

St. Gertrude

ALL ARE WELCOME

1420 W. Granville Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60660

www.stgertrudechicago.org • 773.764.3621

First Sunday of Lent • March 10, 2019

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil.

~ Luke 4:1



From Father Rich

Our Lenten focus this year is *Lent 2019: Our Invitation to a Second Chance*. On Ash Wednesday, the Gospel reading providing the framework for Lent, both in practice and in attitude, with Jesus reminding all his disciples that the penitential practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the route to a better relationship with God, others, and ourselves. So step one in any Lenten plan is to consider, “What might I do in each of those three areas to help me along this Lent?” But Jesus was also very careful to explain that even more important than the actual practices is our attitude in approaching them! Unless it is about our own internal reflection and conversion, it won’t make any difference what we do—it will all be for naught. Conversion is never about outward appearances, but about an interior change of heart.

Each week, there will be opportunities for each of us to engage in some opportunities for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. If those offered here aren’t to your liking, please select whatever seems most helpful to your own spiritual life. In the bulletins during Lent, there will be reflections on the conversion movement within our lives which is what Lent is all about, as well as complete listings of all the possibilities available at St. Gertrude.

The other part of Lent that is so important is the presence of those seeking membership in the Church—the candidates and catechumens in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Lent was originally meant to be the time for those who sought entrance into the Church to complete their preparation in a kind of 40-day retreat. Over time, it became clear that every Christian would be helped by a season of conversion. During these 40 days, please pray in a special way for the men and women who are making this Lenten journey which will lead them to their Baptisms or Professions of Faith, First Communions, and Confirmations at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday.

If you were able to get to church this past Wednesday, you approached a minister who placed ashes in the form of a cross on your forehead while saying, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” So it seems only appropriate that this weekend representatives from the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Catholic Cemeteries are in the back of church after Mass to offer assistance in making burial plans for the eventuality we will each face some day. Please consider stopping by to get some information and consider your own plans, and also how pre-planning can make such a difference in easing the minds of other family members.

Next week brings two of the most celebrated saints’ feasts with St. Patrick on Sunday, March 17th and St. Joseph on Tuesday, March 19th. Whenever these feasts fall in Lent, faithful Catholics want to know whether or not they can get a dispensation so they can celebrate on those days with whatever it might be they gave up for Lent. The short answer is this: you are an adult, capable of making a prudential judgement. You decide what is best for you. If you want a dispensation, you can give it to yourself. If you don’t want a dispensation, no problem. Which is a long way round of saying this fasting we do isn’t for God’s sake—it is for us. So do whatever you think is best for you.

Lent is meant to be a help to us, not a burden. If we find we are simply feeling even more burdened because of what we have made obligations, maybe it’s time to reconsider either what I am doing, or my attitude.

Lenten Liturgy: As we enter into this Lenten season, we also try to reflect, in our Sunday liturgies, a different pace and tone that reflects this season. The Penitential Rite focuses us on our need for forgiveness as we pray the Confiteor (I confess) and sing the Lord, have mercy. Slightly longer pauses after the first and second readings, and again after Communion offer us time for a little more silent reflection. We sing the same psalm (a seasonal psalm) throughout the 40 days, *The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation*. The Gospel Acclamation is void of any “Alleluias” until Easter and we sing a different Mass with a more somber tone. We will also chant the Lord’s Prayer at all Masses, and we will use *Sacred Silence* as a meditation song frequently throughout the season. On the fifth Sunday of Lent, to reflect the more somber tone of what we used to call Passion Week—the week before Holy Week, we will simplify liturgy even more, with very “quiet” music—maybe one flute, e.g.

Growing in Faith

“If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.”

Lent offers us an opportunity to change direction, to explore possibilities and make space in our lives for the word of God to enter our hearts. For me, it's a time to choose books, poetry and websites that help me to hear the voice of the Lord. Sometimes I go back to books that have moved me in the past, like Marilynne Robinson's novels, especially *Gilead*, a moving account of the life of a mid 20th century Iowa preacher. Another book I plan to re-read is the late Cardinal Bernardin's book of personal reflections, *The Gift of Peace*. And, new to me this year, I want to read Karen Armstrong's book, *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*.

