



St. Gertrude Chicago

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Sunday, July 18, 2021

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

From Father Rich

Welcome, Eloy Escamilla

Last week, Eloy Escamilla accepted the position of Pastoral Associate for Religious Education and Youth Ministry here at St.

Gertrude. Eloy will be joining the parish staff in August and will have the primary responsibility for our Religious Education and Sacramental Preparation programs, and the parish Youth Ministry.

Eloy comes to us after six years in a similar position at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish on the southeast side of Chicago. He has received both a Master of Arts in Theology and a Master of Divinity from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Please join me in welcoming Eloy when he joins us in a few weeks.

And a special thanks to Kevin Cheers, who took on the responsibilities for this year's Religious Education program and sacramental prep!

Gun Violence in Chicago

In church this weekend (and online [here](#)) is a letter from Cardinal Cupich on violence - especially gun violence -- in Chicago. As we all know from the news and from incidents right here in Edgewater, this has become its own epidemic in Chicago and throughout our nation. Oftentimes, we feel powerless to do anything about this reality in our lives, even as we feel threatened, fearful, and unsafe. In his letter, the Cardinal offers some practical suggestions for all people of goodwill. I encourage you to spend a few minutes reading his letter and considering your own possible responses.

Care for our Common Home: A Few Suggestions

(This is from a series of reflections and follow-ups to Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si*.) Caring for our country is reflected in the way we protect the planet. Here are a few easy ways to be more environmentally-friendly and care for our common home:

1. Shop with reusable bags.
2. Turn off water during teeth brushing.



From Father Rich (Continued)

3. Water your lawn only in the morning - and for no more than one hour.
4. Use refillable bottles for your daily water consumption.
5. Challenge yourself to fill your recycling bin before your garbage can each week.

Also, one way to care for our common home this summer is to plan "green activities" for you and your family. Additional activities that will help our environment in the summer heat can be found at <https://biofriendlyplanet.com/green-ideas/green/green-activities-family-summer/>.

Summer Mission Appeal - August 7-8: Helping Children

Each year in summer, every parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago celebrates a Summer Mission Appeal weekend. In past years, we have welcomed speakers from various missionary societies or causes. But because of the pandemic this year and last year, we chose an organization to present for our consideration in sharing our prayers and our financial resources for their important work. Our selection this year is [NPH USA](https://nphusa.org/).



NPH USA transforms the lives of vulnerable children in Latin America and the Caribbean by supporting the homes, health services, and educational programs of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH, Spanish for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters"). Their goal is to help children overcome poverty and become leaders in their own communities.

NPH is fully supporting more than 3,600 boys and girls in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru. An additional 3,900 community children receive scholarships, meals, health care, and other support. More than 81,000 services were provided through community outreach programs in 2020.

NPH USA is the fundraising arm and coordinator of volunteer programs for the homes of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos. On the weekend of August 7-8, please be generous in this year's Summer Mission Appeal for the orphan children of NPH. More information can be found at <https://nphusa.org/>.



Pancake Breakfast - Welcome/Welcome Back!

The parish staff has been talking about a way to celebrate the wind-down of the pandemic and the return to our new normal. And we wanted as well to welcome new members of the parish -- especially those joining us from St. Ignatius. We settled on a celebration on Sunday, September 12 at the 10:30 am Mass,

From Father Rich (*Continued*)

followed by a pancake breakfast! I hope you can join us. As our slogan for this event states, "Pandemics come and go. Our faith is forever!"

You will be seeing articles inviting volunteers to come forward to help with this event in the newsletter. We are charging an admissions fee -- just to cover expenses. And we ask everyone to purchase tickets to the pancake breakfast ahead of time, so we have an idea of how many people to plan for. Hope you can join us for our celebration! (Special thanks to the coordinators of the Gym Mass. We asked them to delay the re-start of the Gym Mass by one week to make room for this event.)



St. Ignatius

On July 1, St. Ignatius parish ended its long history. While the parish itself no longer exists, weekend Masses will continue until the final Mass on Saturday, July 31 - the Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Bishop Bartosic will preside at the final liturgy. Please continue to keep the parishioners of St. Ignatius in your prayers and welcome all those who are seeking a new parish home in the coming weeks.

As I mentioned in some previous columns, with the closing of St. Ignatius parish, the boundaries of both St. Jerome and St. Gertrude have been extended to include the geographic boundaries of the former St. Ignatius. And the campus of St. Ignatius Parish is now part of St. Gertrude parish. There may be some special Masses/ services at St. Ignatius in the coming months - especially services such as funerals. In the next twelve months, discussion will continue about the possibility of a Mission Center hosted jointly by St. Jerome and St. Gertrude parishes. Recently, in a meeting with Bishop Bartosic, representatives of St. Ignatius parish, and Loyola University clarified that, at this time, the University will not be able to be partnering in this possible venture. What will happen to the campus of the former parish has yet to be determined.

Resurrection Compost Garden: Our First Harvest!

The very first fruits from our garden have been shared with both Care for Real and the St. Thomas of Canterbury soup kitchen! The donations included fresh green beans, green peppers, and several herbs.

Both organizations were extremely thankful and appreciative.



Pictured: Mary Clare Barker collecting veggies to share.

All Hands on Deck Needed for *Welcome Back Sunday*

As Fr. Rich mentioned in his column, on Sunday, September 12, we will have a Welcome Back Sunday.



In the survey that many of you filled out, it was stated, "We need to find ways to reconnect and connect with each other here at St. Gertrude's. As pandemics come and go, our faith lives on." In response to this, we will start by having a Welcome Mass on Sunday, September 12 at 10:30 am, followed by breakfast, music, and games.

We need you! We need volunteers for everything, from planning, set-up, take down, cooking, organizing, coordinating games for the kids, and a musician to entertain us.

