

# *St. Gertrude*

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

1420 W. Granville Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60660

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

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time • January 27, 2019**



**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.**

*From Father Rich*

Happy Catholic Schools Week! A special welcome to all our parishioners who are students at NCA, a Catholic High School, Catholic College or University, or are employed at a Catholic school. As we do each year at the beginning of Catholic Schools Week, we welcome a parish family enrolled at NCA to share a brief reflection at the end of the 10:30 am Mass today. Don't forget that you can take a tour of NCA today! Tours of the primary campus (located here at St. Gertrude) will run from 11:00 am-1:00 pm, and tours of the middle school (located at St. Margaret Mary) will be from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm. You can also purchase raffle tickets for the Queen of Hearts Raffle at the back of church today. Proceeds benefit NCA.

Recently, some Catholic periodicals have published issues with a variety of authors reflecting on why they stay in the Catholic Church, especially given the horrors of the clergy sexual abuse crisis and the cover-ups by so many bishops. While the reason for the articles is still deeply distressing, the question itself is worth more than a passing glance. Sometimes we get caught short on why we do certain things or think certain ways. But when the unexpected stops us in our tracks, it causes us to reconsider why we are doing whatever it is. When it comes to "going to church on Sunday," probably for some of us (especially older Catholics), there is a high degree of both habit, as well as the ingrained, "because this is not only one of the Commandments, it is a sin not to!" But I suspect for most of us it is a much more complex and varied set of reasons. I have heard some younger people speak eloquently about how important they found it to return to regular mass attendance. For some Catholics, it was a journey that has wandered around from regular attendance, to being "away" for some number of years, to finding a need to re-connect to God and the worshipping community.

Attending mass regularly is certainly a large part of how most Catholics would define the "why" they are still Catholic. But it is not all of it. In all the challenges to my own faith, I come back, time and time again to three things. The first was found in a recent Sunday gospel passage when people were leaving the company of Jesus because they found his teaching too difficult. "Jesus asked the Twelve, 'Do you also want to leave?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.'" (John 6:67-69)

I don't understand this response to mean we have no other alternatives. Although, in another sense that is exactly true. As a person who considers his faith life important, a constitutive part of who I am, I am aware there are many Christian churches available to me. But I also believe the Catholic Church is the Christian church that most fully encompasses the teachings of Jesus. Over the many centuries, what we believe and how we practice our faith and the various structures of the Church have evolved and continue to evolve. While it may move painfully slowly at times, it also eventually lands in the right places.

But as far as the Church being the Body of Christ—there I have come to a slightly different conclusion than some others. I DO believe we are the Body of Christ. But it is the wounded, bleeding body of the Lord. In fact, it is also the greatest strength of the Church! We are always at our best when we are aware and humbled by our weaknesses, our failures, our betrayals. And we are at our most unchristian when we are at our most triumphant and arrogant. The perfected Body of Christ will only be fully realized in heaven.

The second reason is connected to this understanding of the Body of Christ. When I look around the world, there are few institutions that have done as much good, and continue to do as much good, as the Catholic Church. The best of our leadership is found in the women and men who live the gospel of Jesus Christ in the often hidden and quiet places of our planet. The amazing women religious living the gospel in remote corners of the world; the men and women who have given their lives in service to their sisters and brothers in hospitals and schools, in orphanages and homes for the elderly; the extraordinary generosity of so many laity motivated by their faith to serve the poor and the broken. When it comes to finding compassion and mercy, kindness and love lived out in our world, I don't know of any other institution that supports more of this kind of activity than the Catholic Church. I say this not unaware of the Church's sins and failing. But a fair accounting does all those witnesses to the gospel and all of us a disservice if we forget all the good that is done.