Other possibilities include:

- *The Little Black Book* offered by the parish during Lent

- *Where God Happens* by Rowan Williams (retired Archbishop of Canterbury)
- Poetry (*Thirst* and *Devotions*) and essays (*Upstream*) by Mary Oliver
- Poems by Denise Levertov (*The Stream & the Sapphire*)
- Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *Strength to Love* (an inspiring collection of sermons)

And here are a few websites I can heartily recommend:

- www.journeywithjesus.net (A weekly webzine for the global church.)
- <https://cac.org/> ((Fr. Richard Rohr's daily meditations))
- www.sacredspace.ie/ (Irish Jesuits online prayers)

Have a wonderful Lent!

~ Mary Grover for *Growing in Faith*

Parish Calendar

Sunday, March 10

- After all the Masses ~ Representatives from the Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese in the back of Church
- Second Collection for the Church in Central and Easter Europe
- 6:00 pm ~ Living Stations practice in Church

Wednesday, March 13

- 7:00 pm ~ Refugee Ministry meeting in the Ministry Center
- 7:00 pm ~ Knitting in the Ministry Center

Thursday, March 14

- 10:00 am-1:00 pm ~ Women's Club day of reflection in the Ministry Center

Saturday, March 16

- 12:00-2:00 pm ~ NCA tot playdate in the Gym

Sunday, March 17

- Lenten Food Drive in the back of Church
- 10:00 am ~ Family Mass hosted by eighth grade students and WOW youth group members
- 6:00 pm ~ Living Stations practice in Church
- 7:00 pm ~ WOW gathering in the Gym balcony

Friday, March 22 & Saturday, March 23

- 8:00 pm ~ Parish Play: *Just a Dream Away: A Musical Dream Machine Adventure* in the Gym (Doors open at 7:30 pm)

Stations of the Cross on Fridays

Every Friday afternoon at 3:00pm we will pray the Stations of the Cross. 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 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.

Fast & Abstinence Regulations

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on all the Fridays of Lent.

Fasting is to be observed on Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

Almoner's Program

We will once again incorporate the Almoner's Program as part of our Lenten opportunities. Named after the office in charge of almsgiving at the Vatican, this program is meant to help connect us with those on the periphery while we also pursue our works of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent.

Here's how it will work: each Sunday during Lent we will have a second collection exclusively for this program. The money from that collection will be used to purchase McDonald gift cards with \$5.00 pre-loaded on the card. Each Sunday during Lent a volunteer will be in the back of Church after Masses with the gift cards. Everyone is invited to take as many pre-loaded gift cards as they think they will likely use during the week to give to people in need that they encounter on their usual routine (maybe on the bus or el, or when you are stopped at certain intersections, etc.)

As part of this Lenten outreach, everyone is encouraged to use the moment of handing over the card as an opportunity to have a brief, humane, and human conversation with the other person, affirming them and wishing them well. This interaction is often more important than the card itself.



Lent 2019: Lenten Opportunities

Our Invitation to a Second Chance Lenten Opportunities

Prayer

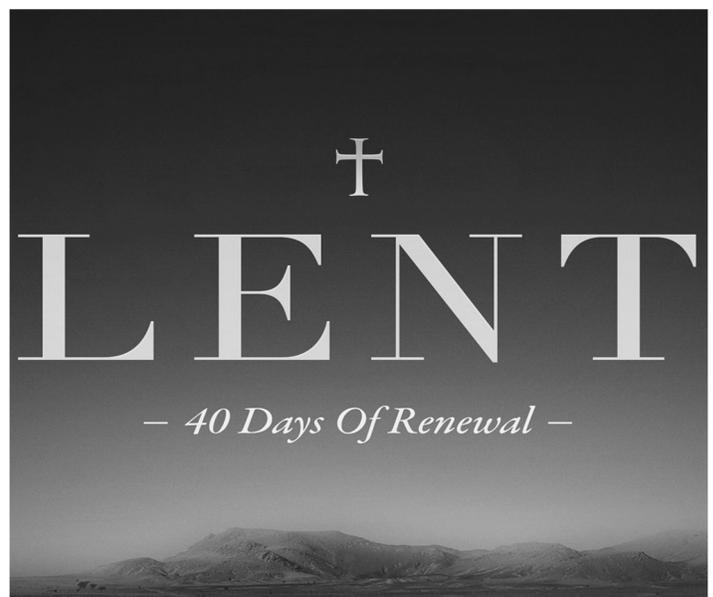
- Attend mass every Sunday.
- Attend one daily mass every week.
- Spend time with the daily scripture readings.
- Join a faith-sharing group.
- Spend five minutes daily in silence with the Lord.
- Use the *Sacred Space* app available at the iTunes App Store or Google Play.
- Use *The Little Black Book* for daily reflection.
- Pray the Stations of the Cross at 3:00 pm on Fridays.

