



## St. Gertrude Chicago

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[www.stgertrudechicago.org](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org)

Sunday, November 7, 2021

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Bill Kenneally

1938-2021

### From Father Rich

#### Rest in Peace, Fr. Bill Kenneally

On Thursday of last week, Fr. Bill Kenneally, retired pastor of St. Gertrude Parish, returned home to God. Fr. Bill had been ailing and was in a nursing facility until a few days before he died. There is much to be grateful for in the celebration of Fr. Bill. His long life of loving service and ministry in the Church; his deep love and care for so many people; his dogged determination to hold leadership accountable; his tireless pursuit of justice.

We give thanks for his long life, and finally, we also thank God for ending his ailing and welcoming him home to eternal life among all God's saints.

It was especially poignant to his family that Fr. Bill was waked on All Saints and his funeral celebrated on All Souls Day because so many other family members have died around this same time.

Thanks to all those who worked on so many aspects of the preparation of the services here in church, the reception afterwards in the Social Hall and so many of the details that helped the celebration truly capture the life and spirit of Fr. Bill!

#### Parish Feast Day Weekend

Next weekend, we will be celebrating our Parish Feast Day at all the Masses. The feast day of St. Gertrude is November 16, and each year, we celebrate this feast on the weekend closest to her feast day.

As part of the celebration, we will be offering the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at all the Masses. There is an article on page 3 which helps outline that everyone self-determines her/his desire to be anointed. Please take a few moments to read it and arrive for Mass next weekend with that disposition in your heart.

Some of the events we usually have on this special weekend are not happening again this year because of the pandemic. (We hope they can return next year!)

#### 2021 CCHD Collection - November 20-21

The annual Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) collection will take place on the weekend of November 20-21. For 50 years, CCHD has been working in partnership

## Fr. Rich (*continued*)

with community organizations to address the root causes of poverty in the United States. The annual Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) collection will take place on the weekend of November 20-21. For 50 years, CCHD has been working in partnership with community organizations to address the root causes of poverty in the United States.

CCHD promotes organizations that help people help themselves. Their mission to break the cycle of poverty is now more important than ever, as the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the disparities experienced by the poor and vulnerable. CCHD organizations are responding promptly in this time of extraordinary need.

CCHD grantees create jobs, improve neighborhoods, keep schools safe and enriching for children, and raise leaders of the future right here in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Click here for more information and to donate: <https://bit.ly/CCHD2021>. Thank you!

### St. Gertrude's Thanksgiving Day Mass

Our parish Thanksgiving celebration will be at the 10:00 am Mass on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 25. As part of our Thanksgiving celebration, the recipients of the Parish Service Awards will be recognized.

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## This Sunday: Commissioning of Ministers of Care

During the 10:30 am Mass in church on Sunday, November 7, a special blessing will be celebrated for the following three individuals:

- Jeannine Choromanski
- Nancy Kuhn
- Lori Hinton Lopez

These new Ministers of Care have completed extensive training by the Archdiocese of Chicago and are already in service to our vulnerable older parishioners and neighbors. We thank them for their discipline and dedication.

*~ Jane Callahan-Moore, Director, Heart to Heart*

heart   
to heart



## Rectory Office Hours Extended

The St. Gertrude Parish office has expanded its operating hours. The Rectory is now open Monday-Thursday from 8:30 am-7:00 pm, Fridays from 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Saturdays from 9:00 am-2:30 pm, and Sundays from 8:30 am-noon.



## Anointing of the Sick

*This is a reprint of an article that originally appeared in The Chicago Catholic in 2019. We are reprinting it now in preparation of the celebration of the Anointing of the Sick at all the Masses on our Feast Day weekend, November 13-14.*

"Many people think that anointing of the sick is just for people on their death beds." That's what a priest friend said to me just before he gave me the sacrament. I had asked for the sacrament of the

anointing of the sick because I was facing the biopsy of a lump that would later turn out to be breast cancer.

The priest's comment started me thinking about the sacrament and this common misunderstanding by some Catholics today.

