

St. Gertrude Chicago

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www.stgertrudechicago.org

Bulletin for Sunday, September 7, 2025

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Second Collection This
Weekend for Palestinians
Impacted by War and Famine
in Gaza**

From Fr. Sergio

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Gertrude,

For almost two years now, we have seen the terrible destruction that the war in Gaza has wrought. As unsettling as images of entire neighborhoods being reduced to rubble may be, they don't compare to the more disturbing images of emaciated Palestinian children dying from lack of food, water, and medical supplies. Noncombatants—especially children—have unjustly borne the terrors of this war.

There is a place and a time for civil discussions of culpability and of steps toward an equitable, just, and peaceful resolution, and I encourage all people of goodwill to take part in those. But, at this moment, the most urgent response needed is charity, so as to relieve the suffering of those most acutely affected.

How can we respond to something happening half way around the world? Our hands feel tied by the seemingly impossible logistics and the complicated geopolitical climate that rules our world. To begin with, we can pray for a change of heart in the leaders who are causing so much death and destruction. Our prayer is that their hearts may be open to see that their present path only leads to an endless cycle of violence. May God enlighten them to the way of true and lasting peace.

The other thing we can do is to help those already on the ground in Gaza administering crucial care. To that effect, Cardinal Cupich has asked for all parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago to take up a special collection this weekend to aid those suffering in Gaza. These funds will go to two organizations already at work there: the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). They have the infrastructure and personnel to quickly distribute aid.





From Fr. Sergio (continued)

What they need more of, however, is financial support to be able to purchase food, water, clothing, and medical supplies.

We may want to do more, such as conducting clothing and food drives. But those things take time, and shipping costs are prohibitive. Monetary donations can get aid the fastest to the people who need it now.

Please join me in praying for peace in Gaza, and in contributing towards this most important cause. If you were not prepared to participate in the second collection at Mass this weekend, you may make an online donation at our parish's GiveCentral page:

<https://bit.ly/GazaCollection>.

Thank you for your generosity. May God bless you abundantly.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Sergio

Events & Activities at St. Gertrude



Thank You for Your Generosity!

St. Gertrude has its Care for Real collection drive for asylum seekers this weekend! Please place donations in the bins at the back of church before and after mass times.

Missed it? Donations can be dropped off between 12:00-3:00 pm every Monday-Saturday at the entrance of their new home, 5840 N. Broadway, between 1:00-3:00 pm Sunday through Friday.

Care for Real also has an Amazon, Target, and a Chewy wish list for pet food that are updated regularly with their most needed items. Links can be found at <https://careforreal.org/wishlist/>.

Our asylum seekers' collection is always the first weekend of the month and the regular collection drive for Care for Real is always the fourth calendar weekend every month.

We are so grateful for your help supporting Care for Real as they work to provide food and much needed supplies to our neighbors who are struggling.

Religious Education Classes: It's Not Too Late to Sign Up

Register your child for the 2025-2026 Religious Ed school year! Classes are held on Sundays from 9:15-10:15 am on the St. Gertrude campus. They will begin on September 7.

Here's how to sign up for classes:

1. Go to <https://stgertrudechicago.org/religious-education-news> and fill out a registration form.
2. Email it to Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.
3. Pay the fee for the 2025-2026 school year (\$230 for one child and an additional \$40 for each student from the same family) at <https://bit.ly/StGertsReligiousEd2025-2026>.
4. Please note, children making their First Communion/Reconciliation or their Confirmation will also need to pay a \$75 sacramental fee here: <https://bit.ly/StGertsSacramentalFee2025-2026>.

Looking for more information? A handbook and Religious Ed calendar is available in both English and Spanish. Questions can also be emailed to Eloy Escamilla at the above email address.

REGISTER FOR RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES

Registration opens in August!