Fasting

- Turn off electronic devices for 30 minutes daily.
- Behavioral fasting from criticism, negativity, judgmentalism, resignation, self-righteousness, cynicism, know-it-all-ness, provincialism, self-absorption, divisiveness, intolerance, violence in thought, word or deed, excess pride, blindness to my own involvement in sin, criticism, anger, bitterness, despair, and hatred.

Almsgiving

- Take part in the weekly Almoner's Program for outreach to those in need.
- Save and donate one-hour's wages every week to the charity of your choice.
- Contribute to the Lenten Food Drive.
- Take part in Catholic Relief Service's Rice Bowl.



Faith Sharing Groups & Lenten Activities

Faith Sharing Groups

Women Only

Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30 pm at 1400 W. Hood;
March 12-April 9

Facilitated by Mary Ann O'Connor

Focus: Reflection on scripture from the preceding Sunday with a focus on the Gospel reading.

Thursday Morning Group

Thursdays from 8:30-9:30 am in the Ministry Center; March 7, 14, 21 and 28

Facilitated by Kevin Cheers

This ongoing group is inviting others to join them for Lent.

Focus: The Women in the Gospel of Luke.

Women's Scripture Study

Thursdays at 7:15 pm at the Stryczek residence (1244 W. Granville Ave.); March 7-April 11

Facilitated by Suzanne Stryczek

This ongoing group is inviting others to join them during Lent.

Focus: Reading and reflection on scripture for the coming Sunday.

Sheridan Road Faith Sharing Group

Thursdays at 7:30 pm, please arrive at 7:15 pm, at 6121 N. Sheridan Road (call the Wards at 773.338.1862 from the lobby); March 12-April 11

Facilitated by Leon and Ana Ward

Focus: Reading and reflection on Scripture from the previous Sunday.

Thursday Evening Reflection Group

Thursdays 7:00-8:30 pm in the Ministry Center; March 14, 28 and April 11

Facilitated by Christopher Alt

Focus: Brief meditation, followed by "ups and downs/highs and lows" of the week.

Men's Group

Fridays from 6:30-8:00am in the Ministry Center March 8-April 12

Facilitated by Allen Stryczek

This ongoing group is inviting others to join them during Lent.

Focus: Reading and reflection on Scripture using "Sauntering Through Scripture" by Sister Genevieve Glen, OSB.

Family Lenten Faith Sharing Group

Saturdays from 10:00-11:00 am in the NCA Cafeteria; March 16, 30, and April 6

Facilitated by Jim Potthast

Focus: Interactive faith forming activities for families with children ages 0-6.

Other Lenten Activities

Simple Suppers: All are invited to participate in faith-focused reflections while sharing a meal of soup and bread. Various parish groups will host these meals in the Social Hall from 6:00-7:30 pm.

- Wednesday, March 27, hosted by the Commonweal Conversation group
- Wednesday, April 3, hosted by the NCA Preschool
- Wednesday, April 10, hosted by the Parish Pastoral Council

Stations of the Cross: Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday during Lent at 3:00pm in Church.

Lenten Food Drive: A food drive for Care for Real will be held on Saturday, March 16 and Sunday, March 17.

Lenten Reconciliation: A reconciliation service will be held Sunday, April 7 at 3:00 pm in Church.

Refugee Committee Postcard Event: A postcard writing event will be held on Sunday, April 7 after the 10:00 am, 10:30 am, and 11:30 am Masses.

Rice Bowls: Catholic Relief Services' rice bowls are available in the back of Church.

Almoners Program: Each weekend in Lent, gift cards to McDonald's will be distributed, with the intention of parishioners sharing them and a conversation with those in need. For more details, please see page 4.

Lenten Resources

- Use the *Sacred Space* app available at the iTunes App Store or Google Play.
- Listen to *The Examen* podcast with Fr. James Martin, S.J.
- *The Little Black Book* for Lent (available in the back of Church.)
- Carry and use the prayer cards (available in the back of Church.)

Lent 2019: Our Invitation to a Second Chance

Some of the most celebrated stories Jesus told have no ending! We don't know if the older son in the Prodigal Son story ever goes into the house to join the party celebrating his brother's return. When the woman caught in adultery is left standing alone with Jesus and he instruct her to avoid this sin, we never hear from her again. And in many other stories, Jesus seems to have been very deliberate in setting up situations where it is clear that mercy and compassion have been extended, and/or tables have been turned, but we never know how people respond to the gifts they have received.

