



# St. Gertrude Chicago

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

Bulletin for  
Sunday, September 11, 2022  
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## From Fr. Rich

### The Parish Potluck is TODAY!

Please join in our Parish Potluck today, Sunday, September 11 from 11:30 am - 2:00 pm in the parking lot. Please bring your own chair, a side dish or dessert for sharing, and whatever you would like to drink. I hope to see you there!

### Parish Staffing Updates

Some months ago, preparing for the retirements of Kevin Chears and Jane Callahan-Moore, I realized that in a period of a little over two years, everyone on the parish staff would have changed positions, except Fr. Mike Gabriel. This wasn't by design, but simply due to planned retirements and some job opportunities that opened up for some people. As that reality dawned, I also realized we had a responsibility of preparing the parish for this extended time of transition.

A quick recap of the changes: the Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry, Jim Potthast decided to be a stay-at-home dad when the pandemic hit so he could home-school his children; Art Blumberg, Business Manager, decided to take a position as Director of Evangelization at his home parish; the front office receptionist, Marge, decided the long commute was more than she wanted to continue; Fr. Mike Bradley retired and moved; Kevin Chears, Pastoral Associate, retired; Jane Callahan-Moore, Heart to Heart Director retired; and Mary Clare Barker, Music Director, will be retiring within the next year.

In the same order as above: after a year of Kevin Chears "filling in" for the Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry, Eloy Escamilla came on board as the new Director and has also taken on responsibility for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults; Eduardo Soto has come on a parish Operations Director (a new title and job description from the Archdiocese which includes the Business Manager position); Maria Garcia came on as front office receptionist; Fr. Bradley, who had been a resident-priest helping out with sacraments and other duties, was not replaced; nor did we replace the Pastoral Associate position because of finances; Pat Sullivan came on as the new Director of Heart to Heart as a half-time position.

Which leaves me and Fr. Mike Gabriel. A not-well-kept secret is that I am retiring on January 1, 2023, after 44 years of ministry here in the Archdiocese of Chicago. I will be moving to a home I have in St. Joseph, Michigan on that date, and then do some road-tripping for about four months. And then I will figure out the rest!

## Fr. Rich (*continued*)

But because of the number of position changes, we also wanted to do whatever we could to guarantee a sense of continuity here at St. Gertrude Parish. To that end, Fr. Mike and I spoke with Bishop Bartosic and the Priest Placement Board representative about Fr. Mike becoming pastor. They all thought that was a good idea, presented it to Cardinal Cupich and he agreed. On January 1, 2023, Fr. Mike will become the Administrator of St. Gertrude Parish. In our newly updated system, the Archdiocese only makes pastors on July 1st each year. So, Fr. Mike will be Administrator from January 1-June 30, and then become pastor on July 1, 2023. It is both of our hopes that this will go a long way towards achieving continuity.

I will celebrate a "Retirement Mass" on Sunday, December 18 at 10:30 am with some kind of reception afterwards, then be here for Christmas, and then move to Michigan.

The parish staff has been working on this time of transition for some months now. We are well aware that the size of the staff has declined some and there will be some things that need to change. Some of the things staff members used to do will need either new volunteers, or some things may no longer be able to be done.

Please feel free to ask me or any of the parish staff any question you have or share any concerns. We are committed to continuing the excellence of St. Gertrude Parish for many more years. Your observations and suggestions are always welcome.

### **Season of Creation—September 1-October 4**

We know how to celebrate Advent and observe Lent, rejoice at Easter. But how might we observe the non-liturgical Season of Creation from September 1 through October 4? As individuals and families, we can create our own traditions. Plant a tree. Help preserve a forest. Take walks in nature. Support national parks. Shrink your carbon footprint.

#### ***Prayer for use during the Season of Creation***

Creator of All, from your communion of love, your Word went forth singing a symphony of life that sings your praise! By your Holy Wisdom you made Earth to bring forth a diversity of creatures who praise you in their being! You call us to keep your garden. You create us in relationship with creation so that we can listen and learn from their voices how to safeguard the conditions for life.

