The babe is lifted high toward the welcoming stars, a young life with just a kernel of ripening, a new resident in the heart of existence.

All those gathered proclaim: “Behold, behold, this new born one! Let us nurture and keep alive the sacred mystery of hope hallowed in this young one’s heart. We sow our dreams of a future in this freshly birthed being. We give our loving promise to guide and guard this child. Always we will remember our oneness in the dancing cosmos.”

~ An excerpt from Behold This Newborn Child by Joyce Rupp
Today is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, commemorating the day Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to be presented to God. Simeon greeted them in the temple, pronouncing Jesus a “light to the nations.” This day is also known as “Candlemas Day.” Candlemas literally translates as “the sending of the candle (light)” into the world. Today we bless the candles we will use in church throughout the year. These blessed candles will be used today for the Final Blessing—the Blessing of the Throats.

Next weekend begins the three-week focus on the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA.) Each year, on the three weekends before the beginning of Lent, we are invited and encouraged to participate in the ACA. Unlike a second collection, the Appeal is asking us to make a commitment throughout the year to assist in the larger work of the Catholic Church throughout our Archdiocese and beyond. Each year, I make a pledge to the Annual Catholic Appeal because I very much believe in the good work that is accomplished through its resources. As a pastor, I am also very aware that in the lifetime of any parish we will likely need help from the Archdiocese to accomplish some major project to make our parish stronger and able to carry out the mission of the gospel in our own communities. That has meant everything from helping fund building or repair projects, to the training of ministers to assist in our liturgies, in visitation of the sick, in preparing people for marriage, or the baptism of their children. It has also meant extraordinary support for the religious education and formation of our young people through the Catholic School Office and Religious Education.

This year, the theme for the Annual Catholic Appeal is “Come follow me…and heal our world.” As we have heard in the gospel passages in recent weeks, Jesus called his disciples, and today he calls us, to heal our world—not only in our speech but in our actions. We heal the world when we love our enemies, extend our generosity to those in need and become sources of mercy and compassion for everyone. When you participate in the Annual Catholic Appeal, you support the life and mission of the Church and its outreach programs. The ACA makes possible our outreach beyond our parish to promote efforts to eradicate violence, promote respect for life, and alleviate suffering around the world. When you give, you are following Jesus and sharing His word. Through the Annual Catholic Appeal, you can share His word in our parish communities, our archdiocese, and across the globe.

Please be receptive in the next three weekends to the information you may have received in the mail (if you have previously donated to the ACA), or the information provided in church and to the filling out of the Commitment Cards the weekend of February 15-16. Please join me in making a Commitment to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Thank you for your consideration. (Next weekend in this column we will have a reflection on the scripture readings and the ACA from Fr. Cameli of the Archdiocese. And the following weekend, Commitment Weekend - February 15-16, we will have a recorded homily from Cardinal Cupich—and the text of that homily will be in this space.)

Don’t forget to pick up your tamales today in the back of church if you ordered last weekend from the Midwest Workers Association Winter Survival Campaign which assists those struggling financially to keep their utilities turned on during the winter months.

Have a great Super Bowl Sunday!

~ Father Rich
I like it when a Scripture story about Jesus reminds me of my granddaughter Emma.

In this weekend’s Gospel, Jesus, just over a month old, is taken to be presented in the Temple in Jerusalem. It was an important ritual for first-born sons in Judaism. I can easily picture him there, a small bundle of sleeping — or maybe crying — baby in his mother’s or father’s arms, the center of attention for a lot of adults.

It's easy to picture that scene because I just watched Emma go through a similar ceremony for her Baptism at the end of October. She was two and a half months old, a little older than Jesus, and she was a perfect angel and even seemed mildly curious as our former pastor, Father Dom Grassi, read all the prayers. The only time she cried was when he told Satan to leave. I'm not sure what that means.

Emma was baptized at St. Clement Church in Lincoln Park where my wife Cathy and I met and were married, and where her parents, our son David and our daughter-in-law Tara, are now attending.

All of us adults were around the altar with Emma, enveloping her with our love, as, two millennia ago, Mary and Joseph, Anna and Simeon, enveloped that little baby Jesus with love.

Yes, there were great and even scary things said at that time about Jesus. Even so, he was just a little baby like Emma. I like to think of Jesus as a baby. As one of us.

