



St. Gertrude Chicago E-Bulletin

Bulletin for The Epiphany of the Lord

Click [HERE](#) to read the bulletin in a new window

St. Gertrude Mass times are:

- Monday-Saturday: 7:30 am
- Saturdays at 5:00 pm
- Sundays at 8:00 am and 10:30 am (10:30 Mass is live-streamed on [our parish Facebook page](#))
- Please note, there is no 7:30 am Communion service on Thursday, December 31.

Registration is now open for in-person attendance for:

- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Masses - [New Year's Eve at 5:00 pm](#) and [New Year's Day at 10:30 am](#)

The St. Gertrude parish office schedule for the holiday season can be found [HERE](#). Please review the [Parishioner Guidelines for Visiting the Rectory](#) and call before you come!

[Click Here to Sign-up for Weekend Masses](#)

[Click Here to Sign up for Weekday Masses](#)

[Click Here to Sign-up for New Year's Masses/the Solemnity of Mary](#)

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From Father Rich

Happy New Year!

To all our parishioners, the parish staff joins with me in wishing you all blessings in the new year! May the gift of new life which we celebrated at Christmas be in your hearts and homes throughout this coming year.

It is a year full of great hope and promise. The hoped-for elimination of the COVID virus through the wonders of the vaccines is certainly one of the many events we look forward to. A new administration in Washington, with greater concern for the poor, those seeking safe harbor

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01/03



Click [HERE](#) to

in our nation, and the engagement of world nations not in some nationalistic fervor, but as sisters and brothers of the human family. These and so many other signs of hope are on the horizon.

January 1 - Holy Day of Obligation

January 1st is not only New Year's Day, but also in the Catholic Church, the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. This Feast is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Masses for the Holy Day are on Thursday, New Year's Eve at 5:00 pm and on Friday, New Year's Day at 10:30 am. Click [HERE](#) for reservations to attend Mass in person.

The 10:30 am Mass on New Year's Day will also be [live-streamed](#) on our [parish Facebook page](#). After this service is over, it will be posted on [our parish's YouTube channel](#).

Epiphany of the Lord

In many places in scripture, we hear different versions of a recurring theme that sounds something like this: "There is nothing hidden that will not be revealed." Sometimes this is about simply allowing the passage of time which by itself often opens us up to see things we had missed, things that simply escaped our attention. Sometimes it is about the deepest secrets we all carry within our hearts and souls. Sometimes it is about the surprise that what we thought we had been waiting for in fulfillment of God's promise

make a reservation to attend the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Masses (New Year's Eve/Day) in person!

Click [HERE](#) to make a reservation to attend Masses for Epiphany (January 3) in person!

ends up being so much different, so much greater, so much larger than we could ever have imagined.

Epiphany is simply another word for manifestation or revelation. Almost certainly Mary and Joseph had visitors congratulating them on the birth of their firstborn. But those visitors came looking not with eyes of faith, but simply acknowledging a normal, albeit wonderful, event in the life of a family and community. It wasn't until the three Magi came, driven by their own explorations of the heavens and the signs contained in that study, that the deeper truth of this firstborn was made clear. He is both Messiah and Lord -- not only for Israel but for the whole world! O come, let us adore Him!

Renew My Church -- Next Steps

Although the decision for our area parishes from the Renew My Church initiative has already been announced, now the serious work begins! This week, a series of meetings began at a number of different levels to begin the process of determining how St. Jerome's and St. Gertrude's will be working together when St. Ignatius closes. Meetings also began with the parish staff and how they might be affected. And, of course, there will be meetings to plan how St. Gertrude and St. Jerome can reach out to the parishioners of St. Ignatius to invite and welcome them to possible new parishes in which they will find a new home.

The process of St. Ignatius closing is a multi-stepped process. Within the next six months, the actual parish will be moving towards its formal closure on June 30. Still to be determined is how long Masses might continue. Any regular schedule of services and Masses will end no later than the week before the First Sunday of Advent (November 28, 2021).

I encourage you to continue to keep all the parishioners of St. Ignatius in

your thoughts and prayers as they go through this painful grieving process. And please also pray for open minds and hearts that we might truly be hospitable in reaching out and welcoming them into St. Gertrude parish. This is a good time to remember that in the Catholic Church, length of time is not a determinant of membership! Just because someone has been here “forever” doesn’t make them “more” or “greater” a parishioner than someone who just arrived! Our true membership is in the Body of Christ. There are no “more equal” or “less equal” members! All are welcome -- and whenever they show up, they are as fully and equally a member as any other.