So often, we turn in on ourselves. We close our ears to your Word calling to us through creation and the Scriptures. We lament and grieve the loss of species, their habitats and human cultures that have perished because of our unwillingness to listen.

In this Season of Creation, call to us, as from the burning bush, with the sustaining fire of your Spirit. Teach us to contemplate your creation, and listen for the voice of each creature

declaring your glory. Fill us with hope to quench the fires of injustice with your healing love. Enlighten us to follow Christ in walking lightly on this holy ground.

This we ask in the name of the One who comes proclaiming good news to all creation, Jesus Christ.

Amen.



**The Burning Bush**  
*Ex 3:1-12*

**Listen to the  
Voice of Creation  
SEASON OF CREATION 2022**

## Misericordia Family Fest—TODAY, September 11

After stopping by the Parish Potluck this Sunday, please consider visiting Misericordia and supporting their 40th annual Family Fest!

The event will take place from 11:00 am-6:00 pm at 6300 N. Ridge Blvd. Proceeds support Misericordia's programs for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Tickets are available online and at the door. Visit <https://www.misericordia.com/store/fest-tickets/> or call 773.273.2768 for more information.



### Join our 10:30 am Choir!

The 10:30 am choir resumes this weekend! New members are still welcome to join, as well as cantors interested in singing at the 10:30 am and other weekend Masses.

The group practices on Sunday mornings at 9:40 am and on Thursday nights at 7:00 pm when we have special music.

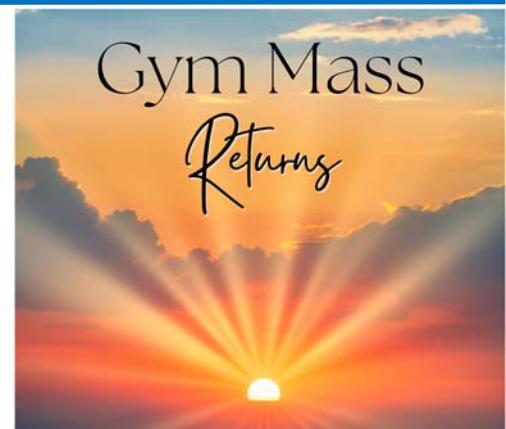
To join or for more information, contact Mary Clare Barker at [mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org) or 773.764.3621.

### The Gym Mass Returns!

Next Sunday morning, September 18, the Gym Mass returns at its regular 10:30 am time!

This more casual Mass is held at 1401 West Granville Avenue.

The 2022-2023 Gym Mass schedule is posted on our parish website at [stgertrudechicago.org](https://stgertrudechicago.org).



**Remember St. Gertrude in Your Will or Trust:** When considering which charities to include in your will or trust, we hope you will remember St. Gertrude Parish. A bequest can be made to our parish by using the following language: "*I give [insert specific dollar amount, or percentage of net or residuary] to The Catholic Bishop of Chicago, Tax ID #36-2170826, a corporation sole located in Chicago, Illinois, to be used for the benefit of St. Gertrude located in Chicago, Illinois. However, if St. Gertrude ceases to exist in its current form, then to the new parish or parishes erected in its stead.*" For more information, visit [giving.archchicago.org/bequest](https://giving.archchicago.org/bequest).

## Religious Ed Classes Begin Next Sunday, Sept. 18!

Registration is still open for our 2022-2023 Religious Education program! Classes will begin next Sunday, September 18, with in-person instruction held on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 am at Northside Catholic Academy.

