Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.

~ Psalm 90:14
From Father Rich

Thanks to all those who joined in the Renew My Church presentation and Ice Cream Social at St. Gregory’s on Sunday, August 25. We have posted a link on the home page of the parish website, www.stgertrudechicago.org, to the PowerPoint presentation from that event for anyone who would like to see it.

Today (Sunday) after the 10:30 am Masses, the first inquiry session for any adult interested in learning more about the Catholic Church will be held. These sessions are part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA.) As such, they are meant to be opportunities for those looking for information about the church, seeking answers to questions, and as a first step for those considering joining the Catholic Church. Everyone is welcome! And if you know someone who might be interested, please be sure to pass on the invitation.

This Thursday, September 12, the Refugee Committee invites everyone to a presentation in the Social Hall at 7:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to hear from those on the frontlines of this ongoing national crisis about the challenges and hopes for the future.

Once again last weekend, there was another mass shooting in Texas. As members of Congress return, now is the time to contact your own representatives and demand that background checks be required of all gun owners—regardless of where they purchase their guns. And if, God willing, the restrictions for assault weapons comes up, demand as well that these weapons of war—with no place in a civilized society—be outlawed. It is a mystery to me how anyone can claim to be the party in favor of life when they resist all attempts to protect the citizens of this nation from the daily violence of the gun addiction in this country. It is untrue to say you are pro-life but are willing to do nothing to stop the daily violence in our nation from guns.

Soon we will be gearing up for our annual call for new ministers/volunteers. Please start giving some thought to how you might be more involved in the parish, as your schedule allows. We have a need for liturgical ministers, as well as openings in many of the parish ministries. Active involvement not only helps the parish, but it is also a great way to meet new people and get to know the community better and feel closer to it.

A mini update on the Ministry Center. Most of the floors have been sanded, stained, and re-finished. And one group of chairs has had their seat and back cushions reupholstered. Now we’re trying to get the painting and lighting upgrades done. Like so many “home improvement” projects, these things always seem to take way longer than anyone expected.

A special thanks to all those who stopped by the Social Hall after Mass last Sunday to donate blood! St. Gertrude’s has a long history of sharing the gift of life with those in need. Giving blood is one of those activities no one can do for you, yet benefits so many!

~ Father Rich

How Do You Find & Contact Your Elected Officials?

Be a voice for change! Contact your elected officials and share your thoughts on gun control, immigration, and more. Visit usa.gov/elected-officials for a contact information for all of your elected officials, including your senators, U.S. representatives, governor, and state legislators.
The readings this Sunday speak to me of making choices in light of God’s will, God’s priorities. As I reflect on my experience of facing significant decisions, I am drawn to a favorite poem by Denise Levertov called “The Thread”. Here are the beginning and the end sections of the poem:

“Something is very gently, pulling at me—a thread or net of threads finer than cobweb and as elastic. I haven’t tried the strength of it.

Not fear but a stirring of wonder makes me catch my breath when I feel the tug of it when I thought it had loosened itself and gone.”

This poem invites me into a space opened out by abundance, a welcoming space in which to make choices. The scripture for today could leave one with a feeling of scarcity, of God’s wisdom, of our power to love. The language in the poem describes for me how I experience God’s wisdom in my life, i.e., God’s drawing me to God’s self, felt as a tug or a pull, or the joy of feeling gently tethered to God, not by a barbed hook, but through a stirring of wonder.

Of course, the challenge remains to create the space of stillness and reflection in order to access, to feel this elusive thread that will not loosen itself from us.

