Let us give thanks to the Father,
who has made you fit to share
in the inheritance of the holy ones in light.
He delivered us from the power of darkness
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

~ Colossians 1:12-14
From Father Rich

Many thanks to all those who participated in the International Dinner, the All Are Welcome concert, or one of the weekend Masses last weekend as we celebrated our parish Feast Day! It was a great weekend and a great way to honor the spirit of St. Gertrude still alive and active among us!

This Thursday is Thanksgiving. We all have so much for which we owe thanks and praise to God! Please join us for our special Thanksgiving Day Mass at 10:00 am. As part of our Thanksgiving celebration, the St. Gertrude Parish Service Awards will be presented. Thank you to all those who demonstrate, by their ministry and service, the true spirit of Christ here in our community. Here is the complete list of this year’s Service Awards recipients:

- **Parish Life:** Brian Corbett, Nathan Dant, Jane & Andrew Elwood, Victoria Healy, Kelly Hixenbaugh, Mike Holzman, Billy Resch, Rob Sierzega, Donna Whalley
- **Education:** Sharon Brown, Brigid Cronin, Steve Monti, Elizabeth & Kevin Sobczyk, Suzanne Stryczek
- **Human Concerns:** Cecelia Kern, Marilyn Klein
- **Prayer and Worship:** Carlos Barragan, Mary Cook, Forrest Ingram, Siobhan O’Neill Meluso, John Nardella, Dana Sullivan
- **Youth:** Jack Casey, James Casey, Liam Connors, Jesse Devitt, George Siegle, Curran White
- **Lifetime of Service:** RoseMarie Anichini, Charlotte & John Sullivan, Leon Ward

This weekend, we welcome speakers on behalf of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). The annual collection will be taken up after Communion. Our speakers this year are from the Jane Addams Senior Caucus and parishioners Ed Jacobs and Mary Ann O’Connor. So much of what CCHD helps make possible is ministry “Working on the Margins.” Please be generous to this very important work being accomplished by our sharing of our financial resources and our prayer support.

Have a great Thanksgiving!

~ Father Rich

Please Welcome Father Louis to St. Gertrude

I am Father Louis Mariano Fernandez, SCJ, a religious priest belonging to the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Dehonian), ordained in 2004. I am from Goa, India, presently pursing an MA in Pastoral Counseling Program at Loyola University for my third and final year. I have thought of pursuing this course, envisaging a need to help people in need in my pastoral ministry upon returning to India. I have spent most of the time in the formation program for priests in India.

This has been a wonderful experience for me to be in the U.S., to meet people hailing from various ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious backgrounds, first at St. Mary of the Lake parish on Sheridan Road, where I spent the past year, and now here in St. Gertrude parish. I would like to thank Father Richard, the pastor, who has been very kind to welcome me to this parish, and Father Michael Bradley and Father Michael Gabriel for their wonderful companionship.

I feel more at home here since I have learned that we, the Sacred Heart Fathers, were associated with this parish for a considerable time in the past. Some of our priests belong to this parish and celebrated their first Masses here.

Once again, I take this opportunity to thank you one and all, for the warm welcome that you have extended to me, even when I was a stranger. I thank all the Fathers in the Rectory for their wonderful gesture of hospitality. I am looking forward to growing with you in love of God and of one another.

God bless,

~ Fr. Louis Mariano Fernandez, SCJ
Growing in Faith

The title of a love song that the country duo Big & Rich released in 2014 is pretty startling: “Thank God for Pain.” It includes the lines: “Thank God for pain/Cause I never would have known that love could feel this way/And I know it sounds insane but thank God for scars.../if I hadn’t been ripped apart/I never would have kissed your face."

This is a week of gratitude. This weekend’s second reading from Colossians starts, “Let us give thanks…” And, on Thursday, we as a nation celebrate Thanksgiving.

Usually, when we think about thanks, we think about all the good things we’ve gotten — love, happiness, enough to eat, a roof over our heads. But Big & Rich, who, at times, can be pretty goofy, are downright serious when they give thanks for pain and scars.

It isn’t that pain and scars are enjoyable, but they are part of the road of life. We can’t get through the day-to-day of our lives without some bumps and bruises. Great athletes will tell you that they got better by failing — by failing and learning from their failures and working to improve.

Nearly 40 years ago, a red-haired girl slid into first base and broke her ankle. Around the same time, I got sick and had to do a lot of healthy things. We both slowed down enough to be able to meet and fall in love. The broken ankle wasn’t good, getting sick wasn’t good, but I thank God every day for those pains and scars.

