



St. Gertrude Chicago

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Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

From Father Rich

Welcome Back Sunday

This is Welcome/Welcome Back Sunday! We are celebrating the many parishioners who have been able to return to church after many months of following safety and health

protocols from the coronavirus pandemic. And we are also delighted to be welcoming all our new parishioners -- especially those who have joined St. Gertrude after the closing of St. Ignatius Parish. We will celebrate this at the 10:30 am Mass, followed by hospitality.

We will celebrate this at the 10:30 am Mass, followed by hospitality. Originally, we were planning on a pancake breakfast, but the mandates for masks for everyone seemed to indicate that was probably not a good idea -- putting a lot of people into a room for breakfast. In its place, we will have a food truck! [A. Sweets Girl](#) will be here with delicious cupcakes and a variety of drinks.

After you get your cupcake and drink after Mass, please join us for socializing and live music in the side yard of the rectory or in the courtyard between the church and Ministry Center. The schedule of musicians is:

- 11:30-11:45: Marge Skelly
- 11:45-12:00: James and Jim Casey (bluegrass)
- 12:00-12:15 Beth Siegle Nelson and friend
- 12:30-12:45 Jennifer Dunne (The Parting Glass), Irish music
- 12:45-1:00 Nicholas Bussey and friends-Jazz Brass

Free will offerings are appreciated to help defray the cost. We hope to see you there!

Special thanks to Fr. Mike Gabriel and his committee for pulling this all together.

Father Mike Bradley – Injured and Unable to Run a Marathon This Year

Fr. Bradley will NOT run another marathon. Last weekend, Fr. Bradley hurt his back and was in some serious distress for a few days. His doctors have helped him get back to feeling good, but prudence leans in the direction of caution. It doesn't seem wise to pursue the next month of training for the marathon while his back is still healing from whatever happened to it. So, no marathon for him this year! If you would still like to make a contribution to the parish Heart to Heart Ministry, donations are always welcome in church or online here: <https://www.givecentral.org/location/8/event/606>. And please say a prayer for Fr. Mike's continued healing and good health!

From Father Rich (*cont.*)

This Sunday's Gospel Message

Suffering is one of the themes in today's gospel passage. It is the paradox of our humanity that almost anything of value in our lives is also connected to our suffering for that treasure. Jesus makes this abundantly clear as he is explaining to the disciples what it means to follow him. Suffering is a non-negotiable part of true discipleship.

This is also true of every time of transition in our lives. Whether it is moving on to a new level of education or a new job or a new relationship -- even when we so deeply want to move forward -- letting go of what we have grown comfortable with involves suffering. Suffering is also a reminder that none of us is going to be around forever, nor will any of those whom we love be around forever. Knowing that our earthly existence is limited is both painful and simultaneously a source of profound appreciation for this life. Suffering is considered a great teacher in most cultures and religions. At the very least, we are reminded that no matter what we might (foolishly) think at certain moments or times in our lives, we are not really in charge. That awareness alone can be upsetting to us, causing its own unique pain.

Even though all that is true, because suffering is painful, we never seek it out. Instead, it is something we tolerate or even come to embrace when we know it is the price we must pay for a greater good, a greater love, a greater appreciation of God, of others, of ourselves. But it is never something we pursue itself. That would be unhealthy,

Maybe this is a good day to consider what it is you most value in your life and in your relationships. What price you have paid to ensure that it continues to be present in your life? Within that context, we see the value of suffering. Never desired, but for the valuable gifts it makes possible, always willingly endured for that higher good. The daily challenge is to try to make certain living the gospel is part of that dynamic in our life. Am I willing to suffer for the sake of what our Lord has asked us to do?

New Student-Priest to Live at the Rectory

Last week, we welcomed another student-priest to the rectory. Fr. Pius Nwiyi joins us from Nigeria. He is studying counseling at Loyola and expects to be here for about two years. His introduction will be in next Sunday's newsletter/bulletin.

