

Owe nothing to anyone,
except to love one
another; for the one who
loves another has fulfilled
the law.

Romans 13:8

St. Gertrude Chicago

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Bulletin for
Sunday, September 6,
2026

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Remembering Fr. Dominic Grassi

For many at St. Gertrude, Fr. Dominic Grassi was more than a former pastor—he was a familiar face, a trusted priest, and a friend whose presence became part of the life of our parish.

During his years at St. Gertrude, Fr. Dom shared in the joys and challenges of parish life and built relationships that continued long after he retired. Many parishioners stayed in touch with him over the years, a reminder of the lasting impact he had on the people he served.

As we remember Fr. Dom, we give thanks for the memories, conversations, celebrations, and moments of faith we shared with him. We are grateful for the years he gave to St. Gertrude and for the many lives he touched through his priesthood.

Please join us in keeping Fr. Dominic, his family, friends, and all who mourn his passing in our prayers.

May Fr. Dom rest in the peace of Christ, and may his memory remain a blessing to all who knew and loved him.



Annual Mission Appeal is Next Weekend

Dear Parishioners of St. Gertrude Parish,

Greetings and blessings in Christ!

My name is Fr. Gudime Jesudas, and I am a priest of the Diocese of Kadapa, India. I currently serve as Associate Pastor at St. Mary of the Woods Parish, where I have been ministering since 2021.

I am honored to be with you on the weekend of September 12 and 13 for the Annual Mission Appeal. I would like to share a little about myself, my vocation, and the mission of the Diocese of Kadapa, which your generosity will help support.



I was born into a traditional Catholic family and am the fifth of six children. My parents, Samuel and Showramma, were people of deep faith who planted the seeds of love for God in my heart. Through their example, encouragement, and sacrifices, I discovered my vocation to the priesthood. At the age of sixteen, I entered the seminary, and after years of formation and discernment, I was ordained a priest in 1997.

Before coming to the United States, I served the people of my home diocese in India for twenty-two years. Every assignment, every parish, and every person I encountered became a blessing in my priestly journey. Since arriving in Chicago in October 2019, I have experienced the same joy of serving God's people. I have been deeply touched by the faith, generosity, and welcoming spirit of the Catholic communities here. Chicago has truly become a second home for me.

The Diocese of Kadapa: A Mission Church

The Diocese of Kadapa, located in the state of Andhra Pradesh in South India, was established in 1977 as a mission diocese. Today, it serves approximately 85,000 Catholics among a total population of nearly eight million people. The diocese consists of 68 parishes and 125 diocesan priests. Many of our priests serve not only in India but also in countries such as the United States and Europe, sharing the gifts of our faith with the universal Church.

Most of our Catholic faithful come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Nearly 90 percent belong to marginalized communities and depend on daily agricultural labor for their livelihood. Despite their hardships, they possess a deep faith and remarkable devotion to Christ and His Church.

Each parish often serves numerous mission villages, sometimes as many as fifteen. Priests travel long distances to celebrate Mass, administer the sacraments, provide catechetical instruction, and accompany families in their spiritual lives.

Forming Faith and Building the Future

The primary mission of our diocese is Evangelization, Education, and Social Upliftment. The diocese conducts the following programs:

Annual Mission Appeal (cont.)

- Faith formation for children and youth
- Scholarships for poor students
- Marriage preparation programs
- Leadership training for village elders
- Formation programs for catechists
- Women's empowerment programs
- Charismatic conventions at the deanery level
- Awareness programs in rural areas

The diocese takes on the ongoing responsibility of supporting parish ministries, providing salaries for priests in active ministry and trained catechists, caring for retired and sick priests, assisting hundreds of village catechists who serve in mission villages, and providing charitable assistance to families in need.



Boarding home for girls (above); Program on Tuberculosis (left)

These ministries require approximately \$30,000 each month to sustain. We meet these needs through the generosity of priests serving abroad, mission appeals such as this one, and the kindness of benefactors who believe in the Church's mission.

As a priest, I have witnessed firsthand how generosity changes lives. A contribution may seem small, but it can provide a child's education, support a catechist serving remote villages, help a seminarian discern his vocation, or bring the Gospel to communities that hunger for hope.

Your support is not merely a donation; it is a partnership in the mission of Christ. Through your prayers and generosity, you become part of the Church's work among some of the poorest and most faith-filled communities in India.

May God bless you abundantly for your generosity, and may Our Lady continue to watch over your families.

Fr. Gudime Jesudas, Diocese of Kadapa, India

Associate Pastor, St. Mary of the Woods Parish, Chicago, IL 60646



Parish Events & Activities



Rectory Office Closed on Labor Day

The Rectory office will be closed on Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day. A Communion Service will be held at 7:30 am.

Rectory September Book Club

Join the St. Gertrude Book Club on Tuesday, September 8, at 6:30 pm in the Ministry Center, 6214 N. Glenwood Ave., as we discuss *Mercy Street* by Jennifer Haigh.

