

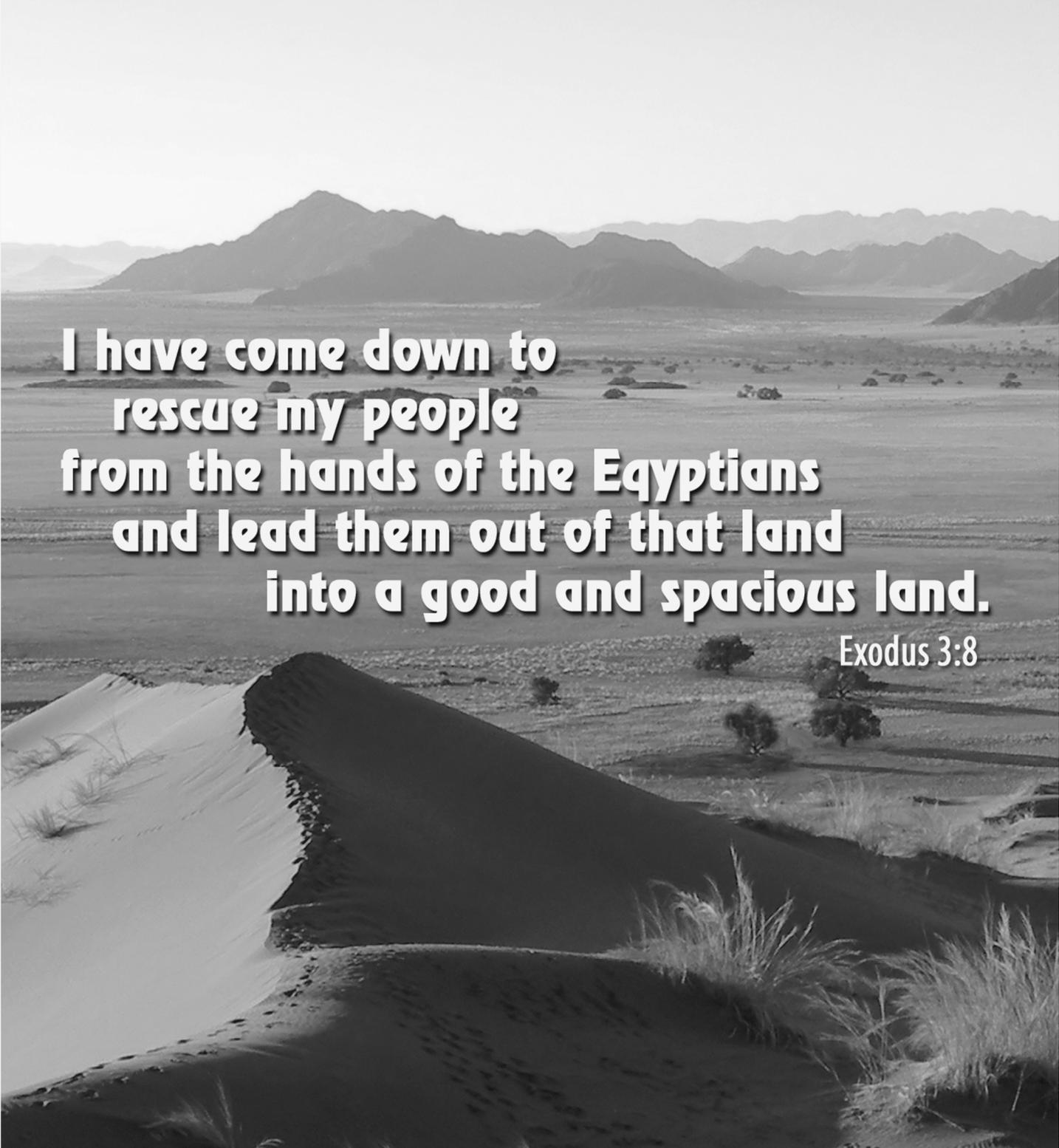
St. Gertrude

ALL ARE WELCOME

1420 W. Granville Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60660

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Third Sunday of Lent • March 24, 2019



**I have come down to
rescue my people
from the hands of the Egyptians
and lead them out of that land
into a good and spacious land.**

Exodus 3:8

From Father Rich

Last weekend, we prayed for the Muslims in New Zealand who were killed in the white-supremacist, anti-Muslim terrorist attacks. And we prayed for an end to the violence and intolerance which feeds these types of attacks. It is no secret that there is a rise of this kind of hate and religious intolerance in our nation and in our world. Nor is it a surprise that our nation is one of the places the haters and religious bigots find comfort and support. Every time a killing such as this is only mildly denounced, sometimes even less than that, by our elected leaders, we are all diminished and our nation is less a light to the world.