Gym Mass Returns Next Sunday, September 19

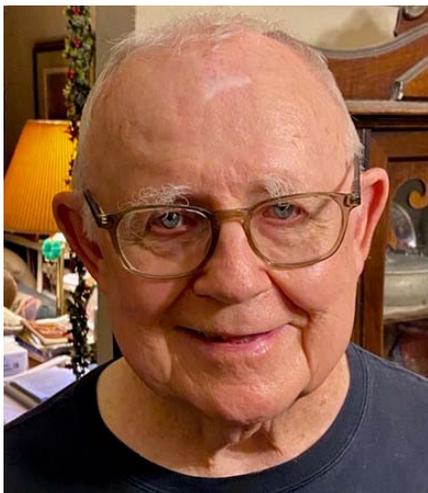
A reminder: next week the Gym Mass returns at its regular 10:30 am time!

20th Anniversary of the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks

This Saturday is the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on 9/11. We will remember and honor at Mass this weekend all those who died in the attacks and all those first responders and others who immediately stepped forward to help those in need on that horrific day.

Let us all join in prayer on this anniversary, asking God to move all human hearts to embrace every human being as a sister or brother, all created by God. Let us pray, asking God to remove the hatred and anger from any heart directed at another human being. It is only in recognizing each other as sisters and brothers we will ever be able to end violence in our world.

Ushers, Greeters, Ministers of the Word, and Eucharistic Ministers Needed: 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 at kchears@stgertrudechicago.org. Thank you!



Growing in Faith

Dear Grandparents...*

Jesus tells us to listen to the lessons included in today's readings.

Isiah: "The Lord opens my ears so that I may hear..." Mary Clare, my granddaughter, was in eighth grade when she asked me to be her Confirmation sponsor. I was delighted! Two women in the parish were willing to be interviewed to help prepare her to be Confirmed. Mary Clare's job was to listen carefully as each told her why they were Catholics. She listened to their stories, about the importance the gifts of the Holy Spirit, from both of them and from her mother.

James: "...faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead." In the eight years since Mary Clare was Confirmed, she has been a participant in the campus ministries at both Loyola Academy and Notre Dame University, where she is a senior, and many other social service programs. Mary Clare asked me early in August to meet her so that we could attend Mass Saturday at St. Gertrude. It had been over a year since I had attended a weekend Mass. When she reached out to her old grandfather this way, my heart filled with joy.

Every grandparent that I know could tell you stories about their own precious grandchildren. These children fill our lives with pride and our hearts with gratitude and love.

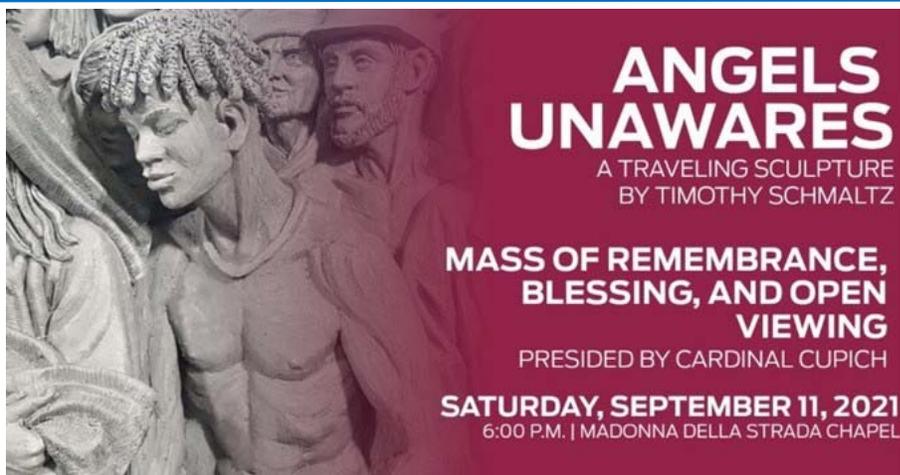
~ Joe Donnelly for *Growing in Faith*

*Grandparents' Day is celebrated Sunday, September 12.

