Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose hope is the LORD. He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream: it fears not the heat when it comes; its leaves stay green; in the year of drought it shows no distress, but still bears fruit.

~ Jeremiah 17:7-8
The Annual Catholic Appeal is an annual fundraising campaign that supports the parishes, schools, ministries, programs and agencies that serve the educational, physical and spiritual needs of the people of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Through Catholic Relief Services, the Appeal also serves people around the world, regardless of religious affiliation, whose lives are devastated by natural disasters, illnesses, wars and famine.

Faith is alive in parishes and schools, soup kitchens and counseling centers, on street corners and in churches. It’s lived through people of all backgrounds, from every neighborhood. People everywhere come together to support one another. It is in this spirit that the Appeal exists: to bring support gifts, and build strong communities through faith and your generosity.

Please spend some time this week reflecting on the Annual Catholic Appeal brochure that you received with your bulletin. Please remember that the Annual Catholic Appeal is much different than a one-time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift payable in installments.

Each pledge makes a difference because all parishes participate in the campaign and the gifts of many enable our Archdiocese to deliver needed ministries and services to answer Jesus’ call to “Come, Follow Me.”

After our parish goal of $39,124.80 is reached in cash, 100% of any additional funds come back to our parish to help to fund our needs.

If you received your pledge form in the mail, please complete it and mail it back or bring it to Mass next weekend. For those of you that did not receive a mailing or have not had time to respond to it, we will conduct our in-pew pledge process at all Masses next weekend.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.
Growing in Faith: Possessed by Our Possessions

The Japanese organization expert, Marie Kondo, has recently been making the rounds of talk shows and has a series on Netflix and best-selling books. She wants to help people de-clutter their lives. It seems she has found a ready audience among many U.S. consumers. One of the questions Marie asks clients to contemplate as they look at and sort their possessions is “Does this spark joy?”

For many people, purchasing something may spark joy. That joy may start to fade, though, when they have to figure out where to store them. Possessions can pile up, space is limited. An item much desired when purchased may originally have seemed like a blessing, but it may ultimately turn out to be a curse. To use Jesus’s language from his Sermon on the Plain in today’s gospel, “Woe to you who are rich...” (Luke 6: 24b)

After far too many moves, I have learned the lesson of the blessings and curses of possessions. With each move, I have let go, and let go, and let go, and let go of more and more possessions. They do not spark joy. They are a burden. Fortunately, I have since found many organizations who welcome my possessions, such as Care for Real on Broadway and Northside Housing and Supportive Services on Ravenswood who help people experiencing homelessness. They are just two of the many local organizations where donating your possessions can spark joy for others, and for you.

Have you looked at your closets lately?

~ Eileen D. Crowley for Growing in Faith

Parish Calendar

Sunday, February 17
• No Religious Ed classes today
• 3:00-5:00 pm ~ Commonweal Conversation in the Ministry Center

Saturday, February 23
• NCA Soirée at the Ravenswood Event Center (4021 N. Ravenswood Ave.)

Sunday, February 24
• 10:00 am ~ Family Mass hosted by fifth-grade parishioners and their families

Thursday, February 28
• Deadline for Empower Illinois’ two-for-one matching gift program
• 7:00 pm ~ Parish Council meeting in the Ministry Center

Friday, March 1
• 8:00-9:00 pm ~ Jay Cook performance at Davenports, 1383 N. Milwaukee

Saturday, March 2
• 8:00-9:00 pm ~ Jay Cook performance at Davenports, 1383 N. Milwaukee

Sunday, March 3
• 7:00-8:00 pm ~ Jay Cook performance at Davenports, 1383 N. Milwaukee

Wednesday, March 6
• Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on March 6
Upcoming Family Mass: There will be a Family Mass at 10:00 am hosted by fifth-grader parishioners on Sunday, February 24. We encourage parishioners to bring unused warm socks, new or used hats, gloves, and/or scarves to Church. They will be donated to Care for Real.

Immigration Ministry Forum: The Archdiocese of Chicago Immigration Ministry’s very first Immigration Parish Coordinator Forum will be held on Thursday, February 21, from 6:00-8:00 pm. This evening of prayer, fellowship, and learning is open to all. Olga Rojas, an immigration lawyer with the Archdiocese of Chicago, will speak on the legal path to U.S. citizenship. The event will be held at the Meyer Center, 3525 S. Lake Park Ave.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the St. Gertrude Parish Pastoral Council’s January 24th meeting are available on the home page of our website, www.stgertrudechicago.org. The next meeting is Thursday, February 28.

Pancake Breakfast: Save the date! Cub Scout Pack 3822 will host their annual pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 3 in the Social Hall from 9:00 am-12:00 pm. Breakfast for adults is $7, seniors - $6, and kids under 12 years old - $5.

Parish News

All are invited to attend

**But Wait! There's More!**

a Cabaret featuring Jay Cook

Friday, March 1 from 8:00-9:00 pm
Saturday, March 2 from 8:00-9:00 pm
Sunday, March 3 from 7:00-8:00 pm

*at Davenports, 1383 N. Milwaukee*

Jay Cook will perform songs of love, life, and longing. The cost is $20/person with a two drink minimum. General seating, no reserved seats. Doors to the cabaret room open 30 minutes prior to the show. Metered street parking is available.