Can anyone imagine if the killer had been a Muslim extremist killing 50 white Christians what the response would have been? Certainly in that situation there would have been strong condemnations, saber-rattling, border-closing threats, and so on. Which forces at least two questions: the first - what value do we place on every human life? For if we consider those of a different faith or nationality disposable, we have just diminished the value of every human life, including our own. And secondly, since it is now all too abundantly clear the leaders of a number of nations will not condemn these atrocities, to whom do we turn for guidance? And the answer to that second question must then move into a strategy for dealing with this horrible state of affairs.

In a study done some years ago about how to respond to this kind of violence and intolerance, the surprising answer was NOT that we match violent act for violent act, hatred for hatred. That only feeds the extremism and hatred and violence. The best response is for people of faith to double their efforts to truly live that faith; to pursue non-violence; to build bridges between cultures and religions and nationalities.

Perhaps the most important thing those of us who live in such a "Christian-identified" nation can do is the hard work of learning about other faiths. And without doubt the number one faith under attack today is Islam, which is not to say Christians and members of other faiths are not also being attacked, even killed. But in this country, and in the places where the nationalism and white-supremacy are gaining strength and being tolerated, even encouraged by major politicians, it is against Muslims most of the hatred and rancor is directed.

Hate speech leads to violence against other human beings. We all need to watch our language about anyone who is different than we are. Sometimes it is even the absence of offering an alternative narrative that seems to give permission for that kind of talk to feel encouraged. Silence is not helpful. We must learn to speak up and speak out.

And we have to address the absolute craziness of gun laws that allow an average citizen to purchase semi-automatic and automatic weapons. The Prime Minister of New Zealand was correct to say, within days of the attacks, that they had to address the gun laws right now. Any politician who opposes registration of all guns should not be elected or re-elected to whatever office they happen to occupy. Any politician who opposes restrictions on gun ownership based upon mental health issues and histories of violent crimes also should not be elected or re-elected. And any politician who continues to support the idiocy of allowing any citizen to have semi-automatic and automatic weapons in their possession also should never be elected or re-elected. This isn't just a political stance, it is a moral necessity. What is going on right now in our nation and in parts of our world is evil and sinful. As people of faith we have an obligation to speak out and act out against this evil. It is far beyond time to hold each other and all our politicians accountable. We deserve a safe place to live, without the constant threat of this kind of violence in our neighborhoods, against our sisters and brothers in faith, against those who are simply different than we are.



Growing in Faith

I am a librarian, and some of you may have seen me at local branches. I came to this as a second career and when I was in library school, immediately felt like I was a fish-in-water. As some would say today, I found my “tribe.”

Years ago, I attended a workshop led by a respected library leader. She was a reference consultant and I’ll never forget a key question she shared, to help us cut through the thicket of information sources: “Who needs to know?”

My favorite reference book thus became *The Encyclopedia of Associations*. It listed nonprofit, trade, and self-help groups all over the country. The question “Who Needs to Know?” helped me zero in on a concept or contact that would lead to a helpful address or phone number.

We have the Internet now, but strong keywords are still important for searches. For Moses and the

Israelites, *their* most important keyword was **I AM** (sometimes represented by the word *YHWH*.) This “keyword” introduced Moses to the people of Israel and signaled to them that God, YHWH, was on their side. **I AM** was mysterious, powerful and beyond comprehension – but Moses was YHWH’s chosen leader, and so the people could trust him.

We can trust JESUS today. When life is puzzling or hard—we can meditate on our friend and Redeemer. Might JESUS be a kind of keyword? Our searches can begin, and end, with JESUS. He IS the Way, the Truth and the Life!

~Karen Griebel
for *Growing in Faith*



Parish Calendar

Sunday, March 24

- No Religious Ed classes today
- 10:00 am ~ R.C.I.A.: First Scrutiny of the Elect

Wednesday, March 27

- 6:00 pm ~ Simple Supper in the Social Hall

Thursday, March 28

- 7:00 pm ~ Parish Council meeting in the Ministry Center

Friday, March 29

- 3:00 pm ~ Stations of the Cross in Church

Sunday, March 31

- No Religious Ed classes today
- 8:00 am ~ R.C.I.A. - Second Scrutiny of the Elect
- 6:00-7:00 pm ~ Living Stations practice in Church

Wednesday, April 3

- 6:00 pm ~ Simple Supper in the Social Hall
- 7:00 pm ~ Refugee Committee in the Ministry Center