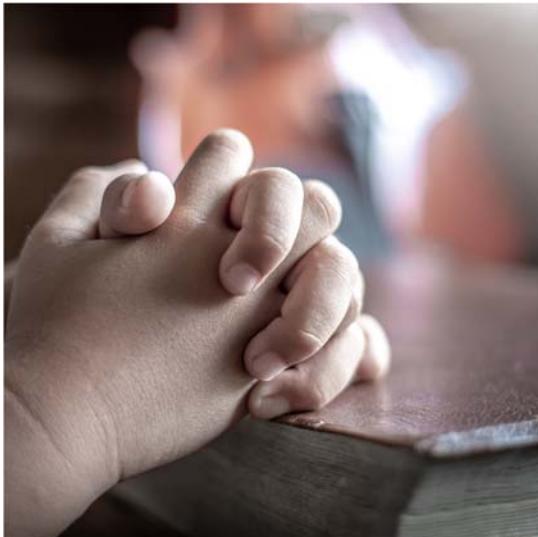
All Religious Ed forms can be found at <https://stgertrudechicago.org/religious-education-news>, including a Religious Ed registration form, the calendar of classes for the year, and this year's handbook in English and Spanish.

Parents of students making their First Communion/Reconciliation or their Confirmation this year should also fill out a sacramental registration form. Confirmation candidates also require additional paperwork, which can be found at <https://bit.ly/ConfirmationForms>, along with the deadlines. Please note that students must receive two years of preparation in order to make these sacraments.

The fees for the 2022-2023 school year are \$210 for one child and an additional \$30 for each student from the same family. Tuition can be paid online at <https://bit.ly/RelEdTuition>.

An additional sacramental fee of \$65 is required for children making their First Communion and First Reconciliation, or their Confirmation. That fee can be paid at <https://bit.ly/SacramentalFee>.

Completed forms and any questions about the program should be emailed to Eloy Escamilla at [eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org). Please register before the start date.



## Kids Word on Sundays at 10:30 am Masses Begins Next Weekend

On Sundays during the 10:30 am Mass in church, children aged 4-7 years-old are invited to attend Kids Word to hear an age-appropriate Gospel message and do fun, scripture-based activities such as coloring or crafts in the Rectory.

Children will be invited by the celebrant to come to the altar before the readings and will return to church before the petitions.

Email [eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org) for details.

**NCA's Back to School Block Party:** All are welcome to attend NCA's back-to-school block party on Saturday, September 17! The event will be held from 12:00-4:30 pm outside the school's Primary Campus, located at 6216 N. Glenwood Ave., and in the parking lot across from school. The festivities will offer food for sale, music, activities, and more. We hope to see you there!



## Second Collection for Seminarian Education is Next Weekend, September 17-18

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The seminarians preparing to be the future priests who will serve our parishes are a great blessing to us. They have stepped forward to give their lives to minister to the children and grandchildren of this present era. Today, more than ever, we need compassionate and knowledgeable priests who will walk with us through life, sharing in our joys and sorrows and guiding us through life's challenges.

This is why we need to invest in their training at both the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary and at Saint John Vianney College Seminary in Saint Paul, Minnesota. At Masses throughout the archdiocese next weekend, as we ask for your encouragement and prayers for our seminarians, we also ask you to invest in their formation. Your financial support will help to cover the educational and formational costs of their preparation, including tuition and fees, room and board, and health insurance.

These young men are giving their lives for us, and I ask you to match their generosity by making a sacrificial gift as we take up this collection. You will be investing in them, but also in the future of our Church.

A remittance envelope will be placed in your pew or at the back of the church for your gift. You may also send your donation to your parish, noting that it is for "Seminarian Education," or make a gift online at [archchicago.org/seminarianfund](http://archchicago.org/seminarianfund).

An additional way to support vocations in the archdiocese is by encouraging young men to consider discerning the priesthood. Many current priests credit their vocation to personal invitations and conversations with loved ones and friends who recognized the potential in them.