Angels Unaware

"Be welcoming to strangers, many have entertained angels unaware." ~ Hebrews 13:2

Perhaps you have seen the photos of a sculpture Pope Francis commissioned for the piazza outside St. Peter's in Rome. Entitled *Angels Unaware*, this sculpture depicts more than 140 immigrants from across history densely packed onto a boat with the Holy Family. The sculpture makes vivid Pope Francis' reminder to all believers that we are all sisters and brothers and come from a very long faith tradition of welcoming migrants and refugees to our society.



A second casting of this sculpture has been completed and is now on a national tour. It arrived at Loyola University's Lake Shore campus near the southwest corner of the West Quad last Friday and will be displayed until October 4. A special Mass to commemorate this occasion will be held on Saturday, September 11 at 6:00 pm at the Madonna della Strada Chapel on Loyola's campus with Cardinal Blase J. Cupich presiding. Register online at <https://www.alumni.luc.edu/>. Please note, all visitors to Loyola's campus must be vaccinated and wear masks while indoors.

Refugee and Immigrant Ministry Update

We've heard from Catholic Charities and will be working with them to settle a single mother of three from Syria, with children aged 8, 10, and 12. Such a blessing!

I also want to bring a couple of other things to your attention. First, Pope Francis commissioned a sculpture called "Angels Unawares" from the same artist who produced "Homeless Jesus". Details about this exhibit at Loyola can be found in this bulletin. Information about this piece's national tour can be found here, <https://engage.catholic.edu/events/angels-unawares-national-tour-2020-2021>.

Also, Ellie Fishman, a journalist with Chicago Magazine, has recently published a book called Refugee High, about CPS' Sullivan High School. She describes the refugee families and caring faculty and staff, helping them assimilate while not forgetting the treasure of their own culture.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. It's only through this faith community that we have been able to support so many families.

~ Denise Goodman, Refugee and Immigrant Ministry



Donate Your Airline Miles to Miles4Migrants

Have travel limitations during the pandemic left you sitting on a slush fund of frequent flyer miles? You can use them for good right now by donating your airline miles to Miles4Migrants. The nonprofit charity organization accepts donations of frequent flyer

miles to fund flights for refugees to their new homes. More details can be found at <https://bit.ly/Miles4MigrantsArticle>.

Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration Planned for Next Sunday, September 19

The Archdiocese of Chicago's Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass is scheduled to be held next Sunday, September 19 at 2:30 pm at St. John Brebeuf Parish in Niles.

Couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary can learn more about the Mass and register at <https://pvm.archchicago.org/events/golden-wedding>.





Heart to Heart Ministry Monthly Update

Featured below is an update from our busy Heart to Heart Ministry and our very active Lending Closet:

The Lending Closet loans durable medical equipment such as shower chairs/stools; tub transfer benches; bedside commodes and toilet seat

risers; knee scooters; rollators, wheelchairs, and transport chairs; walkers; canes; bed trays and "grabbers". These loans are free of charge and can be used for as long as they are needed.

August's Durable Medical Equipment Lending Closet saw activity from Edgewater to Alsip, as we are the only known free Lending Closet in the City of Chicago. Last month, we dispensed 33 pieces of equipment and six large boxes of incontinence supplies such as Depends and bed pads. We served individuals, medical institutions, and insurance companies from zip codes 60660, 60640, 60641, 60645, 60622, 60625, 60610, and 60601. Inquiries and requests were fielded from medical social workers, caseworkers, registered nurses, and other healthcare professionals (including a pediatric social worker from Journeycare Hospice). Thank you to the twelve individuals/families who donated equipment their loved ones no longer needed, as well as unopened incontinence products and/or other medical supplies such as a blood pressure cuff, an oximeter, etc.

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, September 17. 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.

