

St. Gertrude Chicago

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773.764.3621

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www.stgertrudechicago.org

Sunday, October 17, 2021

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

From Father Rich

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. To help all of us to grow in our awareness of domestic violence, the homilies and some of the intercessions next weekend,

October 23-24, will address the issues around this widespread form of abuse. Although this is one of those topics that makes most of us feel uncomfortable and one we would rather not have to have addressed, the reality is this is one of broadest “pandemics” in contemporary society.

Domestic violence is not limited to any age, sex, socio-political division, economic status, geographic location, etc. It is present everywhere, among all people. Unless we are willing to recognize it, learn how to change behaviors, respect and assist victims of abuse, etc., we will never end this scourge. Our parish website has a section on domestic abuse with a wide range of resources. It can be found here: <https://stgertrudechicago.org/domestic-violence-help>.

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 or contact Sr. Jess Lambert for more information at 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. You may also drop off a written recommendation in the Sunday Offertory or at the rectory. The deadline for nominations is Friday, October 29.

Celebration of the Lord of Miracles/El Señor de los Milagros - Special Event on Sunday, October 17

On Sunday, October 17, all are welcome to attend *La procesión del Señor de los Milagros* (the procession of the Lord of Miracles). Mass will be held at 1:00 pm at St. Ignatius, 6559 North Glenwood Ave, followed by hospitality in the small parking lot and a procession.



This joyous Peruvian Catholic tradition takes place each October in Lima and in cities like Chicago with a Peruvian population. It celebrates the mural of Jesus Christ in Lima known as The Lord of Miracles (Señor de los Milagros), which remained standing after earthquakes in 1655, 1687, and 1746 destroyed most of the city. Each year, large crowds gather to celebrate this miracle with a procession, music, and food.

For more information, call Carlos Ballon at 773.251.6629.



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!



Heart to Heart to Sponsor Legal Workshop on Friday, October 15

The Center for Disability and Elder Law (CDEL) provides free legal services to low-income seniors and persons with disabilities.

On Friday, October 15 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm, pro-bono attorneys from CDEL will help our

parishioners and neighbors to complete and notarize personal legal documents such as powers of attorney wills, etc.

This workshop will be in our Ministry Center and is the third one sponsored by our Heart to Heart Seniors Ministry. Please call Director Jane Callahan-Moore at 773.585.9992 for further information about this upcoming event.

Heart to Heart Update for September 2021

September events sponsored by our staff included the second of three workshops creating notarized legal documents such as powers of attorney, wills, etc., for our Edgewater neighbors. Pro bono attorneys from the Center for Elder and Disability Law completed these vital documents onsite in our Ministry Center. Our dedicated volunteers continued to make weekly telephone calls to our homebound seniors and assisted them with grocery shopping and getting them to and from medical appointments. We are so grateful to have them on our team!



An integral part of our Heart to Heart Seniors Ministry is our free Lending Closet, serving all of Chicagoland and dispensing loans and occasional gifts of durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs, rollator walkers, knee scooters, tub transfer benches, shower stools, commodes, canes, and incontinence supplies. This month, we dispensed 37 pieces of this equipment to 23 individuals in 14 zip codes and accepted 16 donations from families who no longer needed these loans for their loved ones. We also helped to connect a family wishing to donate a hospital bed to a family greatly in need of one.

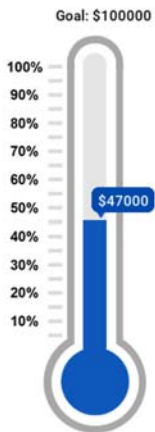
A Blue Cross/Blue Shield van brought one woman, aged 83, to our door to pick up some medical equipment. And another woman drove up to us from 91st Street to obtain some equipment for her father's homecoming from Weiss Hospital after treatment for a stroke. In a note we received from her, she had this to say: "Thank you soooo much for your kindness and generosity... Everything worked out perfectly and I can't wait for my father's return home. On behalf of my father, myself and my family, we want to say once again, a super thank you to you, Heart to Heart, and St. Gertrude for your donation".

Laurie Hasbrook can be reached by telephone at 773.973.5464 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am-2:30 pm or by appointment, while Jane Callahan-Moore answers calls Monday-Friday from 9:00 am-5:00 pm on her cell phone (773.595.9992).

Repair, Renew, Refresh

This is week five 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 13, we have received \$47,000! 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.



Repair-Renew-Refresh
Campaign
DONATIONS
TO DATE
\$47,000.00
of \$100,000

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>.

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.



