

THE LAST WILL BE FIRST, AND THE
FIRST WILL BE LAST.



St. Gertrude Chicago

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Bulletin for
Sunday,

September 20, 2026

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thank You for Your Support!

Last weekend, our parish had the privilege of participating in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' annual Mission Cooperation Plan—a sacred opportunity to learn about the work of the Church around the world and to support those who are sharing the love of Christ with communities in need.

We were honored to welcome Fr. Gudime Jesudas, who spoke about the Diocese of Kadapa in India and shared the inspiring story of its mission and ministry. Fr. Jesudas has served in the United States since 2019 and currently serves as Associate Pastor at St. Mary of the Woods Parish.



Through his presentation, Fr. Jesudas helped us better understand the needs of the people served by the Diocese of Kadapa and the many ways the Church works to bring faith, hope, education, and support to communities throughout the region. His words reminded us that, although we may be separated by thousands of miles, we are united as one Catholic family through our faith and our shared mission to serve others.

We are grateful to Fr. Jesudas for taking the time to share the story of his diocese and for giving us an opportunity to learn more about the Church's mission in India.

Thanks to the generosity of our parish community, St. Gertrude raised \$2,333 for the Mission Cooperation Plan Appeal. We are deeply grateful to everyone who opened their hearts and gave so generously in support of the Diocese of Kadapa.

May we continue to be a community that shares God's love far beyond our borders.

Parish Events & Activities

Brewed at St. Gertrude Social Gathering Planned for This Weekend

Make plans to stay after the 10:30 am Mass this 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!



Poetry Pilgrims Online Meeting is Monday, September 21

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

Lemn Sissay

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.

Gym Mass Returns This Weekend

Join us on Sundays at 10:30 am for our Gym Masses at 1401 W. Granville Ave. This Mass offers a welcoming opportunity for our parish community to gather, worship, and celebrate together in a relaxed setting. We hope to see you there!

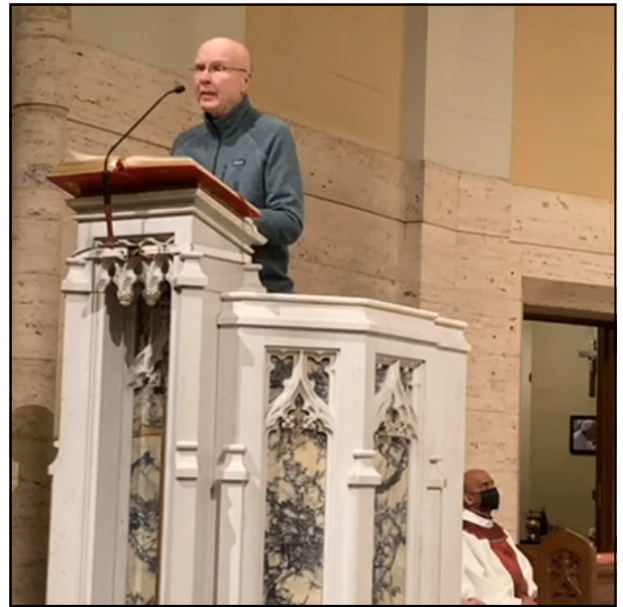
Share Your Gifts: Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers Training Offered September 21

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.



SEMINARIAN EDUCATION FUND

The archdiocesan collection for the education and formation of our future priests.



Second Collection Next Weekend: Supporting our Future Priests

The Seminarian Education Fund provides support for men studying for the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Your generosity helps cover the cost of educating and forming seminarians as they progress through the stages of preparation leading to ordination as priests.

Contributions may be made through the second collection at weekend Masses or online at archchicago.org/seminarianfund.

Please pray for our seminarians and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. Your prayers and support help strengthen the future of the Church in Chicago.

Care for Real Collection Planned for September 26-27

Next weekend, please consider bringing nonperishable food and other essential items to the Care for Real Collection before or after any Mass at St. Gertrude. Not sure what to bring? For Care for Real's current wish list and links to its social media pages, visit linktr.ee/cfrchicago.



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.

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.



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.

