

# *St. Gertrude*

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

1420 W. Granville Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60660

[www.stgertrudechicago.org](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org) • 773.764.3621

**First Sunday of Advent • Bulletin for December 2, 2018**



## **Be Aware of Hope**

Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas.

## From Father Rich

This weekend, we welcome a new month, a new Church year and a new liturgical season. The psalmist might remind us of God saying, “See, I make all things new!” Each time we turn a calendar page or begin a new enterprise, we are offered the opportunity to start fresh. The template of the month or season provides us with guidelines that can help focus our minds and hearts. How might I use these well—perhaps in ways I’ve never before tried, or perhaps in ways I have found helpful in past times—this December? This new liturgical year? This Advent season?



Our new Church year is the “C” cycle for the Sunday readings. In this cycle, we will be hearing most often from St. Luke’s Gospel. There is a full article in today’s bulletin offering an outline of the emphases and directions St. Luke uniquely offers. His is considered the Gospel with the strongest emphasis on social justice. It is hard to hear stories around the birth of the Lord and not be reminded of how immigrants and migrants and minorities are being treated today in our own time and nation and throughout the world. And then to follow up with action in our own way, in our own lives. The Gospel lives when we make it part of our daily lives.

As we begin this Advent season, some seasonal opportunities: the ***Giving Tree*** is in the back of Church. Please consider helping make a brighter Christmas for someone less fortunate. This weekend is the ***Christmas Bazaar***—be sure to stop by the Social Hall for treasures to be searched for and in support of St. Gertrude Parish. Don’t forget the pancake breakfast Sunday morning! Mark your calendars for our ***Advent Reconciliation Service*** in two weeks on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm in Church. This service offers us a reflective time to enjoy the healing mercy of God’s forgiveness in our lives as we prepare to celebrate the Lord’s birth. ***The Little Blue Book - Advent & Christmas Season***, booklets of reflection on the daily scripture readings, are available at the Church doors. These booklets offer us a few minutes of reflection on each of the days leading up to Christmas, and even taking us through the Advent-Christmas seasons. Please help yourself to one of these booklets on your way home from Church today.

Some thank-yous from recent events: our Parish Feast Day celebrations were a great success due to the work of so many people. Thanks to Fr. Mike and Fr. Bill Creed for assisting in the Anointing of the Sick; thanks to all the wonderful cooks and the set-up volunteers for the International Dinner (what a great food fest!); thanks to Mary Clare Barker and the Adult Choir and instrumentalists for the beautiful *All Are Welcome* Concert. What a wonderful and diverse selection of music they provided! Thanks to all the ECRA folks, especially the Ismaili Center hosts who provided a great welcome for the Annual Thanksgiving Service and their extraordinary hospitality! And special thanks to all those who organized and hosted the farewell reception honoring Mary Ann Collins’ 30 years of ministry in the Heart to Heart senior outreach. What a great tribute to an amazing woman!

This Saturday is the ***Feast of the Immaculate Conception*** of our Blessed Mother and a ***Holy Day of Obligation***. This is also the National Feast Day of the United States. Please join us for Mass on Saturday morning at 7:30 am.



*Images of the  
International Dinner,  
celebrated on Friday,  
November 9 courtesy of  
Roy  
Lipscomb.*

