



Hope

Therefore, the one
who is to be born
will be holy. He will
be called God's Son.
~ Luke 1:35

St. Gertrude Chicago

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Bulletin for
Sunday, November 27, 2022
First Sunday of Advent

From Fr. Rich

"Justice shall flourish in His time, and fullness of peace forever."

We are waiting for nothing less than the fulfillment of the prophecy we hear in the Advent Psalm. Justice and peace established and lasting forever! Our stance, or better yet, our stances, are to work for justice and peace as if it all depends upon us, but to be patient with its arrival because it all really depends upon God!

In other words -- as is true every Advent -- we are invited into a stance of being patient. Which stand in direct contradiction to everything we expect from our modern, industrialized, mechanized society. We have grown up assured we will be able to get things we want much more quickly. After all, Amazon isn't making all that money because we are kept waiting!

But God's way is not our way. And we learn only after lots of frustration, that God's time is not our time.

In every Advent we are always about three different times: the salvation by our God which happened in real time two thousand years ago; the salvation we experience right now in this present moment; and the universal salvation that will happen when Christ comes again to gather all things unto himself.

As we prepare for the celebration of our Lord's birth at Christmas, what might each of us do that combines both our participation in this saving miracle, even as we practice patience for the day when all will be made whole?

Is the Pandemic Over?

In a word, the answer to that question is, "No." However, we have moved into a different attitude towards covid and how we can function in society. So, most people are no longer wearing masks, etc. Part of this transition into this "new normal" is also about how we practice our faith.

In today's bulletin is the letter from the Cardinal wherein he announces that the dispensation he granted when covid first appeared, which allowed us all to not gather for Sunday Eucharist if we felt our health and safety could be compromised, is being lifted. Now he invites us to return to the pre-pandemic policy of attending Mass every Sunday.

Pastor Column (*continued*)

On our part, we will keep providing the live-stream 10:30 am Sunday Mass as long as we are able, and parishioners find it helpful -- especially those unable to get to church for any number of health or safety reasons.

This weekend, in cooperation with the Cardinal's letter, we will be renewing baptismal promises and our Profession of Faith after the homily and that rite will conclude with the blessing of the baptismal water.

Thanks

I want to again thank Ed Jacobs for making the pitch for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) at our Masses last weekend. Ed has done this a number of year as a witness to the good that donations to the CCHD collection have made possible.

Thanks to Ed for his testimony, and to all those who contributed!

Parish Service Awards

At the Thanksgiving Day Mass, the Parish Service Awards were presented to parishioners who have been outstanding in their generosity of service to the community. Here are the recipients of this year's St. Gertrude Parish Service Awards:

- **Parish Life:** Diane Barnhart, Sr. Joellen McCarthy, B.V.M., Barb Daly
- **Education:** Jennifer & Roman Reyes, Emily Monnelly & Matt Brett
- **Human Concerns:** Deborah Kern, Nancy Kuhn, Jean Laczkowski
- **Prayer and Worship:** Paula Dempsey, Amir Ghazaleh
- **Lifetime Service:** Laurie Hasbrook

Congratulations to all the recipients and all those who continue to be so generous with their time and talent and energy here at St. Gertrude parish!



St. Nick's Fest - Saturday, December 3 & Sunday, December 4

St. Nick's Fest will take place next week at St. John XXIII Parish (St. Nicholas Church Campus), 806 Ridge Ave. in Evanston.

The church grounds are transformed into a wonderland of Christmas trees, greenery, crafts, food, bakery goods, and more. The Craft Fair on Saturday and Sunday offers a great opportunity to purchase beautiful, unique gifts for adults and children. Over 50 crafters will have wares in two buildings, selling beautiful gift items: jewelry, knitwear, wooden bowls, pottery, and much more. All crafts are local and homemade.

Visit their website at <https://www.nickchurch.org/stnicksfest.html> for more details.