CLASSES BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER





Kid Word Returns on September 7: Children Will Gather in the Baptistry

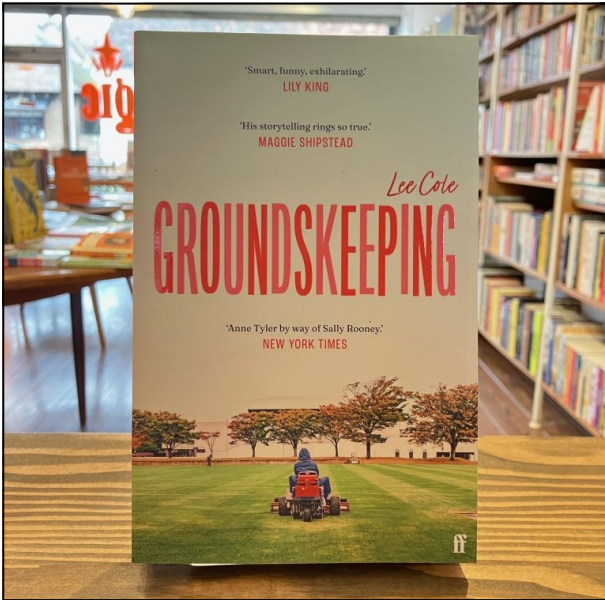
On Sundays during the 10:30 am Mass in church, children aged 4-7 years-old are invited to attend Kids Word to hear an age-appropriate Gospel message and do fun, scripture-based activities such as coloring or crafts.

Classes for this school year will begin on Sunday, September 7. They will take place in the newly re-named Junior Disciples Room (formerly the baptistry with glass doors), located at the back of the church

just off the vestibule.

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 for details.



Book Club Gathering is This Tuesday, September 9

Join us for a discussion of *Groundskeeping* by Lee Cole on Tuesday, September 9 at 6:30 pm in the Ministry Center, 6214 N. Glenwood Ave. New participants are always welcome!

For questions, contact Lea Cloninger (773.213.0509) or Sue Benjamin (773.551.8401).

Friendship Club is This Thursday, September 11

The St. Gertrude Women's Friendship Club meets monthly on the second Thursday of every month in the Ministry Center, 6214 N. Glenwood Ave.

The gathering begins at 11:30 am, and attendees should bring their own (brown bag) lunch.

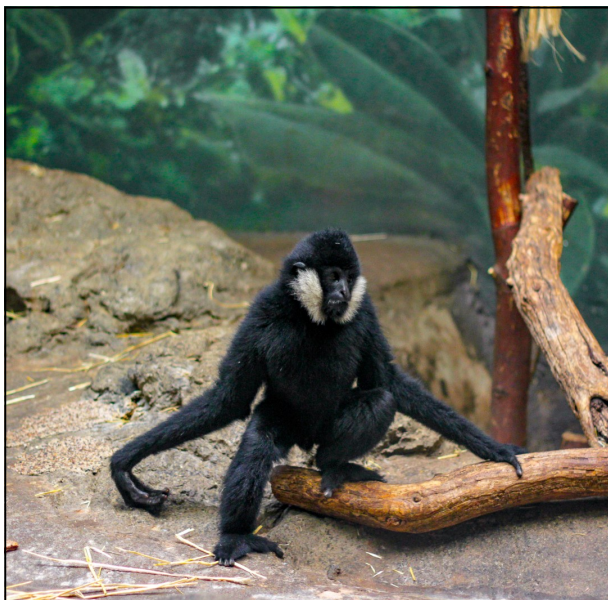
friend
[frɛnd] noun.

a person known well to another and regarded with liking, affection, and loyalty. a friend is a person who knows all about you and still loves you



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

All are welcome to attend the bilingual weekly Rosary group held on Friday evenings at 7:00 pm in the dining room of the Ministry Center, located at 6214 North Glenwood Avenue.



Youth Group Heads to Lincoln Park Zoo Next Saturday

The St. Gertrude Youth Group is planning an outing to the Lincoln Park Zoo on Saturday, September 13, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The group will travel together by CTA.