~ Patrick T. Reardon for Growing in Faith

Parish Calendar

Sunday, November 24
- Second collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at all Masses
- Please take photos from the Remembrance Alter home after Mass.
- 12:00-3:00 pm ~ Donations for the Christmas Bazaar accepted in the Gym
- 3:00 pm ~ ECRA Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at St. Ita and St. Thomas Church, 5500 N. Broadway Ave.
- 6:30-8:00 pm ~ WOW youth group in the Gym balcony

Thursday, November 28 Thanksgiving Day
- The Rectory is closed.
- 10:00 am ~ Mass (Parish Service Awards given)

Friday, November 29
- The Rectory is closed.
- Mass is at 7:30 am.

Saturday, November 30
- 9:00 am ~ Service opportunity: switching old missalettes out with new ones in Church

Sunday, December 1
- After the 10:30 am Mass ~ rehearsal for the Christmas pageant
- 12:00-3:00 pm ~ Donations for the Christmas Bazaar accepted in the Gym

Monday, December 2
- 6:30 pm ~ Sacrament of First Reconciliation in Church (Please arrive by 6:15 pm.)
- 7:00 pm ~ Baptismal prep class in the Rectory

Saturday, December 7 Christmas Bazaar
- 10:00 am-4:00 pm ~ Christmas Bazaar open

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

Happy Thanksgiving!
We wish all of you a happy and blessed Thanksgiving. Thank you for choosing to be a part of St. Gertrude. Great churches don’t just happen, they are created and nurtured by active, generous parishioners. We are grateful to have each other as part of our community of faith!

~ Father Rich and the Staff of St. Gertrude
TODAY—Second Collection: The Catholic Campaign for Human Development collection (CCHD) is this weekend, November 23-24.

Youth Group Tonight: Today, Sunday, November 24 from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Gym balcony, our teen youth group will meet.

Thank You for Celebrating Our Feast Day With Us! Last weekend, we celebrated the Feast of St. Gertrude with an International Dinner, our annual All are Welcome concert, and the Anointing of the Sick at all Masses. Thank you to all who celebrated with us by sharing their talents at the dinner and the concert, those who turned out to support our events, and the many others who attended our Masses.

Thank You from Our Music Minister: I wish to extend a huge thank you to our wonderful choir and parish musicians who gave generously of their time and talents since September for the All are Welcome concert. I am also very grateful for all those who attended the concert and made a contribution to the music ministry programs at St. Gertrude. We will put your donations to good use! ~ Mary Clare Barker

New Parish Hymn Board: Hopefully, you have noticed the large new hymn board standing on the altar next to the cantor’s podium. Our primary reason for getting this was so that everyone would know where the hymns of the day can be found, and most importantly, the current Mass parts that we are using.

The first line of our hymn board reads MSEL. This is an abbreviation for Mass selections. The number following this will refer to where the Gloria can be found, and then subsequently the rest of the Mass parts. The next line reads: Hymns and then the hymn numbers for the Processional, Psalm, Offertory, Communion, and Recessional will be listed below. We hope this hymn board will make it easier for everyone to participate in joyful song.

The Giving Trees: Our Giving Trees will be up by Thanksgiving! 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 by Friday, December 13.

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!

Thanksgiving Day: This year, Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 28. Mass that morning will be held at 10:00 am, with the Parish Service Awards given out during the service.

The Rectory will be closed on Thanksgiving and on Friday, November 29. Mass will be held at 7:30 am on Friday, November 29. Please note, there will be Religious Ed classes and Kids Word held that weekend.

Looking for a Service Opportunity? Volunteers are needed on Saturday, November 30 at 9:00 am to help switch out the old missalettes for the new ones as we get ready for Advent. Please contact Kevin Chears if you can help at 773.764.3621 or kc hears@stgertrudechicago.org.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: The Sacrament of First Reconciliation will be held on Monday, December 2 at 6:30 pm. Families should arrive at 6:15 pm.

Baptismal Preparation Class: The next class will be held on Monday, December 2 at 7:00 pm in the Rectory. Please call the Rectory office at 773.764.3621 to register for the class.
The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is helping grassroots community organizations to form leaders in Chicago. One of those leaders is Yuliza Soto, a junior at Prosser High School, a Belmont-Cragin resident and a youth leader with Communities United. In Yuliza’s words, “Communities United brings together adults and youth to build power so we can address the issues that impact our communities and schools in a local, city and state level.” CU’s leadership training helped Yuliza to facilitate a door knocking event to encourage neighbors to vote in the mayoral election.