Perhaps because the implication is that **we** are being invited into the story ourselves and only each of us can determine how we will respond to the already displayed forgiveness, mercy and compassion practiced by others upon those who, by the normal standards of justice, don't deserve it. Just as we don't deserve it and couldn't possibly ever earn it. But here it is, given as a gift. Now what do we do with it?

Every Lent is an invitation to conversion—to change our lives. Or, to put it another way, every Lent is a Second Chance. No matter what has preceded it, the Lord extends his hand to each of us. In so many different ways the message is always the same, “Your sins are forgiven. Now go on and don't do that anymore.”

This process of conversion isn't only—or mostly—about each of us individually! It is also about all of us working together to change our situation for the better. We need each other to move beyond where we have been. It is not unlike the process we experience when someone we love dies, or a relationship goes sour, or we lose something precious. We need others to lean on, support us, be with us as we stumble our way back to a new normal. And, if we are fortunate, an even better “new normal.”

Fasting or hunger or privation is the wisdom all religions identify as the great Teacher available to us, whether it is the freely chosen “fasting”, or the imposed hunger of isolation or unavailable resources. Jesus went to the desert for 40 days and then was tempted by the devil. The younger son in the Prodigal Son parable finally comes to his senses when he realizes the pigs he has been sent to feed are

doing better than he, who is starving. And so on. Awareness of our hunger points the way to what is missing in our lives. Almost certainly, a great deal of the answer is the awareness of our need for love—to be loved, and to love others.

No matter where we are this year, this month, this day, now is always an acceptable time to begin the journey of conversion. That is why we do it every year! Lent is never a “once and for all” season. It is always about the present moment—the now. So perhaps a place to begin is to ask ourselves, “Why not now?” What is my situation in this present moment? And what are my next steps?

Part of the answer will always be found in the ancient practices of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Each of them offers us an opportunity to shift the focus off of ourselves in order to find our true selves once again. By practicing these disciplines we find our way back to our center, our truest selves. Prayer helps us get back to a healthy conversation with God and so renew that relationship not only with God, but with others and with myself. Fasting helps us identify how much we have focused on what we don't have and fail to see how incredibly blessed we are and to be grateful for all we have. And Almsgiving re-directs our self-care to caring for others, expanding and thus allowing our own minds and hearts to be changed.

Lent is a season we are given to develop our souls, to take care of what is of greatest value in our lives and in our relationships. It is the annual Second Chance to get things back on the right track, no matter where or how often we have gone off the rails. And if we were waiting for a different time or a different invitation, “Why not now?”

Parish Stewardship Report

Sunday Collection March 2-3	\$9,256.82
Budgeted Collection	\$7,725.00
Overage	(+) \$1,531.82
Online Collection February 2019	\$9,256.82
Budgeted Online Sunday Collection	\$7,725.00
Overage	(+) \$2,037.00

Lent 2019: Our Invitation to a Second Chance-Week I

The First Sunday of Lent is always the story of Jesus being tempted by Satan after being alone in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights. We hear this story each Lent in order to understand what our own Lenten journey is about. It is God's Spirit which led Jesus into the desert. It is that same Spirit that leads us through these 40 days—and the first stop on this journey is confronting our own temptations.

In a way unique to each of us, we will have to confront the same human temptations Our Lord faced. The first is about our physical comfort and satisfaction. After fasting for 40 days, Jesus was weakened and hungry. Perhaps you have seen the entertaining series of commercials for a candy bar in which, at the beginning, we see someone in a very bad mood, making life difficult for everyone nearby. Then someone hands the person a candy bar, and the person changes into an entirely different human being. It is a perfect analogy for what happens to us when our needs and our drives are not met and/or satisfied. We become difficult, to put it mildly. That is when we actually come face to face with who and what we are. Will we pay any price to satisfy those cravings? Or do we see a greater hunger needing to be addressed?

Secondly, the devil tempts Jesus with the lure of power and glory. How often do we think, "If I just had the power to make things happen the way I know they would better serve me and everybody else!" What must it have meant for the Son of God to be powerless? It must have meant Jesus fully understood what it meant to be human! How many times does St. Paul remind us that it is only in powerlessness we can come to know the true power of God's love. What do I do to amass power so that I am not confronted with powerlessness? What power do I take for granted, not wanting to know how it adversely affect others? Who am I when I am powerless?