Reservations are available online at www.davenportspianobar.com.

Jay has generously offered to donate the cover charge to our parish for anyone who identifies themselves as a St. Gertrude parishioner to their server.

For more information, please contact Mary Lou Matheke, IPC Coordinator, Immigration Ministry at the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity at 708.269.9383 or mmatheke@archchicago.org.
Election Day in Chicago

Election Day in Chicago is Tuesday, February 26. This municipal election is for:
- Mayor, City of Chicago
- City Clerk, City of Chicago
- City Treasurer, City of Chicago
- Alderman (one in each of the city’s 50 wards)

If a candidate receives more than 50% of the votes for any office on Tuesday, February 26, that candidate will be elected. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the votes for any office on Tuesday, February 26, the two candidates for that office who received the most votes will appear on the April 2 ballots in a run-off.

Early voting is now available! Visit https://chicagoelections.com for a list of early voting sites, candidates, and referendum information. Information on how to vote, identification needed to vote, and voters’ bill of rights is also available.

Please note that Monday, February 25 is the last day to request a mail ballot, including military and overseas voters; the last day of early voting; and the last day of grace period registration and voting. Tuesday, February 26 is the last day mail ballots can be postmarked.

Care for our Common Home

Jesus did not settle for the Ten Commandments. His message assumes them, but his Beatitudes challenge us beyond them. Today, we must apply them within the context of our integral communion with all creation.

For example, Pope Francis’ Laudato Si’ expands the promise of blessings for the poor in spirit by advising “moderation and the capacity to be happy with little … avoiding the dynamics of dominion and the mere accumulation of pleasures [and] obsessive consumption.” (par. 222) Before every purchase, question what it will do to the poor, including all creation.

For information on how the Green Team endeavors to deal with “a constant flood of new consumer goods … cherishing each thing and every moment,” contact georgetully82@gmail.com.

~ NCA Green Team

TODAY-Commonweal Conversation

Commonweal Conversation’s next gathering will be today, Sunday, February 17 from 3:00-5:00 pm in the Ministry Center. We will re-visit the problem of political polarization in light of the media and other responses to the Covington Catholic High School encounter with Native American demonstrators after the recent March for Life in D.C. Even if this hot issue cools off by the time of our gathering, the entire episode is a case study of the dangers of polarization.

Chuck Stone of Better Angels, a non-profit that seeks to unify our divided nation by teaching citizens new ways to talk to one another across the political divide, will lead our discussion.

Please contact me with any questions at 312.305.5499 or ddebelle@gmail.com.

~ Denise DeBelle
Parish Stewardship Report

“Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord ... He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream.” ~ Jeremiah 17:7-8

The tree thirsts. It senses the nearby life-giving waters and stretches its roots closer. The tree knows water is life. And as water is life, so God is life. Our roots, our souls thirst for love, our souls thirst for the Lord.

Sunday Collection February 9-10 $7,018.50
Budgeted Collection $7,725.00
Underage (-) $706.50

~ Art Blumberg,
Director of Parish Management and Facilities

Catholic Dads Needed

A doctoral candidate at Catholic Theological Union is looking for dads within the Archdiocese of Chicago who are willing to share their experience of faith formation in the Catholic Church.

His thesis explores the current adult faith formation programs offered to dads in the Archdiocese to understand how their spiritual needs are being met. He hopes to capture their experiences to make recommendations for new faith formation programs specifically designed to meet their needs.

The interview consists of answering a series of questions and participating in a discussion with other fathers and should take less than two hours. The thesis is particularly focused on three groups of dads: those who personally identify as African-American and/or gay, or dads with bi-racial children.

If you are interested in sharing your experience of faith and fatherhood, please contact Willie Cobb, Jr. at wcobb3033@gmail.com or 773.558.1495.

Compliance Training

The Archdiocese of Chicago requires its parishes and schools to provide training in sexual abuse prevention to children and youth in schools and programs annually.

This important training is designed to educate children and youth on how to recognize and report abuse, and is age-appropriate, research-based and straightforward. It’s important to note that the programs below are not sex education courses, rather sexual abuse prevention training that encourages children/youth to disclose abuse, neglect or any troubling information to a safe adult, particularly their parent(s).

Visit https://protect.archchicago.org/ to learn more about our current programs including:
- Praesidium's Called to Protect
- VIRTUS Teaching Touching Safety
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children’s Kids Smartz
- RCL Benziger's Family Life Program
- Child Lures Prevention

Office of Assistance Ministry

This office provides pastoral care, support, and resources to victim-survivors of clerical sexual abuse and their loved ones in their efforts to achieve psychological, emotional, and spiritual healing. Since its creation as one of the first victim assistance ministries in the United States, the Office of Assistance Ministry has provided services and support to more than 400 victims-survivors and their family members.

After an allegation is made, the office offers a variety of services including counseling, spiritual direction, support groups, and other social services to support them with their healing process.