St. Gertrude Parish Auction 2021

Within the next week, or so, every parish household will be receiving a mailing from the parish explaining and inviting participation in the St. Gertrude Parish Auction 2021. Everyone is being asked to participate however they are able -- making a donation of one or more items that could be part of the auction, being a sponsor, soliciting donations from local businesses, family members, neighbors, or friends. Also included in the mailing is a donation form you can use or give to anyone who might consider donating to the auction. Additional donation forms will also be available on the Sign-In table in church. All donations are tax-deductible. Thank you for your consideration!

Thank You

In any year, but perhaps even more so in a pandemic year, the seasons of Advent and Christmas depend upon the generosity of so many parishioners and parish staff members for all our Masses and services and related activities to go smoothly. I want to thank all our ministers: lectors and cantors, greeters and clean-up crew members, instrumentalists, and presiders, ministers of Communion, and church decorators, and all our

parishioners who joined in the many services throughout these special days. As the saying goes, it truly does, "Take a village!" Thank you all!



Growing in Faith

"Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!" begins the first reading of our New Year. How glorious is that! With this command, the prophet calls on us to both "arise" and "be light." Rise and shine is as good a motto as any to take us into the New Year.

To be honest, I'd do better taking a page from Isaiah for my New Year's resolutions rather than using the commands I've got on my list - "stop", "quit", "lose". Instead, Isaiah commands me to "see" "raise your eyes" "look about."

Certainly, the stargazers in our Gospel story knew a thing or two about "looking about." Attentive to the signs, they looked up and did not miss out on the star that led them to the Christ child.

I realize we are not out of the darkness, even as we shake off the dust of 2020 from our sandals. There are foggy days still ahead and new roads we'll have to take when we (like the Magi) find we must return home "another way". But today is a good day to celebrate light. The first reading brims with light, brightness, radiance, and glory. By the light of a star, the Magi are led to the presence of Christ in the world.

May we have eyes to see the signs that will lead us to know Christ manifest in our lives. May we joyfully follow the light. May we become light to others. May our new year be one where we truly rise and shine.

~ Madeleine Philbin for *Growing in Faith/Epiphany 2021*



Mass/Rectory Schedule for Solemnity of
Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day)
and Epiphany.

Thursday, December 31 - Vigil - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

- New Year's Eve
- There is no 7:30 am Communion service.
- 9:00 am-2:30 pm ~ Rectory hours
- 5:00 pm ~ Mass - *Click [HERE](#) for reservations to attend Mass in-person.*

Friday, January 1 ~ Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God/Holy Day of Obligation

- New Year's Day
- The Rectory is closed.
- 10:30 am ~ Mass in Church and [live-streamed on our parish Facebook page](#) - *Click [HERE](#) for reservations to attend Mass in person.*

Sunday, January 3 ~ Epiphany of the Lord

- 8:00 am - *Click [HERE](#) for reservations to attend Mass in person.*
- 10:30 am - Mass in Church and live-streamed on [our parish Facebook page](#) *Click [HERE](#) for reservations to attend Mass in person.*

We will live-stream the 10:30 am Mass on Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on New Year's Day on our [parish Facebook page](#). After this service is over, it will be posted on [our parish's YouTube channel](#).



Thank You to our Musicians

Mary Clare Barker, our talented Music Minister, wrote a special note for her volunteers:

I want to extend a heartfelt and sincere thank you to all of the cantors and musicians who contributed mightily to the beauty of our Christmas liturgies, We are so blessed at St. Gertrude to have so many talented musicians who give so freely of their time and share their prodigious talents with our community. I am deeply appreciative of all that they do.



Refugee Ministry - Thank You for Your Support

Thank you for all your extraordinary support of the Refugee Ministry. Because of your generosity, we have been able to once again extend a helping hand.

The Giving Tree resulted in over \$4,000 in gift cards to our ministry! We are going to share gift cards with the three families we are currently helping, offer some to Catholic Charities for other refugee families, and keep the rest for our next families.

This is yet another example of how, with the generosity of our fellow parishioners, we have been able to sustain our ministry and help so many people over the last four years. It's truly a wonder! Our families are listed below, and now seems like a good time to reflect on the goodness in the world and to pray for their continued success.

Your support has helped these families:

Official sponsorship with Catholic Charities:

- A Rohingya couple with three kids – January 2016
- A Rohingya couple with a daughter – Rohingya – August 2016
- An ethnically Nepalese family from Bhutan, a husband/wife/child plus their parents and an aunt – March 2017
- A couple from Afghanistan – April 2018
- A single Rohingya mother and three kids – August 2018
- A Rohingya couple with kids – November 2018
- Khadidja and two kids, Central African Republic – April 2019
- A Rohingya couple with three kids, including 2-year-old twins - September 2020

Unofficial sponsorship:

- Bruce - we didn't support him officially, but Tomas was an essential early friend. Bruce is doing great, working and going to school
- Syrian family and kids, a security deposit for an apartment, two adults, four kids
- Congolese family, rent support, one adult, four kids

May the good work we have begun together continue into the new year!