"I think the sacrament of anointing of the sick is a gift of God to the church that a lot of people don't avail themselves of because they don't understand the fact that it is not just for those who are dying," Father Ronald Kunkel, assistant professor in the Department of Dogmatic Theology at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, said.

"When anointing of the sick is limited to that exclusively, that's unfortunate because that means that people who are appropriate candidates are being deprived of this wonderful source of grace," Kunkel said.

Kunkel focused his graduate studies on the communal nature of the sacrament of the anointing of the sick and has taught a course on it for over 10 years. Some of Kunkel's most powerful experiences in his 19 years of priesthood have occurred while administering the sacrament, he said.

What most people think of as "last rites" is actually called "viaticum." It includes the anointing along with prayers to commend the dying person on their journey to the next life and the reception of the Eucharist.

During anointing of the sick, a priest prays the rite over the person, and marks the person's forehead and palms with the sign of the cross using the oil of the sick. The priest can also anoint the part of the body where the illness or malady is. The oil is one of three sacred oils blessed each year by the bishop at the Chrism Mass held during Holy Week.

Anointing of the sick has its roots in the early church and in Chapter 6 of Mark's Gospel and Chapter 5 of the Letter of James, said Todd Williamson, director of the archdiocese's Office for Divine Worship.

"It began early in the church not as last rites but as something that addresses the very human experience," Williamson said. "Everybody gets sick, everybody suffers from illness or from a physical condition. Historically, the sacrament of anointing was in response to those."

It was also a Christian call to pray for the wider community. "What do we do when a brother or sister is suffering from illness or sickness? We gather. We gather, we pray over them and we anoint them with the oil of gladness," Williamson said. "That's what the church's understanding was."

During the Middle Ages, it became common to anoint people only on their death beds and was often called "extreme unction."

"That shift that really occurred in the eighth century and remained with us for over 1,000 years," Kunkel explained. "It was not until the Second Vatican Council that there was a return to the more ancient understanding and the more ancient practice. Vatican II said extreme unction is more properly called anointing of the sick and it pointed out that although it is certainly appropriate for those who are dying, people shouldn't wait until that point to receive the sacrament."

The rite for anointing of the sick says those who can be anointed include any member of the faithful whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or physical condition, someone preparing for surgery, and the elderly, Williamson explained. While the church has guidelines on who the sacrament is appropriate for, parishes can go a long way to helping people understand the sacrament by celebrating it more as part of a community.

Kunkel suggested parishes hold anointing services after Mass where those who seek anointing can sign up ahead of time and have reserved spaces in church for themselves and their caregivers. In the weeks before the service, the parish could publish information in the bulletin about the sacrament and who should receive it.

"At a parish Sunday celebration we are going to acknowledge and recognize and embrace both literally and figuratively people who are elderly, people who are ill, people who are suffering from a serious chronic medical condition and we are going to pray together and we're going to celebrate the sacrament in the midst of the community as opposed to kind of in a more private setting," he explained. It is easy to view sacraments such as anointing and reconciliation as private experiences but they are much more than that.

"It's important for people to be aware that this is a prayer of the church and even if it's just you in a room or you in your bed and priest coming to visit you, you both are connected in that moment with the entire church," Kunkel said.

The church sees anointing of the sick as one of the very important components of caring for those who are ill. Caring for the sick is a corporal work of mercy and is part of the fundamental mission of the church, he said. "When you have people who are undergoing acute suffering because of either illness or disability, instead of looking the other direction, we as Catholic Christians are called to confront that and embrace them and to love them all the more in that situation of difficulty."

Often sickness makes somebody feel alienated from their family and friends, from the church, and even from God, he said. "It can be a very difficult and painful moment when people feel alone, even if they're blessed to have a good support system," Kunkel said. "Anointing is one of the means by which we try to help people be aware that the Lord and the entire church are with them, in and through this experience, this encounter with the cross."



