

St. Gertrude

1420 W. Granville Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60660 • Telephone: 773.764.3621

The Baptism of the Lord • January 10, 2010



**WOW Teens come down from the river at Starved Rock State Park
filled with the Holy Spirit and Fire**

From Locusts to Love

Today's feast is about the great coming together of two essential aspects of the spiritual path. John the Baptist teaches the path of dis-association from that which is not love. He offers a baptism of repentance, inviting us to turn away from the little world we too often inhabit, with our pre-occupations with what is petty, nasty, juicy, gross! John's baptism invites us to be washed clean of all that, to put it behind us and discover another, bigger, truer world. That's where we meet Jesus. As we turn from what is not love, Jesus guides us on the Way toward love – agape love, the giving of self toward the beautiful, the generous, the chaste, the reverent, the excellent, the whole enchilada (rather than beans alone). John lives in the desert, eats wild locusts and wears a scratchy ol' hair shirt. These disciplines serve his purpose, erasing our strict identity with the feels-good-to-me-now approach to life. Jesus, on the other side, eats whatever is placed before him, more interested in the bond created by the eating, the healing that comes from communing, the thirst for justice that results from consuming divinity and such becoming! We have been washed in the baptism that John initiated. Now is the time to recommit ourselves to the Way of Holy Spirit and FIRE!

From Father Grassi

One of the gifts that all this cold weather brings (coupled with it getting dark so soon) is the tendency to want to curl up some place warm and just nest. At least that is what happens to me. And when I feel that way, I find myself doing a lot more thinking about things than I do when the weather is nice and I want to be out and about. But I've learned that I've got to watch what I find myself thinking about. Things like parish finances or the tiles that blew off the church roof or other such concerns could drive me crazy if I get all caught up in them. So earlier this week up in my room in the rectory I covered myself in the beautiful afghan that one of the parishioners made for me and read the scriptures for today's Mass. The Gospel got me to thinking about the voice of God at Jesus' baptism. *You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased.* How nice for Jesus to be so affirmed. But as I thought more about it, I found it to be amazing that he's being complimented and he hasn't even started his public ministry yet. God surely must have faith that Jesus will do all that he needs to do. And, we know that God's faith in Jesus is rewarded. So I got to thinking that God must have that same faith in us too. It is a new year and God is confident that we will be doing great things with our lives and with the talents and gifts and blessings that God has given to us. God is already pleased with us anticipating all the good we are capable of doing. Isn't that reassuring to know? And isn't that challenging as well? Jesus did not let God down. How good will we be this year in accepting the challenges that are placed before us? The beauty and the wonder is that no matter how well or how poorly we do, God will never give up on us. God will always expect that the best is still to come from us. So we have to make sure that we challenge ourselves and not become complacent, and when we do falter, not to give up on ourselves.

DJG



Vocation Awareness Week and Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah tells a love story this week, a story of a merciful God who aims to heal the world and chooses to partner with us for such a task. It is quite an honor and a profound reminder that God sees us as blessed, not cursed. God did not define what this servant in Isaiah would be called either. There is no mention of 'priest,' 'rabbi,' 'teacher,' or even 'minister.' What God *did* define is *how* this servant would serve. In this world of forceful leadership, zealous evangelism and war, God's servant was to spread God's message... "not by shouting... nor a bruised reed shall he break."

Even though I work formally as a minister (I am a Chaplain at St. Francis Hospital and Nursing Home), I don't believe one has to have a certain job to be a minister. Ministry is more defined by *how* we do a job/ministry, not what job we do. Even Jesus wasn't technically ordained (he wasn't from a Rabbinic family line), but he knew he was called to serve.

It is difficult to blaze the trails of ministry without a concrete feeling of this anointing. We are called to the great task of remembering the mystery of our baptism every day. On this day, when we celebrate the baptism of the Lord, let us be reminded of and awakened to the words we use in baptism ~ that, by virtue of our baptism, we are *all* called and sent forth to serve the world. Every moment is a reminder of our calling. We remember our calling (both personal and communal) in the midst of the community that shapes, supports and encourages us as servants of the Servant.

Lauren Ivory for *Growing in Faith*



Communion Cup Reminder

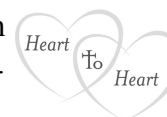
We look forward to resuming use of the Communion Cup next weekend, **January 16/17**. For those who may not want to drink from the cup (due to illness or alcohol intolerance, for example), we remind you that you can still "partake" of the cup by taking it in your hands and saying "Amen" to the sacrifice and surrender that it demands of us. We invite everyone to participate in the full expression of Eucharist.



What's Happening? Take a Look!

Teen Improvisational Theatre Workshop! Tonight (Sunday) from 5-7 pm in the Ministry Center. All 8-12 graders are welcome! RSVP to Lisa Kelly at 252-229-1920 or lisak110@hotmail.com

Recycle Your Christmas Cards ~ Heart to Heart asks that you recycle your Christmas cards with them. The colorful cards are used by the seniors to make book markers and placemats. Recycle and help the seniors and home bound in our community!