Order Your Christmas Trees, Wreaths, & Garland From St. Gertrude's Greenery Sale!

Our annual Christmas greenery sale is back, with a limited number of balsam pine trees, wreaths, and garland available for purchase. Each 6' Christmas tree is \$45. Three different sized wreaths are available—the 18" wreath is \$20, the 24" is \$22, and the 36" is \$30. Garland is also available for \$35 per 5' length.

Orders can be placed online at <https://bit.ly/ChristmasGreenery>. A paper order form is available at <https://stgertrudechicago.org/christmas-greenery> and on the next page.

The order form, along with cash or a check, can be dropped off at the Rectory office, 1420 W. Granville Ave. Forms and funds can be placed in the mail slot on the west side of the Rectory (red door) if the office is closed. Orders can also be sent to NCA to the attention of Eduardo Soto. Checks should be made out to St. Gertrude. Please note "Greenery" in the memo line.

Delivery Available

Deliveries will be offered for a \$3 fee. Deliveries will take place from 10:00 am-2:00 pm on Saturday, December 3, Sunday, December 4, Saturday, December 10, and Sunday, December 11. 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 Greenery Sales Begins THIS Sunday

Greenery will also be sold on Sunday, November 27, Sunday, December 4, Sunday, December 11, and Sunday, December 18 from 11:30 am-1:00 pm at the playlot on the west side of the Social Hall, 1401 W. Granville Avenue. Only cash and checks will be accepted for in-person purchases.

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

Volunteers Needed for Christmas Greenery Deliveries

One benefit parishioners enjoy about the greenery sale is the delivery service. This service will continue, but in order to be successful, we need volunteers. Help is needed on Saturday, December 3, Sunday, December 4, Saturday, December 10, and Sunday, December 11 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm.

If you are available to volunteer your time, email Eduardo Soto at esoto@stgertrudechicago.org.



ST. GERTRUDE GREENERY ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Delivery address: _____

Payment: Cash/Check (circle one)

QUANTITY	ITEM	PRICE	TOTAL
	6' Balsam Tree	\$45.00	
	18" Wreath	\$20.00	
	24" Wreath	\$22.00	
	36" Wreath	\$30.00	
	5' of Garland	\$35.00	
	Delivery Fee	\$3.00	
TOTAL			

DELIVERY DATES RANK YOUR PREFERRED DELIVERY DATES (1-4)

Saturday, December 3	
Sunday, December 4	
Saturday, December 10	
Sunday, December 11	

The boundaries for deliveries are north to Oakton, south to Irving Park, and east of the North Shore Channel. Deliveries will be made between 10:00 am-2:00 pm on the above dates. The greenery team will do their best to accommodate you and will reach out to notify you when to expect your order.

Holiday Schedule at St. Gertrude Parish

Immaculate Conception

Wednesday, December 7

- 6:30 pm - Vigil Mass

Thursday, December 8

- 7:30 am & 8:30 am

Advent Reconciliation Service

Sunday, December 11th

- 1:00 pm in church

4th Sunday of Advent/Fr. Rich's Retirement Mass (Sunday)

Saturday, December 17th

- 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 18th

- 8:00 am & 10:30 am* (live-streamed); No Gym Mass
- *Fr. Rich's retirement will be celebrated

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24th

- 5:00 pm - For families with children (live-streamed)
- 8:00 pm - Vigil Mass - Adult choir & instruments (choral music from 7:30 pm - 8:00 pm)

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25th

- 8:00 am & 10:30 am (live-streamed) Masses; No Gym Mass

Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

New Year's Eve, Saturday December 31st

- 5:00 pm

New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1st

- 8:00 am & 10:30 am (live-streamed); No Gym Mass

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 7th

- 5:00 pm

Sunday, January 8th

- 8:00 am & 10:30 am in church (live-streamed); 10:30 am Gym Mass



Little Blue Books

Copies of *The Little Blue Book - Advent and Christmas Season* are available in the back of church. These booklets provide a six-minute reflection each day. The readings are a great way to slow down, focus, and dedicate some time to God during this holy season.

