



## St. Gertrude Chicago

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Sunday, October 10, 2021

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### From Father Rich

#### Christifideles Award

Each year, the Archdiocese recognizes one parishioner in each parish with the Christifideles Award for their outstanding service and ministry to the church at the

parish level. I am very happy to announce that this year's recipient is our Pastoral Associate, Kevin Cheers. Kevin has been the Master of All Things That Needed To Be Done for many years, looking out for the Art and Environment in the church, being sure all the moving pieces are all lined up for any of the services in church, coordinating and training the liturgical ministers, keeping in contact with and scheduling our Sunday supply priests, and, in recent years, coordinating the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.)

Last year, as we were preparing for the start of a new academic year, when the coordinator of Religious Education surprised us by resigning just days before the new year was to start, Kevin generously agreed to step in and get the Religious Education program up and running -- and did that during the pandemic! Kevin and her husband, Victor, are long-time parishioners who bring great vitality and positive energy to everything they do.

Congratulations to Kevin Cheers, this year's recipient of the Christifideles Award!

#### Sign-Up Sunday

Last weekend was our annual Sign-Up Sunday weekend. Every parishioner is encouraged to consider some ministry or service activity they might become part of in sharing their gifts with the broader parish community. This week, we invite everyone to turn in the completed form indicating which ministry or service activity you are interested in joining. Completed forms can be placed in the collection basket or dropped off or mailed to the rectory. There is also a basket for the forms on one of the tables in the back of church. You can also complete the form electronically by visiting the home page of the parish website, [stgertrudechicago.org](http://stgertrudechicago.org). Thank you for your consideration.

#### Welcome Back!

Next weekend, we have some presiders returning that we haven't seen since the lockdown began back in March of 2020. Welcome back, Fr. Bill Creed, S.J., and Fr. Jim Stoeger, S.J. We're glad to have you back!

## Father Rich (cont.)

### Celebrate CCHD's 50th Anniversary—Thursday, October 7

The Archdiocese of Chicago's Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) Ministry is proud to celebrate 50 years of building communities of justice. Join the virtual 50th Anniversary Symposium on Thursday, October 7 from 2:00-4:00 pm. Visit <https://bit.ly/CCHD50th> for more details on the event, including the link to participate in the virtual celebration.

### Chicago's Got Sisters Virtual Event—Saturday, October 30

The fall 2021 "Chicago's Got Sisters Virtual Event" will take place via Zoom on Saturday, October 30 from 2:00-5:00 pm. The agenda will include a short talk on the theme of "Discerning with the Saints," time for prayer and reflection, brief introductions to a diverse group of communities and charisms, and breakout room time for questions. This event is for single Catholic women ages 18-40. Register here: [https://bit.ly/CGS\\_Fall2021](https://bit.ly/CGS_Fall2021) or contact Sr. Jess Lambert for more information at [jllamb.illinois@gmail.com](mailto:jllamb.illinois@gmail.com). Visit <https://www.vocationscava.org/chicagos-got-sisters/> for flyers and a recap of the spring event.

### Seeking Nominations for Recognition!

Every year at our Thanksgiving Day Mass, we present the St. Gertrude Parish Service Awards to parishioners who have been giving generous service through a parish ministry or volunteer activity. Awards are given in the areas of Youth Ministry, Human Concerns, Education, Parish Life, Prayer & Worship, and Lifetime Service.

Please consider any parishioner you feel should be recognized for her or his outstanding service to the parish and the broader community and email your nomination(s) to me at: [rprendergast@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:rprendergast@stgertrudechicago.org). You may also drop off a written recommendation in the Sunday Offertory or at the rectory. The deadline for nominations is Friday, October 29.

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## Heart to Heart News: A Note About Fr. Mike Bradley

Every October, Father Mike puts on his running shoes and participates in the Chicago Marathon, raising funds for our senior ministry, Heart to Heart. Even with the cancelation of the official Chicago Marathon last year, Father Mike pressed on and ran 26.2 miles through the streets of Edgewater. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners who support his annual run, Father Mike's efforts raise thousands of dollars every year for Heart to Heart.