All students in grades 7 and up are invited to join. Email eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org with any questions.

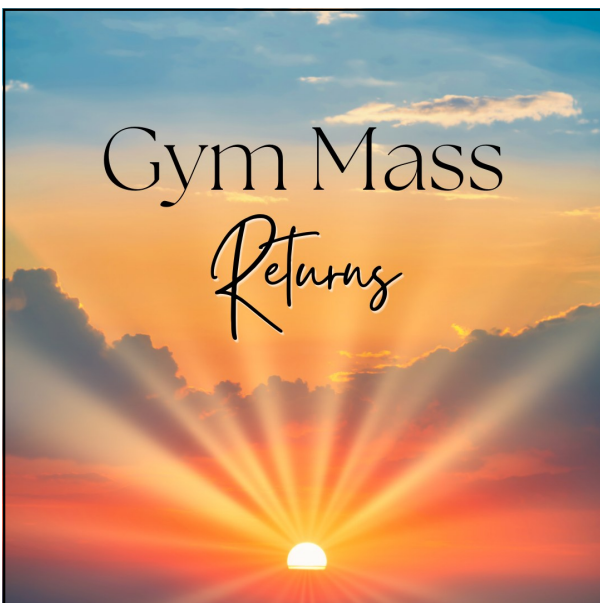
Trainings to Become a Lector or Altar Server

Would you like to play a more active role in our parish liturgy? This September, we are offering training for two important ministries.

Altar server training will be held on Thursday, September 18 at 6:30 pm in the church and is open to students in grades 5 and up.

Lector training will follow on Thursday, September 25 at 6:30 pm in the church, open to youth and adults who wish to proclaim God's Word.

Both roles are a meaningful way to grow in faith and serve our parish community. All are welcome!



Weekly Gym Masses Begin Again on September 21

In two weeks, the Gym Mass will return to its regular 10:30 am time!

This more relaxed Mass is held in the Gym at 1401 West Granville Avenue.

Fr. Sergio Romo to Be Installed as Pastor of St. Gertrude in September: Brewed at St. Gertrude Hospitality Afterwards

We are delighted to announce that Fr. Sergio Romo will be formally installed as Pastor of St. Gertrude Parish on Sunday, September 28, at the 10:30 am Mass, with Bishop John S. Siemianowski presiding. All are welcome.

The Installation Mass is a beautiful sign of stability and unity, marking the beginning of a new chapter of shared ministry. As pastor, Fr. Sergio will continue to lead our parish family in prayer, service, and mission, helping us live out our faith with joy and commitment.



✝

Please join us for the
Installation Mass
**of Fr. Sergio Romo as
Pastor of
St. Gertrude Chicago**
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
10:30 AM



Brewed at St. Gertrude Afterwards—Treat Donations Welcome!

After Mass, please join us in the Social Hall for our monthly hospitality gathering, Brewed at St. Gertrude, as we celebrate this meaningful moment together.

To make the gathering even more festive, we invite you to bring a treat to share—a plate of cookies, a family specialty, brownies, a favorite snack, or anything you enjoy will add to the celebration.

Items can be dropped off as early as 9:00 am at the Social Hall.

Curious about Events and Activities at St. Gertrude?

Upcoming events are listed on the home page and in our [Events calendar](#), found under the News/Programs heading!

The calendar also lists mass times and weekly activities.

Wondering about some of our [social activities](#) or [prayer groups](#)? Our *Parish Ministries* page, found under our *Get Involved* heading, shares various ways to get involved in the parish, and our [Contact Us page](#) has details on each member of our staff.



Growing in Faith

For The first principle and foundation of St. Ignatius ends with this declaration: *"I want and I choose what better leads to the deepening of God's life in me."*

St. Ignatius calls us to make a close relationship with God the goal of our lives. In today's Gospel, Jesus told the multitudes that we are called to the same thing: putting God first, before everyone and everything. Can we put our relationship with Jesus before family and friends? I often examine myself about the many distractions I place ahead of my commitment to Him. Am I willing to give up my pursuit of fun, my harboring of resentments, my

giving in to irritation, my zoning out on TV? Do these pursuits lead to the "deepening of God's life in me"?