On behalf of current and future archdiocesan seminarians, thank you. May God continue to bless you abundantly. Please know that I keep you in my daily prayers and intentions, and I ask for yours in return.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Cardinal Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago*



## Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

Couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary from across the Archdiocese of Chicago are invited to gather together for the Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass that will be celebrated by Cardinal Cupich next Sunday, September 18 at 2:30 pm.

The Mass will be held at Holy Name Cathedral. For more information and to register, visit <https://pvm.archchicago.org/events/golden-wedding>.



## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

### RCIA Begins Next Sunday, Sept. 18!

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

program begins September 18 and meets until Pentecost.

Many people who begin RCIA are non-Catholics seeking to become Catholic or at least to explore whether Catholicism might be a good home. Those who complete the process and decide to become Catholic are initiated into the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday. Others who take RCIA are already Catholic but want a deeper understanding of their faith foundation.

The RCIA process does not ask those who have been baptized in another faith to give up their denominational experiences. Rather, the RCIA process seeks to add new colors and designs to their existing faith life tapestry. In addition to attending Mass, the RCIA process includes weekly gatherings of breaking open the Word of God, sharing our stories, and learning about our faith traditions.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the RCIA process at St. Gertrude, contact me at [eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org) or call the Rectory at 773.764.3621. The RCIA meeting schedule is available here: <https://bit.ly/RCIACalendarUpdated>.

~ Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate

### Discussion on the Seamless Garment on September 19

The Peace and Justice Ministry will host the final Fireside Chat on Monday, September 19 from 7:00-8:30 pm on the Rectory lawn.

We will discuss how our Christian faith informs how we feel about the Seamless Garment (sanctity of life, conception to natural death).

Bring your lawn chair, a beverage of your choice, and snacks to share, if you choose.

Attendees are asked to read articles about the Seamless Garment that will be shared in future bulletins.



**Current Rectory Office Hours:** The office is open Monday - Friday from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Visit the St. Gertrude parish website at <https://stgertrudechicago.org/> for the latest news and event information.

# Post-Covid Liturgy Changes

When we shut down completely for covid, we knew we would have to change some of the usual ways of operating. When we were able to reopen and resume our liturgical celebrations, we did so with fewer ministers assisting, Communion distributed only with hosts and only in the hand, no altar servers, both readings are now read by one person instead of two, and we pretty much look for volunteers to help in the ushering duties on an almost weekly basis.

But now we hope we are, if not exactly moving beyond covid, at least returning to some new version of normal. We would like to recruit and train a new group of altar servers, return to each of the two scripture readings at Mass proclaimed by a different lector/reader, recruit and train some new ministers of Communion to assist in distributing Communion, recruit and train some new ushers, and also seek out a captain for the ushers at each of the three Sunday Masses.

We are doing recruiting right now until the end of September. Training will take place for new Ministers in the beginning of October. New schedules will include all these ministers beginning the weekend of October 15-16.

Please consider how you might participate in our Sunday Masses as a minister in any of these capacities. Our Pastoral Associate, Eloy Escamilla, can be reached at 773.764.3621 or [eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org) with any questions, or simply to volunteer.

If you have done any kind of liturgical ministry before and would like to try that again, or a different ministry, please come forward. If you have never been a liturgical minister but would now consider that level of participation, please come forward. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak with Eloy, Fr. Mike, or myself. Thank you for your consideration!

~ Fr. Rich



## Relaunch of our Ministry of Altar Servers for 7th Graders and Up

This program seeks to encourage the youth of our parish to fully engage in our faith through their service to the Church as altar servers. The altar server ministry is very important, and the youth will be making a serious commitment to our parish family. This ministry is open to any boy or girl who has received his/her First Holy Communion.

Altar servers should plan on spending no more than 60 minutes each time they serve.