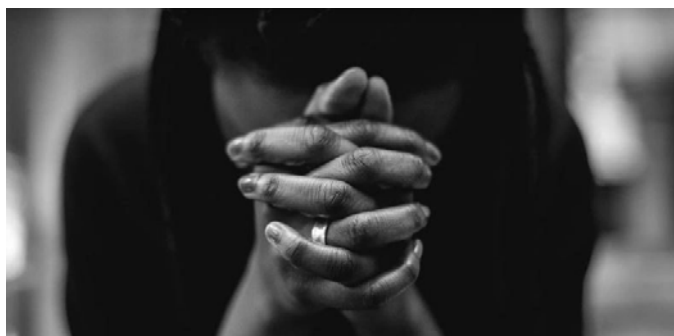
Repair, Renew, Refresh Campaign: Spotlight on the St. Gertrude Catholic Education Support Fund: We will establish the St. Gertrude Catholic Education Support Fund for parish families with children attending NCA in need of financial help, as well as to have funds available for families in crisis due to health, employment, or other unexpected situations.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Catholic Charities Discussion Planned About Resources for Domestic Violence Survivors/Candlelight Walk for Victims of Abuse



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://bit.ly/DVAwarenessMeeting>. If you have questions, please call 312.655.7106 or email bkliieger@catholiccharities.net.

On Wednesday, October 27 at 6:30 pm, a short candlelight walk will be held on the steps of St. Bernadette, 9343 S. Francisco in Evergreen Park. to pray for victims of abuse. The rain date is Thursday, October 28 at the same time and location.



Domestic Violence Resources

For many, home is a place of love, warmth, and comfort. It's somewhere that you know you will be surrounded by care and support, and a nice little break from the busyness of the real world. But for millions of others, home is anything but a sanctuary. The U.S. Department of Justice

estimates that 1.3 million women and 835,000 men are victims of physical violence by a partner every year. And during the pandemic, domestic abuse incidents have skyrocketed.

St. Gertrude's Domestic Violence Resource Page

The St. Gertrude website has a Domestic Violence information page at <https://stgertrudechicago.org/domestic-violence-help> and a click-away button in the event someone is monitoring computer use. It lists information on abusive relationships, including:

- Where to Start
- Organizations that Provide Housing
- Legal Help
- Spanish-Speaking Assistance
- Asian, Arabic, & Korean Assistance
- LGBTQ Help
- Help for Teens & Young Adults
- Help Securing the Safety of Pets
- What Does Abuse Look Like?
- How to Help a Friend or Family Member
- Emotional Abuse
- Why Do People Stay in Abusive Relationships?

Archdiocese of Chicago's Domestic Violence Outreach

The Archdiocese of Chicago's Domestic Violence Outreach also has a list of resources, available here: <https://pvm.archchicago.org/human-dignity-solidarity/domestic-violence-outreach/resource-manual#resources>.



Religious Ed News

A Family Mass has been planned for this 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 also be held this 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.

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. Please email me at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org if you can help.

~ Eloy Escamilla

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.

Synodal Church - What is This and How Does it Affect Us?

On September 18, as bishop of Rome, Pope Francis offered a reflection on the synodal process he has initiated as a means of renewing the church in our time.

The Holy Father is asking the universal Catholic Church to take up a journey together to reflect on the theme: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission." Pope Francis has called this a time of "mutual listening that involves the entire People of God. But this listening is not about garnering opinions, taking a survey, but listening to the Holy Spirit, as we read in the book of Revelation: 'Whoever has ears should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches' (2:7)."

The word "synod" says it all, it means "journeying together." As such, everyone has a part to play, for we are all gifted with the Spirit of Christ. It begins by each of us being in touch with the inner restlessness in our hearts.

There is always something missing in our lives. We all want to grow, and we want our church to be more responsive to the needs of its people. We should value this desire as a gift from God, who is a God of surprises. We should not be afraid of the challenges we face, the questions we find hard to answer, but instead be prepared for surprises, for Christ the Risen One is alive and active in the church and is always doing something new.

The church has been following the promptings of the Holy Spirit from its earliest days, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles, where Peter receives a disturbing vision in which he is told to eat things considered unclean. He then goes to the house of Cornelius, the pagan centurion, who also has a vision that God would hear his prayers.

This was a pivotal moment, for now those who were not part of the Jewish faith could be recognized as being called by God to become disciples. Peter was hesitant, but the Spirit intervened in a way that represented a new moment in the Christian faith. As the pope observed: "The Spirit overcomes Peter's resistance and opens a new chapter of missionary history. That is how the Spirit works."

The story of salvation has repeatedly revealed God working in unexpected and new ways. The Holy Father recalls the story of Balaam as an example of how God's plan will not be thwarted. Balaam failed to listen to God's word because he was intimidated by the king, Balak. Because Balaam refused to defy the king, as God told him to do, the donkey he was riding spoke out in his stead. The point is that God's Spirit will not be impeded.