## *Father Rich (continued)*

My third and final reason is very personal. It is my own relationship to Jesus Christ. It is to Him I hold fast. It is He I love. It is in Him I have found my source of hope, my confidence, my reason for living my life as a priest and a Roman Catholic. In times of questioning and turmoil, it is to Jesus I return time and time again. He is my touchstone—the one against whom all truth is measured. When anyone in the Church, whether leadership or any believer, says outrageous things, hateful things, untrue things, things that harm individuals and whole groups of people, He is the One with whom I check-in for truth.

In my limited experience, I have found the Church—through her ministers, sacraments and teachings—to be a source of inspiration, of direction, of comfort and solace, of positive challenge in how we can best live our lives. And she continues to do so today.

If she were a person, she would be just like me and you—filled with strengths and weaknesses, with a living history of great success and dismal failure, of extraordinary moments of generosity and horrendous moments of small-mindedness. And I believe God loves her and all her members just as I believe God

loves me—just as I am, imperfect, but nonetheless one of God's creatures.

So I stay. I consider this question only as settled as my vocational choice. I suspect it is not dissimilar to the choice married people make every day. I felt called to this vocation and re-affirmed that call many times until I made promises to live this way and was ordained. Some days it is the promise itself that has kept me going. Some days it is the easiest thing in the word. And some days it requires the assistance of a power far greater than me. It is how I love. It means forgiving lots—in myself, in others, in the Church. Is that so different than what married couples who truly love do every day? I don't think so.

Perhaps the other variable is hope for the future. I have sensed in the Catholic Church a willingness to say "we don't have it all right yet, but we'll keep trying." I think that is what Pope Francis is all about. And that is what I want to live my life also being all about.

How about for you? Why do you stay? I think it is a good question well worth pursuing. And when we have given it some thought, also worth sharing with others.

## *Parish Calendar*

### **Sunday, January 27**

- No Religious Ed classes.
- 10:30 am ~ Combined Mass
- 10:30 am ~ Kids Word held at the Combined Mass
- 11:30 am ~ Screening of *One Border, One Body* in the Social Hall
- 11:00 am-1:00 pm ~ NCA Open House - PreK-4th Grade (primary school campus, 6216 N. Glenwood Ave.)
- 12:00-2:00 pm ~ NCA Open House - 5th-8th Grade (middle school campus, 7318 N. Oakley Ave.)

### **Saturday, February 2**

- 5:00 pm ~ Blessing of Throats at Mass

### **Sunday, February 3**

- Blessing of Throats at all Masses

- 8:30 am ~ Religious Ed classes resume
- 10:00 am ~ Family Mass hosted by fourth-grade parishioners and their families

### **Monday, February 4**

- 7:00 pm ~ Baptismal parent preparation class in the Rectory

### **Saturday, February 9**

- 10:00 am ~ Valentine's play date for kids ages 2-5 at NCA

### **Sunday, February 10**

- 8:00am - 1:30pm ~ Blood drive in the Social Hall

### **Sunday, February 17**

- No Religious Ed classes today

### **Sunday, February 24**

- 10:00 am ~ Family Mass hosted by fifth-grade parishioners and their families

## Parish News

**TODAY—Today's Combined Mass:** Kids Word will be offered at today's 10:30 am Combined Mass, held in lieu of the 10:00 am, 10:30 am (Gym), and 11:30 am Masses.

**TODAY—Refugee Ministry Film Screening:** St. Gertrude's Refugee Committee has teamed up with the Archdiocese of Chicago's Human Dignity and Solidarity Ministry to be part of the Immigration Ministry Film Festival this January. All are welcome to attend the screening of *One Border, One Body* today, Sunday, January 27 at 11:30 am in the Social Hall.

This immigration documentary highlights an annual Mass held at the U.S.-Mexico border with half the community in the U.S., the other half in Mexico, and the altar joined at the fence. The film tells the story of how this annual ritual unites people beyond political constructions which divide them and speaks of the gift and challenge of Christian faith and the call to feed the world's hunger for peace, justice, and reconciliation.