New members are always welcome, and we would love to hear your perspectives! For more information, contact Lea Cloninger at 773.213.0509.



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.



Religious Education Classes Begin Next Sunday, Sept. 13 - Parent Meeting Also Planned

Religious Education classes begin next Sunday, September 13, at 9:15 am at St. Gertrude. At the same time, all parents and guardians are required to attend a parent meeting as we begin the 2026–2027 Religious Education year.

We look forward to welcoming 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!

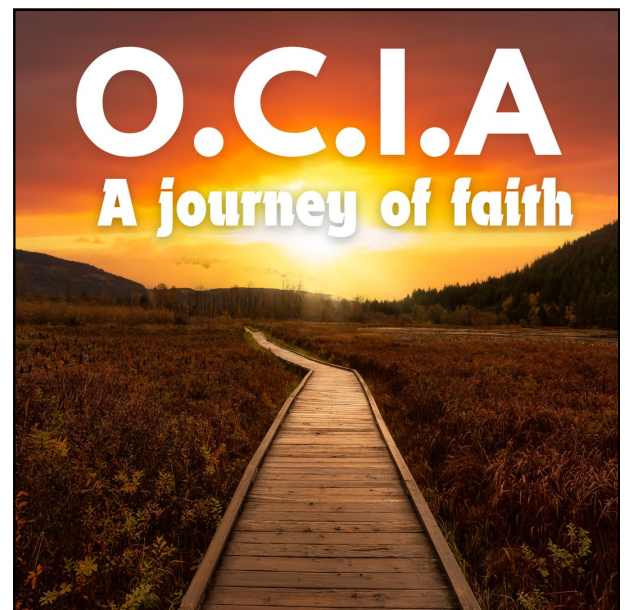
Questions? Contact Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.

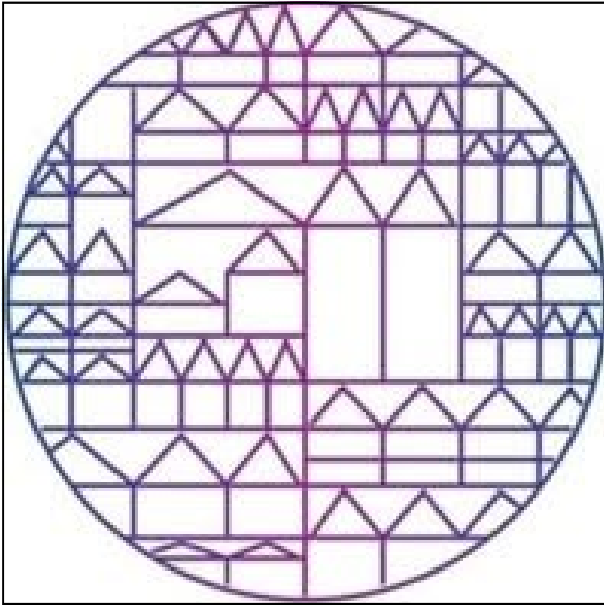
Interested in Becoming Catholic or Completing Your Sacraments? Classes Begin Next Week

Registration for the 2026–2027 Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) process is now 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 begin September 6 and 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

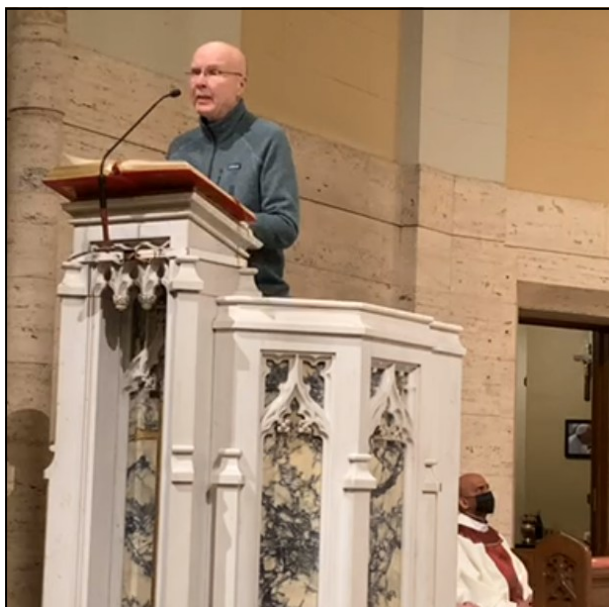
An Invitation to Join Poetry Pilgrims - Next Online Meeting is Monday, September 21

St. Gertrude Parish Poetry Pilgrims meets monthly to read, reflect upon, and discuss poetry. If you've ever had a passion for, or even a curiosity about, poetry and how this particularly rich form of language can impact your life, please join us.

No literary expertise is necessary. 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. Since the pandemic, our sessions have been held on Zoom, so distance and weather conditions should not deter anyone from considering becoming part of the group.

