

# St. Gertrude Chicago

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Sunday, July 25, 2021

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time



## From Father Rich

Today's readings focus our attention on God always providing for us with enough of what we need -- especially food. Our central image for our faith-gatherings is the Eucharist.

This meal reminds us every time we come together that God always provides enough. It is up to us to be sure we are doing what is necessary to share the gifts we have received -- especially ensuring those who have so little always have enough.

Today's Epistle, from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians, reminds us to live in such a way that our actions make clear we are worthy of the call we have received. St. Paul lists some of the traits that make this possible: "humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one spirit..." What a great source for a daily examination of conscience! With so much of our political world filled with divisiveness and the rise of so much ugly nationalism, setting one nation against another, St. Paul calls us back to what God asks of each of us.

Last week, Pope Francis released some new instructions on how the Latin Mass may be celebrated. This clarification came about, as he explained because it had become clear many people have weaponized (my word, not Pope Francis') the liturgy. This isn't just the U.S. bishops trying to mandate who can and cannot receive Holy Communion, it is happening all over the world with people using the Latin Mass and other church experiences to cause divisions.

It is worth remembering whenever we are working to divide instead of to unite, that we are not following the work God has entrusted to us. Or, to make it even clearer -- there is enough food in the world to feed every living man, woman, and child. That there is still hunger and starvation is not because of a lack of resources, but how they are shared. Perhaps the vaccine situation is an even more recent example. Wealthy nations have it. Poor nations do not. How can we better reflect the generosity of God?

## 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

## From Father Rich (Continued)

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, 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.)

## From Father Rich (*Continued*)

### St. Ignatius

Next Saturday, July 31, St. Ignatius will have its Farewell Mass & Parish Celebration beginning at 4:00 pm. Bishop Bartosic and some of the former clergy will be present. That day, the Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola will be St. Ignatius' final weekend Mass. 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.



## Help Wanted from St. Gertrude Parishioners to Assist with St. Ignatius' Final Mass & Celebration on July 31

On July 31, 2021, St. Ignatius will be celebrating our last Mass as a parish. The bilingual Mass will

begin at 4:00 pm, followed by the Feast of Ignatius schoolyard celebration.

We are looking for our neighbors from St. Gertrude's and St. Jerome's to help volunteer at the event. We have several different volunteer shifts throughout the day and during the event.

Please email [feastofignatius@gmail.com](mailto:feastofignatius@gmail.com) if you are interested in signing up for a volunteer shift.

We appreciate your support!

~ Jeanne Wrenn, St. Ignatius Parish



## 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](mailto:stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org) or by phone at 773.764.3621.

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## Growing in Faith

There's a way of understanding the gospel of the loaves and fishes that goes like this:

Jesus didn't magically make more food appear; rather, he awakened the generosity in the heart of each person there, leading them to share the food, which they'd already brought with them (and were hiding, hoarding, hesitant to share). Led by a child, they began sharing with one another. Sharing, it turns out there was enough food for everyone!!



So it is with COVID-19 vaccines right now. We're in this moment – we are among the 5,000 in the crowd. We (the wealthier nations of the world) have the vaccine - have more than enough to vaccinate all, with plenty leftover - and yet, we're hiding, hoarding – hesitant to share from our bounty (our surplus) with our neighbors in need on this planet. (About 50% of Americans are vaccinated, with surpluses estimated at one billion doses, even once all are vaccinated; by comparison, about 2% of Africans are vaccinated, lacking a vaccine supply.)

"The hand of the Lord feeds us," we repeat in the responsorial psalm – but I hear St. Teresa: "Christ has no hands on earth but yours." The story of the loaves and fishes is one of the few miracles that all four evangelists record in the gospel - but I say: may we see this miracle for ourselves, in our time!

Urge the President to share our vaccine doses with those in need globally, and may our example help to unleash the generosity of the world.

*- Madeleine Philbin for Growing in Faith*

## Care for Real's 50th Anniversary

Fifty years ago, in 1971, the Edgewater Clerical & Rabbinical Association Episcopal (precursor to today's ECRA) and member

congregations came together to organize emergency assistance to residents of Edgewater whose homes had been destroyed by a series of fires. Meant to be a short-term solution to an urgent crisis, it soon became clear that food insecurity went far deeper into the community. Our neighbors needed a safety net, and that safety net evolved into Care for Real.



**care for real**  
FOOD • CLOTHING • SUPPORT

Fifty years later, the number of clients Care for Real serves is only increasing, in both Edgewater and at the new Rogers Park pantry. At this pivotal moment, they need your support to realize their vision for a thriving community where all have access to healthy food and feel supported, respected, and deserving of care.

To honor their anniversary and build resources to serve our neighbors in new and better ways, Care for Real is launching a campaign to raise \$50,000 in 50 Days, starting July 12 and running through August 31. Please consider supporting this effort! To donate, please visit <https://careforreal.org/donate-2/>.