~ Patrick T. Reardon for Growing in Faith

Parish Calendar

Sunday, February 2
- Blessing of Throats at all Masses
- 8:30 am ~ Religious Ed classes resume
- Pick-up orders from the Midwest Workers Association Super Bowl Sunday Tamale Benefit in the back of Church

Monday, February 3
- 7:00 pm ~ Baptismal parent preparation class in the Rectory (Registration is required.)

Saturday, February 8
- 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm ~ Cabaret in the Gym

Sunday, February 9
- 10:30 am ~ Family Mass in Church hosted by sixth graders and their families/hospitality provided by the parish’s Boy Scouts
- There is no Gym Mass.
- 6:30-8:00 pm ~ WOW get-together in the Gym balcony

Monday, February 10
- 7:30 pm ~ Good Books in the Ministry Center

Wednesday, February 12
- 7:00-9:00 pm ~ Knitting Group in the Ministry Center

Sunday, February 16
- There are no Religious Ed classes
- 10:30 am ~ Kids Word at Mass in Church

Monday, February 17
- 7:30 pm ~ Poetry Pilgrims in the Ministry Center

Saturday, February 22
- 9:30 am ~ Lenten leaders’ New Wine, New Wineskins training in the Ministry Center

Wednesday, February 26 Ash Wednesday
- 7:30 am ~ Mass (Ashes distributed during Mass.)
- 10:00 am ~ NCA’s Mass (Ashes distributed during Mass.)
- 6:00-6:45 pm ~ Ashes distributed.
- 7:00 pm ~ Mass (Ashes distributed during Mass.)

Friday, February 26
- 3:00 pm ~ Stations of the Cross in Church

Saturday, February 29
- 10:00 am through the 5:00 pm Mass ~ PreCana Class (Registration is required.)
TODAY—Blessing of Throats: In honor of the Feast of St. Blaise (February 3), the final blessing at all the weekend masses will be the Blessing of Throats.

TODAY—Midwest Workers Association Super Bowl Sunday Tamale Benefit: Parishioners who ordered tamales to benefit the Midwest Workers Association can pick them up in the back of Church.

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

Upcoming Family Mass: Next Sunday, February 9, there will be a Family Mass in Church at 10:30 am, hosted by sixth-grade students and their families. The Boy Scouts will provide hospitality after Mass in the back of church. There is no Gym Mass.

WOW Get-Together: WOW teens and any teen in high school, are invited to gather on Sunday, February 9 from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Gym balcony.

Good Books: The book club will meet on Monday, February 10 at 7:30 pm in the Ministry Center. Contact Mary Grover at mary@marsgrover.com with any questions.

Knitting Group: The Knitting Group invites all knitters and crocheters to join us for fun and blanket square-making! We’ll meet on Wednesday, February 12 from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Ministry Center. No experience is necessary!

Poetry Pilgrims: The next Poetry Pilgrims gathering will be Monday, February 17 at 7:30 pm in the Ministry Center. Please email Mary Grover at mary@marsgrover.com for a list of poems.

Women’s Friendship Club: The group will not be meeting in February. Their activities will resume on the usual Thursday in March.

New Heart to Heart Office Hours: The Heart to Heart Ministry is now open Monday-Friday from 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

Next Weekend: Cabaret Night Planned

St. Gertrude Parish Presents
A Cabaret Night
Saturday, February 8
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
St. Gertrude’s Gym, 1401 W. Granville Ave.
Join us for an evening of great music featuring our parish musicians! All are Welcome!

Tickets available at the door.
$10 general admission, $5 for seniors
Help Needed for Lenten Faith Groups

Looking For a Few Small Group Leaders—Six Weeks, 90 Minutes Each Week, No Pay, but Great Fringe Benefits!

As part of our Lenten program this year, and in preparation for the Renew My Church process we will be starting this fall, we will be inviting parishioners to join already existing faith-sharing groups, or to form new faith-sharing groups. These small groups will use the New Wine, New Wineskins: A Faith-Sharing Resource for Restructuring Parishes as a guide to gather together as a faith community and reflect on our identity as missionary disciples, the meaning of Church, and how change is a constant part of our lives.

