

Forgive your neighbor's
injustice; then when
you pray, your own sins
will be forgiven.
-Sirach 28:2

St. Gertrude Chicago

1420 W. Granville
Chicago, IL 60660
773.764.3621

stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org

www.stgertrudechicago.org

Bulletin for
Sunday,
September 13, 2026
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Annual Mission Appeal

St. Gertrude welcomes Fr. Gudime Jesudas for the Annual Mission Appeal this weekend. A priest of the Diocese of Kadapa, India, Fr. Jesudas has served in the United States since 2019 and currently serves as Associate Pastor at St. Mary of the Woods Parish.

The Diocese of Kadapa is a mission diocese serving approximately 85,000 Catholics, many of whom live in economically disadvantaged rural communities. Priests and catechists travel to remote mission villages to celebrate Mass, provide the sacraments, offer faith formation, and accompany families in their spiritual lives.

The diocese's mission focuses on evangelization, education, and social upliftment, including faith formation, scholarships for students in need, catechist training, women's empowerment, marriage preparation, and assistance to families experiencing hardship. The diocese also supports priests, catechists, and ministries throughout the region.

Parishioners are invited to support the Annual Mission Appeal through their prayers and generous donations. Every contribution helps bring faith, education, hope, and practical assistance to communities in need.

Please consider supporting the important work of the Diocese of Kadapa.



Parish Events & Activities



It's Not Too Late to Register for Religious Ed Classes

Religious Education classes begin this weekend, Sunday, September 13, at 9:15 am at St. Gertrude — and it's not too late to register!

We are happy to welcome our children and families back for another year of faith, learning, prayer, and community. Through age-appropriate lessons and opportunities to grow in faith, our Religious Education program helps children deepen their relationship with God while families journey alongside them.

If you have not yet registered your child, registration information—including the calendar, parent handbook, online registration forms, and tuition information—is available in both English and Spanish at stgertrudechicago.org/religious-education. In-person registration is also available by appointment.

We look forward to seeing our Religious Education families next Sunday!

Questions? Contact Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.

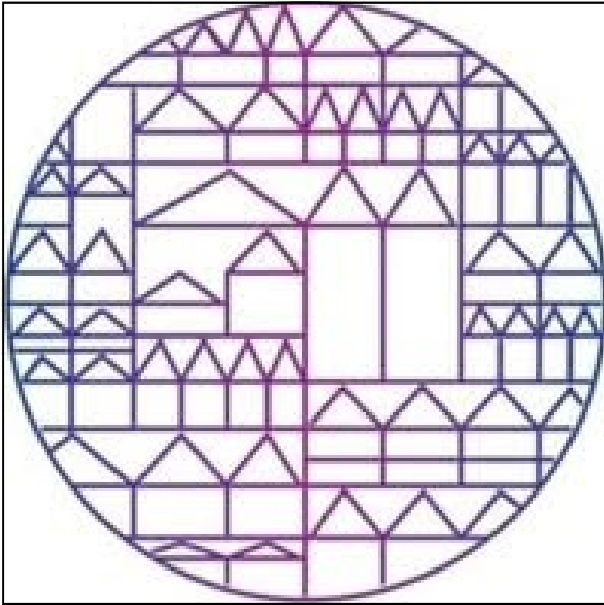
Interested in Becoming Catholic or Completing Your Sacraments?

Registration for the 2026–2027 Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) process is still open!

OCIA (formerly known as RCIA) is for adults who are interested in learning about the Catholic faith and becoming Catholic, as well as baptized Catholics who have not yet received the Sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation.

Classes provide an opportunity for prayer, learning, and faith-sharing in a welcoming community. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about OCIA at St. Gertrude, contact Eloy Escamilla by calling the Rectory at 773.764.3621 or emailing eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.





Commonweal Action Letter Writing Campaign - Wednesday, September 16

On Wednesday, September 16, Commonweal Action will host a letter-writing session in the Ministry Center. We will be writing to the *PrairieLand Defendants*, a loosely affiliated group of people who are being prosecuted by the Justice Department for their participation in a noise protest outside an ICE detention center in Texas. Most of them are currently imprisoned and have been for over a year as they appeal their cases.

As they have been separated from their homes and loved ones, we intend to offer them the comfort of a friendly voice and the dignity of genuine conversation. Our goal is to establish regular correspondence with them so they know, as they go through these difficult times, that they are not alone. We sent letters as a group in July, and several of us have already received responses.

If you would like to attend, writing materials, envelopes, and stamps will be provided. We encourage you to bring anything that would help you write more comfortably (such as a favorite pen) and any books or articles from which you might like to transcribe a passage.