**Candlemas Day/Blessing of Throats Next Weekend:** The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas Day, is Saturday, February 2. This feast celebrates the recognition of Jesus in the temple and the bringing of his light to the world. On this day, we bless the candles that will be used in church throughout the year. Next Sunday, February 3 is the Feast of St. Blasé, which gives us the opportunity to use the newly blessed candles for the Blessing of Throats. Because the feast falls on the Sunday this year, the final blessing at all the weekend masses will be the Blessing of Throats.

**Upcoming Family Masses:** Fourth-grade parishioners and their families will host the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday, February 3. There will also be a Family Mass at 10:00 am hosted by fifth-grader parishioners on Sunday, February 24. Hospitality will be offered after both Masses.

**Baptismal Preparation Class:** The next class will be held on Monday, February 4 at 7:00 pm in the Rectory. Please call the Rectory office at 773.764.3621 to register for the class.

**Blood Drive on Sunday, February 10:** On Sunday, February 10, LifeSource will be in the Social Hall, 1401 W. Granville Ave., from 8:00 am - 1:30 pm. Appointments can be scheduled by calling LifeSource at 877.543.3768. To book an appointment online:

- Visit Lifesource.org
- Choose Make an Appointment and create a donor login or search for group code 591

Appointments are recommended, but walk-ins are welcome!

**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 13 at 7:00pm in the Ministry Center and continue to gather on the second Wednesday of every month from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Ministry Center. No experience is necessary!

**No Religious Ed over Presidents Day Weekend:** There will be no Religious Education classes on Sunday, February 17.

**Heart to Heart Expanded Hours:** Heart to Heart, our parish's ministry for seniors, is now staffed Monday-Friday. The program's hours are now:

- Monday - 9:00 am-5:00 pm
- Tuesday - 9:00 am-2:00 pm
- Wednesday - 9:00 am-5:00 pm
- Thursday - 9:00 am-2:00 pm
- Friday - 9:00 am-5:00 pm

**Teen Summer Service Trip:** St. Gertrude Parish is sponsoring a service trip for teens to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota from Friday, July 26 - Sunday, August 4. Teens interested in attending can contact Jim Potthast at 773.764.3621 [jpotthast@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:jpotthast@stgertrudechicago.org).

**Weddings at St. Gertrude:** Are you interested in getting married at St. Gertrude? Call the Rectory at 773.764.3621 to ask for information.

## *Growing in Faith*

In today's gospel, Luke tells a story to Theophilus, and through him, to us. Luke wants to get this story written down in an orderly fashion, so that it is accurately captured before all the eyewitnesses are gone. The story he tells us is our origin story, our family history.

Jesus, from a small, unimportant town, becomes newsworthy and acclaimed. Luke tells us how that came about: Jesus was powered by the Holy Spirit to fulfill an earlier story, to do what seems impossible—bring glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, bring sight to the blind. Jesus tells the crowd in the synagogue that he has been anointed by the Holy Spirit to do these things, and the crowd “looked intently at him.”

Did that crowd believe him? What did they think he was telling them? We will never know what they believed, but what do we believe? Do we believe

that Jesus came to bring the kingdom of God to all? Luke claims, if the story is written down in an orderly sequence, that will make the teachings of Jesus certain.

I think it takes more than a neat and tidy narrative. I think we must embrace the power of the Spirit to enable us to engage with the poor, those enslaved by desires or oppressed by conditions outside their control, those blind to the needs of others. How will we fulfill Jesus' commitment to the poor, the oppressed and the blind?

~ Mary Ann O'Connor  
for *Growing in Faith*



## *Care for Real is Available to Help Federal Employees*

Care for Real is prepared to help anyone in need of food assistance, including federal workers who might be experiencing hardship due to the government shutdown.

Furloughed employees should present a “legitimate authorities” ID to receive the groceries at 5339 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago.

Care for Real is suspending the usual requirements for service (income below federal guidelines and geographic boundaries) to help those impacted by the government shutdown.