## Training Sessions for New Ministers

- Training for altar servers will be in the church on Monday, October 3 at 6:30 pm.
- Training session for new Ministers of the Word will be in the church on Tuesday, October 4 at 6:30 pm.
- Training session for new Eucharistic Ministers will be in the church on Wednesday, October 5 at 6:30 pm.
- For people interested in serving as ushers, the training will be 30 minutes before the 5:00 pm and 10:30 am Masses; and 15 minutes before the 8:00 am Mass during the first weekend of October. We are looking to have 4-6 ushers per Mass.



## PreCana Class at St. Gertrude on October 15

Are you an engaged couple planning on getting married at St. Gertrude? Couples that have established a connection with Fr. Rich (or another priest) are invited to attend St. Gertrude's PreCana course on Saturday, October 15.

This full day, in-person gathering is dedicated to considering your life together as a married couple. Led by a facilitator couple from St. Gertrude, the session begins at 9:00 am and features presentations, prayers, and discussions with your partner and other couples. Lunch and snacks are provided.

Couples can register for the October session by calling the Rectory office at 773.764.3621 or by filling out an online form at <https://stgertrudechicago.org/marriage>. The cost of PreCana is covered by the church fee couples planning a wedding at St. Gertrude are charged.

Additional PreCana classes at St. Gertrude will be offered on January 21, 2023, April 15, 2023, and September 9, 2023.

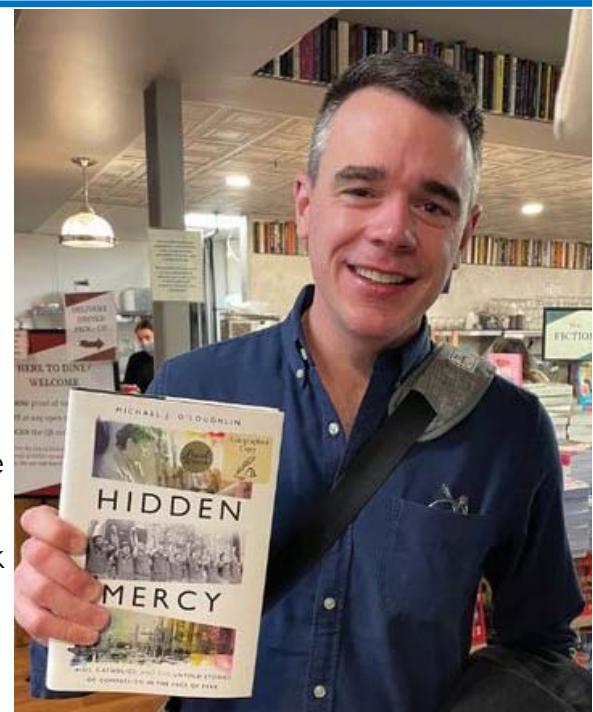
## Hidden Mercy - A Conversation with the Author on October 19

Everyone is invited to join a conversation with Michael O'Loughlin, author of *Hidden Mercy: AIDS, Catholics and the Untold Stories of Compassion in the Face of Fear*, on Tuesday, October 18 at 7:00 pm.

This is a jointly sponsored event between St. Gertrude and The Hank Center for Catholic Intellectual Heritage at Loyola University.

The event will be held in Loyola University's McCormick Lounge, located on the first floor of Coffey Hall, 1000 W. Sheridan Rd.

We hope to see you there!



**Save the Date—ACDVO Mass is October 1:** The Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach (ACDVO) will hold their annual Mass to end domestic violence and for survivors and their family on Saturday, October 1 at 5:30 pm.

The Mass will be held at Holy Name Cathedral, located at 735 N. State St.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH  
—ARCHDIOCESE of CHICAGO—  
AWARENESS • SERVICES • PREVENTION

## Growing in Faith

Luke's Gospel passage in this weekend's readings contains three very familiar bible stories. Sr. Wendy Cotter mentioned the other day that these three parables are for three different audiences. I suspect Jesus had each specific audience in mind when he told these different stories. *The Lost Sheep* is geared toward men. *The Lost Coin* to women. And *The Lost Son* was clearly positioned for a larger group of both.