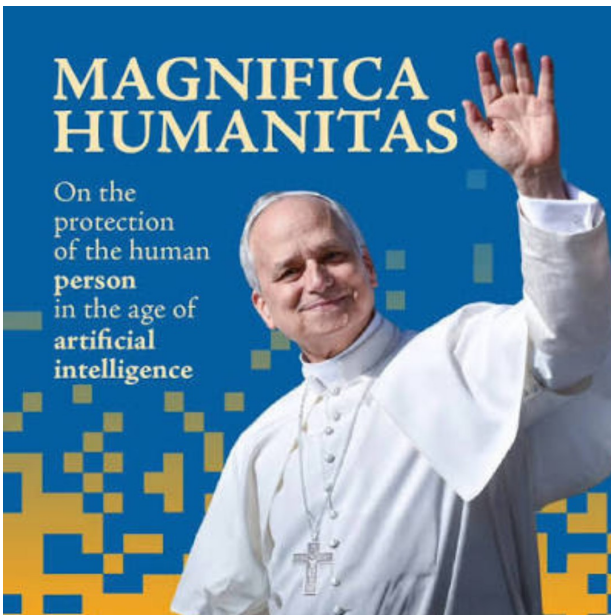
Guadalupanos Rosary Group (Grupo del Rosario de Guadalupanos) on Friday Evenings

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.

Friendship Club is October 8

The St. Gertrude Women's Friendship Club meets on the second Thursday of each month in the Ministry Center, 6214 N. Glenwood Ave. Gatherings begin at 11:30 am, and participants are invited to bring a brown-bag lunch.

Join us for fellowship, conversation, and friendship!



Save the Date: Forum on *Magnifica Humanitas*

Join Commonweal Action/Commonweal Dialogue on Friday, October 23, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Social Hall for an evening of timely and thought-provoking discussion on Pope Leo's recent encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, which explores humanity and artificial intelligence.

Professor Joseph Vukov, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Associate Director of the Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage at Loyola University Chicago, will lead the forum and discuss the importance and implications of the encyclical for all of us as we navigate the rapidly

changing world of artificial intelligence.

You are encouraged to read *Magnifica Humanitas* before the forum. Read the encyclical on the Vatican website here: <https://bit.ly/3Tf0Opi>.

Be prepared for an enlightening evening with timely and lively discussion. Pizza and wine will be served, and contributions to share are gratefully welcomed.

Upcoming Bulletin Change: Ads Accepted!

St. Gertrude will soon transition to a new printing company, LPI. The back page of our bulletin will feature local business advertisements, helping offset printing costs.

If you own a local business and are interested in advertising, please email news@stgertrudechicago.org to be connected with LPI.

Thank you for supporting our parish and helping make our weekly bulletin possible!



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

Registration is still open for St. Gertrude's 2026–2027 Religious Education program! Classes meet Sundays at 9:15 am. It's not too late for your child to join us for a year of faith, learning, and growth.

Children will learn about their Catholic faith, grow in their relationship with God, pray together, and build friendships within our parish community.

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.

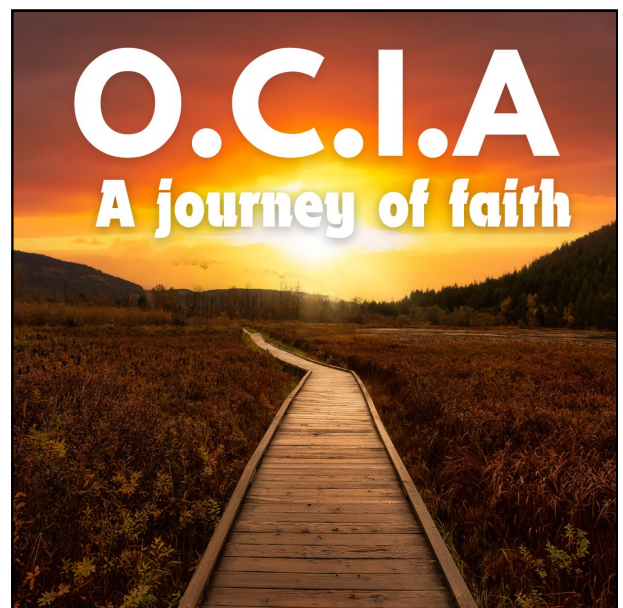
Interested in Becoming Catholic or Completing Your Sacraments?

