

St. Gertrude

All Are Welcome

1420 W. Granville Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60660

www.stgertrudechicago.org

stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org

773.764.3621

Second Sunday of Advent

Bulletin for December 8, 2019



A Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the best version of ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.

From Father Rich

Although today's date is December 8, the feast we celebrate in church is the second Sunday of Advent. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, usually a Holy Day of Obligation, moves to Monday. And because it moves, the obligation part of the holy day is lifted. So Monday is the feast, but the obligation to attend Mass is not in effect for this year.

This week, we also celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of the Americas. Although this is a huge feast for many Hispanics, it is also an important feast for all of us who live in the Americas. When we consider these two Marian feasts, we see how connected we are both as people of the United States and as people of the Americas. The presence of the Blessed Mother under these two titles connects us as members of the Church and as people of this new world. And especially the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe reminds us of the importance of recognizing and respecting the native populations of these lands, truly our "elder" sisters and brothers in Christ. What permeates both feasts is the virtue of hope -- so necessary in our lives and such an important part of this Advent season. This would be a great week to spend some time reflecting on the role of Mary in our salvation history. She is an example of patience as we await the coming of the Lord more deeply into our lives and our world.

This is our parish Christmas Bazaar weekend! Be sure to stop by the gym Saturday or Sunday (December 7 - 8) and find the wonderful bargains available, the great selection of crafts, and the convenience of doing your Christmas shopping while you are supporting St. Gertrude parish! Hope to see you there!

This week, we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the children from the NCA Primary campus, and next week for the middle grades at St. Margaret Mary campus.

Next Sunday, December 15, we will celebrate our parish Advent Reconciliation Service at 1:00 pm in church. This service provides some quiet, reflective time, with Advent hymns and a few readings from scripture to guide our reflections. This service usually lasts about 45 minutes and is a great event to include in your Advent preparations for Christmas!

The Giving Trees are still in the back of church with ornaments available for those who would like to participate. Pick an ornament from the basket, take the attached sheet which explains which gifts is needed, place the ornament on the tree, then purchase the gift(s) and return them to church, unwrapped, by December 15 (next Sunday). What a great way to put into action the true spirit of Christmas -- helping our sisters and brothers in need.

Sacrament of First Reconciliation

This past Monday, December 2, children from our parish community celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Congratulations to our young students! Please pray for all of them as they prepare for their First Communion.



RCIA Rite of Welcoming

On Sunday, December 1, we celebrated the Rite of Welcoming (for those already baptized in another Christian tradition who are seeking full communion with the Catholic Church) at the 10:30 am Mass in Church.

Sean Madden was welcomed into the church with his wife and sponsor, Karen Jahncke, by his side.

Please continue to pray for our candidate as he enters into a period of deeper formation in the RCIA process.



Our Annual Bazaar is Today!

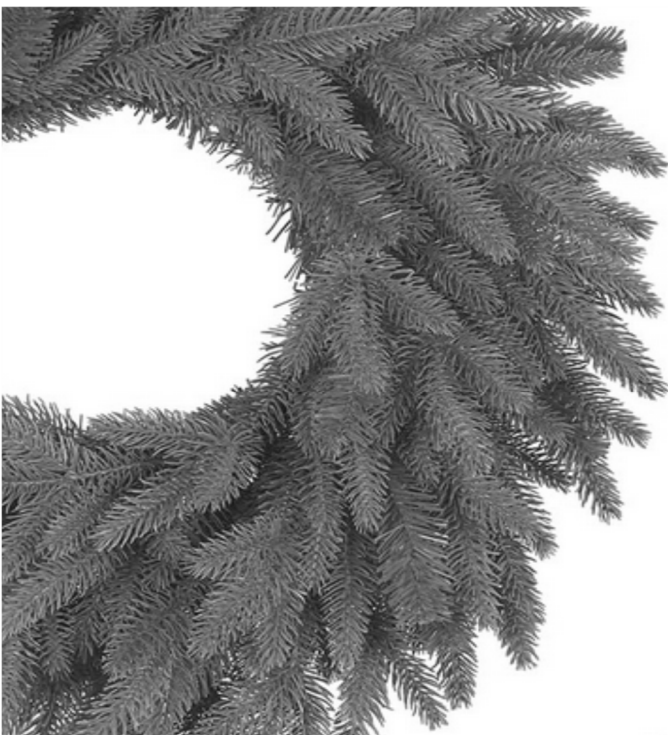


TODAY!!