Unfortunately, Father Mike injured his back last month and is unable to run the marathon this year. We are so grateful for his many years of running for Heart to Heart and ask that you say a prayer for Fr. Mike's continued healing and good health.

If you would still like to make a contribution to Heart to Heart, donations can be made in church, at the Rectory, or online here: <https://www.givecentral.org/location/8/event/606>. Donations made with a check should be made payable to St. Gertrude Parish with *Heart to Heart* written in the memo line. Thank you!

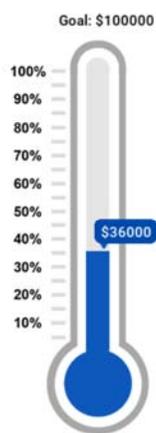
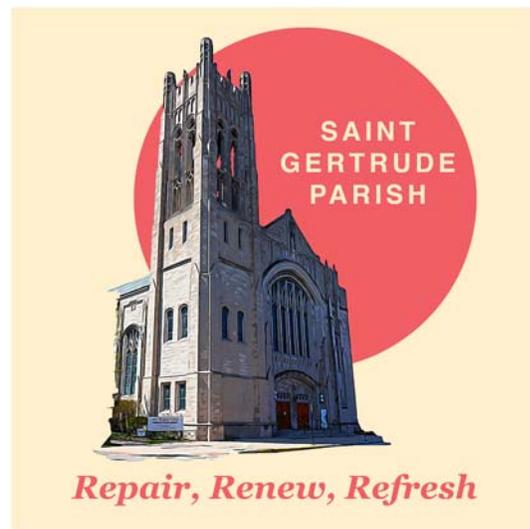


# Repair, Renew, Refresh

This is week four 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, October 6, we have received \$36,000! With these funds, we hope to be able to address five needs in the parish:

1. Exterior repairs to the church and rectory **roofs** from some long-term damage, and the damage from February's severe snowstorm. This includes repairing and replacing certain sections of roofing, and all the **interior water damage** in both buildings.
2. Installation of three new **handrails** to provide accessibility for anyone stepping up from the main floor of church into the sanctuary, and from the main floor of the sanctuary onto the altar platform.
3. **Re-carpeting** the church. The current carpeting is over 30 years old and can't get any cleaner, nor can it be repaired any more.
4. Rebuilding the entrance **stairways** to the Parish Hall main entrance, and the south (accessible) entrance to the church.
5. Establishing the St. Gertrude **Catholic Education Support Fund** to assist parish families with children enrolled at NCA. This fund will be available for families in need both for enrolling new students, and for assisting families dealing with crises due to health, employment, or other unexpected situations.

A donation form is 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. Donations can also be made electronically by accessing GiveCentral through the parish website: <https://stgertrudechicago.org>.



*Repair-Renew-Refresh*  
Campaign  
**DONATIONS**  
TO DATE  
**\$36,000.00**  
*of \$100,000*

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 run for eight weeks, ending 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.



**Repair, Renew, Refresh Campaign: Spotlight on the Carpet in the Church:** The carpet in church is worn and torn in many places, not surprising given it is 30 year old.

The estimated cost for this part of the campaign is \$45,700.



## Growing in Faith

This Monday, October 11, we celebrate the feast day of Pope St. John xxiii, who called for the second Vatican Council, saying, " I want to throw open the windows of the Church so that we can see out and the people can see in." Pope St. John xxiii was known for his dedication to support social justice for all. Just as in the gospel we read about the spiritual riches that come to those who dedicate themselves to real discipleship with Jesus,

the Pope's prayer expresses our own longing that Jesus be the center of our lives, our society, our world.

*O Jesus, come back into our society, our family life, our souls and reign there as our peaceful Sovereign. Enlighten with the splendor of faith and the charity of Your tender heart the souls of those who work for the good of the people, for Your poor. Impart to them Your own spirit, a spirit of discipline, order and gentleness, preserving the flame of enthusiasm ever alight in their hearts... May that day come very soon, when we shall see You restored to the center of civic life, borne on the shoulders of Your joyful people.*

~ Pope St. John XXIII

~ Sister Wendy Cotter, csj, Ph.D

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## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Mass Planned/Catholic Charities Discussion Planned About Resources for Domestic Violence Survivors

On Saturday, October 16 at 5:30 pm, the Archdiocese's Domestic Violence Outreach will host a Mass for Domestic Violence and for survivors and their families. The Mass will be held at Holy Name Cathedral, 730 N. Wabash.

