One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.
From Father Rich

Lent 2020: Discovery of Mission Through Prayer

Every Sunday, the Presider concludes Mass with, “Our Mass is ended. Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.” Or a similar sentence, always sending us out of Church and on a mission. The very word, “mission” means “one who is sent.” But if we are going forth to carry out some task, it is always worth asking what that task is!

This Lent, our focus is “Discovery of Mission through Prayer.” Lent is always an invitation for conversion, for change. This year, we are invited to consider, in prayer, what our mission is and how we can better live it.

This Lenten theme ties into the Renew My Church initiative we will be starting in a few months. Every parish in the Archdiocese is examining how well they are carrying out the mission Jesus has given us, and what we need to do to more fully make that mission the touchstone of all we do.

We are encouraged, especially during Lent, to pray. No matter what forms of prayer we use, quieting ourselves in order to listen for God’s part of the conversation is most important. Listening initially seems to be a passive exercise, until we actually start doing it! Then we realize this is hard work! It is no small task to quiet the ongoing conversation within my own mind and heart.

God is always calling us to something new—in our own lives, in our families and friends, in our work and neighborhood, in our world. Let us try to listen for the Lord and follow where he leads us.

May this Lent 2020 bring us a better vision with which to understand and embrace the Lord’s mission as together we move forward.

Happy Lent!

~ Father Rich

The Lenten Liturgy: During the Lenten season, just as we strive to simplify our lives, we also strive to “unclutter” our liturgy, helping us focus. At each Mass during Lent, the ministers process in as usual, then the Presider moves to a kneeler in front of the Lenten cross. Here he begins the Mass, provides a brief focus-statement and then invites us to kneel for the Kyrie, eleison. Christe, eleison. Kyrie, eleison, (Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.), which we sing after the Cantor. This Penitential Rite during Lent encourages us to call to mind where we have been “missing the mark” and asking God’s mercy that we might have the strength to follow Him.

There is no Glory to God during Lent, nor do we sing any Alleluias. These absences help us be aware that this is a Penitential season. After the first and second reading, we take slightly longer pauses to give us a brief time for reflection. The responsorial Psalm we sing is the same throughout Lent, “Let your mercy be on us, O Lord, as we place our trust in you.” After the second reading, we sing the Gospel Acclamation, “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.”

After the homily and intercessions, we move into the eucharistic prayer. During Lent, we make use of the Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation. These are the newest eucharistic prayers written, and are beautiful both in their theology of reconciliation and in the poetry of their language.

After the Eucharistic Prayer, the Lord’s Prayer and Communion, we again pause for a slightly extended period of silence for the post-Communion reflection.

On the fifth Sunday of Lent, we will have a very simple musical setting with no piano and only quieter instruments leading our singing.
Lenten Reconciliation Service
Sunday, March 22 at 1:00 pm
Our Lenten Reconciliation service will be in Church. This service, lasting less than an hour, offers absolution of our sins in preparation for the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter through reflection and quiet prayer.

Stations of the Cross
Fridays During Lent at 3:00 pm
Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday during Lent at 3:00 pm in Church.
On Good Friday, April 10, there will be Living Stations of the Cross at 3:00 pm, featuring teens from the parish.

Almoners Program
Beginning today, $5 gift cards to McDonald’s will be distributed each weekend in Lent after Masses by volunteers, with the intention of parishioners sharing them and a conversation with those in need. There will be a second collection after all weekend Masses during Lent to fund this program. Everyone is encouraged to use the moment of the handing over the card as an opportunity to have a brief and humane conversation with the other person, affirming them and wishing them well. This interaction is often more important than the card itself.

Rice Bowls
Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten rice bowls are available in the back of Church.
The CRS program is meant to encourage praying, fasting, learning and giving. For more information about using the rice bowls during Lent, visit https://www.crsricebowl.org/.

Simple Supper
Wednesday, March 11 from 6:00-7:30 pm
All are invited to participate in faith-focused reflections while sharing a meal of soup and bread. NCA’s preschool team will host this meal in the Social Hall.

Lenten Food Drive
Saturday, March 7 & Sunday, March 8
On Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8, teens from our parish will host their annual Lenten food drive for Care for Real in the back of Church.
Empty bags will be distributed to parishioners after Masses next weekend, Saturday, February 29 and Sunday, March 1, to be fill with donations and returned the following weekend, March 7-8.
Were you surprised by Pope Francis’ statement that exploiting Creation is a sin? That wasn’t on the list of sinful acts when I was growing up! Remember it today when we repeat, “O Lord, be merciful for we have sinned!”