Come to Our Annual Christmas Bazaar!

**Sunday, December 8
from 9:00 am-2:30 pm**

This annual event features handmade, fair-trade arts and crafts, plus a fabulous used book sale, Christmas greenery for sale, a White Elephant table, complimentary gift wrapping, kids' crafts, and so much more.



Balsam Pine Sale

A limited amount of wreaths and garland is available for sale at our Christmas Bazaar, with proceeds benefiting our parish.



Enjoy a Pancake Breakfast Today

A pancake & sausage breakfast is available in the Social Hall from 8:30 am-1:00 pm, with entertainment provided by parishioners.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

On a December morning in 1531, the Virgin Mary appeared in Mexico to Juan Diego, an indigenous Mexican farmer. During that first sacred encounter and in several more apparitions over the next few days, Mary spoke to Juan Diego in his native, Aztec language and asked him to petition the bishop to build a church. She instructed him to bring roses to the bishop, and when he opened his cloak to drop the flowers before the bishop's feet, all those present were stunned to see Our Lady's image painted on his cloak.

Why did Mary appear to Juan Diego rather than to the bishop himself? Mary's action is a sign of solidarity with those who might not be considered the most prestigious or powerful by society's standards. She shows that even a humble farmer, for example, has important contributions to make.



Parish Calendar

Sunday, December 8 *Christmas Bazaar*

- 8:30 am-1:00 pm ~ Pancake & sausage breakfast
- 9:00 am-2:30 pm ~ Christmas Bazaar open

Monday, December 9

- 7:30 pm ~ Good Books in the Ministry Center

Thursday, December 12

- 11:30 am ~ Women's Friendship Club Christmas lunch and White Elephant in the Ministry Center

Saturday, December 14

- 7:30 pm ~ Edgewater Singers concert in church

Sunday, December 15

- 10:30 am ~ Family Mass hosted by 7th graders
- After the 10:30 am Mass ~ rehearsal for the Christmas pageant
- Gifts for the Giving Trees due
- 1:00 pm ~ Advent reconciliation service

Monday, December 16

- 7:30 pm ~ Poetry Pilgrims in the Ministry Center

Sunday, December 22

- After the 10:30 am Mass ~ Christmas pageant dress rehearsal in Church

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Hail Mary, Lady of Peace,

We pray for peace in our world; make us peacemakers.

Hail Mary, Friend of Common People,

Unite us across economic lines; together let us raise up the cause of the oppressed.

Hail Mary, Mother of Mexico,

Help us both appreciate Latin America's culture and work to end its poverty.

Hail Mary, Mother of the Infant Jesus,

We pray for all children who are victims of war and hunger; let us stand for them.

Hail Mary, Wife of the Carpenter, Joseph,

We pray for the rights of hardworking laborers in all the world; let their dignity be recognized.

Hail Mary, Woman of All Generations,

Move us to speak for the elderly who lack adequate health care and shelter.

Hail Mary, Homeless Mother,

We pray for those without homes; let us advocate for affordable housing.

Hail Mary, Lady of All Colors,

Show us how to love all people by challenging racism and discrimination.

Hail Mary, Mother of Our World,

Make us global citizens, working for justice and well-being in all the world.