There are no qualifications for volunteering as a small group leader. There will be a one-time training session on Saturday, February 22 at 9:30 am in the Ministry Center to familiarize all leaders with the New Wine, New Wineskins booklets and how each of the sessions is structured. Leaders will be participants in the groups, have already read through the materials being used, make sure the space is set up, and will keep the small group focused and on track.

Our parish-based PreCana will be held on Saturday, February 29, beginning at 10:00 am through the 5:00 pm Mass. Call the Rectory at 773.764.3621 to register.

Stations of the Cross: Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday during Lent at 3:00 pm in Church beginning Friday, February 28. On Good Friday, April 10, there will be Living Stations of the Cross at 3:00 pm, featuring teens from the parish.

If you haven’t prayed the Stations in a long time—or maybe ever—why not give it a try.

The Stations were meant to be a way for those who could not make the pilgrimage to the holy places in Jerusalem to still reflect on the momentous events that brought us salvation. This is one of the few prayers that invites us to not just bring our minds and hearts, but our actual physical movement into the prayer as the participants are invited to walk with the minister from station to station.

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The faith-sharing groups will begin meeting the weekend BEFORE Lent starts (Ash Wednesday is February 26. The first group meetings will be the weekend of February 22-23). And they will be completed before Holy Week begins.

No experience is needed, nor is anyone expected to be an expert in anything. Please consider making this commitment. It will not only be a great Lenten program, but also a great introduction to Renew My Church and the future of our parish.

Groups will meet after the 8:00 am and 10:30 am Sunday Masses in the various meeting spaces on the parish campus, and on evenings that works with most people’s schedules.

Contact me by Monday, February 3 at the latest by email at rprendergast@stgertrudechicago.org or call me at the Rectory office at 773.764.3621 if you are willing to volunteer as a group leader for this short-term process.

Thanks for your consideration.

~ Fr. Rich
Marriage Prep Facilitators Needed

St. Gertrude parish is seeking a married couple who is willing to meet with engaged couples as part of the marriage preparation process. The facilitator couple would be responsible for issuing the online FOCcUS inventory, reviewing the responses, and meeting with the couple to review the results for one to two hours. Training through FOCcUS is available and required.

The current coordinating couple is moving out of state but happy to answer questions and coordinate a transition! Please contact Fr. Rich at 773.764.3621 if interested.

Teen Domestic Violence Discussion

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and an opportunity to learn about what makes a healthy and unhealthy relationship.

The Domestic Violence Outreach ministries of St. Benedict and Queen of Angels Catholic Parishes invite you to Love Shouldn't Hurt on Tuesday, February 18 at Sulzer Library, 4555 N. Lincoln Ave. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm and the program will begin at 7:00 pm.

Jessica Caccavallo, MSW, LSW, Prevention Education Coordinator for Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault will be the featured presenter to discuss healthy and unhealthy relationships.

The discussion will include information about how to navigate dating, relationships, and break-ups, signs of an unhealthy or abusive relationship, and how to take action if you are in an unhealthy relationship.

Please come and bring a friend!

Ministry of Care Training

St. Nicholas Parish in Evanston will be conducting Ministry of Care training on two consecutive Saturdays in 2020—February 29 and March 7. The training will be held from 8:30 am-3:30 pm in St. Nicholas parish’s Oldershaw Hall, 806 Ridge Avenue in Evanston. The cost is $30 and includes breakfast and lunch.

Each session will focus on a particular aspect of the Ministry of Care and given by experienced facilitators accompanied by group discussion and/or exercises to help you practice a particular skill. Completion of this course qualifies you to receive the Archdiocesan mandate to bring Communion to the sick, homebound, and hospitalized of your parish.

If you would like to participate in this training, please contact Jane Moore-Callahan, Director of Parish Social Services at heart2heart@stgertrudechicago.org or 773.973.5464. A brochure with more information is available on the tables in the back of church.