### *St. Gertrude's Connection to Care for Real*

*St. Gertrude has been a strong supporter of Care for Real since 1970, providing annual 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.*

### **Please Welcome Eloy Escamilla!**

Earlier this month, Eloy Escamilla accepted the position of Pastoral Associate for Religious Education and Youth Ministry here at St. Gertrude. Eloy will join the parish staff in August.

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.



*Are you interested in signing your child/children up for our 2021-2022 Religious Education classes? Applications are available online at <https://stgertrudechicago.org/religious-education-news>. Additional info about our program will be shared in August.*

## Ignatian Volunteer Corps: Morning of Reflection Planned for Thursday, July 29



In celebration of the Feast Day of St. Ignatius Loyola, the Ignatian Volunteer Corps will host a morning of reflection on Thursday, July 29 from 9:30 am-1:00 pm. The event will be held at St. Ignatius College Prep, 1076 Roosevelt Rd. with Mass said at the [Church of the Holy Family](#), located next door to St. Ignatius.

The keynote speaker is Father Richard Baumann, SJ, who will discuss *The Desire to Serve*. Pre-registration is required. Go to [www.ivcusa.org/chicago](http://www.ivcusa.org/chicago) and click the *Morning of Reflection* registration button.



### Legacy Planning

Consider instructing your life insurance agent to include St. Gertrude parish as a primary or secondary beneficiary on your policy.

By naming our parish as beneficiary, you'll provide lasting financial support and possibly qualify for tax benefits as well. It costs nothing to change the beneficiary on your policy and will mean everything to our future parish community.

For more information, please contact St. Gertrude's Director of Parish Management, Eduardo Soto, at [esoto@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:esoto@stgertrudechicago.org) or Krystina M. Campbell, Planned Giving Officer, Archdiocese of Chicago, at 312.534.5404 or [kcampbell@archchicago.org](mailto:kcampbell@archchicago.org).

### County Tax Bill Update

According to a statement by Maria Pappas, Cook County Treasurer, property tax bills will be mailed in late August and posted to [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com) in mid-August. The anticipated due date is October 1, 2021.

Visit the above website for information on:

- Homeowner Exemptions
- Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption
- Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Exemption
- Persons with Disability Exemption
- Home Improvement Exemption



Visit St. Gertrude's website at [www.stgertrudechicago.org](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org) for the latest parish information, details about our hours, Mass times, staff contact information, our ministries, phone numbers, sacraments, and more!



## 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 restricted to small interactions by appointment only. Documents will be completed prior to the meeting and finalized at the in-person appointment.

## Wanted: Ushers, Greeters, Eucharistic Ministers, and Ministers of the Word

We are in need of additional volunteers to assist at Masses, including ushers, greeters, Eucharistic ministers, and Ministers of the Word.

If you are interested, please email Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate, at [kchears@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:kchears@stgertrudechicago.org).



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

### Cantors:

- Saturday, July 24 at 5:00 pm - Jim Manzardo
- Sunday, July 25 at 8:00 am - Cindy Lawson
- Sunday, July 25 at 10:30 am - Rob Schroeder; Dana Sullivan, flute

### Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, July 24 at 5:00 pm - Katherine Dawson
- Sunday, July 25 at 8:00 am - Mark Kollar
- Sunday, July 25 at 10:30 am - Rafael Melendez

### Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, July 24 at 5:00 pm - Steve Monti, Tim Harrington, Kathy Wall
- Sunday, July 25 at 8:00 am - Marty McDermott, Peter Morin, Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, July 25 at 10:30 am - Patrick Robinson, Bob Backis, Debra Novak

## Mass Intentions

- Monday, July 26: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- Tuesday, July 27: 7:30 am - John Sullivan+
- Wednesday, July 28: 7:30 am - Daniel Mellon+
- Thursday, July 29: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, July 30: 7:30 am - Eleanora Tolentino, Norma & Manuel Viray, and Vivian Baquito
- Saturday, July 31: 7:30 am - For the parishioners of St. Ignatius Parish; 5:00 pm - Alfredo Lukinskas+
- Sunday, August 1: 8:00 am - Peter+ & Mary+ Tunney; 10:30 am - Galoney Strubbe Family+

## Baptisms

- Emanuel Benjamin-Cano, child of Hector Benjamin-Solis and Angela Cano-Garcia
- Logan Andres Freire, child of Guadalupe Sanchez
- Olivia Sophia Vergara, child of Cindy Ruvalcaba and Francisca Vergara

## Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- |                           |                          |                        |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Pamela Sherrod Anderson | • Ann Collins Dole       | • Bernie O'Connor      |
| • Helen Banta             | • Mary Grover            | • Tina Piemonte        |
| • 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          | • Sr. Terri McKenzie     | • Manuel Viray         |
| • Geraldine Clark         | • Molly Morris           | • Norma E. Viray       |
| • Connie Cool             | • Karey Myers            | • Ken & Vyes Yoza      |

## 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](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org)
- GiveCentral: [www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevants](http://www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevants)

Email [esoto@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto: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.*