~ Joellen McCarthy, BVM, for Growing in Faith

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### Parish Calendar

**Sunday, September 8**
- 9:00 am ~ First Religious Ed class of the school year (grades 1-5 at NCA, grades 6-7 in the Ministry Center)
- 10:30 am ~ Gym Mass resumes
- After the 10:30 am Mass ~ RCIA (first session) meets in the Ministry Center

**Monday, September 9**
- 7:00 pm ~ Baptismal preparation class in the Rectory (Registration is required.)
- 7:30 pm ~ Good Books in the Ministry Center

**Wednesday, September 11**
- 10:00-11:00 am ~ Powers of Attorney and Wills seminar in the Ministry Center
- 7:00 pm ~ Knitting group in the Ministry Center

**Thursday, September 12**
- 11:30 am ~ Women’s Friendship Club in the Ministry Center
- 7:00 pm ~ Refugee Ministry presentation on immigration in the Social Hall

**Saturday, September 14**
- 5:00 pm ~ Second collection for the Refugee Ministry

**Sunday, September 15**
- Second collection at all the Masses for the Refugee Ministry
- After the 10:30 am Mass ~ hospitality provided in the back of Church
- 3:00-5:30 pm ~ Commonweal Community in the Ministry Center

**Monday, September 16**
- 7:30 pm ~ Poetry Pilgrims in the Ministry Center

**Friday, September 20**
- 12:00-2:30 pm ~ Powers of Attorney and Wills workshop in the Ministry Center

**Sunday, September 22**
- After the 10:30 am Masses ~ Refugee Ministry postcard writing event in the Ministry Center Dining Room

**Thursday, September 26**
- 7:00-8:00 pm ~ Novena for healing and atonement in Church

**Sunday, October 13**
- Father Mike to run the Chicago Marathon for Heart to Heart
**Parish News**

**TODAY—Gym Mass Resumes:** The 10:30 am Gym Mass at St. Gertrude was established many years ago for those seeking a slightly more casual feel to their worship. It also encourages more involvement by those who attend and is especially convenient for parents with young children. Volunteers transform the gym each week into a “chapel” and the music is great. Refreshments are served following Mass to encourage conversation and community. We hope to see you there!

**Baptismal Preparation Class:** The next class will be Monday, September 9 at 7:00 pm in the Rectory. Registration is required. Sign up to reserve a space at 773.764.3621.

**Good Books:** The next gathering of the book club will be Monday, September 9 at 7:30 pm in the Ministry Center. Contact Mary Grover at mary@marsgrover.com with any questions.

**Knitting Group:** The Knitting Group invites all knitters and crocheters to join us for fun and blanket square-making! We’ll meet on Wednesday, September 11 from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Ministry Center. No experience is necessary!

**Women’s Friendship Club:** Our first meeting of the 2019-2020 year will be Thursday, September 12 at 11:30 am in the Ministry Center. We ask everyone to bring their own brown bag lunch. Coffee, juice, and a dessert will be provided by the club. Members are also asked to bring their annual dues ($15) with them to the meeting.

**Poetry Pilgrims:** The next Poetry Pilgrims gathering will be Monday, September 16 at 7:30 pm in the Ministry Center. Email Mary Grover at mary@marsgrover.com for a list of poems.

**Save the Dates: Powers of Attorney and Wills Explained and Then Executed:** On Wednesday, September 11 from 10:00-11:00 am in the Ministry Center, Heart to Heart will sponsor a free informational outreach meeting for all parishioners about powers of attorneys and wills. Attorneys from The Center on Disability and Elder Law will explain what powers of attorney and living wills are and why they are so important to have in place.

On Friday, September 20 from 12:00-2:30 pm in the Ministry Center, attorneys will assist attendees with completing their personalized documents and notarizing them so that they become effective immediately. Bring your state I.D. and the name and address of the person whom you will designate to act on your behalf. Call the Heart to Heart staff at 773.973.5464 to register. A sign-up sheet is also available in the back of the church at all Masses this weekend.

**Father Mike to Run the Chicago Marathon Again:** Are you planning to take part in a marathon sometime soon, including the Bank of America Chicago Marathon on Sunday, October 13? Would you like to have the encouragement and spiritual support of our parish community as you prepare for the 26.2 miles of the marathon? If so, please let me know after Mass, or send me an email at mbradley@archchicago.org. You’ll be remembered in the prayers of St. Gertrude Parish during the coming weeks of training.

“Let us run with endurance the race God has set before us” ~ Hebrews 12:1

~ Father Mike Bradley

P.S. I will be running the Chicago Marathon for Heart to Heart this year—it will be my 20th Chicago Marathon, and my 46th Marathon overall. Thank you for all your encouragement over the years!