*Our Annual Bazaar is Today!*

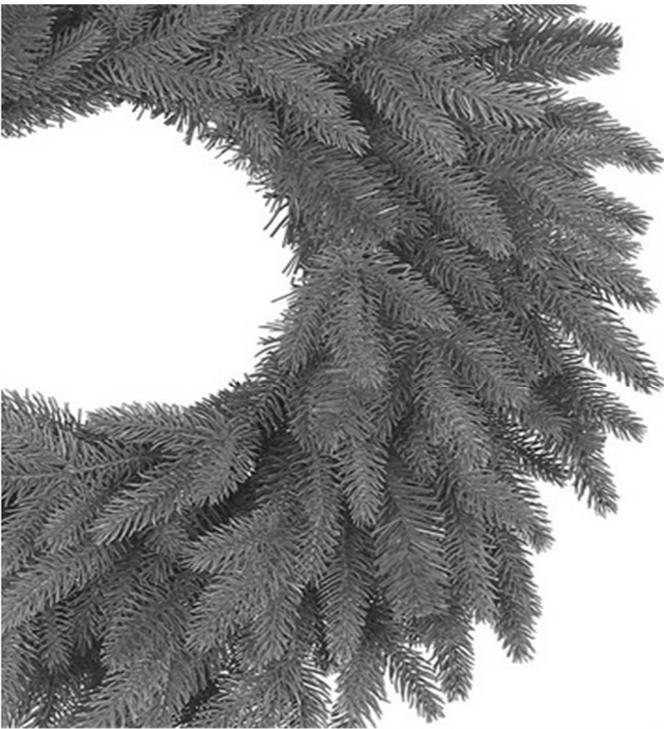


# TODAY!!

## Come to Our Annual Christmas Bazaar!

**Sunday, December 3  
from 9:00am—2:30pm**

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, and a *Split the Pot Raffle*.



### **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 8:30am-1:00pm, with entertainment provided by parishioners.

## Growing in Faith

One of my favorite traditions of Advent is the children's lighting of the Advent wreath at the Gym Mass. We start the season with the youngest children, usually the 2-5 year-olds (don't worry, with fake flames.) These tiny ones reverently enact the line "...who mourns in lonely exile here..." as they kneel and bow their heads. But with each "REJOICE, REJOICE," a wild spinning dance breaks out and they walk off, dizzy with pride. Each week, the next oldest age group joins the youngest and lights the second, third, and fourth candles. In the old days, we even had high school kids that would light the fourth candle. It's a deeply meaningful tradition for all.

There is so much unrest in the world today. Even today's Gospel doesn't sound very hopeful. It sounds downright apocalyptic and scary as Jesus describes the upheaval in the sun, moon, stars, and on earth.

Certainly, the events of our times—wildfires, shootings, hate speech, refugees being turned away at the border—echo these images described in the Gospel. How do we find hope amidst such turmoil?

I'm not sure how to respond. I think our response must have something to do with the love that St. Paul describes in today's second reading. When I watch these dear kids lead us with their lights in the Advent dance, I feel that love that St. Paul talks about, and know that the Child will lead us to a more hopeful, peaceful world.

~ Mary Ann Goode for  
*Growing in Faith*



## Advent 2018: My Soul is Thirsting for You, O Lord

The responsorial psalm we will be using throughout this Advent season is also our Advent theme this year: *My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord*. This psalm captures the drive within us to find our meaning, to find God in our lives and our world, and the goal and the realization of that drive and hope, which is God.

In this first Sunday of Advent, we are encouraged to be more attentive to what is going on in our world and in our lives. In the announcement of our salvation coming, everything will be determined by how we approach that reality—what is our attitude?

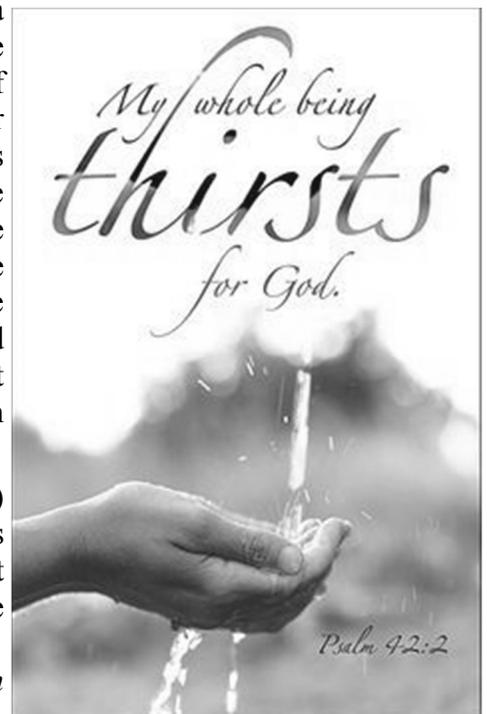
I am always reminded, as we begin a new Advent season, that in Spanish the word for hope and the word for wait are the same words, "esperar." Which is to say, each of us self-determines with what attitude we will wait. Will it be in a hopeful stance? Or do we choose fear and trembling, despair? The external reality is the same, it's all about whether or not we are staying connected to the Lord.