Green Team Tips

Below are some tips from our parish’s Green Team about small changes you can make in your home to shrink your carbon footprint:

- **Keep Your Home Tightly Sealed:** Caulking, weather stripping or door guards can all add up to big savings. There are often rebates to help pay for air sealing and adding insulation.
- **Replace Your HVAC & Furnace Filters:** Replace your filter at least four times a year and have your HVAC serviced annually. It’ll help the system run more efficiency and extend its life.
- **Ceiling Fans:** Ceiling fans can be set in reverse during the winter months to push warm air down.
- **Use Major Appliances At Night:** By shifting use away from peak demand hours, you help keep the dirtiest power plants off the grid.
- **Wash Clothes in Cold Water:** The hot water tank is a big energy guzzler in every home.
- **Lower Your Hot Water Temperature:** Try lowering it to 115 degrees and you’ll likely see a drop in monthly bills as well.
- **Wrap Hot Water Pipes:** This will help keep your water warm and use less energy.
- **Install a Hot Water Heater Timer:** It’ll help save money and make sure you’re not heating water in the middle of the night.
Parish Stewardship Report

“Because (Jesus) himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.” ~ Hebrews 2:18

Jesus suffered and understands all that we suffer. In other words, God suffers. God is not remote and implacable, a far-off presence only dimly discerned. No. God is with us here and now. God walks with us, suffers with us, helps us in our suffering.

Sunday Collection January 25-26 $6,826.94
Budgeted Collection $7,725.00
Variance (-) $898.06
Second collection for the Church in Latin America $1,474.00

~ Art Blumberg,
Director of Parish Management and Facilities

Annual Catholic Appeal

Come, follow me… and heal our world

Many families in our parish will be receiving the Annual Catholic Appeal request mailing from Cardinal Cupich. On behalf of those served by the ministries, parishes, and schools who receive funding from the Appeal, we thank you for your gifts. Please return your response as soon as possible.

The Annual Catholic Appeal offers a wonderful opportunity to answer Jesus’ call to “Come, follow me… and heal our world.” In addition to providing for ministries and services throughout the archdiocese, the Appeal also funds services that are of great help here in our parish. For example, Appeal funds support training of Ministers of Care and Marriage Preparation Teams and some of our liturgical ministries.

As we contemplate God’s many gifts to us, we should also reflect on our gratitude. Your financial support for the work of our parish, our archdiocese, and the Church throughout the world is one way to express this gratitude. Please give generously to the 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal.

Donate to Tax Credit Scholarships

Illinois’ tax credit scholarship program through the “Invest in Kids” Act provides strong incentives for donors to support non-public school scholarships for low-income students in the state. Illinois students from low-income families may use these new scholarships to attend a non-public school of their choice, including the more than 200 Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools.

In 2019, more than 2,300 students were awarded scholarships, however more than 11,000 students remain on the wait list without a scholarship. Many more students could benefit from your generosity. The need is great. Your gift through a tax credit scholarship provides a high-quality, faith-based education for generations of students to come.

With the two-for-one matching program through Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools and Empower Illinois, a $500 donation could easily turn into $1,500 scholarship for a student in need. Learn more at archchicago.org/tcs.

Scholarship for High School Senior

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women annually provides one four-year renewable scholarship to a young woman graduating from high school and continuing her education in a college or university.

This scholarship is available for high school seniors who meet the following criteria:
- Belong to a parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago
- Have maintained a C average in high school
- Have been involved in extra-curricular activities at church, in their community, or at school
- Plan to attend a college

For more information, visit accw.archchicago.org/accw-scholarship.
How Do You Find & Contact Your Elected Officials?
Be a voice for change! Contact your elected officials and share your thoughts on gun control, immigration, and more. Visit usa.gov/elected-officials for a contact information for all of your elected officials, including your senators, U.S. representatives, governor, and state legislators.

Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Ps 3:2-7; Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30 — 19:3; Ps 86:1-6; Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 6:1-6
Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10-12; Mk 6:7-13
Friday: Sir 47:2-11; Ps 18:31, 47, 50, 51; Mk 6:14-29
Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34
Sunday: Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday, February 8
5:00 pm Mary Cook, Kathleen Dawson, Patricia Norcik, Tim Harrington, Kathy Wall

Sunday, February 9
8:00 am Hallie Burhoe, Barb Daly, Marty McDermott, William Mitchell, Mary Wyler
9:30 am TBA
10:30 am Rose Marie Anichini, Christine Curran, Mary Donlan, Kathy Dunne, Nancy Merrill, Ruth Ott, Farrah Healy

Altar Servers

Saturday, February 8
5:00 pm Adonai Agdubai, Mariyam Agdubai, George Hanafee

Sunday, February 9
10:30 am Leah Malloy, Kayla Malloy, Julia Barry

Our Parish at Prayer for January 20-26

Monday, February 3
7:30 am Martin & Ellen Joyce

Tuesday, February 4
7:30 am Lydia Gonzales

Wednesday, February 5
7:30 am Joseph Thu V. Nguyen

Thursday, February 6
7:30 am Communion service

Friday, February 7
7:30 am Purgatorial Society
8:30 am NCA Mass

Saturday, February 8
7:30 am Living & deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
5:00 pm Robert Marschall

Sunday, February 9
8:00 am Bart McKee
9:30 am Rose Nugent
10:30 am Francesco & Angela Emanuele

There is no Gym Mass on Sunday, February 9.