Friday, April 5

- 3:00 pm ~ Stations of the Cross in Church

Saturday, April 6

- 5:00 ~ R.C.I.A. - Third Scrutiny of the Elect

Sunday, April 7

- 8:30 am ~ Religious Ed classes resume
- 10:00 am ~ Family Mass hosted by second graders in the parish and Religious Ed program
- Postcard writing event hosted by the Refugee Committee in the Ministry Center after the 10:00 am, 10:30 am, and 11:30 am Masses
- 3:00 pm ~ Lenten Reconciliation Service in Church
- 6:00-7:00 pm ~ Living Stations practice in Church

Saturday, April 13

- 5:00 pm ~ Palm Sunday Vigil

Sunday, April 14 *Palm Sunday*

- 8:00 am ~ Mass in Church
- 10:30 am ~ Combined Mass (in lieu of the 9:30 am (St. Gertrude East), 10:00 am, 10:30 am (Gym), and 11:30 am Masses)

Lent 2019: Our Invitation to a Second Chance Week III

Seemingly built into human DNA is the desire to always find an answer, a reason, a motivation for accidental happenings. Whether these are the result of natural conditions, or from human error. The need to find someone or something to blame is large! So it probably should not surprise us that at the time when Jesus walked the earth people simply presumed that if you were wealthy or powerful it was because God was blessing you. And if you were at the other end of the spectrum, it was because God was not blessing you, and maybe even punishing you. This kind of thinking led to the idea that the sins of fathers (and mothers) might well be visited upon generation after generation of their offspring.

If we can imagine that mindset, we can begin to understand how radical the message of Jesus was that completely undermined such thinking. In today's Gospel passage, he spells out, using very specific examples from his own time and place, that catastrophes, whether manmade or the result of some unknown fault, are not judgements about the moral status of those who are suffering, "By no means!" says Jesus.

But the wonderful twist in this Gospel is that he then goes on to make it perfectly clear that we each have

to be responsible for our own actions. And if we fail to pay attention to the consequences of those actions, we shouldn't be surprised to end up with the same ending as those who were subjected to some horrible fate.

I think I have previously used the great line from the Smothers Brothers comedy duo of many years ago. When they were having an argument about some part of reality, the final line of defense from the more "innocent" of the two was so make the claim, "Mom always liked you best!" Using humor, it captures this need to find someone to blame so whatever happened will not force me to change the way I look at the world.

As we are now in the mid-point of Lent, this is a great reminder that when we consider our own standing before God, we need to stop looking for someone else to blame, and find the cause in ourselves. Only then, honestly, can we decide if we are willing to change our hearts, or not. Another way of saying this is that the difference between being childish and behaving as an adult is when we stop trying to pin the blame for our own behavior on someone or something else and take responsibility.

R.C.I.A. Reflection

At the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 20, those in the R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) will become members of the Catholic Christian community or Received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church. We'll share their stories in the bulletin as Easter approaches. Please keep all of our Elect and Candidates in your prayer during these weeks of Lent.

I'm Justin Svoboda. I work for Apple in Lincoln Park, love all Chicago sports teams that play on or south of Madison, and look forward to this summer when I'll add four more major league ballparks to my list and goal of visiting all of them.

I was baptized at Our Lady of Vilna in Pilsen on the Southside as an infant, but my earliest memories of

church are being walked to St. Paul's Catholic School by my Grandma Stella.

My wife Kelly and I live in Edgewater, so I've been walking to church again, just down to St. Gertrude's this year for RCIA.



Almoner's Program

This Lenten season, we have continued the Almoner's Program to help us connect with those we come across in our daily life that are struggling. Each Sunday during Lent, we have a second collection, and take that money and purchase McDonald's gift cards with \$5.00 pre-loaded on the card. After Sunday Masses, parishioners are invited to take as many pre-loaded gift cards as they think they will likely use during the week to give to people they encounter on the bus or el, or at certain intersections, or anywhere and take the time to have a short, kind exchange with the recipient.

If you've taken part in this program, I'd love to know how it went. If you have any stories to share, or any thoughts about this program, please email me at kchears@stgertrudechicago.org.

~ Kevin Chears, Pastoral Associate

Almoner's Program

Cards distributed this weekend:	139
Total collected March 16-17:	\$1,115.00
Total cards distributed:	239
Total collected:	\$2,230.27

Lenten Activities & Events

Stations of the Cross: Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday during Lent at 3:00 pm in Church. On Good Friday, April 19, there will be Living Stations of the Cross at 3:00 pm, featuring teens from the parish.