Also, earlier this year, Yuliza went to Springfield with over 300 students and community members. They got a bill passed in the Illinois State Legislature that will provide more mental health resources in schools.

Reflecting on her experiences with CU, Yuliza shares, “There are so many amazing people in [CU]. We all may be from different neighborhoods but we are a family. Seeing all these incredible people who are different work together towards the same goal gives me hope for the future of our communities... Together we will continue to fight for mental health resources in our schools, police reform, affordable housing and equitable funding for our schools and communities.”

This is just one example of the amazing work made possible by CCHD grants! In fact, over the past grant year, CCHD funded organizations provided leadership development and community organizing trainings to over 2,500 people in the Chicago area.

**CCHD By the Numbers**

*In 2018 - 2019, our grantee organizations:*

- Won passage of a city ordinance and funding to create an Office of Labor Standards to enforce labor rights policies (Opened Jan. 2019)
- Worked in 23 buildings to help tenants improve living conditions
- Collected 8,500+ signatures and halted the development of a new toxic landfill on the southeast side
- Won passage of HB5341 (Fair Access to Employment Bill) to improve employment opportunities for people with criminal records

**Involvement**

*You can make a difference:*

1. **DONATE.** 50% of the funds collected in the Archdiocese of Chicago stay here to support projects in Cook and Lake Counties.
2. **EDUCATE.** CCHD offers educational programming to learn more about root causes of poverty and injustice, those affected by them and faith-based efforts to address them.
3. **VOLUNTEER.** Offer your time and expertise by serving on one of our committees or providing pro-bono professional services to a grant recipient.

To donate, please give through your parish or send a check to:

Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity
Archdiocese of Chicago
3525 South Lake Park Avenue
Chicago, IL 60653

Thank you for your donations and your prayers!
A limited number of trees, wreaths, and garland are available for sale, with proceeds benefiting St. Gertrude’s ministries. Advance orders must be placed by Sunday, December 1. Delivery is free for orders placed by Sunday, December 1.

Items can be delivered or picked up at our St. Gertrude Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8.

Items may be ordered via the forms available at the back of church. Payment may be made with cash or check. To purchase online, go to stgertrudechicago.org and click on Order Your Greenery Here at the top of the home page to be taken to the items for sale. Click View More for large wreaths.
**TODAY—ECRA Thanksgiving**

This year, the annual ECRA Thanksgiving Service will be hosted by the combined St. Ita and St. Thomas Church, 5500 N. Broadway, today, Sunday, November 24 at 3:00 pm. The general theme is compassion and gratitude for all we have received. An ensemble of violins accompanying Bridget Dunne singing “We Sing for the Children” will represent our parish at the event.

All are welcome to attend the service. Please bring canned goods to the service, which go to the food pantry at Care for Real. Afterwards, there will be a small reception.

**The Christmas Bazaar is Coming!**

Christmas Bazaar Donations Accepted on Sunday Afternoons: Contributions for the White Elephant areas at St. Gertrude’s Christmas Bazaar will be accepted on Sundays from 12:00-3:00 pm in the Gym, 1401 W. Granville Ave. No clothing, linens, or stuffed animals will be accepted.

Volunteer at the Christmas Bazaar: Help is needed for our Christmas Bazaar! To volunteer, visit signupgenius.com. Click the search icon, then under Search for a Sign Up, type in events@stgertrudechicago.org and you can choose how you would like to help. Volunteers slots count as service hours for NCA!

Calling All Bakers! Donations of baked goods are needed for the bake sale table! Items can be dropped off on the morning of Saturday, December 7 and/or Sunday, December 8. Email Madaline Kiedysz at mdkiedysz@hotmail.com to sign up.

**Parish Stewardship Report**

“He is the image of the invisible God.”
~ Colossians 1:15

God revealed himself in human form through the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Do we want to know about God? Look at Jesus, at what he said and what he did. Then we will know who God is, what God does.

Collection November 16-17: $5,606.47
Budgeted Collection: $7,725.00
Underage: (-) $2,118.53

**Preparing for the Christmas Pageant**

As is our tradition during the Gospel at the Christmas Eve 5:00 pm Family Mass, the kids from St. Gertrude parish will act out the Christmas story.