If you would prefer to participate from home, or if you have any questions, feel free to email Aidan Coyle at packrat386@gmail.com.

Gym Mass Returns Sunday, September 20

The Gym Mass is returning this fall! Join us on Sunday, September 20, at 10:30 am for our first Gym Mass of the season at 1401 W. Granville Ave.

Gym Mass offers a welcoming opportunity for our parish community to gather, worship, and celebrate together in a relaxed setting. We look forward to seeing familiar faces and welcoming everyone back for another season of Sunday worship in the gym.

We hope you'll join us!



Brewed at St. Gertrude Social Gathering Planned for September 20

Make plans to stay after the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday, September 20 for "Brewed at St. Gertrude," our monthly gathering for coffee and community in the Social Hall. It's a wonderful chance to slow down, connect, and enjoy some time together.

We'll have a selection of pastries along with coffee, tea, and hot cocoa. Everyone is welcome—whether you've been part of the parish for years or are just getting to know the community, we'd love to have you join us!



The moon tells the sky
The sky tells the sea
The sea tells the tide
And the tide tells me

Lemn Sissay

An Invitation to Join Poetry Pilgrims - Next Online Meeting is Monday, September 21

Poetry Pilgrims will meet on Monday, September 21, at 7:30 pm via Zoom to read and discuss the works of William Wordsworth.

New members are always welcome, and no literary expertise is necessary. If you have a passion for—or even a curiosity about—poetry and how this particularly rich form of language can impact your life, please join us.

We learn from the poets and poems selected for each session, as well as from one another's observations and insights. We meet for about an hour and a half on the third Monday of each month.

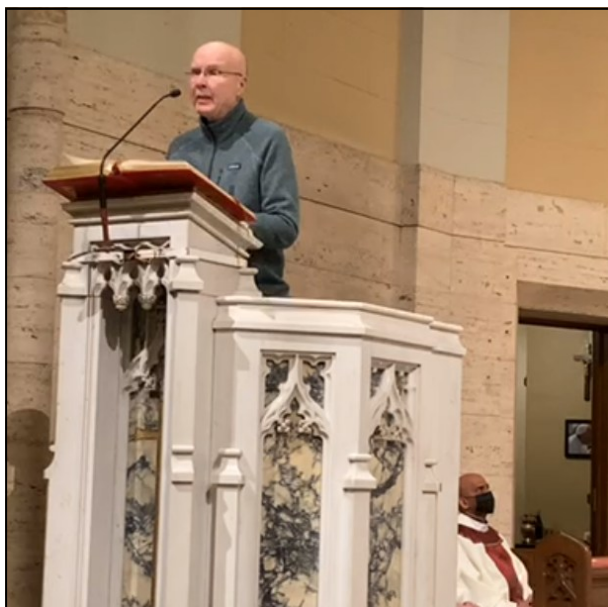
For more information, please contact Rose Marie Anichini at irma71@aol.com.

Join Us for the Rosary at St. Gerts

Recitation of the Holy Rosary in the mornings: The Rosary is said every Monday through Friday in the church right after the 7:30 am mass/Communion services.

Guadalupe Rosary Group (Grupo del Rosario de Guadalupe) on Friday Evenings

All are welcome to attend the bilingual weekly Rosary group held on Fridays at 7:00 pm in the Ministry Center, 6214 North Glenwood Avenue.



Share Your Gifts: Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers Training Offered September 21

Would you like to become more involved in the celebration of Mass? Consider serving as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister at St. Gertrude!

Training for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers will be held on Monday, September 21, at 6:30 pm in the church. Youth and adults are invited to attend.

Whether you are interested in proclaiming the Word of God as a Lector or assisting in the distribution of

Holy Communion as a Eucharistic Minister, this is a wonderful opportunity to share your gifts with our parish community.

To learn more, contact Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.

Altar Server Training Available on September 28

Share your gifts and become more involved in the celebration of Mass by serving as an altar server!

Altar Server training will be held on Monday, September 28, at 6:30 pm in the church. Students in 4th grade and older are invited to attend and learn more about this important ministry.

Altar servers play an important role in supporting the priest and assisting with the celebration of Mass. No previous experience is necessary—just a willingness to learn and serve!



To learn more, contact Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.

2027 Mass Intentions Book

The 2027 Mass Intentions book is open. If you would like to request a Mass intention for a loved one for 2026 or 2027, please call, email (jcarrillo@stgertrudechicago.org), or come to the office (1420 W. Granville) during regular business hours.