Simple Suppers Begin This Wednesday!: 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. Dinners will be held this Wednesday, March 27, Wednesday, April 3, and Wednesday, April 10.

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, to encourage elected officials to treat refugees with fairness and compassion.

Lenten Reconciliation: A reconciliation service will be held Sunday, April 7 at 3:00 pm in Church. This is a quiet, reflective service which is a combination of music, scripture and a guided reflection which serves as an examination of conscience.

R.C.I.A.

TODAY—R.C.I.A.—First Scrutiny of the Elect: Starting today, and for the next two weekends, we will celebrate the scrutinies with our Elect and Candidates, who are preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. These prayers ask that they may be freed from anything that keeps them from embracing the Gospel and becoming disciples of Jesus Christ. Today, we pray that they find that their zeal for the Lord strengthens them to turn away from sin and find their satisfaction in Jesus.

First Scrutiny of the Elect

Sunday, March 24 at the 10:00 am Mass

Second Scrutiny of the Elect

Sunday, March 31 at the 8:00 am Mass

Third Scrutiny of the Elect

Saturday, April 6 at the 5:00 pm Mass

Please keep all our Elect and Candidates in your prayers as they continue their journey to the Easter Vigil.



Last Sunday, March 17, the members of the R.C.I.A. and their sponsors were sent with our blessings to Holy Name Cathedral and welcomed by Bishop Perry. They were joined by others from around the Archdiocese for

the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion.

- **To Be Baptized:** Brittiany Clark, Lauren Le, Vu Truong, and Freuz Urzaliev
- **To Be Received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church:** Rebecca Hembel
- **Completing His Sacraments of Initiation:** Justin Svoboda

Not pictured, but present: Rose Karasti

A Letter from the Cardinal

March 23, 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

With this letter I write to you about a development that should disturb us greatly, both as citizens and as disciples of Jesus, the Lord of life.

Recently, two bills have been introduced in the Illinois House and Senate. The first, House Bill 2495 and Senate Bill 1942, both identical pieces of legislation, seeks to strip unborn persons of any protection – or even consideration – under the law and declare abortion to be a “fundamental right” and matter of health care. The end result is that an abortion could be obtained at any stage of pregnancy, including late term, for any reason and without any regulation. The law would no longer guarantee any modicum of humanity or compassion for any unborn person in Illinois, even if they are partially born. This legislation also repeals the Abortion Performance Refusal Act, which protects doctors, nurses and hospitals who refuse to permit, recommend, perform or assist in abortion. In so doing, rights of conscience, especially religious objections, will be lost.

The second piece of legislation House Bill 2467 and its identical Senate Bill 1594, repeals the Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act. This law, upheld unanimously by the Illinois Supreme Court just six years ago, has the common-sense purpose of ensuring that parents would be part of the life-altering decision of their minor child in the case she seeks an abortion. This effective law has reduced abortions performed on minors by fifty-seven percent.

As citizens of a state and people of faith who care about the common good, I urge you to join me and my brother bishops in an effort to defeat this radical departure from current law and practice in our state. Please reach out your State Representative and Senator to urge defeat of these bills. You can find the name of your appropriate politicians and their contact information at <https://www.ilcatholic.org/take-action/action-center/>. To find out more about these bills, please consult the Catholic Conference of Illinois website, www.ilcatholic.org, or call the Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity at 312-534-5355 for further information.

Entrusting our efforts for all life, from the moment of conception until natural death, to the care of our Blessed Mother, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Cardinal Blasé Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago

Lenten Food Drive

Thank you to all who participated in last weekend’s Lenten Food Drive! The donations were very generous, and Care for Real was grateful for the 123 bags of food, personal care items, and sundries.

We especially thank our 8th graders and WOW teens for organizing this food drive and for sorting and repackaging the items for delivery for Care for Real.

~Jim Potthast, Family Minister



Parish Stewardship Report

Sunday Collection March 16-17	\$6,131.95
Budgeted Collection	<u>\$7,725.00</u>
Underage	(-) \$1,593.05

Refugee Committee

Upcoming Concert: The Refugee Committee is sponsor of the El Pueblo Canta concert on Saturday, April 6 at Wellington Ave. United Church of Christ, 615 W. Wellington Ave. Doors open at 5:30 pm with traditional Latino and Arabic food for purchase. From 7:00-8:30 pm, performers will include Alex Farha, VOICES, the Wellington Choir, and the "Dare to Dream" Centro Romero Youth Choir. Proceeds benefit immigrant justice work for Wellington Avenue UCC, Centro Romero, and Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America. Tickets are \$25 for adults, and \$15 for students and those on a limited income. To purchase tickets and to get info on parking and child care, please visit <http://waucc.org/2019elpueblocanta/>.