**Thank You, Loyola Students!** On Saturday, August 25, freshmen from Loyola held a Saturday of Service, helping clean at St. Gertrude and other locations. We are so grateful for their hard work!

**Change in Rectory Hours:** The Rectory now closes at 4:45 pm on Fridays.

**Thank You to Blood Donors:** Last Sunday, September 1, Vitalant held a blood drive at St. Gertrude. We are so appreciative of the many generous parishioners who were able to help those in need and build up the blood supply in Chicago.

**Medical Supplies Donations Needed for Heart to Heart’s Lending Closet:** Due to this summer's high demand for the Heart to Heart Lending Closet's durable medical equipment, we are looking for wheelchairs, tub transfer benches, and rollator walkers to be donated. Please contact Heart to Heart at 773.973.5464 to arrange a drop-off time.
Refugee and Immigration Ministry - Gratitude and Celebration

The St. Gertrude Refugee and Immigration Ministry hopes you’ll join us in celebrating the fourth anniversary of our ministry. Our mission is to aid individuals and families as they settle in our neighborhood. Many of them come from war-torn areas of the world and have spent years trying to come to the United States. Often, this time of waiting is spent in one of the many refugee camps throughout the world. It is the mission of our ministry to provide support that ranges from creating a welcoming home in anticipation of their arrival by providing basic household items to being companions as our new neighbors experience a life that can be very different from what they have known. We have officially sponsored seven families in the last three years and helped several more. Your generosity has been instrumental in making this ministry possible. We are deeply grateful.

We will be celebrating our anniversary during September with activities that celebrate the diversity of our faith community. Through Sunday, September 15, we will have world maps in the back of Church as well as push pins. Won't you join us by placing pins signifying the path you and/or your family took before calling Chicago home? As the number of pins grows, so will our mindfulness of how our diversity is a source of strength and hope. We come from every corner of the earth!

On Thursday, September 12 at 7:00 pm, we have two speakers who will share their experiences, insights and reflections—Mary Meg McCarthy, Executive Director of Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center, and Sr. Maureen Jerkowski, who works with immigrant children at Maryville.

There is cost for supporting these families in transition. Our partner, Catholic Charities, requires that we be able to commit at least $5,000 per family. These funds are meant to ensure that we will be able to get a family off to a good start by providing a limited financial safety net during those critical first few months. At present, we have the resources to support just one more family. To help us continue our ministry of welcoming, we are asking for your help. At all the Masses over the weekend of September 14-15, there will be a second collection in support of the Refugee Ministry. The funds collected will allow us to continue our mission of sponsoring families and individuals in transition. And your prayers will continue to encourage us.

Finally, thank you for all of your support over the years! We truly could not do it without you!

~ Denise Goodman on behalf of the Refugee Ministry

As part of the September Refugee Committee celebration, we will be hosting another postcard writing event on Sunday, September 22 after the 10:30 am Masses in the Ministry Center Dining Room. Write to our political officials and urge them to be more open and accepting of refugees into our nation.

Lend your voice to make a difference to those who are truly in need! All materials, examples of wording, and snacks will be provided.
Interested in Being Catholic?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process by which adults learn more about the Catholic Church. This free program begins on Sunday, September 8 after the 10:30 am Mass in the Ministry Center and meets until Pentecost.

Many people who begin RCIA are non-Catholics seeking to become Catholic or at least to explore whether Catholicism might be a good home. Those who complete the process and decide to become Catholic are initiated into the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday. Others who take RCIA are already Catholic but want a deeper understanding of their faith foundation.

The RCIA process does not ask those who have been baptized in another faith to give up their denominational experiences. Rather, the RCIA process seeks to add new colors and designs to their existing faith tapestry. In addition to attending Mass, the RCIA process includes weekly gatherings of breaking open the Word of God, sharing our stories, and learning about our faith traditions.

For information about the RCIA process at St. Gertrude or to register for the program, contact me at kchears@stgertrudechicago.org or call the Rectory at 773.764.3621.