Sign-up sheets are located at the back of church starting this weekend, or you can contact the Rectory office via email at stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org or by phone at 773.764.3621.



Growing in Faith

Early on in the child-rearing enterprise, my wife Nancy and I realized that we didn't have enough love within us to raise our children alone. Our hearts were full of gratitude and determination, but we quickly found that we needed every bit of the support that flooded our way: encouragement, meals, and babysitting offers. We discovered that a fully formed person needs hours of listening to and loving, of "atta girl's" and "no means no's", that couldn't possibly all come from just us. Our

children needed grandma, Uncle Buster, friends, teachers, and parish, too, in order to discover who they are and how to move confidently into the wider world.

We soon discovered the effect community had on our children. From first grade on, they start coming home with words, jokes, concepts that clearly came from somewhere beyond the supper table. What a blessing, then, to have St. Gertrude as the larger incubator within which our children grow. We're a parish of people who know the value of gathering – to celebrate and educate, to lighten the burden of tragedy and loss, and to prolong our joys. We call each other into a sense of belonging, beyond the boundaries of kin, which hopefully translates across generations.

As parents, we appreciate the affection and correction you've bestowed upon them so that they can leave with a spirit of adventure and be met upon their return with a genuine word of welcome and interest in what the world has taught them. God bless St. Gertrude, Good Shepherd.

~ Peter Buttitta for *Growing in Faith* (This column was initially shared in 2009.)

Heart to Heart Legal Workshop Hosted on Friday, August 6

The Center for Disability and Elder Law (CDEL) provides free legal services to low-income seniors and persons with disabilities.

Attorneys from CDEL will host a workshop at St. Gertrude on Friday, August 6. They will assist participating parishioners with creating Powers of Attorney, Living Wills, and Wills.

Please call 312.376.1882 to schedule services and be sure to mention your interest in an in-person appointment at St. Gertrude Parish.

Due to the pandemic, in-person activities will be by appointment only. Documents should be completed prior to the meeting and finalized at the in-person appointment.



Legacy Planning

Many have drawn spiritual and academic life from our parish and school. Please consider a gift through your will or trust to continue the work of our parish and school.

Prepare or update your will or today by contacting an attorney. For sample bequest language, contact St. Gertrude's Director of Parish Management, Eduardo

Soto, at esoto@stgertrudechicago.org or Krystina M. Campbell, Planned Giving Officer, Archdiocese of Chicago, at 312.534.5404 or kcampbell@archchicago.org.

This Weekend's Cantors, Ministers of the Word, and Eucharistic Ministers

Cantors:

- Saturday, July 17 at 5:00 pm - Siobhan O'Neill Meluso
- Sunday, July 18 at 8:00 am - Carol Ann Munro
- Sunday, July 18 at 10:30 am - Matt Heimer

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, July 17 at 5:00 pm - Pat Reardon
- Sunday, July 18 at 8:00 am - Marty McDermott
- Sunday, July 18 at 10:30 am - Debra Novak

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, July 17 at 5:00 pm - Steve Monti, Tim Harrington, Kathy Wall
- Sunday, July 18 at 8:00 am - Marty McDermott, Brian DeVarenne, Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, July 18 at 10:30 am - Rafael Melendez, Carlos Barrigan, Debra Novak

Mass Intentions

- Monday, July 19: 7:30 am - For St. Gertrude parishioners
 - Tuesday, July 20: 7:30 am - For living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
 - Wednesday, July 21: 7:30 am - For those who have suffered COVID-related losses
 - Thursday, July 22: 7:30 am - Communion Service
 - Friday, July 23: 7:30 am - Parishioners of St. Gertrude parish
 - Saturday, July 24: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society; 5:00 pm - Teresita & Alfredo Ocular+
 - Sunday, July 25: 8:00 am - Fred Diaz+; 10:30 am - Natalie Gramata+
- (+ indicates the person is deceased)*

New Parishioners

- Abel Patino and Dulce Perez, daughters Dayna and Kimberly
- Bill and Toni Schneider, son William

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Pamela Sherrod Anderson | • Jane Elwood | • Tina Piemonte |
| • Helen Banta | • Mary Grover | • Lu Radzicki |
| • Jean Bautista | • Felipe Hall and Family | • Braedon Rimpson |
| • Walter Bradford | • Lucia Hall | • Charley Scantlebury |
| • Sharon Brown | • Gina Heidkamp | • Richard Seitz |
| • Connie Bueck | • Maria Hertl | • Peggy Stoffel |
| • Lilly Buie | • Bernice Kiedysz | • The Sullivan family |
| • Maggie Callaway | • Art Lyons | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Aida Calvopina | • Molly Morris | • Manuel Viray |
| • Geraldine Clark | • Karey Myers | • Norma E. Viray |
| • Connie Cool | • Bernie O'Connor | • Ken & Vyes Yoza |
| • Ann Collins Dole | | |

Donate to our Parish

Parishioners can donate to St. Gertrude:

- Text the word *Donate* to 1.773.741.9505.
- PayPal link - visit our parish website at www.stgertrudechicago.org
- GiveCentral: www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevnts

Email esoto@stgertrudechicago.org for additional information.

Parish Staff

Rev. Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor
Rev. Michael Gabriel, Associate Pastor
Rev. Michael Bradley, Resident Priest
Mary Clare Barker, Minister of Music
Jane Callahan-Moore, Director, Heart to Heart
Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate
Margie Guadagno, Office Manager
Laurie Hasbrook, Office/Heart to Heart Staff
Tracy Shields, Communications
Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management

Our Heart to Heart team works on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am-2:30 pm and can be contacted at 773.973.5464. Call the Rectory at 773.764-3621 during off-hours to reach the Heart to Heart team.