~ Courtesy of CRS

Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24 ~ *Christmas Eve*

- 12:00 pm ~ Rectory closes
- 5:00 pm ~ Family Mass and Christmas Pageant
- 8:30 pm ~ Christmas Carols in Church
- 9:00 pm ~ Christmas Vigil Mass

Wednesday, December 25 ~ *Christmas Day*

- 8:00 am ~ Mass
- 9:30 am ~ Mass at St. Gertrude East
- 10:30 am ~ Mass
- There is no Gym Mass.
- The Rectory is closed.

Thursday, December 26

- The Rectory will be closed.

A Letter from Cardinal Cupich

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During the weekend of December 7-8, 2019, our parishes will hold the Retirement Fund for Religious collection, an annual appeal that benefits some 30,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

As Christians, we are called to "serve the Lord with gladness" (Ps 100:2). Our elderly religious offer a shining example of what it means to answer this call. During their days of active ministry, they worked tirelessly to build Catholic schools and hospitals, promote social justice, and embrace the neediest among us. In retirement, many continue in volunteer ministry, and all pray for the needs of our Church and world. Inspired by love, their service-past and present is marked by joy and a deep desire to do the will of God.

As you may know, many religious communities find it increasingly difficult to provide for aging members. Most older religious worked for little or no pay. Today, their communities do not have enough retirement savings. At the same time, health-care costs continue to rise, and fewer members are able to serve in compensated ministry.

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more. It also helps religious congregations plan for future retirement needs, even as they continue to serve the People of God.

For the almost forty years during which this collection has been taken, the Archdiocese of Chicago has been one of the most generous donors for this cause. I understand you are asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you only to give what you can. Most importantly, please pray for God's continued blessing on all our women and men religious. Rest assured, they are praying for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Cardinal Blase Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago

Advent 2019: "God is always with us....Let us walk in the light of the Lord."

Week II: Love & Learning

Most of us are familiar with the idea of "tough love." It usually means we are in a situation where, for the good of the other person or persons involved, we need to enforce a certain discipline or impose certain boundaries or limits. Usually in these situations, the other person(s) might only be partly aware of what has brought them to that point, and often don't understand why a change in behavior or activity is necessary.

As we hear the preaching and prophesying of John the Baptist, we can imagine how difficult it must have been for many people to grasp the change he was talking about! The arrival of the Messiah in the way he showed up was certainly not what many believers expected! Even John would wonder if Jesus really was who he thought he was. By that time, John was already in prison, facing the end of his life. The assurance he received from Jesus in the response message was to remind John of what had been happening and how it fulfilled the promises.

In our own lives and in our own world, we are asked again, in this Advent season, to consider how we are responding to God's presence in our lives. The foundation is love, and the invitation is to learn anew what we may already have learned. But our lives have changed and our world has changed. So given this present moment, how is our faith journey going? Are there things I need to change to better be present to God? How am I treating my family members, my co-workers, my neighbors and friends?

The second candle of the wreath indicates that the journey, to which we need to be more attentive, is becoming increasingly brighter. How, then, can I walk in the light of the Lord?

~ Father Rich

Parish News

TODAY—Second Collection for Retired Religious: The sisters, brothers and religious order priests ministered for little pay, resulting in today's shortage of retirement savings. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be as generous as your means allow.

The Giving Trees: Our Giving Trees are up in Church! Please help us make Christmas special for families in need. The process is easy!

- Choose an ornament from the basket near the trees in the back of Church.
- Remove the gift idea.
- Place the ornament on the tree.
- Purchase the gift.
- Bring it back unwrapped and place it under the tree in Church.
- Gifts are due next Sunday, December 15.

The items requested will go to support Care for Real, Heartland Alliance, Courage, Catholic Charities Toy Shower, the Refugee Ministry at St. Gertrude, and other refugee families in our community. We hope you join us as we share our St. Gert's generosity with our neighbors!

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is Monday, December 9: The Immaculate Conception is a Catholic teaching maintaining that from the moment she was conceived, the Blessed Virgin Mary was kept free of original sin and was filled with the sanctifying grace normally conferred during baptism. This year, it is not a holy day of obligation. Mass will be held at 7:30 am.