The deluge of advertisements and the emphasis on Black Friday and Cyber Monday and all the rest of

the shopping mania is a good synonym for our thirsting souls. Because we care for those for whom we are shopping, we want to find something that person will truly enjoy and appreciate. And finding something at a great price only enhances the experience. In a similar way, the deeper thirst of our souls for God is something we address because we love ourselves. We search for God so that we might find our own fulfillment.

Into what part(s) of my life this year do I most need to find the Lord?

~ Fr. Rich



## Advent 2018: Start of Year C - The Gospel of Luke

Luke has the most complete Infancy Narrative. Like the other synoptic (Matthew & Mark) Gospels, the Passion was probably written first, or at least passed on in the oral tradition before the Gospel was written. Everything in Luke's infancy narrative anticipates the Passion and Death of the Lord.

St. Luke's Gospel is the first of a two-part work written by the author. The Acts of the Apostles is Part II. When put together, they form a kind of "travelogue" symbolic of the Word of God in the world. It begins in the small town of Nazareth and moves to Jerusalem—the "capital" of Judaism. Acts opens in Jerusalem and moves to Rome—the capital of the world. So the Word of God is now proclaimed to all the world. Luke's symbol, the bull, equals strength and sacrifice.

Luke is known as the Gospel of social justice. Pervading this Gospel is a concern for the poor, weak, alienated, dispossessed, etc. In Luke's Gospel, more women are mentioned by name and Jesus has more conversations with women than in the other three Gospels combined. It is from this Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles that we see women as integral parts of the mission of Jesus and present at key moments and leading—even when the male disciples were hiding. It is to women that the resurrected Jesus first appeared.

In Year C, we hear large portions of the first four chapters of Luke (up to the beginning of the public ministry of the Lord) throughout Advent, Christmas, and even into the first weeks of Ordinary Time. The key to understanding all of Luke's Gospel is in the 4th chapter (read on the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time), when Jesus returns to Galilee, goes to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah: *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. .... (then) He said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."*

In this, he ties the fulfillment of God's promise (1st reading, 1st Sunday of Advent) directly to himself, and professes that the promise IS now fulfilled! So begins the struggle in the rest of the Gospel between what he is proclaiming is the fulfillment of God's promise and what his hearers are or are not able to take in. The immediate response in the synagogue is to kill him.

If our own hearts are not also cut to the quick by what we hear, then we are not listening. The kingdom of God the Lukan Jesus proclaims isn't a far away, some time in the future kingdom—it is here and now. Sin prevents it from being realized. But God will triumph with unlikely characters—virgins from Nazareth, fishermen from Galilee, women from Jerusalem, oppressors on the road—all leading to the victory of Christianity brought to Rome—that is, brought to the ends of the earth. Hope will not be disappointed.

## Parish Calendar

### Sunday, December 2

- 8:30 am-1:00 pm ~ Pancake breakfast in the Social Hall
- 9:00 am - 2:30 pm ~ Christmas Bazaar in the Gym
- 10:00 am ~ Family Mass hosted by 3rd graders and their families
- 10:30am ~ Gym Mass held in the NCA Cafeteria

### Monday, December 3

- 7:00 pm ~ Baptismal prep class in the Rectory (Registration is required.)

### Saturday, December 8 *Feast of the Immaculate Conception*

- Mass will be held at 7:30am.
- 5:00pm ~ Second Collection for Retired Religious at Mass

### Sunday, December 9

- Second Collection for Retired Religious at all Masses

### Friday, December 14

- Gifts for the Giving Tree due

### Sunday, December 16

- 2:00 pm ~ Advent Reconciliation in Church

## Parish News

**10:00 am Family Mass Today:** Third graders and their families will host the 10:00 am Family Mass today Sunday, December 2. Families are encouraged to enjoy the Pancake breakfast in the Social Hall after Mass!

**Baptismal Preparation Class:** The next class will be held on Monday, December 3 at 7:00 pm in the Rectory. Please call the Rectory office at 773.764.3621 to register.

**The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is Saturday, December 8:** 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 is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be held at 7:30 am.

**Second Collection is December 9-10 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 prescription medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

**Advent Reconciliation:** What do I need to talk to God about? Where do I need forgiveness? Our Reconciliation Service will be held on Sunday, December 16 at 2:00pm in Church.

**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 by Friday, December 14.

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!