Ministers of the Word

Saturday, February 9
5:00 pm Kathleen Dawson, Pat Reardon

Sunday, February 8
8:00 am Hallie Burhoe, Donna Whalley
9:30 am TBA
10:30 am Victoria Healy, Ruth Ott

There is no Gym Mass on Sunday, February 9.
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 Chears, Pastoral Associate
Laurie Hasbrook, Office Staff
Jim Potthast, Youth and Family Minister
Tracy Shields, Minister of First Impressions/Communications
Sr. Judith Zonsius, Office Manager
OTHER PASTORAL STAFF
Rev. Michael Bradley, Resident
Rev. Dominic Grassi, Retired Pastor
Rev. William Kenneally, Pastor Emeritus
Carol Beatty, St. Gertrude East Music Director
WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE
Sunday: 8:00 am and 10:30 am in Church
9:30 am St. Gertrude East (Sacred Heart School/Sheridan and Granville)
10:30 am in the Gym (1401 W. Granville)
Monday through Friday: 7:30 am (Thursday is a Communion Service.)
Saturday: 7:30 am and 5:00 pm (Sunday Vigil)
LOCATION:
Rectory: 1420 W. Granville Ave., Chicago, IL 60660  Phone: 773.764.3621
WEBSITE: www.stgertrudechicago.org
E-mail: stgertrude@stgertrudechicago.org
Ministry Center: 6214 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago, IL 60660
Social Services Phone: 773.973.5464
Social Hall: 1401 W. Granville Ave., Chicago, IL 60660
RECTORY BUSINESS HOURS
Monday - Thursday: 8:30 am to 7:30 pm
Friday: 8:30 am to 4:45 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am to 1:00 pm
HEART TO HEART
Senior outreach and social services connection: 773.973.5464
Email: heart2heart@stgertrudechicago.org
PARISH SCHOOL
Northside Catholic Academy: 773.743.6277
www.northsidecatholic.org
BAPTISM
Baptisms take place on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Additionally, baptisms will be incorporated into one of the weekend Masses each month, with a different Mass having a baptism each month. Call the Rectory to make arrangements to have a child baptized, and to RSVP to attend a parent preparation meeting, held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.
INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?
We have an enriching program called the R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults). Contact the Rectory for details.
MARRIAGE
Arrangements begin by setting up an appointment with the Pastor. Preparations are to begin at least four months prior to the desired date.
MINISTRY OF CARE AND COMMUNION
Trained ministers will gladly visit and bring communion to those who are sick or homebound. Please call the Rectory to make arrangements.
NEW PARISHIONERS
You are most welcome and are invited to stop in at the Rectory to introduce yourself and register, or register with one of the greeters before or after any Mass. Registration is also available online at www.stgertrudechicago.org.
RECONCILIATION
Individual: Saturday from 4:15-4:45 pm and by request.
COMMUNITY MEETINGS HELD AT ST. GERTRUDE
Al-Anon: Sundays at 7:00 pm in the Ministry Center
Open AA: Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in the Ministry Center, and Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the school cafeteria.
Caris Pregnancy Center, pregnancy support, free pregnancy tests, and post-abortion help: 312.229.5700.
Makko ho (Japanese yoga): Saturdays at 10:00 am in the Ministry Center.
Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!
Sign up here:

Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.

Joan Harrington, NCA Teacher
Tim Harrington, Funeral Director & Owner
Since 1895
Family Owned Since 1923

WHY IS IT?
A man wakes up after sleeping under an ADVERTISED blanket
and pulls off ADVERTISED pajamas
bathes in an ADVERTISED shower
shaves with an ADVERTISED razor
brushes his teeth
washes with ADVERTISED soap
under an ADVERTISED blanket

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

WHY IS IT?