The Game's Afoot: Got the winter blues? Come to the ministry center on Sunday Jan. 10th between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm for board games, card games, or any other game you bring along.

Good Books Group: We meet Monday January 11 at 7:30pm in the rectory to discuss a small, charming novel, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. Selections for the rest of the year will be presented for the group's approval. All are welcome. Contact Mary Grover at 773-338-3564.

Poetry Pilgrims: Meet on Monday, January 18 to read poems by John Keats, one of the great English Romantic poets. His brief life was the subject of the recent movie *Bright Star*. All are welcome. Contact Mary Grover at 773-338-3564 for information.

Parish Directory with Pictures: The first photo sessions are on January 21, 22, and 23. These dates are now fully booked with over 125 households responding. We've now put out the signups for the March 23, 24, 25 and April 19, 20, and 21 photo sessions. And remember, there is no fee, and no obligation to purchase. You receive a free copy of the directory, a free 8"x10" print *and* help celebrate our parish community!

Save the Date! Immigrant Justice Benefit Concert ~ on Saturday, February 20, 7pm in the social hall. Musical guests include nationally known artists plus VOICES, with Jim Manzardo and Peter Buttitta. \$10 student and limited income; \$25 general admission. Contact stgertrude1420@sbcglobal.net, 773/764-3621 for details.

Catholics Come Home You've probably noticed the commercials on TV. Please consider using the commercials as an opportunities to invite family, friends, and neighbors to share in our parish, where "All Are Welcome." Invite them to visit us during our parish tours on Sunday, January 31 at 11am and 12:30pm. Tours will start at the back of the church.

Market Day: Don't forget to place your Market day order by January 25! Market Day offers nutritious and delicious menu options for people on the go AND helps raise money for the NCA primary campus! See the flyers at the back of church or call the rectory at 773-764-3621.



Pray and Ponder

The Growing in Faith committee begins a monthly series, *Pray and Ponder*. On Monday, January 25, Sr. Wendy Cotter will present "Paul, I never knew that about you!" in the social hall, in honor of the feast of Paul's conversion. Future programs include "The Bread that We Share: Enough for the Planet" from the Green Team, and "Connections Between Jazz and Sacred Music" with Mary Clare Barker. The gathering begins at 7pm. *All are welcome, and it is free.*



Our Parish at Prayer

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

7:00am Dawn Elizabeth Woodward †

9:00am Sarah and Paola Callini †

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

7:00am Alexandra Eversole

9:00am Tom and Ann Schmitz †

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

7:00am Altar Servers

9:00am Epiphania and Alejandro Eugenio †

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

7:00am *Communion Service ~*

Finance Committee

9:00am *Communion Service ~*

Art and Environment Committee

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

7:00am Spirituality and Liturgy Committee

9:00am Kathleen O'Toole †

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

8:00am Helen M. Schmidt †

5:00pm Henry Pabst †

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

8:00am Agnes Rose Gorlich †

9:30am *St. Gertrude East (Sheridan and Granville) ~*

The Connery Family †

10:00am Alphonse Joya Sr. and Alphonse Joya Jr. †

10:30am The Family of St. Gertrude †

11:30am Tassone-Emanuele-Pitaro Families †

† Indicates Mass is being said in memory of the individual
Rosary: 8:40am Monday - Friday; 8:30am Saturday

Altar Servers

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

5:00pm J.T. O'Toole, Sergio Ott, Maeve O'Brien

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

10:00am Elizabeth Dwyer, Emma Ellis, Eileen Lamble

11:30am Adam and Genevieve Glueckert,

Fiona McNichols

Lectors

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

5:00pm Marian Shaw, Clarisse Croteau Chonka

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

8:00am Sara Millar, Ed Bugler

10:00am Rob Sierzega, Jeff Seitzer

11:30am Susan Lersch, Debra Kite

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7; 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Mk 2:13-17

Sunday: Is 62:1-5; Ps 96; 1 Cor 12:4-11;

Jn 2:1-11

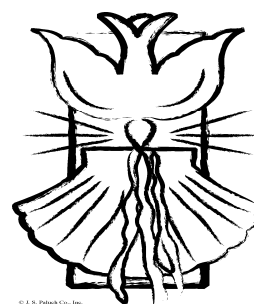
New Parishioners



Hilda Lyons

William Mooney and Leah Dawson

Rachel and Patrick Winter



Eucharistic Ministers

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

5:00pm Mary Cook, Kathy Wall, Pat Norcik,
Mary Jo and Norm Bowers

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

8:00am Mary Wyler, Judy Coswell, Paula Rodriguez,
Ed and Ester Bugler

10:00am Rafael Melendez, Bob Dwyer,
Andrew Dwyer, Rosita Nordgren,
Eileen Quinlan, Val Hastings, Mary Donlan