Finally, Satan tempts Jesus to question God and put God to the test. Is there anyone among us who has not questioned at some point in life, "If God truly loves me, why is God letting this happen?" Accepting responsibility for myself and not blaming God or someone else is an extraordinarily difficult assignment. It is so much easier to blame than to accept what I have and do the best I can with it.

We begin Lent reminding ourselves how we have failed. Oftentimes, we have succumbed to the temptations symbolized in these three:

- We have sinned.
- First we have to know that truth.
- Every one of us is a sinner.

Just getting to that truth is difficult—for we would all like to believe we are better or different. But if we can get to that starting point, anything is possible. As will be clear time and time again, it is not God's will or desire that "sinner" is how we end up defining ourselves! On the contrary, God always is waiting to embrace us, to have us accept the forgiveness always offered, to move beyond yesterday's failures in order to live fully and freely in the present moment.

How can I remind myself throughout these 40 days that I am not just a sinner, but a redeemed sinner? How many second chances has God already given me? What holds me back from accepting those second chances in order to live as God wills?

Fasting & Abstaining: The Church has a set of regulations about fasting and abstaining (which you can find on page 4), but each and every person can determine what would be the best fasting and abstaining they might do this Lent to bring them into a proper frame of mind and heart for a conversion of spirit. You might think of the "no meat on the Fridays, and only one meal on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday" as the minimum requirement to be a good Christian in Lent. But what might I give up in order to more attune myself to God's invitation to reform my life and have a conversion of heart?

Our Parish at Prayer

MONDAY, MARCH 11

7:30 am Martin ☩ and Ellen Joyce ☩

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

7:30 am Johnny Outlaw ☩

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

7:30 am Communion Service

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

7:30 am Joe Shields ☩

8:30 am NCA school Mass

3:00 pm Stations of the Cross

☩ *Indicates person listed is deceased.*

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

7:30 am Purgatorial Society

5:00 pm Ethan Seitzer ☩

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

8:00 am John ☩ & Lillian McCall ☩

9:30 am Marion Tissen ☩

10:00 am Parishioners of St. Gertrude

10:30 am John Conway ☩

11:30 am Peggy Sue Riordan ☩

Ministers of the Word

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

5:00 pm Norm Bowers, Jayne Deiters

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

8:00 am Hallie Burhoe, Mark Kollar

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

10:00 am Ruth Ott, Patrick Robinson

10:30 am TBA

11:30 am Richard Ashbeck, Troy McMillan

Support the Archdiocese of Chicago

Domestic Violence Outreach

Donations may be made at

<https://www.givecentral.org/location/132/event/12645>.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

Friday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17 -- 4:1 [3:20 -- 4:1]; Lk 9:28b-36

Eucharistic Ministers

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

5:00 pm Mary Cook, Joan Harrington, Tim Harrington, Michelle Kuehlhorn, Kathy Wall

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

8:00 am Hallie Burhoe, Barb Daly, William Mitchell, Sr. Kathryn Stimac, Mary Wyler

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

10:00 am Rose Marie Anichini, Amy Bessette, Brad Koch, Candace Koch, Ruth Ott, Patrick Robinson, Gail Smith

10:30 am TBA

11:30 am Jana Ashbeck, Steven Monti, Sharon Brown, Karen Griebel, Lina Peon

Altar Servers

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

5:00 pm Jayden Reyes, Nolan Reynolds, Miles Reynolds

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

10:00 am Ariella Gehl, Alexandra Healy, Luke Sharba

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

Our Parish Play

Just A Dream Away

A Musical Dream Machine Adventure



St. Gertrude Gym - 1401 W. Granville - Chicago
Friday & Saturday - March 22 & 23, 2019

Doors Open
7:30 pm

Adult \$10 - Child \$5

Show Begins
8:00 pm

PARISH STAFF

- Rev. Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor
- Brenda K. Arreola, 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 Chears, Pastoral Associate
- Laurie Hasbrook, Office Staff
- Amanda Kvasnica, Office Staff
- Jim Pothast, 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

Milestones



New Parishioners

The Werner Family

The Jacob-Mascarenhas Family



Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends

Carlene Lorys

Geraldine Clark

Helen Stryczek

Robert Howe

Greg Wall

Maria Hertl

Maggie Callaway

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