## ECRA Interfaith Thanksgiving

The annual ECRA Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday, November 21 at 3:00 pm. This year, the service will be hosted by Atonement Episcopal Church at 5749 N. Kenmore. This will be a hybrid service -- you can attend in person, or join the livestream (details to come). Those who attend in person are encouraged to be vaccinated. Everyone attending in person is required to wear a face mask.



There will be a special offering for Care for Real, with donations of food encouraged, with a priority placed on fresh produce.



**care for real**  
FOOD • CLOTHING • SUPPORT

## Care for Real Needs Volunteers

Care for Real is experiencing a surge in need for food assistance, with more than 35,000 pantry visits so far in 2021, compared to 24,000 during the same period in 2020. The organization distributes food to approximately 140-200 families in need each week.

You can help Care for Real provide this fresh and nutritious food by signing up to volunteer! Time slots for volunteering are available Monday-Saturday between 8:30 am-4:00 pm and until 7:00 pm on Thursdays. Sign up for a shift today by visiting [careforreal.org/get-involved/volunteer](https://careforreal.org/get-involved/volunteer) or sending an email to [volunteer@careforreal.org](mailto:volunteer@careforreal.org).

## Poetry Pilgrims Gatherings

*"It could be verse."* Poetry Pilgrims, our parish's poetry-reading group, discusses poems of all kinds from recognized authors. If you've ever been curious about poetry and how it can enrich your life, why not sign up to receive poems, and maybe even join us occasionally? No background is needed-- we learn by sharing each other's questions and insights.

We meet on the third Monday of each month, via Zoom, so we're undeterred by distance and weather.

For more info, contact Roy Lipscomb at 773.338.3564 or [lipscomb@margrover.com](mailto:lipscomb@margrover.com).

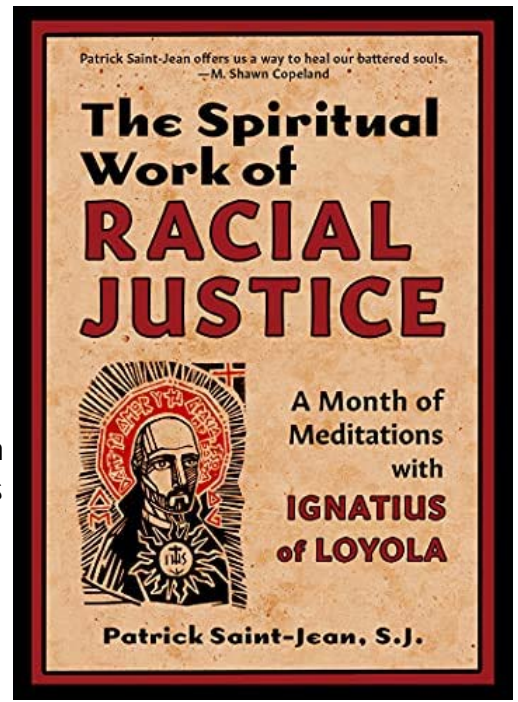


## Peace and Justice Committee Meeting Planned for Monday, November 15

The Peace and Justice Committee held its inaugural meeting on Monday, October 25. Newcomers are welcome to join us at our next meeting which will be on Monday, November 15 at 6:30 pm (location to be announced).

We will be spending the next several meetings reflecting on "The Spiritual Work of Racial Justice: A Month of Meditations with Ignatius of Loyola" by Patrick Saint-Jean, S.J. The book can be ordered via <http://www.anamcharabooks.com/> -- look under "Featured Works."

Email Fr. Mike Gabriel at [mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org) or call him at 773-764-3621 if you plan to attend on Monday, November 15, or if you have any questions!



## Youth Group Visit to the Chicago Cultural Center's Exhibits Planned; Mission Trip Happening This Summer

On Saturday, November 13 from 9:30 am-12:30 pm, Confirmation students and teens in the youth group will head to Chicago's Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington.