**New Homilist:** Christopher Alt, SJ, is a scholastic in the Society of Jesus. He is a graduate of the University of San Diego with a Bachelor of Arts in Theological and Religious Studies, and went on to earn a Master of Divinity from Boston College, School of Theology in Ministry. Christopher has previously worked as a hospital and prison chaplain, homeless shelter manager, campus minister, and spiritual director. He currently lives in the Loyola University Jesuit Community and is pursuing a Master of Social Work at Loyola University. He will be joining us as a regular homilist in December.



**News from the Refugee Ministry:** Thank you from the Refugee Ministry to all the caring children and families from NCA! The school's fourth graders collected stuffed animals for the Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants. They studied statements from the Church about the dignity and rights of immigrants and our responsibility as Christians to respond to their needs. Then, the students spread the word about ICDI's ministry to detained children by making posters and collecting new or gently used stuffed animals. The bags of "stuffies" filled a car trunk! Currently, NCA families of all grades are collecting staples and household goods for 70 refugee families in Rogers Park for another project.

**Parish Service Awards:** Congratulations to Paul and Rita Elue, recipients of the Parish Service Award on Thanksgiving (and inadvertently left off the published list) for their invaluable contribution to parish life!

**Mary Ann Collins' Retirement Celebration:** Thank you to all who came out to celebrate Mary Ann Collins and her loving legacy at Heart to Heart! Mary Ann is truly a St. Gertrude treasure, and we wish her well during her retirement.

**ECRA Interfaith Thanksgiving Service:** Thank you to all parishioners who joined in the ECRA Thanksgiving hosted by our Muslim neighbors at the Ismaili Center. Attendees filled up a van full of non-perishable foods and warm clothing—and raised \$3,348.75 for Care for Real!

## *Advent Liturgy*

With the start of Advent this Sunday, we see a few changes in our liturgical celebration. The color of Advent is purple—so the vestments worn by the priests and the altar cloth are purple. Unlike the penitential season of Lent, Advent purple is meant more as a time of anticipation than of penance. While it is true we are reminded to "reform your lives!", in this case, we are preparing for the great celebration of Christ's birth.

We start the Advent Masses with "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." Then the priest moves to the Advent wreath for the blessing and lighting of the wreath. The wreath candles are three purple and one pink. (The pink candle is always the 3rd Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word for "Rejoice!" This comes from the entrance antiphon of Masses that day: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near. ") The increasing light in the Advent wreath reflects the increased hope and joy in our hearts as we get closer to the actual celebration of Our Lord's birth. Continuing the reflective mood, we all sing the refrain of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel as the presider moves back to the chair for the Opening Prayer.

During the Advent season, we will be singing the Missa Emmanuel which was composed using the ancient melody of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." This also reminds us that at every Mass we are celebrating the salvation already won for us, even as

### *Care for our Common Home*

Today's readings call us to vigilance, which is especially relevant during Advent. Pope Francis' message in *Laudato Si'* reminds us to include Mother Earth as we prepare gifts and decorations. May we "be guided to justice" when selecting them. Do they help or harm poor people, suffering species, endangered resources? Giving gently-used items from the Christmas Bazaar contributes to a less wasteful commercial season. Another thoughtful gift (or gift for thoughtful people) would be *Laudato Si'*.

For information about NCA Green Team, contact [georgetully82@gmail.com](mailto:georgetully82@gmail.com).

we await the fullness of that salvation.

Although it is a short liturgical season, Advent itself is divided into two parts: the beginning days of a more remote preparation, and beginning on December 17th, the "Late Advent" days of immediate preparation for Christmas. These "Late" days are celebrated with the "O" Antiphons—which are known more commonly as the verses of, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." Each "O" preceded a title from one of the great prophets that was realized in the birth of Jesus, the Messiah. One great title is celebrated on each of the seven final days before Christmas.

Although it may be difficult, especially if we have never been parents, try to imagine an attitude towards Advent equivalent to the attitude necessary in the final weeks before a baby is born. While it is true there is much excitement, it is also true we need to calm ourselves. Finding time to appreciate the moment in some stillness is desirable. Remember that Mary chose to go visit her cousin, Elizabeth, for a spell before her baby was born. Sometimes it is a very good thing to get away from it all, if we can. Hopefully part of our liturgical celebration allows us a taste of some of that "away from it all" time.