11:30am Maria Hertl, Lina Peon, Susan Lersch,
Mary Pat Hartung, Bernard Ndiwe

Greeters

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

5:00pm Sr. Terri MacKenzie, Michelle Kuehlhorn

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

8:00am Glenn Sieverson, Barb Daly

10:00am Jeff Clennon, Lee Hubbell, Walter Pophin

11:30am Nancy Bujnowski, Susan Lersch

Financial Highlights

December 2009 Giving

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Online Giving..... | \$15,117.33 |
| Sunday Giving..... | 32,770.76 |
| Loose cash..... | <u>3,894.67</u> |
| Total Giving..... | 51,782.76 |
| Budgeted..... | <u>55,157.04</u> |
| December Deficit..... | - 3,374.28 |

FY 08/09 Year to Date

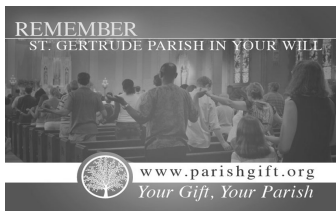
| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Actual..... | \$328,832.08 |
| Budgeted..... | <u>358,520.76</u> |
| Year to Date Deficit..... | - 29,688.68 |

Christmas

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Actual..... | \$47,781.27 |
| Budgeted..... | <u>50,000.00</u> |
| Christmas Deficit..... | - 2,218.73 |

GRalley

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Budgeted..... | \$40,000.00 |
| Actual..... | <u>50,000.00</u> |
| GRalley Surplus..... | + 10,000.00 |



Primary School Campus
Preschool - 5th grade
6216 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago



Middle School Campus
6th - 8th Grade
5525 N. Magnolia Ave., Chicago

call 773.271.4310 or visit www.northsidecatholic.org

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week at NCA

“Catholic Schools - Dividends for Life” is the theme selected for Catholic Schools Week 2010. Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration that focuses attention on the good work done by the nation’s Catholic schools. The week will be observed January 31 through February 6.

According to Karen Ristau, NCEA president, “Catholic schools provide good things for students and families—high expectations and daily experience of faith. In these challenging times, the theme also reminds parents that the dividends of a Catholic school education—students prepared in faith, knowledge, morals and discipline—last a lifetime. There is no better way to invest in a child’s future—or the future of our world.”

NCA’s celebration kicks off with an open house and reception at the Primary Campus on January 31, 10am-1pm. We also host an Open House at the Middle School on February 4 at 8:30am. Please join us in celebrating our community and faith in our children.



ST. GERTRUDE PASTORAL SERVICES

STAFF

Rev. Dominic Grassi, Pastor
Rev. Mike Bradley, Resident
Rev. Bill Kenneally, Pastor Emeritus
Peter Buttitta, Director of Ministries
Ann O’Connor, Faith Formation
Mary Herbin-Horan, Liturgical Music
Mary Ann Collins, Social Services
Marge Butzen, Business Manager
Jayne Deiters, Parish Secretary

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM
9:30 AM Gertrude East (at Sheridan & Rosemont)
10:30 AM Mass in the Gym (except summer months)
MONDAY through FRIDAY: 7:00 AM & 9:00 AM
SATURDAY: 8:00 AM & 5:00 PM (Sunday Vigil)

RECTORY HOURS

Business Hours: Weekdays, 8:30am to 4:30pm
Drop off/pick up: Monday - Friday, 4:30PM to 8PM
Saturday 9AM to 6PM, Sunday, 9AM to 1PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Individual: Saturday from 4:30-4:45 PM and by request
Communal: Consult bulletin for specific times and dates.

BAPTISM

Baptisms take place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. A mandatory parent preparation meeting is held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. All arrangements should be made by calling the rectory.

MARRIAGE

Arrangements begin by setting up an appointment with the pastor or associate. According to diocesan policy, preparations are to begin at least four (4) months prior to the desired date.

LOCATIONS:

RECTORY: 1420 W. Granville Ave. 60660- Phone 773-764-3621

Fax 773-761-4164, E-mail stgertrude1420@sbcglobal.net

<http://www.stgertrudechicago.org>

MINISTRY CENTER: 6214 N. Glenwood Phone 773-973-5464

NEW PARISHIONERS

You are most welcome and are invited to stop in at the rectory to introduce yourself and register. You can also register with one of the Greeters before or after any Mass."

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

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.

COUNSELING AND SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

For information, consultation and referrals for counseling, psychotherapy or spiritual direction, leave a confidential message.

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY - 773-338-4334

John Neafsey

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION - 773-764-8884

Bob Backis, Marilyn Gehant, Jim Manzardo, or Janine Denomme

SUPPORT GROUPS

Al-Anon — Sundays at 7:00 PM in the Ministry Center

Open AA - Gertie’s Group - Tuesdays at 7:30 PM in the Ministry Center

Caris Pregnancy Center - Pregnancy Support, free pregnancy tests, and post-abortion help, ~773-338-8311.

Gamblers Anonymous — Fridays at 7 PM in the Ministry Center.