~ Kevin Chears, Pastoral Associate

What is a Catechist?

Have you been thinking of a way to give back or make connections at St. Gertrude? Consider becoming a catechist! Catechists teach Religious Education classes, which at St. Gertrude are offered to children in grades 1-8. Classes are taught on Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:15 am. Other catechists teach brief lessons of faith based on the Sunday readings in our Kids Word program. This takes place during the 10:30 am Masses in Church and is for children in grades K-4.

The goal of catechists is to share their faith and the lessons of God and Jesus by creating age-appropriate lessons, teach the traditions of the church, and build community with the families of their students. Catechists are usually not professional teachers, just willing parents and parishioners who enjoy kids and want to help them grow in a personal relationship with God, participate in the sacraments, and develop a mature conscience and integrate faith in all areas of their lives.

Candidates must either be Virtus-certified or willing to take training that educates participants on the signs of child sexual abuse, the methods and means by which offenders commit abuse, how to prevent it, and submit to a background check.

Classes begin today, Sunday, September 8. We are still in need of parents to serve as catechists and Kids Word leaders. Please consider offering your time and talents to help our young people learn about and grow in their faith. If you have any questions, please reach out to Family Minister Jim Potthast at jpotthast@stgertrudechicago.org.

Commonweal Community

Please join fellow parishioners and interested neighbors at the next Commonweal Community gathering next Sunday, September 15 from 3:00-5:30 pm in the Ministry Center. We will discuss several very topical issues that implicate our Church’s role in addressing the common good, and how we, as the laity should respond.

As always, Commonweal Community is a place and time for thoughtful and civil conversation that we hope will be a salve for our souls and inspiration too. Refreshments will also be served.

If you have any questions or suggestions, contact me by phone at 312.305.5499 or via email at ddebelle@gmail.com.

~ Denise DeBelle

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For information about the RCIA process at St. Gertrude or to register for the program, contact me at kchears@stgertrudechicago.org or call the Rectory at 773.764.3621.

~ Kevin Chears, Pastoral Associate
An initiative of Catholic laity of Vicariate II is to unite the faithful in addressing the issue of clergy sexual abuse, through prayer for healing, atonement, and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit within our Church.

Nine evenings of prayer and reflection will be hosted from Saturday, September 21 - Sunday, September 29 by the parishes on the northside and in the northern suburbs. The novenas are meant to give us the opportunity to walk together in the Spirit toward reparation, forgiveness, and healing. Novenas will be held from 7:00-8:00 pm in each location.

- Saturday, September 21 - Our Lady of Ransom (8300 N. Greenwood, Niles)
- Sunday, September 22 - Queen of Angels (2330 W. Sunnyside, Chicago)
- Monday, September 23 - St. Mary in Evanston (1012 Lake St., Evanston)
- Tuesday, September 24 - St. Cornelius (5430 W. Foster, Chicago)
- Wednesday, September 25 - St. Clement (642 W. Deming Pl., Chicago)
- Thursday, September 26 - St. Gertrude (6200 N. Glenwood, Chicago)
- Friday, September 27 - St. Catherine Labouré (3535 Thornwood, Glenview)
- Saturday, September 28 - St. Gregory the Great (5545 N. Paulina, Chicago)
- Sunday, September 29 - St. Mary of the Lake (4200 N. Sheridan, Chicago)

For more info, call the Vicariate II Office at 773.388.8670 or email MBartosic@archchicago.org.

Parish Stewardship Report

“An attentive ear is the joy of the wise.”
~ Sirach 3:29

Or, as my father used to say, “Shut up and listen. Who knows? You might learn something.”

Sunday Collection August 24-25 $5,733.40
Budgeted Collection $7,725.00
Underage (-) $1,991.60

Sunday Collection August 31-Sept. 1 $4,964.80
Budgeted Collection $7,725.00
Underage (-) $2,760.20

Online Collection August 2019 $20,827.50
Budgeted Collection $18,488.00
Overage (+) $2,339.50

~ Art Blumberg,
Director of Parish Management and Facilities

TODAY—Misericordia Family Fest

Misericordia’s 39th annual Family Fest is today, Sunday, September 8 from 11:00 am-6:00 pm! The campus at 6300 N. Ridge will bring families, friends, and neighbors together for a day of celebration with live entertainment, children’s games, kiddie rides, food and drink, and more. Tickets are available online and at the door.