On Thursday, October 21 from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Catholic Charities of Chicago will host a free Zoom discussion on the dynamics of domestic violence, specifically how to recognize, support, and identify resources for domestic violence survivors. Register here: [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0vdOioqDguGdLA2\\_ZLeaYULGVQYtEdi-6H](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0vdOioqDguGdLA2_ZLeaYULGVQYtEdi-6H).



**Domestic Violence Resources:** The Archdiocese of Chicago's Domestic Violence Outreach has a list of resources, available here: <https://pvm.archchicago.org/human-dignity-solidarity/domestic-violence-outreach/resource-manual#resources>. The St. Gertrude website has a domestic violence information page and a click-away button in the event someone is monitoring computer use. Here is the link: <https://stgertrudechicago.org/domestic-violence-help>.



## Religious Ed News

We are still looking for volunteers to be catechists for the Sunday morning Religious Ed classes and to serve as Kids Word teachers during the 10:30 am Mass in church on Sundays.

A Family Mass has been planned for Sunday, October 17 at 10:30 am in church. First and second graders are in charge of the hospitality, and parents are invited to bring something to share, following existing health protocols.

The Presentation of the First Communion Candidates will be held on Sunday, October 17 at the 10:30 am Mass in church. All those making their First Communion in 2022 must be present along with their families.

The Presentation of the Confirmation Candidates will be on Sunday, October 24 at the 10:30 am Mass in church. Those students to be Confirmed on March 5, 2022 must be present along with their families.

~ Eloy Escamilla Pastoral Associate, Religious Education and Youth Ministry

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## First Youth Group Gathering Will Be Thursday, October 21; Visit to the Chicago Cultural Center's Exhibits Planned in November

Teens in middle and high school are invited to consider joining the parish youth group! The first youth group meeting will be on Thursday, October 21 at 6:00 pm. The meeting will be in the front parlor of the second floor of the Ministry Center, 6214 N. Glenwood Ave. All students in 7th grade and up are invited!



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.

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

# Letter from Cardinal Cupich: COVID and Flu Vaccines

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The recent escalation of COVID-19 cases in Illinois is a source of frustration for us all, particularly if we know someone who has been stricken by this virus or has even died from it. Even more disturbing is that with the change of seasons we now are entering a new flu season, which is leading some health officials to warn of a “twindemic.”



It is out of a concern for you and your families that I write to encourage everyone to get the COVID-19 and flu vaccines. While one vaccine does not protect both viruses, neither do the vaccines interfere with each other. It is safe to receive both vaccines and in some cases your health care provider or local pharmacy can provide both in one visit.

The Catholic Church has been a consistent voice in defense of human life and that must continue in this moment. Everyone at the Archdiocese of Chicago, from pastors to administrators, teachers, principals and custodial staff, has been working hard during the pandemic to ensure that our churches and schools operate safely. We must go that extra step now. Ideally, everyone should be vaccinated for the flu by the end of October.

According to the public health officials, additional considerations for groups of people include:

- Children should be vaccinated as soon as possible. Some children need two doses of flu vaccine. For those children it is recommended to get the first dose as soon as vaccine is available, because the second dose needs to be given at least four weeks after the first.
- Women who are in the third trimester of pregnancy can be vaccinated for the flu, since doing so will help protect their infants during the first months of life when they are too young to be vaccinated.

Common flu symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat and extreme fatigue are similar to COVID-19 symptoms. Our health care providers are already overwhelmed by patients infected with the coronavirus, or people mistaking one infection for the other.

Influenza can be, in itself, a deadly illness. More than 200,000 Americans are hospitalized each year with the flu and, while most people recover completely in one to two weeks, some develop potentially life-threatening complications such as pneumonia. Over the past decade, influenza and pneumonia have been linked to an annual average of 3,500 deaths in Illinois, alone.