Temptations come, as even Jesus discovered. Culture, advertising, and convenience coax us to harm the Earth so frequently that we barely notice. Today’s readings alert us to be on guard. Before a purchase or action, ask: Will this harm or help Creation?

e.g., Refusing bottled water greatly helps Creation: you testify that water is a resource that should be free; you save the water used to make plastic bottles; you save the water contents too often taken from areas that need it; you reduce the energy used to make and transport the bottles; you protect the fish and birds who ingest plastic bits and chemicals; you avoid contaminating water with micro plastics—and you save money!! You can find many varieties of thermoses. (Anyone who prefers filtered water can buy a thermos that includes a filter or fill from a filtered pitcher.)

It took billions of years for our Creator to prepare the cosmos for the Garden in our solar system, but just decades for that Garden, Earth, to evolve to its present endangered state. God is within it and each of us, empowering us to resist temptations to exploit Creation.

I have long been inspired by many St. Gertrude parishioners’ creation commitment. This Lent, let’s all help our Garden thrive!

~ Terri MacKenzie, SHCJ for Growing in Faith

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**Parish Calendar**

**Sunday, March 1**
- Special collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe (Place earmarked envelopes in the regular collection.)
- Second collection for our Almoner’s program
- Bag distribution for Lenten Food Drive
- 9:00 am-12:00 pm ~ Boy Scouts pancake breakfast in the Social Hall
- 10:30 am ~ Family Mass in Church hosted by third graders and their families

**Monday, March 2**
- 7:00 pm ~ Baptismal prep class (Registration is required.)

**Tuesday, March 3**
- 9:00 am ~ Mass intentions book for 2021 opens

**Friday, March 6**
- 3:00 pm ~ Stations of the Cross in Church

**Saturday, March 7**
- 10:00-11:30 am ~ NCA preschool event
- 5:00 pm ~ Lenten Food Drive at Mass

**Sunday, March 8**
- Lenten Food Drive in the back of Church
- After the 10:30 am Masses ~ NCA Book Fair
- 6:30-8:00 pm ~ WOW teens in the Gym balcony

**Monday, March 9**
- 7:30 am ~ Good Books in the Ministry Center

**Wednesday, March 11**
- 6:00-7:30 pm ~ Simple Supper in the Social Hall
- 7:00 pm ~ Knitting Group in the Ministry Center

**Thursday, March 12**
- 11:00 am ~ Women’s Club Day of Reflection in the Ministry Center

**Friday, March 13**
- 3:00 pm ~ Stations of the Cross in Church

**Sunday, March 15**
- 10:30 am ~ No Gym Mass

**Monday, March 16**
- 7:30 pm ~ Poetry Pilgrims in the Ministry Center

**Friday, March 20**
- 3:00 pm ~ Stations of the Cross in Church
- 8:00 pm ~ Parish Play in the Gym (Doors open at 7:30 pm)

**Saturday, March 21**
- 1:00 pm ~ Confirmation practice in Church
- 8:00 pm ~ Parish Play in the Gym (Doors open at 7:30 pm)

**Sunday, March 22**
- 1:00 pm ~ Lenten Reconciliation Service
- 6:30-8:00 pm ~ WOW teens in the Gym balcony

**Friday, March 27**
- 3:00 pm ~ Stations of the Cross in Church

**Saturday, March 28**
- 1:00 pm ~ Confirmation in Church
Lent 2020: Discovery of Mission Through Prayer – Week I

Every season of Lent begins with Jesus going out into the desert for 40 days and nights, in fasting and in prayer. At the end of that time, weakened and alone, the Tempter—the devil—pays him a visit. In that encounter, Jesus is forced to face the very things that would distract him or mis-direct him from his own mission. In his case, the temptations are to satisfy his own hunger by supernatural acts of turning stones into bread. His response makes clear there are a lot of worse things in our lives than hunger pangs. The second temptation is to earthly possessions, turning away from reliance upon God to complete self-sufficiency, dependent upon no one and no thing. But this he turns away when he reminds the devil that it is not right to “test” God. The third temptation is to unbridled power. And again, Jesus rejects the devil’s offer, reminding him (and us) that only God is worthy of our worship and giving our lives in service to God is our only mission.

Facing our own temptations is always difficult. How difficult? Consider how often we busy ourselves with many tasks in order to not be caught sitting quietly, opening ourselves to the voice of God in our lives and in our hearts. There is nothing wrong with activity. But when we use activity to keep us away from any introspection which can, with God’s help, lead to insight, we’ve abused ourselves. In stillness we can face the parts of our lives that are mis-directed, the parts that are wounded but hidden, the parts that we shield lest others see our weaknesses. But it is only in dealing with the truth, with reality, that we can possibly re-align our lives and re-direct our behaviors into the mission of our lives.

