

St. Gertrude

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

The Epiphany of the Lord • January 2, 2011



Our own Magi: Denise Goodman, Kevin Cheers, Carol Clennon, Sandy Bowen

Joining the Magi

The search for understanding, for meaning, for assurance is constant. We think we have a grasp of what life is about, and then something happens to undermine our surety, to broaden our horizon, to plunge us into a deeper awareness. Like noticing a New Star we hadn't seen before, it can change our sense of what is and what could be. Some folks don't wait around for stars to show up. Rather, they launch out in search of what they suspect lies beyond what is currently in view. Our Magi shown above are such as these. Denise Goodman leads Growing In Faith, a group committed to exploring religious ideas and symbols. Carol Clennon appreciates the value of "neighbor" and has worked to make the GRalley a place of connection. Kevin Cheers heads our parish council, striving to make more people feel welcome here, and Sandy Bowen works to heal the environment and social injustices. Together they keep our collective compass pointed toward the Savior-announcing star. Let's join them in the search! ~PB

From Father Grassi

2011 is here, a new year, a new beginning. After this past year, I am not sure what to expect. On the Feast of the Epiphany which we celebrate this weekend, I pray for insight so I can better understand all that is happening around me and deal with the change that, while inevitable, can sometimes be disconcerting to say the least. I have found that just as my body has grown less flexible over the years, so does the capacity my spirit has to deal with the ebb and the flow of all that is happening around me. I need to be anchored much more firmly than I have been. So I am looking to the designation of 2011 as *The Year of the Table* here at St. Gertrude to be what will ground me. And I offer this possibility to you as well. Our world, our country, our church, our community are more fractured and torn apart than ever before. I hear it from parishioners. I see it in your faces. Please know that I share the same pain that the enveloping darkness surrounds us in. But I believe that the light of that very star that led the Magi to the Holy Family will bring us to the altar that we gather around in this parish and illuminate the presence of Jesus that is in us, the presence we are called to carry to one another and to all our sisters and brothers. Without this hope, we are left with only the darkness that will ultimately prevent us from sharing God's light and love with others. But it is when we consciously choose to gather around the table, setting aside our differences, our anger, our fear, our confusion and see in the light the beauty, the goodness, the friendship that we are blessed to share as a family of faith that we will be able to even more than withstand whatever the coming year brings us. I am confident that we will thrive and become the very light, that very star for others, the one that brings us together around the table. It won't be easy. But it will be worth it. Join with me and with all people of good will who come to the table. What a year 2011 can be!

DJG



When things become clear that were previously hidden, that's an **epiphany – a sudden revelation!** I've been blessed with a few profound spiritual epiphanies that mostly occurred as I've been quiet in morning personal prayer. Once such epiphany is that to have a vibrant faith life, each person needs: 1) personal prayer time; 2) faith sharing in a small group; and 3) large communal celebrations of faith.

Personal prayer helps us develop and nurture a close relationship with God. Large communal celebrations of faith are opportunities to praise God, to learn about Sacred Scripture, and to be encouraged by many others who are on a similar path to holiness.

Faith Sharing Groups are a perfect opportunity to share the thoughts we're having about God in our personal times – and to test whether we're on the right track. While some St. Gertrude parishioners have had 35 years of experience in Faith Sharing Groups, I think our parish is just starting to tap the depths of possibilities.

I'm hoping and praying that our parish has a major expansion of Faith Sharing Groups for Lent – with Ash Wednesday being on March 9. I anticipate that we'll continue the dozen or so group offerings we've had in previous years – and that we'll see many new faces – hopefully yours! In addition, I dream that we'll encourage many additional new groups of 2 or 3 families that live close by to gather in prayer together for the weeks of Lent.

The New Year is a wonderful opportunity to make resolutions for improvement and fine tune the direction of our lives. I hope that each parishioner prayerfully and actively considers trying a parish faith sharing group for Lent. Make time in Lent to give glory to God in this special way this year!

Allen Stryczek for *Growing in Faith*



Spotlight



THE MANY WAYS WE GIVE AND GIVE THANKS

Cookie Ministers

A most gracious thank you to the incredible bakers who baked thousands of cookies for our Heart to Heart seniors! We never cease to be amazed by the generosity and culinary skills of our parishioners. Thanks go out as well to those who helped box the cookies and to our drivers, who delivered the baked goods. The spirit of this Advent season is truly alive in our parish.



Music Ministers

Thank you to every man, woman and child who elevated our Advent and Christmas liturgies by giving the gift of music. Every note and every song added to the beauty and meaning of our joyous gatherings. And...a special thanks to the congregation at all the Masses for chiming in!



Parish Giving Tree

Thank you all to the many parishioners who helped create Christmas for so many by taking an ornament from the giving tree and purchasing a gift(s) for those in need. The outpouring of generosity was overwhelming. The gifts were distributed to Care for Real and to refugee families in Edgewater community, and through the Courage Program, assisting families in need.



Calendar Notes

This Weeks's Activities

Monday, January 3

NCA resumes classes

Friday, January 7

First Friday hospitality after the 9am mass

Saturday, January 8

5pm ~ WOW mass

Wednesday, January 12

7pm ~ NCA School Board Meeting
at St. Gertrude

Save the Date

Wednesday, February 2 ~ GIF

Dr. Wendy Cotter, csj ~

"Jesus in the Catacombs: How the early Christians imagined Jesus."