Nobody likes getting shots, especially children. But the flu shot is easy to find, inexpensive and recommended for just about everyone, even children over the age of six months. Most insurance plans and public health clinics or pharmacies provide a flu vaccine. I encourage you to contact your health care provider to determine which flu vaccine is right for you.

This week, I will roll up my sleeve for the flu vaccination and I encourage you to do the same in order to protect yourselves, your families, and your neighbors. It is a small but heroic thing to do. At the least, you will help make this flu season less deadly for our community.

My prayers are with all of you, and I ask that you pray for me.

*~ Cardinal Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago*

## Mass of Remembrance

Our annual Mass of Remembrance will be Sunday, October 31 at 10:30 am. If you have lost a loved one in the past year (November 2020-present) and would like to have them remembered, please email Kevin Cheers at [kchears@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:kchears@stgertrudechicago.org) by Friday, October 15. Additionally, all are welcome to bring framed photos and small mementos to place on our memorial altar/Ofrenda table that will be in church during the month of November.



## RCIA Still Open for Those Interested

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process by which adults learn more about the Catholic Church.

**People who are interested are still**

**welcome to join us in the Ministry Center after this Sunday's 10:30 am Masses!**

If you are interested in learning more about the RCIA process at St. Gertrude, contact Kevin Cheers at [kchears@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:kchears@stgertrudechicago.org) or call the Rectory at 773.764.3621.

**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.

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

### Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, October 9 at 5:00 pm - Millie Slane
- Sunday, October 10 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, October 10 at 10:30 am in church - Debra Novak
- Sunday, October 10 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

### Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, October 9 at 5:00 pm - Tim Harrington
- Sunday, October 10 at 8:00 am - Peter Morin
- Sunday, October 10 at 10:30 am in church - Debra Novak, Carlos Barrigan, TBA
- Sunday, October 10 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

### Cantors and Musicians:

- Saturday, October 9 at 5:00 pm - Bernie O'Connor
- Sunday, October 10 at 8:00 am - Carol Ann Munro
- Sunday, October 10 at 10:30 am in church - Matt Heimer; Jim Szmurlo-trumpet, Nicholas Bussey-tenor trombone, Amir Ghazaleh-bass trombone
- Sunday, October 10 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

## Mass Intentions

- Monday, October 11: 7:30 am - St. Gertrude parishioners
- Tuesday, October 12: 7:30 am - Martin Ofonugo+
- Wednesday, October 13: 7:30 am - Thomas Joyce+
- Thursday, October 14: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, October 15: 7:30 am - Regina Nnyene+; 8:30 am - NCA School Mass
- Saturday, October 16: 7:30 am - Vicki Vetrano Sopcak+; 5:00 pm - Theresa Cenar+
- Sunday, October 17: 8:00 am - Pat+ & Ralph+ Veccie; 10:30 am - David Onugha+; 10:30 am Gym - Ted Hasbrook+

*+ indicates the person is deceased*

## Rest in Peace

- Maria Silva, mother of parish staff member Eduardo Soto

## Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- |                           |                          |                        |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Pamela Sherrod Anderson | • Ann Collins Dole       | • Karey Myers          |
| • Helen Banta             | • Shirley Marie Gonzales | • Massielle Ojeda      |
| • Jean Bautista           | • Felipe Hall and Family | • Tina Piemonte        |
| • Walter Bradford         | • Lucia Hall             | • Charley Scantlebury  |
| • Sharon Brown            | • Gina Heidkamp          | • Richard Seitz        |
| • Connie Bueck            | • Maria Hertl            | • Peggy Stoffel        |
| • Lilly Buie              | • Daniel Hidalgo         | • The Sullivan family  |
| • Maggie Callaway         | • Bernice Kiedysz        | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Aida Calvopina          | • Dean Mattoni           | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • Connie Cool             | • Sr. Terri McKenzie     | • Valerie Williams     |
| • Caloy Desembrana        | • Molly Morris           | • 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/allevnts](http://www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevnts)

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  
Margie Guadagno, Office Manager  
Laurie Hasbrook, Office/Heart to Heart Staff  
Tracy Shields, Communications  
Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management