Families can receive grocery staples—meat, dairy, beans, rice, pasta, peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables and lots more—once a month and can come up to four times a week for fresh produce and bakery items.

Food is distributed Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 am - noon and Saturday from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

*St. Gertrude has been a strong supporter of Care for Real since 1970, providing financial support to help Care for Real's goals of providing loving support for our neighbors and acting as a safety net for the entire Edgewater community.*



### Parish Stewardship Report

*“For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.” ~ 1 Corinthians 12:13*

Paul’s vision of the radical equality of all believers often stunned his listeners. It should stun us today – especially when we consider we may profess this belief, but do not carry it into action. Let’s heed Paul’s words and act upon them. And let’s apply this radical equality, these words and these actions to all peoples, baptized or not.

Sunday Collection January 19-20	\$7,004.03
Budgeted Collection	<u>\$7,725.00</u>
<b>Underage</b>	<b>(-) \$720.97</b>

*~ Art Blumberg,  
Director of Parish Management and Facilities*

### Refugee Committee

Here are some updates on a few of the families that were sponsored by the Refugee Committee:

- Our first family that we helped, a Rohingya household of five, is hoping to buy a condo!
- Our other Rohingya family, a couple and their daughter, are regularly visited by Joe Donnelly, and we will get more information from him.
- Our family from Nepal is now expecting their second child!
- Our couple from Afghanistan welcomed a beautiful baby girl just before Christmas.
- Our Rohingya mother with three kids is acclimating, the mother is working and the kids are doing well in school.
- Our newest family is just getting settled, more information to follow.
- The young man from Africa (not officially sponsored by the committee, but befriended by parishioners) is doing great, working and going to school.

*~ Denise Goodman*

### United Power

United Power is a non-partisan community organization composed of forty religious congregations, not-for-profit groups, hospitals, health centers, and civic organizations from across Cook County. Their volunteer leaders are their backbone; they are concerned citizens who consult with neighbors, shape goals and strategy to address pressing social problems, and pressure people in power to seek positive, creative solutions.

On Thursday, February 7 from 7:00-8:30 pm, United Power will hold the first delegates assembly of 2019 at Lawndale Community Church, Agape Chapel, 3827 West Ogden.

If United Power and our allies want to move our major issues forward by engaging the top power |people in Illinois in 2019, we need to stoke our power engine with new institutions, new money, and new leaders so we can’t be ignored on the crucial issues of:

- Rebuilding Communities: Continued success in southwest Chicago and future work on the west side of Chicago.
- Treating, not Incarcerating: Eliminating roadblocks for crisis stabilization so people facing mental health issues don’t end up in jail.
- Reducing Gun Violence: Uniting law enforcement and investors to hold gun manufacturers accountable to making our communities safer.

Contact Renee Reilly at [Reillyslp@yahoo.com](mailto:Reillyslp@yahoo.com) to RSVP to join St. Gertrude Parish’s delegation. Visit United Power’s website to learn more at [united-power.org](http://united-power.org).



## Northside Catholic Academy

Northside Catholic Academy will be hosting Open Houses at both campuses today, Sunday, January 27. Our Primary School Campus (PreK-4) at 6216 N. Glenwood Ave. will be open from 11:00am-1:00pm, and our Middle School Campus (5-8) at 7318 N. Oakley Ave. will be open from 12:00-2:00pm.

On Saturday, February 9, at 10:00 am, Northside Catholic Academy has planned a Valentine's play date for kids ages 2-5! There will be arts & crafts, stories, and snacks! Join us in having lots of fun with your little love bug! Please RSVP to <https://goo.gl/forms/p1DqsbvTcDAXUsJB2>.