### *Thank You/Stewardship Report*

The Christmas Bazaar Greenery Committee would like to extend their thanks to the St. Matthias Men's Group for their help in unloading the delivery truck at St. Matthias and prepping the greenery for transportation. The Committee would like to especially thank Minas U-Haul Rental Center who graciously let us use their truck, free of charge, to transport the trees, wreaths, and garland from St. Matthias to St. Gertrude. We appreciate all the help from our volunteers.

Sunday Collection November 17-18	\$8,554.20
Budgeted Collection	<u>\$7,725.00</u>
<b>Overage</b>	<b>(+) \$829.20</b>
Sunday Collection November 24-25	\$5,535.01
Budgeted Collection	<u>\$7,725.00</u>
<b>Underage</b>	<b>(-) \$2,189.99</b>

## Our Parish at Prayer

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

7:30 am Parishioners of St. Gertrude

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

7:30 am Sant Singh †

† Indicates  
person listed is  
deceased.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

7:30 am Patricia Stich †

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

7:30 am Communion Service

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

7:30 am Andy Devine †

8:30 am NCA Mass †

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

7:30 am May O'Neill †

5:00 pm Harry Glotkowski †

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

8:00 am Patricia Ukamaka Eke †

9:30 am Michael Klekovic †

10:00 am Tim O'Toole †

10:30 am Mick (no last name given) †

11:30 am Ben Bell † (10th anniversary of death)

## Ministers of the Word

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

5:00 pm Norm Bowers, Jayne Deiters

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

8:00 am Sr. Kathryn Stimac, David Sullivan

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

10:00 am Christine Curran, Rose Karasti

10:30 am TBA

11:30 am Victoria Healy, Troy McMillan

## Altar Servers

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

5:00 pm Bridget Fulkerson, Nate Fulkerson, Ellie Fulkerson

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

10:00 am Chris Agunloye, Henry Jacobson, Carter Dant

11:30 am Isabella Brobbey, Claire McCarthy, Ellie Siegel

## Readings This Week

**Monday:** Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

**Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

**Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

**Thursday:** Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

**Friday:** Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

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

**Sunday:** Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

## Eucharistic Ministers

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

5:00 pm Mary Cook, Joan Harrington, Tim Harrington, Kathy Wall, John Sullivan

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

8:00 am Hallie Burhoe, Barb Daly, Peter Morin, Johnny Outlaw, Sr. Kathryn Stimac

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

10:00 am Carlos Barragan, Christine Curran, Kathy Dunne, Rafael Melendez, Ruth Ott, Teresita Zdunek, Amy Bessette

10:30 am TBA

11:30 am Troy McMillan, Lina Peon, Steven Monti, Michelle Kuehlhorn

## Support the Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach

**Your online donation is secure and flexible. You can choose the amount you wish to give and how you wish to have the funds designated. Donations may be made at**

**<https://www.givecentral.org/location/132/event/12645>**

*Milestones*



*Rest in Peace*

Andy Devine,  
father of Laurie Jacob



*All are Welcome*

The Hennelly-Orihill  
family  
  
The Del Vecchio  
family



*Baptisms*

Luke Henry,  
son of Jeff & Renee  
Spalding

Please call the Rectory at  
773.764.3621 to make  
arrangements to have a  
child baptized.



*Please Pray  
for Our Parishioners and  
Friends*

Sarah Filler  
Larry Swoboda  
Wally Koegler

**PARISH STAFF**

Rev. Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor  
Mary Clare Barker, Minister of Music  
Art Blumberg, Director of Parish Management and Facilities  
Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate  
Mary Ann Collins, Director of Parish Social Services  
Laurie Hasbrook, Office Staff  
Amanda Kvasnica, Office Staff  
Jim Potthast, 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, 10:00 am, 11:30 am  
9:30am St. Gertrude East (Sacred Heart School/Sheridan and Granville)  
10:30 am Mass in the Gym (except summer months)  
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](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org) E-mail: [stgertrude1420@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stgertrude1420@sbcglobal.net)  
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 - Friday: 8:30 am to 7:30 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

**PARISH SCHOOL**

Northside Catholic Academy: 773.743.6277  
[www.northsidecatholic.org](http://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](http://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