Obviously, this is not easy, or we would not return here every year! Perhaps even more importantly, as was true for Jesus, so also for us, it is the Spirit of God who leads us to this place! If we don’t know where we have been, and we don’t know where we are in this moment, it is impossible to know where we are going. So, we begin each year in the desert—to clear away the obfuscations that block the view of our true selves. We start here because God has led us here.

Perhaps since our last Lent we have become a little too self-satisfied or self-absorbed. Perhaps we have wandered from the path we wanted to take because other things have distracted us, demanded attention, and nudged us onto a different path. Whatever the temptation(s) might be, as we begin this holy season, let us find the time to go into our own desert and confront that/those devil(s). For that is what makes new beginnings—laying the groundwork for the rest of these 40 days.

Most of what will confront us in the desert is the proverbial, “easy way out.” It isn’t so much we wanted to get off the path as it is that we didn’t want to do what we had to do—the other path seemed so much easier. Let us turn again to the Lord and ask God’s help in this season to follow the path of His Son until we also find our way to new life.

~ Father Rich

Ministry of Praise: Did you know that there is a special and valued ministry that needs participants, particularly our homebound and physically-restricted parishioners? There are no meetings or dues required, yet the members have a valued connection to parish life by enriching others and themselves through their own dedicated, daily prayer time!

It works like this—we provide our committed participants with a prayer book and a monthly guide sheet reflecting some of the prayer requests taken from St. Gertrude Church’s Prayer Wall. Our prayer angels become an unseen blessing for so many! We welcome anyone’s interest in this caring ministry. Call Jane Callahan-Moore at 773.973.5464 for more information.
Parish News

TODAY—Special Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe: This weekend, Saturday, February 29 and Sunday, March 1, there will be a collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. The collection helps to rebuild the Church after 70 years of communist repression by supporting seminaries, social service programs, youth ministry, pastoral centers, and Catholic media in 28 countries. Please place your envelopes earmarked for this outreach in the regular collection basket.

TODAY—Pancake Breakfast: Boy Scout Pack 3822 will host their annual pancake breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, March 1 from 9:00 am-12:00 pm in the Social Hall. Tickets are available for pre-sale or at the door, $8.00 for adults and $7.00 for seniors and kids under 12. Proceeds help pay for events, outings, and operational expenses.

TODAY—Family Mass: Today, Sunday, March 1, there will be a Family Mass in Church at 10:30 am, hosted by third-grade students and their families. Hospitality is not offered after Mass during Lent.

Baptismal Preparation Class: The next class will be held on Monday, March 2 at 7:00 pm in the Rectory. Please call the Rectory office at 773.764.3621 to register for the class.

Mass Intentions in 2021: The Mass Intentions book for 2021 will open on Tuesday, March 3 at 9:00 am. Intentions are limited to one per Mass. There is a $20 suggested offering. Please note that the dates for intentions are subject to change.

Women’s Club: The group will host a day of reflection on Thursday, March 12 in the Ministry Center at 11:00 am.

Teen Get-Together: WOW teens and any teen in high school, are invited to gather on Sunday, March 8 and Sunday, March 22 from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Gym balcony.

Good Books: The book club will meet on Monday, March 9 at 7:30 pm in the Ministry Center. Contact Mary Grover at mary@marsgrover.com with any questions.

Knitting Group: The Knitting Group invites all knitters and crocheters to join us for fun and blanket square-making! We’ll meet on Wednesday, March 11 from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Ministry Center. No experience is necessary!

Gym Mass Info: On Sunday, March 15, there is no Gym Mass. Please join us at the 10:30 am Mass in Church.

Poetry Pilgrims: The next Poetry Pilgrims gathering will be Monday, March 16 at 7:30 pm in the Ministry Center. Please email Mary Grover at mary@marsgrover.com for a list of poems.

Save the Date! Our Spring Play is Coming Up! Our annual spring parish play will be held on Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21! The St. Gertrude Parish Players will present Three Cheers, a patriotic celebration of a veteran. Tickets for adults are $10 each and entry for children is $5. We hope to see you there!

Confirmation Information: Confirmation this year will be held on Saturday, March 28 at 1:00 pm in Church. There is a mandatory practice scheduled for Saturday, March 21 at 1:00 pm.

A Note from Our Music Minister: The season of Lent is almost upon us. One way to deepen our spiritual experience of Lent is through music. I am asking you to consider joining the choir for the season of Lent and Holy Week.

We are particularly looking for more male singers but welcome all newcomers. We meet on Thursday evenings in the Church and practice from 7:00-8:30 pm and sing at the 10:30 am Masses on Sundays. I have beautiful new music just waiting to be sung by a full choir and I think you will find this a rewarding experience!