The students will enjoy a wide range of diverse and engaging exhibitions devoted to the visual arts and contemporary culture. They include *Art and Race Matters*, *The Great Chicago Fire in Focus*, as well as the Learning Lab, an interactive studio that offers sights, sounds, and experiences for visitors of all ages and a wide range of abilities. The group will travel via the CTA.

The youth group is planning a mission trip this summer! More details will be shared in the future. Attendance at youth group meetings is required to participate in the mission trip. All teens in middle and high school are invited to consider joining the parish youth group!

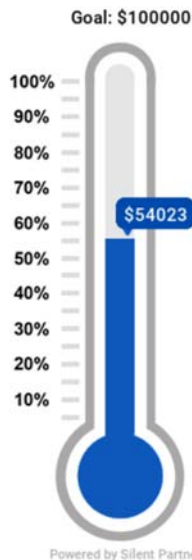
For more information, contact Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate for Religious Education and Youth Ministry, at [eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org).

**No Christmas Bazaar This Year:** Given the uncertainty of the COVID variants, as well as concerns about social distancing and the safety of our staff and volunteers, the Christmas Bazaar will not be held.

# Repair, Renew, Refresh

This is week seven of our **Repair, Renew, Refresh** campaign to raise \$100,000 to supplement a recent gift from Ray Simon and the Polk Bros. Foundation. As of Wednesday, November 3, we have received \$54,023! Thanks to all who have already contributed.

Donation forms are part of the **Repair, Renew, Refresh** brochure. Please complete the form, place it and your donation in the return envelope, in the Sunday Offertory, or drop it off at the Rectory office, or mail it back.



*Repair-Renew-Refresh*  
Campaign

**DONATIONS  
TO DATE**

**\$54,023.00  
of \$100,000**

Donations can also be made electronically by accessing GiveCentral through the parish website:

<https://stgertrudechicago.org>.

Please give as you are able. Gifts of \$500 and more can be paid over six months, if that is helpful. The **Repair, Renew, Refresh** campaign will end on our parish Feast Day weekend, November 13-14.

Thank you for praying over the parish needs and considering what donation you are able to make.

## This Sunday: United Power for Action and Justice Meeting; Feature in Washington Post Article

This Sunday, November 7 from 2:30-4:00 pm, all are invited to a United Power in-person meeting to check in with one another, celebrate the group's collective progress, and plan for the year ahead. The outdoor meeting will be held at 906 S. Homan in Chicago, in the parking lot of Nichols Tower. In the event of inclement weather, meet across the street, indoors, at DRW High School, with an option to observe online. Masks are required.

If not fully vaccinated, please participate online. Visit <https://bit.ly/November7RSVP> to register and to receive details about viewing the meeting online.

United Power and IAF were featured in this Washington Post article: <https://bit.ly/UPWashPostArticle>. This will be a major focus of the November 7 meeting.





## Growing in Faith: *Remembrance Sunday*

In the midst of a famine, Elijah commands a widow he has never met before to bring him water and “a little cake.” Elijah is often taken to be the hero of this story, but I think the widow is the more remarkable figure.

Earlier in the story, Elijah had been ordered by God to drink from a stream, and to receive bread and meat from ravens. It was after the stream ran dry that God

ordered him to go to the widow. In this way, Elijah had inside information. But the widow did not.

What the widow had was a handful of meal in a jar, a little oil in a jug, a couple of sticks for a fire, and a life of service--which is the default lifestyle of women from time immemorial. The resignation in her statement, “when we have eaten it, we shall die,” breaks one’s heart, but Elijah’s request ignores this pathos. Nevertheless, the widow makes him the little cake, even as she presumes it will be one of the last things she will ever do.

We should work to create a world where sacrifices of this kind are not necessary, where everyone has enough. The impulse to care for others, to recognize a common humanity and to respond to human need, that is the miracle that God creates, more miraculous than the magic jar of flour or the generous company of ravens.

~ Ruth Ott

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## A Prayer for Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.



Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.\*

*Pope Francis published this prayer in his Laudato Si' encyclical, and it is meant for sharing with all who believe in a God who is the all-powerful Creator.*



## Come Along for the *Meet Our Sisters Tour!*

Get an insider's view of the life, prayer, and ministry of Catholic Sisters in Illinois. During National Vocation Awareness Week, November 7-13, you can choose from a host of virtual and in-person activities ranging from

webinars and videos to prayer and free-flowing conversations with Catholic Sisters about their life of community, prayer, and ministry. Learn how you can contribute to a culture of vocations in the church and be inspired by the lives of dedicated Catholic sisters who serve right here in Illinois.

Visit <https://c4wr.org/MOST/> for a schedule of events and registration details or email [MeetOurSistersTour@gmail.com](mailto:MeetOurSistersTour@gmail.com) for more information.



### New Parishioners

- Elizabeth Treacy & Mark Swartz, Ezra and Isaac

### Rest in Peace

- Fr. Bill Kenneally
- Orlando Yepez, son of Maria Gonzalez

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

#### Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, November 6 at 5:00 pm - Millie Slane
- Sunday, November 7 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, November 7 at 10:30 am in church - Patrick Robinson
- Sunday, November 7 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

#### Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, November 6 at 5:00 pm - Steve Monti
- Sunday, November 7 at 8:00 am - Barb Daly
- Sunday, November 7 at 10:30 am in church - Patrick Robinson, Nancy Merrill, Carlos Barragan
- Sunday, November 7 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

#### Cantors and Musicians:

- Saturday, November 6 at 5:00 pm - Bernie O'Connor
- Sunday, November 7 at 8:00 am - Jim Manzardo
- Sunday, November 7 at 10:30 am in church - Kate Hibbs Davis; Jay Lamble, guitar
- Sunday, November 7 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

## Mass Intentions

- Monday, November 8: 7:30 am - Judie Ann Tarzon+
- Tuesday, November 9: 7:30 am - St. Gertrude parishioners
- Wednesday, November 10: 7:30 am - Janet Hickey+
- Thursday, November 11: 7:30 am - Communion service
- Friday, November 12: 7:30 am - Kathleen Anthony+
- Saturday, November 13: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society; 5:00 pm - Living & deceased members of St. Gertrude parish
- Sunday, November 14: 8:00 am - Living & deceased members of St. Gertrude parish; 10:30 am - Living & deceased members of St. Gertrude parish; 10:30 am Gym - Living & deceased members of St. Gertrude parish

*+ indicates the person is deceased*

## Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- Pamela Sherrod Anderson
- Helen Banta
- Jean Bautista
- Walter Bradford
- Sharon Brown
- Connie Bueck
- Lilly Buie
- Maggie Callaway
- Aida Calvopina
- Connie Cool
- Caloy Desembrana
- Ann Collins Dole
- Christine Frisoni
- Shirley Marie Gonzales
- Felipe Hall and Family
- Lucia Hall
- Gina Heidkamp
- Maria Hertl
- Daniel Hidalgo
- Bernice Kiedysz
- Dean Mattoni
- Sr. Terri McKenzie
- Molly Morris
- Karey Myers
- Massielle Ojeda
- Tina Piemonte
- Charley Scantlebury
- Richard Seitz
- Peggy Stoffel
- The Sullivan family
- Elinora E. Tolentino
- Manuel & Norma Viray
- Valerie Williams
- Ken & Vyes Yoza

## 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](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org)
- GiveCentral: [www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevants](http://www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevants)

Email [esoto@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:esoto@stgertrudechicago.org) for additional information.

*Our Heart to Heart office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am-2:30 pm. Contact them at 773.973.5464.*

## Parish Staff

Rev. Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor  
Rev. Michael Gabriel, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Michael Bradley, Resident Priest  
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  
Laurie Hasbrook, Office/Heart to Heart Staff  
Samantha Lilly, Rectory Office  
Andy Mueller, Parish Buildings Engineer  
Tracy Shields, Communications  
Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management

**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](mailto:stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org). Please call the Rectory at 773.764.3621 with any questions.