In the Gospel, Jesus emphasizes the importance of preparation: laying a strong foundation and knowing the cost before beginning to build. For me, continually asking for God's grace has made all the difference. The saints encourage this as well. St. John Bosco tells us, *"Do you want our Lord to give you many graces? Visit Him often."* When I need patience before an encounter, I ask for God's grace. If I need strength, I ask. I visit Him often. Anne Lamott reminds us, *"To summon grace, say 'Help,' and then buckle up. Grace finds you exactly where you are."* He always responds.

I hope Jesus will see this as proper preparation and accept me as His disciple.

~ Dorothea Tobin

Helping Hands Needed with our Brewed at St. Gertrude Social Gatherings

Brewed at St. Gertrude, our monthly hospitality following the 10:30am Mass, is gearing up for the coming year. Thrilled by the participation of so many parishioners in this gathering, we want to make it a regular event that continues into the near future.

Would you like to join our ministry team? We seek additional volunteers who can help with one or more of the following: set up, serve, bring food, and/or clean up. Our dedicated crew has been making each hospitality welcoming each month, but could benefit from some more hands! Reach out to Steven Patzke at stevenjcpatzke@gmail.com with interest or questions.



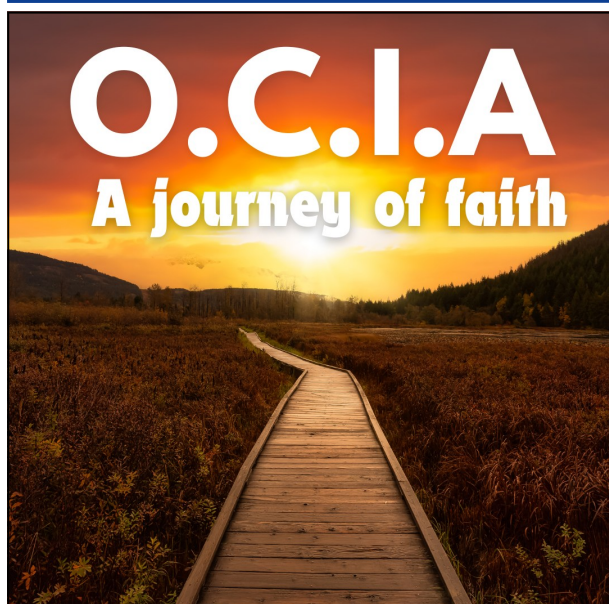
Substitute Catechists Needed to Teach Religious Education This School Year

We are looking for catechists to be substitute teachers in our parish's Religious Ed program and Kids Word! Catechists don't have to be professional teachers.

Most are parents and parishioners who enjoy kids and are willing to help them grow in a personal relationship with God, participate in the sacraments, and develop a mature conscience, and integrate faith in all areas of their lives.

Please consider offering your time and talents to help our young people learn about and grow in their faith.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate, Religious Education and Youth Ministry, at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org or call 773.764.3621.



Interested in Becoming Catholic?

The OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, formerly called RCIA) is a process by which adults learn more about the Catholic Church. This free program begins in the fall and meets until Pentecost.

Many people who begin OCIA are non-Catholics seeking to become Catholic or at least to explore whether Catholicism might be a good home. Others who take OCIA are already Catholic but want a deeper understanding of their faith foundation.

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

Contact Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org for more information.

