online at <https://bit.ly/StGertsChristmasGreenery> or by scanning the QR code.

Order via Paper Form

A paper order form is available for download at the above link.

Forms and checks or cash can be dropped off at the Rectory office, 1420 W. Granville Ave or placed in the mail slot in the side (west) red door next to the Rectory side yard if the Rectory office is closed. Checks should be made out to St. Gertrude. Please note "Greenery" in the memo line.

Deliveries

Deliveries will be offered for a \$6 fee. They will take place on Saturday, December 7 and Saturday, December 14 from 10:00 am - 2:00 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.

In-Person Sales

Greenery will also be sold at the playlot on the west side of the Social Hall, 1401 W. Granville Avenue, on the first four Sundays of December: the 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Only cash and checks will be accepted for in-person purchases.

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



Financial Report from November 16-17

Sunday Collection Envelopes: \$2,317.00
Loose Checks: \$375.00
Loose Cash/Coins: \$875.00
Online Donations: \$5,511.02
Total Collected: \$9,078.02

Budgeted: \$10,000.00
Difference: -\$921.98
Year-to-date Collected FY 2025: \$193,724.27
Year-to-date Budgeted FY 2025: \$550,000.00
Difference: -\$356,275.73



Ceremony of Healing and Reconciliation Planned for Sunday, December 1

Thank you to those who attended the town hall on October 27. We look forward to collaborating with you in bringing your ideas to fruition.

Another thank you to those who attended the listening sessions regarding the search for our new pastor. If you were unable to attend a session, the QR code and the paper surveys in the back of church will be available until December 1.

The Parish Pastoral Council will host a Ceremony of Healing and Reconciliation on Sunday, December

1 at 11:30 am in the Ministry Center. Let us prepare the way for the Lord on the first Sunday of Advent. Join us for a prayerful opportunity focused on reconciliation to launch the new liturgical year. Together we will lay the heaviness of these past months and the heaviness we may carry to God so we may open our hearts to God's healing grace.

Giving Tuesday is Next Week

Next Tuesday, December 3, is Giving Tuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. People all over the world celebrate the true reason behind this holiday season, showing generosity, compassion, and love to those less fortunate.

St. Gertrude is a parish that is truly dedicated to helping others. Whether it be through reaching out to teens through our youth group, caring for our seniors with our Heart to Heart program, collecting food for Care for Real, or committing to sponsoring a refugee family, our community of faith shows love to others every single day.

If you are inspired to take part in this day-long donation campaign, please consider supporting St. Gertrude and making a donation at <https://www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevants>. Every donation will make a difference!

Thank you!



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.



Worldwide Candle Lighting for the Loss of a Child - Sunday, December 8

The Elizabeth Ministry of Queen of All Saints parish will host the annual Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting service on Sunday, December 8th at 6:45 pm in Queen of All Saints basilica, 6280 N. Sauganash Avenue, Chicago.

The Compassionate Friends is an organization supporting grieving families in all fifty states and across thirty countries. Every second Sunday in December, families and friends around the globe unite in lighting candles to honor the memories of

children of any age who have died, at any time, for any reason. Everyone is welcome to participate in this non-denominational service of prayer and music as we remember children who have gone too soon.

Email elizabethministry.qas@gmail.com with questions, or to request the name of a loved one to be read during the service. Find more information about The Compassionate Friends organization and grief support at compassionatefriends.org. Find more information about Queen of All Saints at www.qasparish.org.

RCIA Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance - Sunday, Dec. 8

On Sunday, December 8 at the 10:30 am Mass, our church will celebrate the Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance for RCIA members.

Through the Rite, the church welcomes those who have been baptized in another faith or baptized Catholic as a child but never catechized in the Catholic faith, into the process of full communion with the Church.

The Rite of Acceptance recognizes the Catechumen's decision to begin the process of becoming a member of the Catholic Church through Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation.



Altar of Remembrance Items: As we continue to remember those who have died, we ask that pictures displayed and candles for those who passed away in the past year on our altar of remembrance be taken back as we soon will be approaching our Advent season.

7th & 8th Grade Students Invited to Participate in our Essay Contest

Students in the 7th and 8th grade are invited to take part in our annual essay contest. Participants should write an essay based in this prompt: ***The Importance of Forgiving Others.***

Entries should be 450 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 16, 2024. Email essays (preferred method) to

eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org or mail them to Eloy Escamilla, 1420 W. Granville, Chicago, IL 60660.



Deanery 2B Advent Reconciliation Service Planned for Monday, December 16

St. Gert's will host a deanery-wide reconciliation service on Monday, December 16 at 7:00 pm.

There will be many priests on hand speaking a variety of languages to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with participants.

LOSS Group - Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide: Catholic Charities Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide Loss (LOSS) offers in-person and online support groups for adults who are grieving the loss of a loved one to suicide. Our individual and group sessions provide safe, nonjudgmental environments where survivors can share their feelings and experiences. Participants receive information and hope from veteran facilitators who help new members realize that they are not alone, and that they will not feel this confusion and deep sadness for the rest of their lives. For more information contact us via email at loss@catholiccharities.net or call 312.655.7283.



Feast of the Immaculate Conception—Monday, Dec. 9

We will celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 9.

Mass will be held on Monday, December 9 at 7:30 am and 8:30 am.

The rectory office will be open.

December Youth Group Event

Attention students in 7th grade and up! Save the date! On December 14, we've planned an afternoon of Christmas card-making and cookie decorating. We'll gather in the Ministry Center from 1:00-3:00 pm.