Luke pulled all three stories into one section, as if Jesus were talking to only one audience. Why? I'll guess Luke saw that all three stories contained a similar theme: Going after and reclaiming something we have lost.

It's ironic to learn that Sunday, September 11th is the date these readings appear. 9/11 was an event that divided time into before and after. Today, we find ourselves in a parallel time where we're struggling to make sense of this post-pandemic world. Like the time after 9/11, we are seeking to find wholeness and meaning.

As before, we can't return to our same pre-pandemic life. Neither can we just pack up and move on. We've all experienced significant loss, in so many different domains. We've lost family members, friends, livelihoods, school, and development time. The list goes on. Now, recovery of ourselves is "job one". And it's not about going back to the same life as before. Instead, we reclaim our lives thanks to the transformative process of grief, through which we create new meaning. Only then will we find ourselves once again whole.

~ Claire Conley



**Help for Ukraine:** If you would like to donate to help the Ukrainian people, please consider making a contribution to Catholic Relief Services for emergency aid to the people in Ukraine at <https://support.crs.org/donate/donate-ukraine>.

## Cantors, Musicians, Ministers of the Word, and Eucharistic Ministers

### Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, September 10 at 5:00 pm - Kathleen Dawson
- Sunday, September 11 at 8:00 am - Kathryn Stimac
- Sunday, September 11 at 10:30 am - Rose Karasti

### Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, September 10 at 5:00 pm - Kathy Wall
- Sunday, September 11 at 8:00 am - Brian DeVarenne
- Sunday, September 11 at 10:30 am - Carlos Barragan, Bob Backis, Rafael Melendez

### Cantors:

- Saturday, September 10 at 5:00 pm - Bernie O'Connor
- Sunday, September 11 at 8:00 am - Kate Hibbs Davis
- Sunday, September 11 at 10:30 am - Matt Heimer, cantor; Dana Sullivan, flute; St. Gertrude choir

## Mass Intentions

- **Monday, September 12:** 7:30 am - Living and deceased Torreano family members
- **Tuesday, September 13:** 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- **Wednesday, September 14:** 7:30 am - Joseph Brennan +
- **Thursday, September 15:** 7:30 am - Communion Service/Billy Tobin +
- **Friday, September 16:** 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
- **Saturday, September 17:** 7:30 am - World peace; 5:00 pm - Hal Mann +
- **Sunday, September 18:** 8:00 am - Living and deceased Torreano family member; 10:30 am - Betty and Jack Taylor; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Marie Schraufnagel +

(+ indicates the person is deceased)

## Mass Times/Weekly Reconciliation

- Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:30 am in Church (The 10:30 am Gym Mass resumes Sunday, September 18.)
- Monday-Friday: 7:30 am (Thursday is a Communion Service.)
- Saturday: 7:30 am & 5:00 pm
- Reconciliation is offered on Saturday from 4:15-4:45 pm in Church or by appointment by calling the Rectory at 773.764.3621.

## Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- |                           |                          |                        |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Pamela Sherrod Anderson | • Christine Frisoni      | • Larry McCauley       |
| • Zara Bradley            | • Shirley Marie Gonzales | • Molly Morris         |
| • Sharon Brown            | • Gina Heidkamp          | • Karey Myers          |
| • Lilly Buie              | • Maria Hertl            | • Richard Seitz        |
| • Claire Bushey           | • Daniel Hidalgo         | • Peggy Stoffel        |
| • Maggie Callaway         | • Bernice Kiedysz        | • The Sullivan family  |
| • Aida Calvopina          | • Marilyn Klein          | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • KC Conway               | • Steve Laslo            | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • Connie Cool             | • Roy Lipscomb           | • Leon Ward            |
| • Caloy Desembrana        | • Sheila McGuire         | • Ken & Vyes Yoza      |
| • Ann Collins Dole        | • Dean Mattoni           |                        |

## 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.

## 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