"It is a story that teaches us to trust that the Spirit will always make his voice heard. Even a donkey can become the voice of God, can open our eyes and change our course when we go astray. If a donkey can do that, how much more can a baptized person, a priest, a bishop, a pope do it? We need to rely on the Holy Spirit, who uses all of creation to speak to us: he only asks us to clean out our ears, to hear better."

We should have no doubt, the Holy Father tells us. "The Holy Spirit needs us. Listen by



Synodal Church (Cont.)

listening to each other. Leave no one behind or excluded." We are "not strengthened simply by reforming structures or by giving instructions, offering retreats and conferences, by issuing guidelines and programs. All those things are good, but as part of something else, namely our rediscovery that we are a people meant to walk together, with one another and with all humanity."

The Archdiocese of Chicago will join this journey in the first phase beginning this fall. More information about the synodal process will be made available in the coming weeks and months.

There will be a kickoff at a special Mass on Sunday, October 24 at Holy Name Cathedral, scheduled for 5:30 pm. Let us all pray for the success of the synodal process, for our efforts in the archdiocese, and here at St. Gertrude Parish.

Pope Francis' reflection on the synodal process can be read at vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2021/september/documents/20210918-fedeli-diocesiroma.html.

~ Father Rich

Growing in Faith

When James and John said, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you," this sounds like the request of young children, needing to feel safe and comfortable. Jesus had been trying to explain to the disciples that suffering was coming, as his message would be rejected by authorities. He explained that greatness is equated with servanthood, the opposite of power and authority.

As we "grow in faith," we understand that being in relationship with God isn't only about being held in God's embrace, but also being ready to serve. We're called by Jesus to be co-creators in the work of bringing forth God's reign of love and justice. When James and John made their immature request and the other disciples "became indignant" about it, Jesus responded as a loving, yet challenging teacher, knowing that they struggled to understand his message.

Many teachers and guides have shaped my life. Dorothy Day, designated as "Servant of God" by the Church, practiced the works of mercy through her life in the Catholic Worker and challenged church and state authorities to change unjust structures. Her witness reminds us that we are called to both minister to our broken human family and speak and act out against the injustices that harm God's family and creation. Her life inspired me to pursue my path as a social worker.

Who models servanthood for you, and how can you participate in God's call to create a more just and loving world?

~ Mary McCormick



Mass of Remembrance

Our annual Mass of Remembrance will be Sunday, October 31 at 10:30 am.

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 or call the Rectory at 773.764.3621.

NCA Open House: An open house for prospective families will be held at NCA's Primary Campus, 6216 N. Glenwood, on Wednesday, October 27 at 9:00 am. Please RSVP to Leigh Holzman at lholzman@ncaweb.org. Proof of vaccination is required and masks must be worn.

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

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, October 16 at 5:00 pm - Kathleen Dawson
- Sunday, October 17 at 8:00 am - Kathryn Stimac
- Sunday, October 17 at 10:30 am in church - Patrick Robinson
- Sunday, October 17 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, October 16 at 5:00 pm - Steve Monti
- Sunday, October 17 at 8:00 am Brian DeVarenne
- Sunday, October 17 at 10:30 am in church - Patrick Robinson, Carlos Barrigan, Rafael Meléndez
- Sunday, October 17 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Cantors and Musicians:

- Saturday, October 16 at 5:00 pm - Amir Ghazaleh
- Sunday, October 17 at 8:00 am - Paula Dempsey
- Sunday, October 17 at 10:30 am in church - Kate Hibbs Davis; John Horan-guitar; small vocal ensemble-Therese Schreiner-alto, Michael Callahan-tenor, Fran Guenette-bass
- Sunday, October 17 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Mass Intentions

- Monday, October 18: 7:30 am - St. Gertrude parishioners
- Tuesday, October 19: 7:30 am - Helen Yarnold+
- Wednesday, October 20: 7:30 am - Vicki Vetrano Sopcak+
- Thursday, October 21: 7:30 am - Communion service
- Friday, October 22: 7:30 am - Kathleen Keable+; 8:30 am - NCA School Mass - Joan Bartosic+
- Saturday, October 23: 7:30 am - Joan P. Bartosic+; 5:00 pm - John McCall+
- Sunday, October 24: 8:00 am - Virginia Hardey+; 10:30 am - Amie Leagans+; 10:30 am Gym - Matt Bussey+

+ indicates the person is deceased

New Parishioners

- Chris Johnson and Amanda Cox and their children, Hendrick and Maisie
- Monica Dix and Pearse Anderson
- Brendan Keating and Christa Battaglia and their children, Gideon and Fiona

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
- GiveCentral: www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevants

Email 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