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



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

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.

Serve at the Altar: Altar Server Training Available

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.

Financial Report for August 30

Sunday Collection Envelopes: \$3,248.00

Loose Checks: \$735.00

Loose Cash/Coins: \$672.00

Online Donations: \$3,854.33

Total Collected: \$8,509.33

Budgeted: \$10,000.00

Difference: -\$1,490.67

YTD Collected FY 2027: \$81,302.88

YTD Budgeted FY 2027: \$550,000.00

Difference: -\$468,697.12

Growing in Faith: Love is the Answer!

Taking moral responsibility does not always come easily to us. It demands courage when we may prefer to look the other way. We want to avoid confrontation. In today's Scripture readings, God reminds us once more of the cost of discipleship.

Blatant disregard for truth is rampant in our highest leadership, including our government, institutions, corporations, and media. "Alternative" truth threatens the life of our very planet and its civilization. We feel the anger and disappointment of being deceived, but none of us are innocent of our own participation in hurting others.



Our Scriptures today are clear about the commission to love, and love requires face to face honesty. Jesus in his humanity knows the complexity of what that means to us, and he gives us some explicit instructions for resolving disputes. These are requirements:

- Person to person reconciliation,
- Involvement and discernment within community,
- Church wisdom.

I am most struck by Jesus's final resort to an incorrigible person: "If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector." Isn't the way Jesus himself treated a number of Gentiles and tax collectors his example for us? He treated them with honesty, hospitality, and great love. Love is the answer!

Nancy Bujnowski



Loyola Students Serve at Heart to Heart

St. Gertrude was grateful to welcome a wonderful group of Loyola University Chicago freshmen participating in Community Service and Action's Saturday of Service. The students volunteered at our Heart to Heart Medical Lending Closet, lending their time and energy to help serve our community.

Thank you to this fabulous crew, who came to Loyola from communities all across the country, for choosing to spend part of their first days on campus in service to others. We're so glad to have you as part of our neighborhood!



Catholic Lawyers Guild to Host Forum: AI and Other Challenges to the Future of Workers' Rights on September 9

Join the Catholic Lawyers Guild of Chicago for "Workers Rights Forum III 2026," a timely program examining current developments in the law and federal policies affecting workers. The Forum will take place on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Carpenters Hall, 12 East Erie in Chicago.

The Forum seeks to educate lawyers and other members of the public about Catholic social teaching on worker justice, with particular attention to federal workers, immigrants, and detained people.

The keynote presentation will be provided by Professor Joseph Vukov, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Loyola University Chicago. He will explain Magnifica Humanitas, the recently released encyclical by Pope Leo exploring the challenges artificial intelligence poses to our essential humanity. The audience will have an opportunity to discuss how to respond to current developments and trends, including the impact of AI on workers.

Please register here: <https://www.clgchicago.org/events/workersforum/>.



AT THE STREET FEST

- ✓ Cold drinks & food for purchase
- ✓ Live music
- ✓ Parents, friends, & alumni welcome
- ✓ Chance for glory!

\$50/player or \$100/team



11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Saturday, September 12
 Round Robin tournament • No experience necessary • Single players will be paired
 Proceeds benefit NCA Athletics
www.northsidecatholic.org/parents


REGISTER



Hosted by
NCAPO

**5th annual NCA
WILDCAT
STREET FEST**


 LEARN MORE

**Saturday
September 12**
11am - 3pm
 All ages welcome
 Glenwood & Granville

New Parishioner

- Nancy Goldberg

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

Ministers of the Word

- Saturday, September 5 at 5:00 pm - Joe McMahon, Millie Slane
- Sunday, September 6 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe, Kathryn Stimac
- Sunday, September 6 at 10:30 am - Troy McMillan, Anthony Myers

Eucharistic Ministers

- Saturday, September 5 at 5:00 pm - Christine Lincoln
- Sunday, September 6 at 8:00 am - Lisa Schneider
- Sunday, September 6 at 10:30 am - Robert Backis, Tim Love, Ellen Pierce

Altar Servers

- Saturday, September 5 at 5:00 pm - cross bearer: Ethan Craft; acolyte: Raiden Cruz
- Sunday, September 6 at 10:30 am - cross bearer: Viviana Love; acolytes: Kora Cunningham, Daniel Cunningham

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

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

Upcoming Mass Intentions

- Monday, September 7: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Tuesday, September 8: 7:30 am - Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Loudmila Silva Ferreira de Souza
- Wednesday, September 9: 7:30 am - Cutintia Maria de Aldina+
- Thursday, September 10: 7:30 am
- Friday, September 11: 7:30 am - Maria E. Figenia Souza
- Saturday, September 12: 5:00 pm - Deceased members of the Edward and Mathilda Groeninger family
- Sunday, September 13: 8:00 am; 10:30 am

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. **The office will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 7.**
- 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/allevnts

Visit our Parish Website

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