If you need to contact us, please contact Laurie Hasbrook, our Lending Closet Manager, at the Ministry Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am-2:00 pm at 773.973.5464 or lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org. Or you can call Jane Callahan-Moore, our Heart to Heart Director at 773.595.9992 during the hours of 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Interested in Becoming Catholic? First RCIA Meeting Set for Next Sunday, Sept. 19



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process by which adults learn more about the Catholic Church. RCIA will begin with an informational meeting on Sunday, September 19 in the Ministry Center after 10:30 am Masses.

If you are interested in learning more about the RCIA process at St. Gertrude, contact Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate, at kchears@stgertrudechicago.org or call 773.764.3621.

NCA Junior Kindergarten: Spots Available

Is your child celebrating their 5th birthday after the September 1st cut-off date and, therefore, unable to attend Kindergarten this year? Are you saying to yourself, "He or she has already spent a year or two in preschool and could use a different challenge this year"?



Then check out our unique Junior Kindergarten (JK) program! NCA prides itself in answering that need we saw with some of our preschool families by developing our JK program as part of our Early Learning Center. While JK is still aimed at building the foundation for Kindergarten attendance the following year, it does so in a unique and challenging way that is just right for those who will turn five between September 1st and February 15th this school year. It is a full-day, five-day-a-week class that offers children in this age range many opportunities to develop learning traits that they'll use throughout their school years, such as creativity, curiosity, mindfulness, independence, decision-making, self-regulation, and experiencing positive social interactions.

See for yourself if this is the program where your soon-to-be-five-year-old will thrive! Please go to NorthsideCatholic.org for more information and to apply. For questions, please email our admissions director, Shakira Morrissette, at smorrissette@ncaweb.org or call 773.743.6277, ext. 207.

Happy anniversary! Susan & Stacy Gilhart are joining us Sunday on their 40th wedding anniversary. Susan's family, the Downes, spent many years in St. Gertrude Parish and the couple was married here in 1981. Happy 40th, Susan & Stacy!

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

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, September 11 at 5:00 pm - Kathleen Dawson
- Sunday, September 12 at 8:00 am - Marty McDermott
- Sunday, September 12 at 10:30 am - Bob Backis

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, September 11 at 5:00 pm - Kathleen Dawson, Tim Harrington
- Sunday, September 12 at 8:00 am - Peter Morin, Brian Devarenne
- Sunday, September 12 at 10:30 am - Bob Backis, Debra Novak, Carlos Barrigan

Cantors and Musicians:

- Saturday, September 11 at 5:00 pm - Kate Hibbs Davis; Nicholas Bussey-trombone
- Sunday, September 12 at 8:00 am - Jim Manzardo; Denise Goodman, clarinet
- Sunday, September 12 at 10:30 am - Michael Callahan; Jim Szmurlo-trumpet, Amir Ghazaleh-bass trombone; vocal quartet: Matt Heimer, Joe Pindelski, Monina Cruz, Therese Schreiner

Mass Intentions

- Monday, September 13: 7:30 am - Margaret Waaler+
- Tuesday, September 14: 7:30 am - Regina Nnyene+
- Wednesday, September 15: 7:30 am - Bill Tobin+
- Thursday, September 16: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, September 17: 7:30 am - St. Gertrude Parishioners; 8:30 am - Opening School Mass
- Saturday, September 18: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society; 5:00 pm ~ Noe+ & Lilia+ Cruz
- Sunday, September 19: 8:00 am ~ Juanita Gusmanos+; 10:30 am - Peon Family+; 10:30 am Gym - Matt Bussey+ and Billy Tobin+

*+ indicates the person
is deceased*

Rest in Peace

- Geraldine Clark
- Greg Gormaly
- Joseph Muraca, husband of Lisa

Baptisms

- Lewis Benjamin and Alice Bridget Kesling, children of Benjamin Kesling and Mara Brecht

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

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

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.

Our Heart to Heart office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am-2:30 pm. Contact them at 773.973.5464.

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
Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate for Religious Education and Youth Ministry
Margie Guadagno, Office Manager
Laurie Hasbrook, Office/Heart to Heart Staff
Tracy Shields, Communications
Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management