Please visit www.protect.archchicago.org to learn more or contact Director Thomas P. Tharayil, LCSW, BCD at 312.534.8267 or ttharayil@archchicago.org, or Assistant Director Ruth Robinson, BSW at 312.534.8256 or rurobinson@archchicago.org.
Northside Catholic Academy

Come join us for the 2019 NCA Soirée next Saturday, February 23 from 6:00-11:00 pm at the Ravenswood Event Center, 4043 N. Ravenswood Ave. The evening will feature live and silent auctions, raffles, games, food, drinks, music, and dancing! We invite our friends, family, and community members to join us in the spirit of giving and fun!

The NCA Soirée is Northside Catholic Academy’s largest annual fundraiser. This multi-faceted event is dedicated to reaching a goal of raising over $100,000 to support the NCA Guardian Angel Scholarship Fund and many academic and facility improvements. In addition to a great cause, it’s a time to celebrate our community with family and friends.

Tickets are $125 per person. Information and ticket sales can be found at ncasoiree.com.

Catholic Matching Grant Program

A group of generous donors has agreed to pool their resources and offer a two-for-one matching gift program to schools run by the Archdiocese of Chicago. For $1 designated to a qualifying school through Empower Illinois between December 1, 2018 and February 28, 2019, the school will receive $2 in matching funds. The donations are capped at $100,000 per school.

After April 1, 2019, any matching gift program funds that are not awarded at a designated school will be reallocated to low-income students at schools with unmet demand.

For more information please call 312.534.2617 or visit www.archchicago.org/tcs.

TODAY- Women and Authority in Early Christianity

Today, Sunday, February 17 from 3:00 - 4:30 pm, Sister Christine Schenk, CSJ, will speak about her award-winning book, Crispina and Her Sisters. The book explores visual imagery found on burial artifacts of prominent early Christian women. It carefully situates the tomb art within the cultural context of customary Roman commemorations of the dead and provides an in-depth review of women’s history in the first four centuries of Christianity. From this, a fascinating picture emerges of women’s authority in the early church, a picture either not available or recognized, or sadly distorted in the written history.

Hosted by the Benedictine Oblates of St. Scholastica, this inspiring afternoon will explore scripture and its message for us today. The free event will be held at St. Scholastica Monastery, 7430 N. Ridge Blvd.

For more information, visit www.osbchicago.org/programs or call 773.764.2413 x327.

TODAY- Parishioner’s Film Screened

Today, Sunday, February 17 at 3:00 pm, St. Gertrude parishioner Pamela Sherrod Anderson’s documentary film, The G Force, will be screened at Chicago Filmmakers, 5720 N. Ridge Ave. With the rising trend of grandparents stepping in to raise their children’s children, The G Force explores the challenges, concerns, and joys of two families headed by grandmothers.

Tickets are $8 and can be purchased online at www.chicagofilmmakers.org or at the box office.
### Our Parish at Prayer

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
<th>Additional Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, February 18</td>
<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>Vic Milewski</td>
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<td>Tuesday, February 19</td>
<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>Jacqueline Elwood</td>
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<td>Wednesday, February 20</td>
<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>Purgatorial Society</td>
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<td>Thursday, February 21</td>
<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>Communion Service</td>
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<td>Friday, February 22</td>
<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>Mary Jo Martin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>NCA Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 23</td>
<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>Julie Dionne</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Mary Jo &amp; Norm Bowers</td>
<td>(57th Wedding Anniversary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, February 24</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Maggie Callaway</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Mary Weck</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Robert Nelson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Judy Pier</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Alice Keys</td>
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### Readings for the Week

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Reading 1</th>
<th>Reading 2</th>
<th>Reading 3</th>
<th>Reading 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-26; Mk 8:11-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9c-10; Mk 8:14-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Ps 116:12-15, 18-19; Mk 8:22-26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Gn 9:1-13; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Mk 8:27-33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Heb 11:1-7; Ps 145:2-5, 10-11; Mk 9:2-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38</td>
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### Eucharistic Ministers

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 23</td>
<td>Peggy Dawson (Mary Cook assisting), Brad Koch, Candace Koch, Kathy Wall, Roman Reyes</td>
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### Ministers of the Word

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 23</td>
<td>Clarisse Chonka, Steve Matre</td>
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### Altar Servers

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 23</td>
<td>Brendan Moran, Norah Moran, Casey Cancilla</td>
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### 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](https://www.givecentral.org/location/132/event/12645).
PARISH STAFF
Rev. Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor
Brenda K. Arreloa, Heart to Heart Office Staff
Mary Clare Barker, Minister of Music
Art Blumberg, Director of Parish Management and Facilities
Jane Callahan-Moore, Director of Parish Social Services
Kevin Clears, Pastoral Associate
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
9:30 am 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
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 - 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

Milestones
Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends
Carlene Lorys
Johnny Outlaw
Anthony Susin
Geraldine Clark
Helen Stryczek

Rest in Peace
Mary Weck
Gilbert Gallagher (brother of Rita Thomson)
Alice Keys (mother of Nancy Buttitta)
William Clark

New Parishioners
Robert & Maureen Mencarini

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