A suggested donation of \$10 per Mass intention is requested. To provide as many families as possible the opportunity to schedule intentions, requests are limited to 10 Mass intentions per household each year.

This Year's Pet Blessing is Saturday, October 3

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi is October 4, which falls on a Sunday. This year, we will celebrate it with a Blessing of the Pets on Saturday, October 3 (the day before the feast day) at 11:00 am on the church steps.

Please join us with your furry, feathery, or scaly loved ones! A reception will be held afterwards.



Parish News

A Bountiful Harvest for Care for Real

Our parish garden had a wonderful harvest this year! The garden was overflowing with ripe tomatoes of many different varieties, which were donated to Care for Real and gratefully received.

We also harvested carrots and more tomatoes to share with our neighbors in need. We are especially thankful to everyone who watered, tended, and cared for the garden throughout the growing season.

Thanks to the dedication of our parish volunteers, it was truly a great harvest!

Mary Clare Barker





Results of the Decision Makers Survey

Thank you to the 246 parishioners who generously participated in the 2026 Disciple Maker Index survey in March and shared their thoughts, experiences, and ideas. Your willingness to provide honest feedback enables us to celebrate the many things that are going well in our parish while also identifying areas where we can continue to grow together.

Overall, the survey reflects a parish community with a strong spiritual foundation, a welcoming environment, and a commitment to faith and service.

- 91% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that our parish is welcoming.
- 86% agreed or strongly agreed that the parish helps them grow spiritually.
- 90% agreed or strongly agreed that Mass contributes to their spiritual growth.
- 90% agreed or strongly agreed that preaching contributes to their spiritual growth.
- 87% agreed or strongly agreed that the parish provides opportunities to serve.
- 89% said they would recommend our parish to others.

These results are worth celebrating. They show that our parish is providing meaningful opportunities for worship, spiritual growth, service, and community.

The survey also gives us important direction as we look toward the future. When asked what the parish needs more of, greater involvement of young people was the leading response. Other significant areas included greater lay involvement in decision-making and leadership, more volunteers participating in ministries, and greater clarity around the parish's vision and direction.

There are also opportunities to strengthen connections within our community:

- Only 53% agreed or strongly agreed that parishioners are involved in parish decisions.
- 56% agreed or strongly agreed that the parish follows up on people's involvement.
- 72% of respondents felt the parish is either in a really good place and should continue what is working or is on the right track with only minor adjustments.

The survey does not simply tell us where we are—it gives us an opportunity to consider where God may be calling us next. We have a strong foundation on which to build, and the feedback provides clear areas for continued growth.

Thank you again to everyone who participated and shared their input. Your voices matter, and your feedback will help shape our conversations and priorities as we embrace the future of our parish community together.

Growing in Faith

Listen to the opening words of this weekend's first reading from Sirach: "Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight." Does that sound familiar? So much of what we hear in our world is toxic with anger. We live in a culture of outrage, of being quick to judge — and to judge harshly.

And, if I'm honest, it's not just the world and the people around me who are wrathful. I confess that I am quick to anger, fast to judge. It is easy for me to get mad at some driver on Devon or at some politician on TV with whom I disagree. Disagreement is fine, but not demonization. That's when I write off the other person as deeply bad, deeply evil, as a kind of demon.

There are bad actions, evil actions. But the people who do these bad things are still human beings, still my brothers and sisters. Just as I am their brother, even though I am a sinner. We are all sinners as Pope Francis often reminded us.

"How often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus is asked in Matthew's gospel. He responds: "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." Essentially, "seventy-seven times" is another way of saying "always."

Christianity is countercultural, so countercultural that, as Sirach writes, we're called to "hate not [our] neighbor, remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults." In other words, we're called to love our neighbor no matter what.

Patrick T. Reardon



Financial Report from September 5-6

Sunday Collection Envelopes: \$2,458.00

Loose Checks: \$800.00

Loose Cash/Coins: \$730.65

Online Donations: \$4,596.52

Total Collected: \$8,585.17

Budgeted: \$10,000.00

Difference: -\$1,414.83

YTD Collected FY 2027): \$89,888.05

YTD Budgeted FY 2027: \$550,000.00

Difference: -\$460,111.95



Second Annual Family Resource Reception and LGBTQ+ Family Mass on Sunday, September 27

At AGLOChicago, the Archdiocese of Chicago's ministry for pastoral outreach and spiritual accompaniment for the LGBTQ+ community, we witness daily the deeply felt need for families to know they are not alone. When a loved one comes out, parents, siblings, and friends often try to navigate complex questions of faith, identity, and belonging, leaving them searching for a community where they can heal, ask questions, and still practice their faith.