For further information, please contact me at mc Barker@stgertrudechicago.org.

~ Mary Clare Barker

Please note, a list of Lenten activities & events is located on page 3.
Rite of Sending

TODAY—Rite of Sending for R.C.I.A. Candidates: Today, Sean Madden and his sponsor will be called forward at the 10:30 am Mass and sent with our blessings to Holy Name Cathedral where they will join hundreds of others from around the Archdiocese for the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion. At that service, he and other Candidates and Catechumen will be called forward and welcomed by Bishop Manz.

Please keep Sean in your prayers now and throughout the season of Lent as he continues his journey to the Full Communion at Easter.

Fast & Abstinence Regulations

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on all the Fridays of Lent.

Fasting is to be observed on Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one’s needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

Parish Stewardship Report

“For if, by the transgression of (Adam), death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ ... For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous.” – Romans 5:17, 19

We do not live in isolation. Our actions matter, for better or worse, affecting not only ourselves, but others around us. Will we bring darkness or will we bring light?

Sunday Collection February 22-23

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budgeted Collection</th>
<th>Variance</th>
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<tr>
<td>$7,725.00</td>
<td>(-) $2,126.76</td>
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On Saturday, March 14 from 2:00-4:00 pm, the Illinois Women Religious Against Human Trafficking will sponsor a performance and post-show panel discussion of The True Cost: Stories of Human Trafficking at St. Scholastica Monastery, 7430 N. Ridge Blvd. The production gives voice to the forgotten ones: People who are forced into sexual servitude; the children who are exploited as slave labor to provide cheap goods sold in our very own neighborhoods; the women and men who are lured into domestic labor that turns out to be entrapment rather than employment. To register, visit [https://bit.ly/2vhBFZA](https://bit.ly/2vhBFZA).

A free will offering at the door will benefit the Illinois Women Religious Against Human Trafficking.

Refugee Committee Request

Kadidja and her two children, refugees from the Central African Republic, have been in the U.S. since April 2019. Up to now, Kadidja has been supported financially by Catholic Charities and the St. Gertrude Refugee Committee. The financial support from Catholic Charities will end at the end of March. She is currently studying English and is not fluent but she does understand some English. Kadidja needs to start working and move closer to relatives in Evanston in order to get childcare support. Email Jim Manzardo at jbmanz@att.net if you can help with the following:

- You know of an affordable apartment in the south end of Evanston for about $1,000 a month.
- You know of an elderly couple with extra living quarters that may require assistance.
- You know of an employment opportunity such as cleaning, food prep, or sewing. (Kadidja has experience in sewing and natural hair braiding.)
- You have some creative ideas on childcare.

The True Cost: Stories of Human Trafficking

Parents are invited to bring their two to five-years-olds to our Cookie Decorating and Toddler Tunes playdate this Saturday, March 7 from 10:00-11:30 am in NCA’s primary school cafeteria, 6216 N. Glenwood Ave. Children will decorate cookies with an Edge of Sweetness baker, while listening to toddler tunes. Parents will have the opportunity to learn about our Early Learning Program and our new junior kindergarten.
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 the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9</td>
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Eucharistic Ministers

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Mary Cook, Kathleen Dawson, Brad Koch, Candace Koch, Bob Backis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Marty McDermott, Hallie Burhoe, Mary Wyler, Barb Daly, Sr. Kathryn Stimeac</td>
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<td>Leon Ward, Forrest Ingram, Ruth Timmons, Rene Elhoumaidi</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Patrick Robinson, Carlos Barragan, Lina Peon, Kathy Dunne, Rafael Melendez, Nancy Merrill, Chris Lincoln</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Gym Mass) TBA</td>
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Altar Servers

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Katie Dunning, Josephine Stoltz, Isabel Stoltz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Amanda Okoyo, Nonso Okoyo, Haiden Negrillo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends

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

Baptisms

Arabella Luna and Eva Anngely, daughters of Jesus Quiroga and Jill Herrick-Quiroga

Rest in Peace

Bruce Dean

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 and 10:30 am in Church
9:30 am St. Gertrude East (Sacred Heart School/Sheridan and Granville)
10:30 am in the Gym (1401 W. 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. 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 Ministry Center
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(773) 764-1617

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Tim Harrington, Funeral Director & Owner
Joan Harrington, NCA Teacher

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Se Habla Español

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shaves with an ADVERTISED razor
brushes his teeth
washes with ADVERTISED soap
under an ADVERTISED blanket

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Put your hair in a bun and . . .

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