~ Denise Goodman on behalf of the Refugee Ministry



Renew My Church Information - Where to Read the Archdiocese Statement and Watch the Meeting

The Archdiocese shared the final decision about St. Gertrude, St. Ignatius, and St. Jerome via a live-streamed meeting on their website on Friday, December 18.

The link below takes you to a letter from Father Rich outlining the decision and an announcement from the Archdiocese. There is also a link to a video

of the meeting, including responses to questions asked by viewers who watched the event live.

[Click here to read and/or watch the latest RMC information](#)



St. Gertrude's Virtual Auction - Fundraiser Scheduled for February 2021!

St. Gertrude's virtual auction will take place in February and we need your help! We are in need of volunteers to solicit donated items and services.

We will provide all you need - lists of contact names and a script to use. If this sounds like something you can do, please email us at auction21@stgertrudechicago.org.



Year-End Giving to St. Gertrude

As you consider your year-end charitable donations, please think about making an additional contribution to St. Gertrude. Your generosity has helped support us throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that you will continue to support us now and into the coming year as we carry out our service and our ministries to our parish and our community.

Thank you so much for all you have done and are doing.

Together, we are St. Gertrude!

No Calendars Available This Year

Due to COVID-related cost expenditures, our printer will not distribute calendars this year.



PDF of Readings for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's) & Epiphany.

[PDF of Readings for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God](#)

[PDF of Readings for Epiphany](#)



Additional Parish Information Found on our Website

List of info/articles

- [Mass Schedule/Links to Sign up for Mass](#)
 - [Video of What to Expect When Returning to Church](#)
 - [Parishioner Guidelines for Attending Mass in Church](#)
 - [What to Expect/Do in Church \(photos w/captions\)](#)
 - [Volunteers Needed to Help with Mass](#)
 - [Parishioner Guidelines for Visiting the Rectory](#)
 - [Meetings at St. Gertrude](#)
 - [Volunteer Sign-up Form](#)
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Lectors, Cantors, Eucharistic Ministers,
Set-up/Greeters/Clean-up Teams,
Musicians, and Music Planned for
the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
and Epiphany.

Mary Clare Barker, our Music Minister, has created song sheets for use at home with lyrics for music for our live-streamed Masses on New Year's Day for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God at 10:30 am, and Epiphany, Sunday, January 3 at 10:30 am. They can be found [below](#).

This weekend, our cantors and musicians will be:

- Thursday, December 31 - Vigil - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God at 5:00 pm - Denise Goodman
- Friday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God at 10:30 am - Carol Ann Munro
- Saturday, January 2 at 5:00 pm - Paula Dempsey
- Sunday, January 3 at 8:00 am - Jon Blake
- Sunday, January 3 at 10:30 am - Lisa Erceg; Dana Sullivan-flute, Denise Goodman-clarinet

Please note, we ask that those attending Mass in person do not sing due to concerns that singing may spread germs further than six feet.

Our Eucharistic ministers are:

- Thursday, December 31 - Vigil - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God at 5:00 pm - Patrick Robinson
- Friday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God at 10:30 am - Barb Daly
- Saturday, January 2 at 5:00 pm - Tim Harrington
- Sunday, January 3 at 8:00 am - Barb Daly
- Sunday, January 3 at 10:30 am - Debra Novak

Our readers this weekend are:

- Thursday, December 31 - Vigil - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God at 5:00 pm - Hallie Burhoe
- Friday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God at 10:30 am - Troy McMillian
- Saturday, January 2 at 5:00 pm - Kathleen Dawson

- Sunday, January 3 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, January 3 at 10:30 am - Bob Backis

Our set-up/greeter team this weekend is:

- Thursday, December 31 - Vigil - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God at 5:00 pm - Michael Kowalsky, Patrick Robinson, Carol Ann Munro, Hallie Burhoe
- Friday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God at 10:30 am - Barb Daly, Nancy Kuhn, Peter Cashman, Sheila Cashman
- Saturday, January 2 at 5:00 pm - Michelle Kuehlhorn, Carol Ann Munro, Debbie Kern
- Sunday, January 3 at 8:00 am - Barb Daly, Peter Morin, Marty McDermott, Brigid Cronin, Mark Kollar
- Sunday, January 3 at 10:30 am - Michael Kowalsky, Patrick Robinson, Dorothea Tobin, Nancy Kuhn