There is a suggested donation of \$1.

Edgewater Singers Holiday Concert - Saturday, December 10

The Edgewater Singers will host their annual holiday concert on Saturday, December 10 at 7:30 pm. The performance, "Out of Darkness, Light", is being held at St. Gertrude's Church.

As always, the concert is free and appropriate for all ages.

We strongly encourage that the audience wear masks during the performance.



Our Advent Reconciliation Service is Sunday, December 11

Our annual Advent Reconciliation Service will be on Sunday, December 11 at 1:00 pm in church. This is a reflective service, offering songs, scripture readings and a guided examination of conscience. It usually lasts about 45 minutes.

During the holiday season, it is a great opportunity to spend some quiet time in church, to reunite with the Lord, have our sins forgiven and be ready for the celebration of Our Lord's birth.



Essay Contest for Students in 7th & 8th Grade - Deadline is Monday December 12

Students interested in the contests should write an essay explaining what is the most important contribution that Christians can make to society. Entries should be 500-600 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 12, 2022. Email essays (preferred method) to eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org or mail them to Eloy Escamilla, 1420 W. Granville, Chicago, IL 60660.



Giving Tree Program: Donations Due on Sunday, December 18

The Giving Trees are in the back of Church beginning this weekend. As we have been doing since the pandemic, 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 Care for Real and the St. Gertrude Refugee and Immigrant Ministry.



Care for Real is asking for gift cards in \$20.00 increments to Target, Jewel, and Walmart. They are also asking for Ventra passes.

The Refugee Ministry is requesting \$20 gift cards to Target. We are also asking for \$10 McDonald's gift cards to provide immediate meals for those who request them.

When you bring your gift cards to church, there are two boxes on a table in front of the Blessed Mother's Shrine in the front of church. One of the boxes indicates it is for Care for Real, and one for The Parish Refugee Committee. Please place your gift cards into whichever outreach you are supporting. The McDonald's gift cards can be placed in either box. The last chance to donate gift cards will be Sunday, December 18 at noon.

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.

If you have any questions please reach out to the Giving Tree Program coordinator Joe McMahon at jpmgmu@aol.com or at 708.525.5051.



The Longest Night of the Year: Homeless Persons Memorial Vigil Planned for Wednesday, December 21

Please join members of the Peace & Justice Ministry for on Wednesday, December 21, the first night of winter, the longest night of darkness, to remember those who have died while homeless.

They die alone - in tents, shelters, and on the streets. On this evening, we will mourn their passing.

The Vigil will be held at 7:00 pm in St. Gertrude's church.

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 the event. (If you have a young baby and are interested in performing as Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, let us know!)

Please contact me at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org if you and/or your children are interested in being a part of this special Mass.

~ Eloy Escamilla



Save the Date! Our Parish Cabaret Night Will be Held on Saturday, January 28

Our rescheduled Cabaret Night has a new date - Saturday, January 28. It will be held from 7:00-9:00 pm in the gym.

People wishing to perform or help with set up or breakdown should contact Mary Clare Barker at mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org.

Thank you for Helping with our Food Drive Organized by Parish Teens

Thank you to our parish teens and those who donated to our food drive last weekend for Care for Real!

Confirmation candidates and members of our parish youth group sorted and packed up so much food, including peanut butter, nuts, tuna, canned chicken and fruits, as well as soups.

Care for Real staff were so thankful to receive our donations.

Thank you for your generosity!



Letter from Cardinal Cupich

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In so many ways—large and small—the pandemic has upended our lives together. Families and, in a special way, young people, have faced distressing struggles. The pandemic made our connections with one another

challenging and difficult. Exactly in that moment when we truly needed supportive relationships with one another, we found ourselves separated. Sadly, this included the relationships and connections that we have in and through the Church.