All proceeds support Misericordia’s programs for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

For tickets and more info, call 773.273.2768 or visit misericordia.org.
Our Parish at Prayer for September 9-15

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
7:30 am Living & deceased mothers & fathers of St. Gertrude parishioners

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
7:30 am Theresa Myles ✉

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
7:30 am Jack Newhall ✉

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
7:30 am Communion Service

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
7:30 am Purgatorial Society
8:30 am NCA Mass

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
7:30 am James Donnelly ✉
5:00 pm Ross Vetranu ✉

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
8:00 am Edward Davis ✉
9:30 am Parishioners of St. Gertrude
10:30 am Francis Anthony & Angela Emanuele ✉
10:30 am Carol McRaith ✉ & Billy Tobin ✉
(Gym Mass)

Ministers of the Word for September 14-15

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
5:00 pm Jayne Deiters, Steve Matre

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
8:00 am David Sullivan, Marty McDermott
9:30 am Pat Riley, Barbara Rossi and Leon Ward
10:30 am Steven Monti, Debra Novak
10:30 am TBA (Gym Mass)

St. Scholastica Academy Chicago Reunion

Readings for September 9-15

Monday: Col 1:24 -- 2:3; Ps 62:6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday: Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-11; Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday: Col 3:1-11; Ps 145:2-3, 10-13ab; Lk 6:20-26
Thursday: Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-6; Lk 6:27-38
Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Lk 6:39-42
Saturday: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
Sunday: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19; 1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32

Eucharistic Ministers for September 14-15

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
5:00 pm Mary Cook, Tim Harrington, Kathleen Dawson, Kathy Wall

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
8:00 am Barb DeVarenee, Barb Daly, Peter Morin
9:30 am Pat Riley, Barbara Rossi and Leon Ward
10:30 am Christine Curran, Mary Donlan, Nancy Merrill, Rafael Melendez, Ruth Ott, Chris Lincoln, Patrick Robinson
10:30 am TBA (Gym Mass)

Altar Servers for September 14-15

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
5:00 pm Ethan Vargas, Leila Vargas, Grace Cashman

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
10:30 am George Hanafee, James Casey, Jack Casey

Requests for Hospital Visits
If you or a family member is hospitalized and wants a visit by a Church staff member, please call the Heart to Heart office at 773.973.5464. Then the Heart to Heart staff will notify the Rectory.
PARISH STAFF
Rev. Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor
Rev. Michael Gabriel, Associate Pastor (part-time)
Mary Clare Barker, Minister of Music
Art Blumberg, Director of Parish Management and Facilities
Jane Callahan-Moore, Director of Parish Social Services
Kevin Cears, Pastoral Associate
Laurie Hasbrook, Office Staff
Jim Potthast, Youth and 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, 10:30 am (The Gym Mass resumes on Sunday, September 8.)
9:30 am St. Gertrude East (Sacred Heart School/Sheridan and Granville)
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 - Thursday: 8:30 am to 7:30 pm
Friday: 8:30 am to 4:45 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
Email: heart2heart@stgertrudechicago.org

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. This schedule will change in the summer months. 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
AJ-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
WHY IS IT?

A man wakes up after sleeping under an ADVERTISED blanket and pulls off ADVERTISED pajamas and puts on ADVERTISED clothes with ADVERTISED toothpaste and drinks a cup of ADVERTISED coffee while driving to work in an ADVERTISED car and then . . .

refuses to ADVERTISE believing it doesn’t pay. Later if business is poor he ADVERTISES it for sale. WHY IS IT?

Northside Community Development Corporation has been providing quality housing counseling, education, and resources in Rogers Park for over 60 years.

1530 W. Morse Ave., Chicago, IL
Phone: (773) 262-2290 or visit www.northsidecdc.org/
Se Habla Español