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

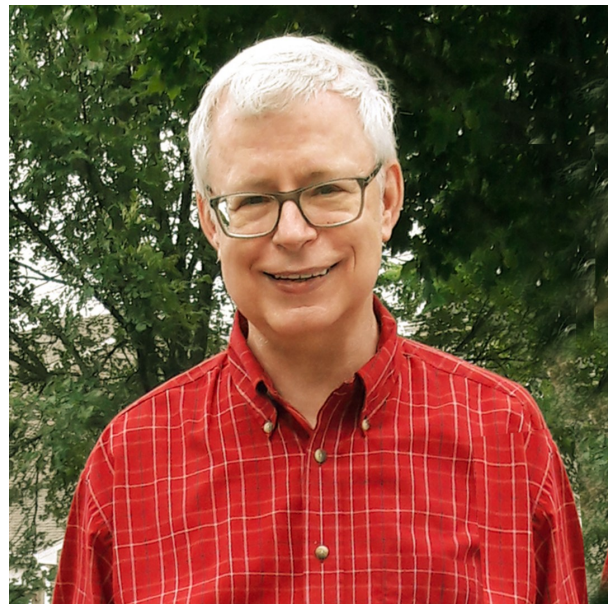
eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.



Growing in Faith

Today's Gospel gives us another one of Jesus' mind-bending parables concerning the Kingdom of Heaven. It comes as Jesus makes his final journey to Jerusalem and his disciples openly wonder about their future rewards.

It tells us, like the disciples, that heaven may surprise us with an unimaginably infinite amount of love and bliss where there is no richer or poorer, no greater or lesser, no first nor last. We cannot win a higher place in heaven by our works. What's important is that we respond to God's invitation to come into the Kingdom whether it's from birth or on our deathbed.



But this isn't just about the afterlife. It reminds every one of us to be loving and merciful with one another now just as the vineyard owner was with every one of his workers. It's what we pray for in The Lord's Prayer when we ask God to "give us our daily bread" as we help make the "Kingdom come ... on earth as it is in heaven."

One way is to look at the immigrants in our country who are being told that they don't deserve to be here because "we were here first." Your family tree, like mine, probably shows that none of your ancestors were here "first" before generations of other immigrants and especially the First Nations of American Indians. We are all the legacy of immigrants, and the Gospel tells us we should treat the next generation with mercy and generosity just as our Creator will treat us in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Brad Collins



Financial Report from September 12-13

Sunday Collection Envelopes: \$2,540.00
Loose Checks: \$420.00
Loose Cash/Coins: \$830.00
Online Donations: \$9,412.51
Total Collected: \$13,202.51
Budgeted: \$10,000.00
Difference: \$3,202.51
YTD Collected FY 2027: \$103,090.56
YTD Budgeted FY 2027: \$550,000.00
Difference: -\$446,909.44
Missionary Co-Op: \$2,333.00

Neighborhood News

Second Annual Family Resource Reception and LGBTQ+ Family Mass Next 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.



New Parishioner

- Betsy Saenz

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

Ministers of the Word

- Saturday, September 19 at 5:00 pm - Millie Slane, Joseph Tomasello
- Sunday, September 20 at 8:00 am - Rob Sierzega, Kathryn Stimac
- Sunday, September 20 at 10:30 am - Rose Karasti, Edie Sheridan

Eucharistic Ministers

- Saturday, September 19 at 5:00 pm - TBA
- Sunday, September 20 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, September 20 at 10:30 am - Mary Clare Barker, Michael Kowalsky, Steven Monti

Altar Servers

- Saturday, September 19 at 5:00 pm - cross bearer: Raiden Cruz
- Sunday, September 20 at 10:30 am - cross bearer: Camille Boquiren; acolytes: Micah Boquiren, Jayson Ameyaw

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| • Robert Actaboski | • Patricia White Holmes | • Delphine Richert |
| • Susan Actaboski | • Gertrude Huisman | • Joan Ross |
| • Victor Ayes | • Tony Hunter | • Rosa Ott Sandoval |
| • Carlos Barragan | • Forrest Ingram | • Sherwin |
| • Patrick Barton | • John Kahoun | • Willy Spalla |
| • Zara Bradley | • Mary E. Kelley | • Floret Spalle |
| • Maggie Callahan | • Marilyn Klein | • Mary Pierce Spalla |
| • Terrence Carmichael | • 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 | |
| • Maria Hertl | • Pam Rice | |

Upcoming Mass Intentions

- Monday, September 21: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Tuesday, September 22: 7:30 am - Mary Jane & Walter DeSloover+
- Wednesday, September 23: 7:30 am - Juanita Gusmanos+
- Thursday, September 24: 7:30 am
- Friday, September 25: 7:30 am
- Saturday, September 26: 5:00 pm - Betty Jean Wolf+
- Sunday, September 27: 8:00 am - JoAnn Orr+; 10:30 am - Mickey Resch+; Gym Mass

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.