Our clean-up team this weekend is:

- Thursday, December 31 - Vigil - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God at 5:00 pm - TBA
- Friday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God at 10:30 am - TBA
- Saturday, January 2 at 5:00 pm - TBA
- Sunday, January 3 at 8:00 am - TBA
- Sunday, January 3 at 10:30 am - TBA

We still need other volunteers to fill teams for greeting/set-up and clean-up. For safety reasons, volunteers should be between 18-64 years of age and not have conditions that would put them at risk for negative outcomes from COVID-19 infection (immunosuppressive therapy, heart or lung disease, cancer, etc.)

If you would like to participate on a team, please [download this form](#) and email it to Kevin Cheers at kchears@stgertrudechicago.org and include your preferred e-mail and telephone number.



Ways to Help Our Parish: Amazon Smile, Text to Give, GiveCentral, PayPal, Archdiocese Link, and Amazon Smile

Visit smile.amazon.com and select St Gertrude Parish as your charity of choice. From then on, connect to Amazon through smile.amazon.com and St. Gertrude will automatically benefit as your charity of choice.

We have set up a "Text to Give" option through GiveCentral. Parishioners are welcome to text the word **Donate** to 1.773.741.9505 to make a donation via phone.

The Archdiocese has [an online giving option via the Archdiocesan website](#). You simply click on the link and it takes you to the website. Once there, you

determine if you want to contribute via a credit card or a checking account. You fill out the form, including selecting the parish to which the contribution is going, and the money will be electronically debited. The site offers options for amounts and the frequency of the contribution.

To access our PayPal link, please visit [our parish website](#) and donate from there. [GiveCentral](#) offers parishioners the option of one-time gifts or weekly contributions.

For more information on text to give or to sign up for online giving, please email Art Blumberg, Director of Parish Management and Facilities, at ablumberg@stgertrudechicago.org. He will be happy to help in any way he can.

[Click here to go to GiveCentral](#)

[Click here for PayPal \(via our website\)](#)

[Donate via the Archdiocese website](#)



Daily Scripture Readings

Our website has links to the daily readings for Masses [HERE](#). (*Scroll down the webpage to see the readings.*)

Here is the list of readings for this for parishioners that prefer to look them up:

Thursday, December 31: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Friday, January 1: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Saturday, January 2: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

Sunday, January 3: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Monday, January 4: 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday, January 5: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday, January 6: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52

Thursday, January 7: 1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Ps 72: 1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a

Friday, January 8: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16

Saturday, January 9: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30

Sunday, January 10: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11



Rest in Peace

Eileen McGuire, sister of Kathleen Dawson



Mass Intentions

Thursday, December 31: There is no 7:30 am Communion service; 5:00 pm - Geraldine Clennon+

Friday, January 1: 10:30 am - Parishioners of St. Gertrude

Saturday, January 2: 7:30 am - For the intention of Joe McMahon; 5:00 pm
- Alfredo Lukinskas+

Sunday, January 3: 8:00 am - Eileen Quinlan+; 10:30 am - Dr. John
Lindeman+

Monday, January 4: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society

Tuesday, January 5: Martin+ & Ellen+ Joyce

Wednesday, January 6: 7:30 am - Judy Diaz 80th Birthday

Thursday, January 7: 7:30 am - Communion service

Friday, January 8: 7:30 am - Randy Cruz+-

Saturday, January 9: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St.
Gertrude parishioners; 5:00 pm - William Engler+

Sunday, January 10: 8:00 am - Amie Leagans+; 10:30 am - John+ and
Mary+ Philbin

(+ indicates the person is deceased)



Please Pray for Our Parishioners and
Friends

• Michael Batza

• Maria Hertl

- Jean Bautista
- Walter Bradford
- Maggie Callaway
- Aida Calvopina
- Geraldine Clark
- Connie Cool
- Lois DiFruscio
- Sara Fighter
- Lucia Hall
- Gina Heidkamp

- Bernice Kiedysz
- Karey Myers
- Braedon Rimpson
- Mickey Resch
- Charley Scantlebury
- Richard Seitz
- Peggy Stoffel
- The Sullivan family
- Elinora E. Tolentino
- Norma E. Viray
- Ken & Vyes Yoza



[PDF of Lyrics for Epiphany](#)

[PDF of Lyrics for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God \(December 31 at 5:00 pm and January 1 at 10:30 am\)](#)

[PDF of Lyrics for Epiphany](#)

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Our mailing address is:

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