To meet this need and build a continuous safety net of support, we warmly invite your parish community, families, and staff to join us for our Second Annual Family Resource Reception and LGBTQ+ Family Mass

on Sunday, September 27 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel (708 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago).

Under this year's theme, "Connection and Celebration," the evening is designed to offer a safe, prayerful, and judgment-free space to ask questions, share resources, and strengthen ties to Catholic parish life.

Event Schedule:

5:00 pm – Family Resources Reception (Parish Ministry Center)

An opportunity to explore a supportive local network of affirming parishes, schools, and organizations ready to accompany families.

7:00 pm – LGBTQ+ Family Mass (Main Church)

A liturgy celebrating parents and chosen families who stand by their loved ones, honoring those who have passed, and concluding with a special blessing dedicated to all who accompany the LGBTQ+ community.

Families and individuals can find more details and register online at AGLOChicago.org.

Misericordia Family Fest is Sunday, September 13

This Sunday, 11:00 am–6:00 pm, join Misericordia for Family Fest at the Misericordia campus, 6300 N. Ridge Ave. Enjoy food, drinks, live entertainment, games, bingo, raffles, shopping, and more! Parking and shuttles are available at S&C Electric Company, at the corner of Devon and Ridge Ave.

Neighborhood News

NOW HIRING

**Enrollment Coordinator
Extended Care Assistant
Evening Custodian**



**Interested applicants should visit
our website for more information**
northsidecatholic.org/contact-us/careers.cfm

SAVE THE DATE

Maryville CYO 11th Annual Golf Classic

Invitational

Monday, September 21, 2026

Driving opportunities for youth
11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

ITASCA COUNTRY CLUB

400 E. ORCHARD ST., ITASCA, IL 60143

11 AM REGISTRATION | 1 PM - SHOTGUN

4-PERSON SCRAMBLE/ SHOTGUN START

- Foursome \$900 | Individual \$225
- Non-golfer dinner only \$75
- Registration 11 a.m.
- Range/free clinic 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- Tee off 1 p.m.

- Boxed lunch, beverage and range tokens will be provided
- Dinner, sponsored by Michael Munro, will be served immediately at the clubhouse
- Premium golf shirt

Scan the QR code to register
www.maryvilleacademy.org

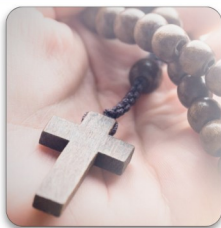


For more information, contact Tina Hock at restivo-hockt@maryvilleacademy.org or 847-294-1982



Maryville
Caring for Children. Strengthening Families.

Praying our Stories: Writing Your Own Rosary



October 5, 2026
*Day of Reflection
for Adults*

Since the thirteenth century, the Rosary has been a means of praying the Mysteries of Mary's and Jesus' lives. What has defined these particular events as Mysteries is how God was present and active in these moments, and praying them becomes a way of remembering that divine involvement. Our own stories as well contain events marked in our experiences and memories as times of God's presence. We invite you in this Day of Reflection to identify, explore and pray on the mysteries in your own life.



Retreat Leader: Rev. Carol Ann Munro
Ordained minister in the United Church of Christ; previous parish pastor and hospital chaplain; volunteer with the Ignatian Spirituality Project; active in 12 step recovery.



To register for this retreat, scan the QR Code
or visit jesuitretreat.org/retreats.



847-381-1261 jesuitretreat.org • Barrington, IL

Our Stories: Writing Your Own Rosary—October 5, 2026

The Rosary invites us to reflect on moments in Mary and Jesus' lives where God was present and active. Our own lives are filled with similar "mysteries"—moments of joy, struggle, change, and grace.

Join us for a day of prayer and reflection as we explore the sacred moments in our own stories and recognize God's presence along the way.

Retreat Leader: Rev. Carol Ann Munro, ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, former parish pastor and hospital chaplain, and volunteer with the Ignatian Spirituality Project.