We did our best to move forward and many parishes offered online Sunday Masses, and went even further and established prayer lines and reached out to those in need. The TV Mass that I celebrated helped to keep us connected as a community of faith in Chicagoland. So many of you have told me how healing and comforting those Masses have been.

In the meanwhile, we are in a new moment. With vaccinations and boosters, restrictions on public gatherings have eased up. Many people feel more comfortable returning to Church. Yet, we know there are some elderly and immuno-compromised persons who are still not ready to return. And they should not return. These vulnerable brothers and sisters have an excusing cause for being absent and for this reason I will continue the TV Mass on ABC for the present time. But for the rest of us, I have decided, in consultation with my advisors, to lift the general dispensation from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass as we begin a new Church year on the First Sunday of Advent, November 26-27.

My hope is that the First Sunday of Advent will provide us with a fresh start to take up again our life together as a community of faith that gathers to worship God. I have asked our pastors to begin the Masses on November 26-27 with the traditional lighting of the Advent wreath. After the homily your pastor will lead the community in a renewal of baptismal promises, acknowledging that we owe our obligation to participate in Sunday Mass to God but also to each other. Our common profession of faith and of our desire to turn away from sin, will be concluded by a sprinkling rite with the waters of baptism.

Let this occasion of our renewal of faith and life, which we all so much want, provide us with a fresh start as we recommit ourselves to worship God and to be supportive of each other week after week as we gather around the Table of the Lord to be nourished and renewed.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

~ Cardinal Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago



St. Francis Catholic Worker House of Hospitality Invitation - St. Francis House is a home of hospitality in the tradition of the Catholic Worker movement, located in the Uptown neighborhood at 4652 N. Kenmore Ave. All are invited to attend a house Mass and dinner on Tuesday, November 29 for Dorothy Day's Feast Day. Additionally, the community hosts open house dinners on Mondays at 6:00 pm. For more information, please contact Renee Darline Roden at rr3329@columbia.edu.

Thank You to our Heart to Heart Volunteers

This Thanksgiving, we want to share our deep appreciation to the volunteers that serve Heart to Heart.

From driving our seniors to Mass, the store, or to medical appointments to calling to check in or offering prayers for their well-being, their generosity of spirit is so kind and loving. Our volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.

We are also so grateful to everyone who has donated medical equipment to the Lending Closet. It is amazing how many individuals and families we can lend a helping hand to with the loan of medical equipment like wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes, toilet risers, shower chairs, etc.

Thank you!

~ Pat Sullivan & Laurie Hasbrook



Tax Credit Scholarship Program

Do you have income that is subject to Illinois state taxes? Would you like to REDUCE your state taxes or see a BIGGER refund?

If so, we would like to share an opportunity with you that will help reduce the amount you pay in Illinois state taxes while also providing scholarship funds for students at Northside Catholic Academy.

To learn more, please click here to review a letter from NCA Principal Christine Huzenis about the tax credit scholarship program at bit.ly/NCAPrincipalLetter, as well as other TCS information at bit.ly/NCAFlyers.

Please Pick Up Your Remembrance Altar Items

Thank you for sharing images and memories of your special someone with us during the month of November. You are welcome to pick up your photo or memento after Masses this weekend or the Rectory office next week.



Baptisms

- Brynn Kay and Emilia Parker Arseneault, children of Adam Arseneault & Kathleen Brennan Arseneault

Rest in Peace

- Marian Stanley, mother of Barb Stanley
- Michael Groark

Growing in Faith

This season we offer you suggestions to enrich your Advent & Christmas preparation, as an alternative to the unreflective craziness that can sometimes overtake us.

~ Happy Holidays from your GIF Bulletin Committee

From Sr. Wendy Cotter: *Ignatian Spirituality Website:* <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/advent/>; Fabulous resource for free weekly Advent videos and so much more!