Postcard Event: Our next event to advocate with our elected officials is Sunday, April 7 after the 10:00 am, 10:30 am, and 11:30 am Masses. This is a great and painless way to make your voice be heard.

Family Updates: Bibi, the single mother of three whom we sponsored last summer, is now employed full time, allowing her to contribute to her rent. Her two oldest children are doing well in school except for Integrated Math. Your donations towards their rent are instrumental in allowing her oldest child to stay in school, rather than having to help support the family financially. Thanks to your help and strong community support, the family is adjusting well to their new home.

The newest family we are supporting, Noraishah (the wife) and Qurban (her husband), are also doing well. Qurban has a job and is working towards getting his driver's license, and Noraishah already has her driving permit.

April Meeting: Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 3 at 7:00 pm in the Ministry Center.

~ Denise Goodman

Parish News

Thank You for Coming to Our Parish Play: *Just a Dream Away: A Musical Dream Machine Adventure* was a smash hit! Thank you to those that came on Friday and Saturday, and an even bigger thanks to our talented cast and crew who worked so hard on the performances.

No Religious Ed Classes on March 24 and March 31: The Religious Education program will be on spring break over the next two weekends. Classes will resume on Sunday, April 7.

Living Stations Practice: Our Living Stations practice will be held next Sunday, March 31 and April 7 from 6:00-7:00 pm in Church. Dinner will be provided after every Living Stations practice.

Family Mass: On Sunday, April 7, there will be a 10:00 am Family Mass hosted by second graders in the Religious Ed program and NCA students from the parish. Please note, hospitality will not be offered after Mass during Lent.

Care for our Common Home



From today's readings: "For three years now, I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none." Jesus answered, "Sir, leave it for a year and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it. It may bear fruit in the future." (Luke 3:7-9)

We must consistently cultivate our trees and all of nature as well as cultivate our relationships with all species in order to keep this world of ours from decaying. In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis states, "Our challenge is to look at our own lives when it comes to things like environmental stewardship. When we ignore our own contributions to environmental degradation, particularly through high-carbon lifestyles, we're not living our pro-life commitment."

~ Debbie Kern, NCA Green Team

Our Parish at Prayer

MONDAY, MARCH 25

7:30 am Living and deceased St. Gertrude parishioners

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

7:30 am Greg Wall †

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

7:30 am Lori Fitzgerald-Larson †

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

7:30 am Communion Service

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

7:30 am Gus Bowers

8:30 am NCA Mass

3:00 pm Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

7:30 am Purgatorial Society

5:00 pm Caprice Boylan †

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

8:00 am Gilbert Gallagher †

9:30 am In thanksgiving

10:00 am Jack Taylor †

10:30 am Alice Keys †

11:30 am Johnny Outlaw †

† Indicates person listed is deceased.

Ministers of the Word

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

5:00 pm Michele Kuehlhorn, Jayne Deiters

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

8:00 am Sr. Kathryn Stimac, David Sullivan

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

10:00 am Rose Karasti, Patrick Robinson

10:30 am TBA

11:30 am Troy McMillan, Victoria Healy

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: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11;

Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc,

8-9; Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9;

Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17;

Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab;

Lk 18:9-14

Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2 Cor 5:17

-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32; Alternate

readings (Year A): 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7,

10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-

41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

Eucharistic Ministers

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

5:00 pm Joan Harrington, Tim Harrington, Michele Kuehlhorn, Kathleen Dawson, Roman Reyes

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

8:00 am Hallie Burhoe, Brian DeVarenne, William Mitchell, Sr. Kathryn Stimac, Barb Daly

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

10:00 am Rose Marie Anichini, Carlos Barragan, Amy Bessette, Mary Donlan, Ruth Ott, Patrick Robinson, Gail Smith

10:30 am TBA

11:30 am Jana Ashbeck, Richard Ashbeck, Troy McMillan, Steven Monti, Lina Peon

Altar Servers

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

5:00 pm Casey Cancilla, Norah & Brendan Moran

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

10:00 am Maeve Killoren, Emily Stecky, Anna Stecky

11:30 am George Hanafee, Lucas Ashbeck, Mark Ashbeck

Milestones



Rest in Peace

Dan Groves



Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends

Maria Hertl

Maggie Callaway

Carlene Lorys

Geraldine Clark

Helen Stryczek

Robert Howe



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.

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 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

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
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