Rest in Peace

- Mary Cook
- Vanessa Anderson Norton, granddaughter of Pamela Sherrod Anderson

Schedule for Ministers of the Word, Eucharistic Ministers, & Altar Servers

Ministers of the Word

- Saturday, September 12 at 5:00 pm - Martin Waide, Steven Monti
- Sunday, September 13 at 8:00 am - Jennifer Kiedaisch, Joseph Tomasello
- Sunday, September 13 at 10:30 am - Ellen Pierce, Martin Waide

Eucharistic Ministers

- Saturday, September 12 at 5:00 pm - Roman Reyes
- Sunday, September 13 at 8:00 am - TBA
- Sunday, September 13 at 10:30 am - Michelle Kuehlhorn, Lisa Schneider

Altar Servers

- Saturday, September 12 at 5:00 pm - cross bearer: Raiden Cruz
- Sunday, September 13 at 10:30 am - cross bearer: Camille Boquiren; acolytes: Micah Boquiren, Jayson Ameyaw

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| • Robert Actaboski | • Maria Hertl | • Pam Rice |
| • Susan Actaboski | • Patricia White Holmes | • Delphine Richert |
| • Victor Ayes | • Gertrude Huisman | • Joan Ross |
| • Carlos Barragan | • Tony Hunter | • Rosa Ott Sandoval |
| • Patrick Barton | • Forrest Ingram | • Sherwin |
| • Zara Bradley | • John Kahoun | • Willy Spalla |
| • Maggie Callahan | • Mary E. Kelley | • Floret Spalle |
| • Terrence Carmichael | • Marilyn Klein | • Mary Pierce Spalla |
| • Kathy Catrambone | • Jim Laczkowski | • Frannie Swaine |
| • Cavicke Family | • Joseph Lambin | • Marie Tarallo |
| • Mary DeBois | • Carleen Lorys | • Christopher Thomas |
| • David Denegas | • Roland Mady | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Ann Collins Dole | • River Malik | • Joe Touchstone |
| • Renee Elhoumaidi | • James Mann | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • Mr. and Mrs. Emin Euman | • Alex Marks | • Tayana Wallace |
| • Luke Fitzgerald | • Theresa McMahon | • King Wallace |
| • Adolf Gabriel | • Nancy Michael | • Christian Wallace |
| • Marie Galoney | • Steve Monti | • Kevin Walsh |
| • Thomas Hajduch | • Hilda Mora | • Leon Ward |
| • Anne Marie Hamde | • John Nardella | • Janice Wittenberg |
| • Anne Hasselbeck | • Patti Paul | • Dawn Wyman |
| • Mary Herbin-Horan | • Dealina Peon | • Yyes Yoza |
| • Rochelle Hernandez | • Claude Poulsen | • Joel Pozzi Zio |
| • Tricia Hernandez | • Brad Rice | |

Upcoming Mass Intentions

- Monday, September 14: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Tuesday, September 15: 7:30 am - Joan LeMorvan+
- Wednesday, September 16: 7:30 am - Mary Cook+
- Thursday, September 17: 7:30 am
- Friday, September 18: 7:30 am
- Saturday, September 19: 5:00 pm - Hal Mann+
- Sunday, September 20: 8:00 am; 10:30 am - Antoinette G. Linke+

Mass Times/Rectory Office Hours/Reconciliation

- Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 am Mass in Church, (The Gym Mass is on summer break.); Monday-Friday: 7:30 am; Saturday: 5:00 pm; The office is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 am-4:30 pm and is closed on weekends.
- Reconciliation is offered on Saturdays from 4:15-4:45 pm in church or by appointment by calling the Rectory at 773.764.3621.

Parish Staff and Contact Info

Rev. Sergio Romo, Pastor—sromo@stgertrudechicago.org

Patricia Branigan, Events/Room Booking Contact—pbranigan@stgertrudechicago.org

Janie Carrillo, Parish Secretary—jcarrillo@stgertrudechicago.org

Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate—eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org

Jonathan Hannau, Music Director—jhannau@stgertrudechicago.org

Laurie Hasbrook, Heart to Heart Lending Closet Manager—call 773.973.5464

Sr. Susan Quaintance, OSB, Heart to Heart Director—squaintance@stgertrudechicago.org

Tracy Shields, Communications Director—tshields@stgertrudechicago.org

Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management—esoto@stgertrudechicago.org

Heart to Heart/Lending Closet Contact Info

To reach our Heart to Heart director, Sr. Susan Quaintance, OSB, call her at 872.296.2537 or email her at squaintance@stgertrudechicago.org. To reach Laurie Hasbrook, our Lending Closet manager, please call 773.973.5464.

Contact the Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) can be reached at stgertrudeparishcouncil@gmail.com.

Donate to our Parish

- PayPal link - visit our parish website at www.stgertrudechicago.org
- GiveCentral: www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevants

Visit our Parish Website

For the latest parish events, bulletins, and news, go to stgertrudechicago.org.