From Nancy Bujnowski: *An Illuminated Retreat* by Jan Richardson (Author and Artist of beloved Advent book: *Night Vision*) Online from 11/27-12/27: 3 sessions each week featuring meditations, art, and music. Cost: \$90 (www.janrichardson.com).

From Bob Raccuglia: *Give Us This Day* (www.giveusthisday.org), a wonderful print & online resource for daily prayer. Great editors & writers! Each monthly issue includes: Daily inspirations, scripture reflections & simple daily morning & evening prayers. 1-yr. sub:\$47

From Pat Reardon: Read *The Book of Job*, preferably my favorite translation: (*The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes* by Robert Alter). Job is the story of someone who is good, honest & fair, and whose faith is tested to the utmost when his life is shaken by tragedy after tragedy. What happens to him isn't fair, after all. But, through all his pain and carping, Job keeps the faith.

From Madeleine Philbin: *A Catholic Family Advent: Prayers and Activities*, Susan Hines-Brigger. (Great!) *Preparing for Christmas: Daily Meditations for Advent*, Richard Rohr

From Claire Conley: Watch again (and again) the classic film: *It's a Wonderful Life*. It gets us every time and truly captures the spirit of Advent and Christmas.



Altar Servers, Cantors, Musicians, Ministers of the Word, & Eucharistic Ministers

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, November 26 at 5:00 pm - Jennifer Kiedaisch, Millie Slane
- Sunday, November 27 at 8:00 am - Kathryn Stimac, Rob Sierzega
- Sunday, November 27 at 10:30 am - Steven Monti, Tim Love

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, November 26 at 5:00 pm - Mary Cook
- Sunday, November 27 at 8:00 am - Barb Daly
- Sunday, November 27 at 10:30 am - Michelle Kuelhorn, Troy McMillan, Carlos Barragan

Altar Servers:

- Sunday, November 27 at 10:30 am - Cross Bearer - Henry Jacobson; Acolytes - Carter Dant, Mariyam Agdubai

Cantors & Musicians:

- Saturday, November 26 at 5:00 pm - Paula Dempsey
- Sunday, November 27 at 8:00 am - Jon Blake
- Sunday, November 27 at 10:30 am - Matt Heimer

Mass Intentions

- **Monday, November 28:** 7:30 am - Living & deceased Torreano family members
- **Tuesday, November 29:** 7:30 am - Norman H. Linke †
- **Wednesday, November 30:** 7:30 am - Richard Ruiz
- **Thursday, December 1:** 7:30 am - Communion Service
- **Friday, December 2:** 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- **Saturday, December 3:** 7:30 am - Living & deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners; 5:00 pm – Donato Tolentino & Dionisio Maros †
- **Sunday, December 4:** 8:00 am - Parishioners of St. Gertrude parishioners; 10:30 am - Adora Santos; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Jeanne Hasbrook †

Mass Times/Reconciliation/Rectory Office Hours

- Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:30 am in Church, 10:30 am Gym Mass (*No Gym Mass on December 18, December 25, and January 1*); Mon-Fri: 7:30 am (Thursday is a Communion Service.); Sat: 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 Mon-Fri from 8:30 am-4:30 pm and Sat from 9:00 am- 2:30 pm.

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| • Pamela Sherrod Anderson | • Maria Hertl | • Ron Schlacter |
| • Zara Bradley | • Mary Horan | • Richard Seitz |
| • Sharon Brown | • Bernice Kiedysz | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Lilly Buie | • Marilyn Klein | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • Aida Calvopina | • Steve Laslo | • Leon Ward |
| • KC Conway | • Sheila McGuire | • Yyes Yoza |
| • Luke Fitzgerald | • Larry McCauley | |
| • Gina Heidkamp | • Karey Myers | |

If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please contact the Rectory office at 773.764.3621 or email stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org. Names will remain on the list for three weeks. After that time, please renew the name using same contact information.

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
Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate
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
Patricia Sullivan, Heart to Heart Director