Good Books & Poetry Pilgrims: The book club will meet on Monday, December 9 and Poetry Pilgrims will gather on Monday, December 16. Both groups meet at 7:30 pm in the Ministry Center. Contact Mary Grover at mary@marsgrover.com with any questions.

Women's Friendship Club Gathering: The group will meet on Thursday, December 12 at 11:30 am in the Ministry Center for their annual Christmas Lunch and White Elephant.

Family Mass: On Sunday, December 15, there will be a Family Mass in Church at 10:30 am, hosted by 7th grade students and their families. There will be hospitality offered after Mass.

Advent Reconciliation: Next Sunday, December 15, we will celebrate our Parish Advent Reconciliation Service at 1:00 pm in church. The

celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a perfect way to prepare for the feast of Christmas. In this reflective service, we have a chance to prepare our hearts and souls for Christmas as we continue our Advent journey.

Remembrance Altar: If you had a picture or a memento on our remembrance altar in November, please pick it up in the Rectory office.

Little Blue Books Available: Advent Little Blue Books are available in the back of church. These small booklets offer daily devotionals during the season of Advent and Christmas.

Christmas Masses: On Christmas Eve, there will be a Family Mass at 5:00 pm and a Christmas Vigil Mass at 9:00 pm, with Christmas carols sung in church beginning at 8:30 pm. On Christmas Day, Mass will be held in church at 8:00 am and 10:30 am and at 9:30 am at St. Gertrude East. There will not be a Gym Mass.

Rectory Holiday Hours: The Rectory will close at 12:00 pm on Tuesday, December 24. It will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 and Thursday, December 26.

St. Gertrude East Update: Members of the St. Gertrude East Advisory Team met with Fr. Rich to ask him to reconsider the decision to end the St. Gertrude East Mass at the end of November. The team presented new data and detailed actions to revitalize and energize this 9:30 am Mass community. The goal: significantly increase regular Sunday attendance. Father agreed to continue the 9:30 am Mass through the end of May, with an interim meeting in February. The congregation was overjoyed by the news, shared by Fr. Rich at the November 24 Mass. ~ Claire Conley

Thank You to the Mass Book Team: We are grateful for the volunteers that came out last Saturday, November 30, to swap the 2019 Mass books out for the 2020 ones. Many hands made light work, with the project finished in record time! Thank you to all who helped!



Parish Stewardship Report

"The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest." ~ Isaiah 11:7

Young children instinctively gravitate to each other. They do not see the differences that adults may see; what they see is simply another child. "Want to be friends?" "Sure! Let's play!"

During this Advent season and beyond, let us remember that we, no matter what our age, are all children of God.

~ Art Blumberg,

Director of Parish Management and Facilities

Collection November 23-24	\$6,498.12
Budgeted Collection	<u>\$7,725.00</u>
Underage	(-) \$1,226.88

Collection December 1	\$6,121.55
Budgeted Collection	<u>\$7,725.00</u>
Underage	(-) \$1,603.45

Online Collection November	\$20,272.50
Budgeted Online Collection	<u>\$18,488.00</u>
Overage	(+) \$1,784.50

Kids Needed for Christmas Pageant

As is our tradition during the Gospel at the Christmas Eve 5:00 pm Family Mass, children from St. Gertrude parish will act out the Christmas story. We still need children to help! We are looking for kids to be shepherds, kings, animals, and lots of angels. I also need parents to come to the rehearsals and assist with organizing the kids. Parents need to attend the rehearsal so that when the rehearsal is over, the kids have a ride home.

Two rehearsals will happen in Church after the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday, December 15 for 30 minutes each and then one final dress rehearsal on Sunday, December 22 at 12:30 pm in the Church.

If you and your child are interested in participating in the Christmas pageant this year, please contact me at mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org.

~ Mary Clare Barker,
Minister of Music

Heart to Heart Holiday Closings

The Ministry Center office of Heart to Heart/Parish Social Services/Lending Closet will have reduced holiday hours.

On Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, Heart to Heart will close at 3:00 pm. The office will remain closed from Wednesday, December 25-Sunday, January 5. It will re-open on Monday, January 6 at 9:00 am.

Please contact the Rectory at 773.764.3621 or via email at stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org if you have an emergency need for pastoral services such as Anointing of the Sick or Communion.



Please have a safe and serene Christmas and a blessed New Year.

~ Jane Callahan-Moore,
Director of Parish Social Services

ECRA Thanksgiving Service

Thank you to all parishioners who joined in the ECRA Interfaith Thanksgiving Service hosted by the combined St. Ita and St. Thomas Church on the afternoon of Sunday, November 24.

Food was collected and donated to Care for Real, as well as a free-will offering.

Special thanks go to our talented parishioners, Bridget Dunne, who sang "We Sing for the Children", our Music Minister, Mary Clare Barker, the children who accompanied Bridget on violin, and their teacher, Jennifer Dunne.

Edgewater Singers Holiday Program

All are welcome to attend the annual Edgewater Singers holiday program to be held at St. Gertrude on Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 pm in church.

The program will feature traditional holiday favorites and celebrate the season of mystery with Midwinter Songs by Morten Lauridsen, a new composition by Philip Seward (director), and concludes with a wild romp through the twelve days of Christmas.

Our Parish at Prayer for December 9-15

Monday, December 9

7:30 am Purgatorial Society † *† Indicates person listed is deceased.*

Tuesday, December 10

7:30 am Lori Jeyuson †

Wednesday, December 11

7:30 am Donald Lee †

Thursday, December 12

7:30 am Communion service

Friday, December 13

7:30 am Elsie Radtke †

8:30 am NCA Mass

Saturday, December 14

7:30 am Living & deceased mothers & fathers of St. Gertrude parishioners

5:00 pm Richard Cenar, Sr. †

Sunday, December 15

8:00 am Michael Klekovic †

9:30 am Jack Newhall †

10:30 am Jacqueline Elwood †

10:30 am Parishioners of St. Gertrude (Gym Mass)

1:00 pm Advent Reconciliation Service

Ministers of the Word for December 14-15

Saturday, December 14

5:00 pm Kathleen Dawson, Bob Backis

Sunday, December 15

8:00 am David Sullivan, Mark Kollar

9:30 am Pat Riley, Barbara Rossi and Leon Ward

10:30 am Ruth Ott, Victoria Healy

10:30 am TBA (Gym Mass)

How Do You Find & Contact Your Elected Officials?

Be a voice for change! Contact your elected officials and share your thoughts on gun control, immigration, and more.

Visit usa.gov/elected-officials for a contact information for all of your elected officials, including your senators, U.S. representatives, governor, and state legislators.

Readings for December 9-15

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Eucharistic Ministers for December 14-15

Saturday, December 7

5:00 pm Mary Cook, Brad Koch, Candace Koch, Kathy Wall, Bob Backis

Sunday, December 8

8:00 am Hallie Burhoe, Barb Daly, Marty McDermott, Peter Morin, Mary Wyler

9:30 am Pat Riley, Barbara Rossi and Leon Ward

10:30 am Carlos Barragan, Rafael Melendez, Nancy Merrill, Jana Ashbeck, Richard Ashbeck, Karen Griebel, Farrah Healy

10:30 am TBA (Gym Mass)

Altar Servers for December 14-15

Saturday, December 7

5:00 pm B. Fulkerson, N. Fulkerson, K. Dunning

Sunday, December 8

10:30 am H. Negrillo, A. Okoye, N. Okoye

Heart to Heart Medical Lending Closet

The Heart to Heart Lending Closet's hours of operations are Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:00 am-3:00 pm by appointment only. We are currently looking for wheelchairs and tub transfer benches. Please contact Heart to Heart at 773.973.5464 to arrange a drop-off time.