I will need a Mary, Joseph, shepherds, three kings, 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.

I am hoping to have two rehearsals in church after the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday, December 1 and 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

**A Thanksgiving Day Prayer**

Loving God,
who created and sustains the universe,
who loved us all into being,
and who gives us every good thing,
we thank you for the blessings
that you bring into our lives.

We thank you for the gift of life itself,
which you gave us in our mothers' wombs.
We thank you for the fresh start of each new day,
which is a sign of your renewing and creative love.
And we thank you for our friends, our families,
our neighbors and our coworkers,
whose human love is an image of your divine care.

Increase our gratitude this Thanksgiving Day,
and help us to recognize all the good things
that we have, both large and small.
And magnify our desire to share
what we have with others,
so that they too may be
grateful to you, Loving God.

~ Father James Martin, SJ
Our Parish at Prayer for November 25-December 1

Monday, November 25
7:30 am Fr. Matt Creighton, SJ ✧

Tuesday, November 26
7:30 am James McKee ✧

Wednesday, November 27
7:30 am Purgatorial Society

Thursday, November 28 Thanksgiving
10:00 am Herve & Rose Piolette

Friday, November 29
7:30 am Elsie Radtke ✧
8:30 am NCA Mass

Saturday, November 30
7:30 am Living & deceased mothers & fathers of St. Gertrude parishioners
5:00 pm Isabelle & Michael Laczkowski ✧

Sunday, December 1
8:00 am William Grant ✧
10:30 am Sarah Cunningham ✧ (Gym Mass)
10:30 am Mary Heidkamp, Pat Conway, Kathleen O’Toole ✧

✧ Indicates person listed is deceased.

Readings for November 25-December 1

Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Dn 3:52-56; Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45; Dn 3:57-61; Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Dn 3:62-67; Lk 21:12-19
Thursday: Dn 6:12-28; Dn 3:68-74; Lk 21:20-28 Thanksgiving Day, Suggested: Sir 50:22-24; Ps 145:2-11; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19
Friday: Dn 7:2-14; Dn 3:75-81; Lk 21:29-33
Saturday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
Sunday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

Eucharistic Ministers for November 30-December 1

Saturday, November 30
5:00 pm Mary Cook, Kathleen Dawson, Brad Koch, Candace Koch, Patricia Norcik

Sunday, December 1
8:00 am Barb Daly, Brian DeVarenne, Mary Wyler, Hallie Burhoe
10:30 am Carlos Barragan, Kathy Dunne, Sarah Millar, Brad Mulick, Gail Smith, Chris Lincoln, Lina Peon
10:30 am TBA (Gym Mass)

Altar Servers for November 30-December 1

Saturday, November 30
5:00 pm Grace Cashman, Leila Vargas, Ethan Vargas

Sunday, December 1
10:30 am Henry Villereal, Julia Barry, Claire McCarthy

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.

Ministers of the Word for November 30-December 1

Saturday, November 30
5:00 pm Kathleen Dawson, Jayne Deiters

Sunday, December 1
8:00 am Marty McDermott
10:30 am Rafael Melendez, Donna Whalley
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.
Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends

Bernice Kiedysz
Karey Myers
Don Piven
Dave Resch
Kyle Rutherford
Charley Scantlebury
Richard Seitz
Peggy Stoffel
Elinora E. Tolentino
Norma E. Viray
Lorraine Walton

New Parishioners

If you are interested in joining our community of faith, please fill out a registration form. They are located in the back of Church, at the Rectory, and online at our parish website, www.stgertrudechicago.org.

Rest in Peace

Noreen Tierney, mother of Kathy Wall

Milestones

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 Cears, Pastoral Associate
Laurie Hashbrook, 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 Ministry Center

PARISH INFORMATION

Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends

New Parishioners

Rest in Peace

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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
A man wakes up after sleeping under an ADVERTISED blanket and pulls off ADVERTISED pajamas. He washes with ADVERTISED soap and puts on ADVERTISED clothes. He shaves with an ADVERTISED razor and brushes his teeth with ADVERTISED toothpaste. He bathes in an ADVERTISED shower and washes with ADVERTISED soap. He drinks a cup of ADVERTISED coffee and drives to work in an ADVERTISED car. He then... Refuses to ADVERTISE believing it doesn’t pay. Later if business is poor he ADVERTISES it for sale.

WHY IS IT?