Please reach out to Eloy Escamilla at eecamilla@stgertrudechicago.org for more information.



Christmas Eve Pageant at 5:00 pm Mass: Children & Adults Needed

As is our tradition during the Gospel at the Christmas Eve 5:00 pm Family Mass, the kids from St. Gertrude parish will act out the Christmas story.

We are looking for children ages 5 and older to participate in this charming production, and adults to help organize or be part of the event.

Contact eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org if you and/or your children are interested in being a part of this special Mass. Thank you!

~ Eloy Escamilla

Growing in Faith

When I find myself lamenting and angry with leaders' actions, I remind myself that throughout much of human history, people nearly everywhere, who have lived under unjust, oppressive, and persecutorial political authorities, have longed, prayed, advocated, and even fought for benevolent leaders who exercise the power bestowed on them for the good of all and not for their own self-interests.

In no way discounting that desire of the people for leaders who are just and merciful, both Daniel in the first reading and Jesus in the Gospel, as they speak truth to human and limited power, exhort their contemporaries and us, in the face of injustice, oppression and violence, to not lose sight of the Higher Power: That is, love, kindness, justice, and mercy.

In our ever divided nation and world, filled with every kind of violence that is fueled by divisive and false narratives, hatred and demonization of the weak, I think more than ever we who claim Jesus as our model, need to listen more attentively to and ground ourselves more deeply in the courageous, humble, merciful, compassionate and generous Spirit of the one who testified to the truth, who fed the hungry, who tended to the sick, the lost, and the lonely, and who confronted leaders who abused the power that the people gave them.

~ Jim Manzardo



St. Gert's Giving Tree Program

The Giving Trees will go up shortly in the back of Church. We will again be asking for gift cards, rather than gifts. This allows flexibility for individuals to get what they need. The benefactors of the Giving Tree collections will be the St. Gertrude Refugee and Immigrant Ministry, St. Oscar Romero, Refugee One, and Catholic Charities.

There will be boxes at the **front** of church, by the statue of Mary. Please place your gift cards into whichever organization you would like to support.

We'll have more information next weekend about the deadlines when gifts cards need to be submitted by and types of gift cards each organization would prefer.

We hope that in this most joyous of seasons you will be able to support the Giving Tree program. Each gift card will allow others to be able to have a blessed and happy Christmas celebration.

Parish Information

Rest in Peace

- Pierre Betts
- Mary Regina (Gina) Heidkamp-Hajduch
- Michael Cannon (beloved NCA staffer)
- Marcie Roti (Funeral Nov. 26 at St. Gert's)

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

Ministers of the Word

- Saturday, November 23 at 5:00 pm - Joseph McMahon, Millie Slane
- Sunday, November 24 at 8:00 am - Kathryn Stimac, Mary Clare Barker
- Sunday, November 24 at 10:30 am - Patrick Robinson, Edie Sheridan

Eucharistic Ministers

- Saturday, November 23 at 5:00 pm - Mary Cook
- Sunday, November 24 at 8:00 am - Josephine Delgado
- Sunday, November 24 at 10:30 am - Michael Kowalsky, Stephen Modde, Bob Backis

Altar Servers

- Saturday, November 23 at 5:00 pm - Wyatt Dant, cross bearer; Carter Dant and Esteban Campuzano, acolytes
- Sunday, November 24 at 10:30 am - Diarmuid McKeown, cross bearer; Henry Villareal and Angel Garcia, acolytes

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| • Mary Amelse | • Mr. and Mrs. Emin Euman | • Claude Poulsen |
| • Victor Ayes | • Luke Fitzgerald | • Joan Ross + |
| • Andrea Banicki | • Marie Galoney | • Bill Salek |
| • Carlos Barragan | • Estelle Guardino | • Willy Spalla |
| • Patrick Barton | • Thomas Hajduch | • Floret Spalle |
| • Zara Bradley | • Rochelle Hernandez | • Frannie Swaine |
| • Lilly Buie | • Maria Hertl | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Hallie Burhoe | • John Kahoun | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • Maggie Callaway | • Marilyn Klein | • Tayana Wallace |
| • Aida Calvopina | • Carleen Lorys | • King Wallace |
| • Cavicke Family | • River Malik | • Christian Wallace |
| • Claire Conley | • Matilde Manzardo | • Leon Ward |
| • Denise DeBelle | • Nancy Michael | • Ron Whitfield |
| • David Denegas | • Hilda Mora | • Janice Wittenberg |
| • Ann Collins Dole | • Donald Nyderek | • Yyes Yoza |
| • Renee Elhoumaidi | • Dealina Peon | • Joel Pozzi Zio |

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.

Upcoming Mass Intentions

- **Monday, November 25:** 7:30 am - Ethna Nolan+
- **Tuesday, November 26:** 7:30 am - James Barton+
- **Wednesday, November 27:** 7:30 am - Carol Shields+
- **Thursday, November 28:** 9:00 am - Thanksgiving
- **Friday, November 29:** 7:30 am - Norman H. Linke+
- **Saturday, November 30:** 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society; Mylene Velasquez+; Marilou V. Cruz+; 5:00 pm - James McKee+
- **Sunday, December 1:** 8:00 am - People of God; 10:30 am - Patricia Signa+ ; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Eufrocina Benitez+

Mass Times/Reconciliation/Rectory 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. **The office and Heart to Heart will be closed on November 28 & 29.**

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
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, bulletins, images from recent events, rectory hours, staff members, funeral announcements, and updates about our various ministries, please visit our website at stgertrudechicago.org.