Milestones



*Please Pray
for Our Parishioners
and Friends*

Walter Bradford
Ed & Ester Bugler
Maggie Callaway
Aida Calvopina
Geraldine Clark
Bruce Dean
Mary Ferguson
Mary Fitzgerald
Joan Harrington
Gina Heidkamp

Maria Hertl
Bernice Kiedysz
Karey Myers
Don Piven
Charley Scantlebury
Richard Seitz
Peggy Stoffel
Elinora E. Tolentino
Norma E. Viray
Lorraine Walton



New Parishioners

Joseph Pindelksi
Nate Peterson & Hannah Miller
Harold Eusebio, Grace Chang,
Sean & Claire



Rest in Peace

Bruce Dean
Charles Barranco,
brother of Joanne Steenveld
St. Gertrude Class of 1943



Baptisms

Henry Fox, son of Greg & Patricia Ruiz
Hammond
Robert Benjamin, son of Adam &
Rachel Beattie

Parish Information

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor
Rev. Michael Gabriel, Associate Pastor (part-time)
Mary Clare Barker, Minister of Music
Art Blumberg, Director of Parish Management and Facilities
Jane Callahan-Moore, Director of Parish Social Services
Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate
Laurie Hasbrook, Office Staff
Jim Potthast, Youth and Family Minister
Tracy Shields, Minister of First Impressions/Communications
Sr. Judith Zonsius, Office Manager

OTHER PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Michael Bradley, Resident
Rev. Dominic Grassi, Retired Pastor
Rev. William Kenneally, Pastor Emeritus
Carol Beatty, St. Gertrude East Music Director

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:30 am (The Gym Mass resumes on Sunday, September 8.)
9:30 am St. Gertrude East (Sacred Heart School/Sheridan and Granville)
Monday through Friday: 7:30 am (Thursday is a Communion Service.)
Saturday: 7:30 am and 5:00 pm (Sunday Vigil)

LOCATIONS:

Rectory: 1420 W. Granville Ave., Chicago, IL 60660 Phone: 773.764.3621
Website: www.stgertrudechicago.org
E-mail: stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org
Ministry Center: 6214 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago, IL 60660
Social Services Phone: 773.973.5464
Social Hall: 1401 W. Granville Ave., Chicago, IL 60660

RECTORY BUSINESS HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 am to 7:30 pm
Friday: 8:30 am to 4:45 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am to 1:00 pm

HEART TO HEART

Senior outreach and social services connection: 773.973.5464
Email: heart2heart@stgertrudechicago.org

PARISH SCHOOL

Northside Catholic Academy: 773.743.6277
www.northsidecatholic.org

BAPTISM

Baptisms take place on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Additionally, baptisms will be incorporated into one of the weekend Masses each month, with a different Mass having a baptism each month. This schedule will change in the summer months. Call the Rectory to make arrangements to have a child baptized, and to RSVP to attend a parent preparation meeting, held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

We have an enriching program called the R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults). Contact the Rectory for details.

MARRIAGE

Arrangements begin by setting up an appointment with the Pastor. Preparations are to begin at least four months prior to the desired date.

MINISTRY OF CARE AND COMMUNION

Trained ministers will gladly visit and bring communion to those who are sick or homebound. Please call the Rectory to make arrangements.

NEW PARISHIONERS

You are most welcome and are invited to stop in at the Rectory to introduce yourself and register, or register with one of the greeters before or after any Mass. Registration is also available online at www.stgertrudechicago.org.

RECONCILIATION

Individual: Saturday from 4:15-4:45 pm and by request.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS HELD AT ST. GERTRUDE

Al-Anon: Sundays at 7:00 pm in the Ministry Center
Open AA: Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in the Ministry Center, and
Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the school cafeteria.
Caris Pregnancy Center, pregnancy support, free pregnancy
tests, and post-abortion help: 312.229.5700.
Makko ho (Japanese yoga): Saturdays at 10:00 am in the
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