Are you interested in a high-quality, faith-based education for your children? You may qualify for free or reduced tuition! Your kindergarten through 8th-grade student(s) may be eligible to attend NCA on an Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship beginning next school year. Through the "Invest in Kids Act," Illinois students enrolled in private schools will have access to these scholarships, based on need and the speed of getting your application submitted. These are awarded on a first-come-first-served basis. Call Shakira Morrissette at 773.743.6277 ext. 207 or email her at [smorrissette@ncaweb.org](mailto:smorrissette@ncaweb.org).

## Care for Our Common Home

Paul's letter to the Corinthians seems written for Care for Our Common Home! How clearly he makes the case that everything suffers when any one part suffers. Current news proves the damage to all species when Earth's systems are damaged by fire, flood, or drought, each exacerbated by climate change! For centuries the "poor" to whom Jesus brought "glad tidings" were thought to be humans. But *Laudato Si'* reminds us: "Everything is related, and we human beings are ... woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures ... brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth." (par. 92). Because following Jesus includes taking action to protect every aspect of our planet, consider using renewable energy in your home.

For information about the NCA Green Team, contact [georgetully82@gmail.com](mailto:georgetully82@gmail.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](http://www.archchicago.org/tcs).

## Crispina and Her Sisters: Women and Authority in Early Christianity



On 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](http://www.osbchicago.org/programs) or call 773.764.2413 x327.

## Our Parish at Prayer

### MONDAY, JANUARY 28

7:30 am Joe Shields †

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

7:30 am Kevin & Peggy O'Malley †

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

7:30 am Purgatorial Society

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

7:30 am Communion Service

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

7:30 am Living and deceased mothers and fathers  
of St. Gertrude parishioners

8:30 am NCA Mass

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

7:30 am Maria Nho Nguyen †

5:00 pm Parishioners of St. Gertrude

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

8:00 am Peter Tunney †

9:30 am Rodney Irwin †

10:00 am Andy Devine †

10:30 am Paul Rosenthal †

11:30 am The deceased of the Galoney-Strubbe  
family †

† Indicates  
person listed  
is deceased.

## Ministers of the Word

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

5:00 pm Kathleen Dawson, Steve Matre

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

8:00 am Johnny Outlaw, Mark Kollar

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

10:00 am Sarah Millar, Donna Whalley

10:30 am TBA

11:30 am Troy McMillian, Steve Monti

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Heb 9:15, 24-28; Ps 98:1-6;  
Mk 3:22-30

**Tuesday:** Heb 10:1-10; Ps 40:2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10,  
11; Mk 3:31-35

**Wednesday:** Heb 10:11-18; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 4:1-20

**Thursday:** Heb 10:19-25; Ps 24:1-6; Mk 4:21-25

**Friday:** Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-  
40; Mk 4:26-34

**Saturday:** Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18;  
Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]

**Sunday:** Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17;  
1 Cor 12:31 -- 13:13 [13:4-13];  
Lk 4:21-30

## Eucharistic Ministers

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

8:00 am Johnny Outlaw, Brian DeVarenne, Peter  
Morin, Sr. Kathryn Stimac, William  
Mitchell

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

10:00 am Carlos Barragan, Sarah Millar, Gail  
Smith, Kathy Dunne, Ruth Ott, Nancy  
Merrill, Amy Bessette

10:30 am TBA

11:30 am Troy McMillian, Steve Monti, Jana  
Ashbeck, Richard Ashbeck, Chris Lincoln

## Altar Servers

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

5:00 pm Isabella Stoltz, Josephine Stoltz, Ephraim  
Shepherd

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

10:00 am Grace Cashman, Katherine Tentler, Jesse  
Devitt

11:30 am Alise Veleta, June Rutzen, Sam Ingram

## 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).

## Milestones



### Rest in Peace

Joe Brennan



### Baptisms

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



### New Parishioners

If you have been thinking of becoming a member of our parish community, please consider registering.

Applications to register as a parishioner are available in the back of Church, at the Rectory, or online at [www.stgertrudechicago.org](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org).

#### 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 Cheers, 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](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org)  
 E-mail: [stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto: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](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