August 30-31 Financial Report

Sunday Collection Envelopes: \$2,091.00
Loose Checks: \$260.00
Loose Cash/Coins: \$666.85
Online Donations: \$2,948.51
Total Collected: \$5,966.36

Budgeted: \$10,000.00
Difference: -\$4,033.64
Year-to-date Collected FY 2026: \$79,832.67
Year-to-date Budgeted FY 2026: \$550,000.00
Difference: -\$470,167.33

Parish Information

Upcoming Mass Intentions

- Monday, September 8: 7:30 am - Communion service; James Nolan+
- Tuesday, September 9: 7:30 am - Judith Paterson+
- Wednesday, September 10: 7:30 am - Donald Nyderek+
- Thursday, September 11: 7:30 am - The deceased of the O'Reilly family
- Friday, September 12: 7:30 am - Daniel McCarthy+
- Saturday, September 13: 7:30 am - Ricardo Martinez+; 5:00 pm - Hal Mann+
- Sunday, September 14: 8:00 am - John Staggs+; 10:30 am - Julienne Fouche+

Mass Times/Reconciliation/Rectory Office Hours

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

Donate to our Parish

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

Parish Staff and Contact Info

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

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

Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate—eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org

Jonathan Hannau, Music Director—jhannau@stgertrudechicago.org

Laurie Hasbrook, Heart to Heart Lending Closet Manager—lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org

Edgar Osorio Leon, Maintenance Director—esorioleon@archchicago.org

Sherl Patterson, Secretary—spatterson@stgertrudechicago.org

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

Tracy Shields, Communications Director—stgerbulletin@yahoo.com

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 or email her at lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org.

Visit our Parish Website

For the latest parish events and information, including our weekly live-stream, bulletins, images from recent events, rectory hours, staff members, funeral announcements, and updates about our various ministries, please visit our website at stgertrudechicago.org.

New Parishioners

- Brandon Kilcoyne

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

Ministers of the Word

- Saturday, September 6 at 5:00 pm - Art Lyons, Millie Slane
- Sunday, September 7 at 8:00 am - Kathryn Stimac, Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, September 7 at 10:30 am - Patrick Robinson, Edie Sheridan

Eucharistic Ministers

- Saturday, September 6 at 5:00 pm - Roman Reyes
- Sunday, September 7 at 8:00 am - Tim Love
- Sunday, September 7 at 10:30 am - Michael Kowalsky, Troy McMillan, Ellen Pierce

Altar Servers

- Saturday, September 6 at 5:00 pm - cross bearer: Danna Salinas; acolytes: Wyatt Dant, Carter Dant
- Sunday, September 7 at 5:00 pm - cross bearer: Viviana Love
- Sunday, September 7 at 10:30 am - cross bearer: Diarmuid McKeown; acolytes: Javier Lassus, Mary Kate Cashman

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| • Mary Amelse | • Marie Galoney | • Dealina Peon |
| • Victor Ayes | • Thomas Hajduch | • Claude Poulsen |
| • Carlos Barragan | • Anne Marie Hamde | • Willy Spalla |
| • Patrick Barton | • Rochelle Hernandez | • Mary Pierce Spalla |
| • Zara Bradley | • Tricia Hernandez | • Floret Spalle |
| • Hallie Burhoe | • Maria Hertl | • Frannie Swaine |
| • Aida Calvopina | • John Kahoun | • Christopher Thomas |
| • Marta Carlson | • Paul Kapczuk | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Terrence Carmichael | • Mary E. Kelley | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • Cavicke Family | • Marilyn Klein | • Tayana Wallace |
| • David Denegas | • Joseph Lambin | • King Wallace |
| • Ann Collins Dole | • Carleen Lorys | • Christian Wallace |
| • Jasmine Drake | • River Malik | • Leon Ward |
| • Darlene Durso-Clark+ | • James Mann | • Ron Whitfield |
| • Renee Elhoumaidi | • Alex Marks | • Janice Wittenberg |
| • Mr. and Mrs. Emin Euman | • Nancy Michael | • Dawn Wyman |
| • Luke Fitzgerald | • Steve Monti | • Yyes Yoza |
| • Adolf Gabriel | • Hilda Mora | • Joel Pozzi Zio |

Contact the Parish Pastoral Council

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