Wednesday, February 23 ~ GIF

Dr. Andrew Radde-Galwitz ~

"Liturgy and Creed in the Early Church:
How Christians Are Made."

Sunday, January 23

10am ~ Rite of Welcoming for
7th and 8th grade confirmation
candidates.

Sunday, February 6

10am ~ Sacramental Preparation Enrollment
Ceremony for the children who will
receive Reconciliation and First
Communion this year.

Friday and Saturday, March 18 and 19 ~

Parish Play

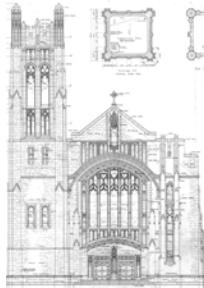
Parish News



*The weather outside is frightful,
but the fire is so ...*

well, not quite so delightful. Poor Father Grassi has been without fire (aka heat) at the rectory for a few days now as the rectory boiler (the original boiler, mind you) sprang some major leaks. By the time you read this all should be well and repairs made, but our bank account will unfortunately still be leaking.

If you would like information on making a contribution to our building fund please contact Marge Butzen, 773-764-3621. All funds donated would go directly to the repair of the boiler – they will not be taxed by the archdiocese but go directly towards keeping our pastor warm and toasty.



Pax Christi Potluck ~ Sunday, January 9, 5pm, in the ministry center, 6214 N Glenwood. Come, learn about Pax Christi and hear stories of parishioners who have been to Haiti since the earthquake one year ago. Soup and bread provided. Bring whatever you'd like to share. RSVP appreciated. Call Jim Manzardo at 773- 743-4632.

New 2011 Parish Calendars ~ are now available. Please see one of the greeters after mass today. Happy New Year!

Catholics Come Home 2010-2011 ~ Evangelization has always been the essential mission of the Catholic Church. In 2009, Cardinal George collaborated with the bishops in the dioceses of Rockford and Joliet on an evangelization initiative using television advertising. This year there will be NEW Catholics Come Home ads shown on TV from mid-December to Mid-January. To find out more, go to www.catholicscomehomechicago.org. If you have comments about Catholics Come Home at St. Gertrude, please contact Allen Stryczek at astryczek@sbcglobal.net (preferred), or by calling him at 773-973-3637.

GLOS (Gay and Lesbian Outreach and Support) ~ will have a *Holiday Pot-luck Brunch* on Sunday January 2, 12:30pm, at Rob Sierzega's condo, 1218 W. Granville, Unit 2.

RSVP: 773-338-0436 or rob@sierzega.net

First Friday Coffee: Please join us for hospitality in the ministry center after the 9am mass on Friday, January 7. For more information, contact Joe Donnelly at 773-728-8622. *All are welcome!*

Good Books: The parish book group is starting the year with *Out Stealing Horses* by Norwegian writer Per Petterson. "This novel has been embraced across the world. Panoramic and gripping, it tells the story of Trond Sander, who has moved from the city to a remote, riverside cabin, only to have all the turbulence, grief, and overwhelming beauty of his youth come back to him one night while he's out on a walk.... The reader is immersed in a decades-deep story of searching and loss, and in the precise, irresistible prose of a newly crowned master of fiction." Meet on Monday January 10 at 7:30pm in the rectory dining room. Questions? Contact Mary Grover at 773-338-3564. Books suggested for the first six months appears below.



January 10, *Out Stealing Horses*, Per Petterson
 February 14, *Never Let Me Go*, Kazuo Ishiguro
 March 14: *Half the Sky*, Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDun
 April 11: *Home*, Marilynne Robinson
 May 9: *After the Plague*, T. C. Boyle
 June 13: *The Case for God*, Karen Armstrong
 July 11: *The Help*, Kathryn Stockett
 August 8: *The Complete Persepolis*, Marjane Satrapi
 September 12: *Let the Great World Spin*, Colum McCann (may meet on 9/19)
 October 10: *Monsignor Quixote*, Graham Greene
 November 14: *The Spirit of Food*, Leslie Leyland Fields
 December 12: *A Gate at the Stairs*, Lorrie Moore

School News and Activities

NCA Spirited Christmas Concert!



NCA Kindergarten Reenacts the Christmas Story



Proud Supporter
of **NCA**



NCA Primary School:
6216 N. Glenwood Ave
Phone: 773-743-6277

NCA Middle School:
5519 N. Magnolia
Phone: 773-271-2008, or

www.northsidecatholic.org

Community News and Activities

Immaculée Ilibagiza Coming to Regina Dominican: Regina Dominican is proud to welcome bestselling author, Immaculée Ilibagiza, to the O'Shaughnessy Theater on January 20. During the 1994 Rwandan genocide, Immaculée Ilibagiza and seven other women spent 91 days huddled together silently in the bathroom of a local pastor's house. During this horrific ordeal, Immaculée lost most of her family, but she survived to share the story and her miraculous transition into forgiveness and a profound relationship with God. "Surviving the Rwandan Genocide: Immaculée's Story of Faith, Hope and Forgiveness," will be at 7pm. In Regina Dominican's O'Shaughnessy Theater at 01 Locust Road in Wilmette. During her time in hiding, Ilibagiza taught herself English with only the Bible and a dictionary. When freed, she was able to secure a job with the United Nations. In 1998, she immigrated to the United States, where she continued her work with the U.N. During this time she shared her story with co-workers and friends, who were so impacted they insisted she write it down in book form. Three days after finishing her manuscript she met best selling author, Dr. Wayne W. Dyer, who, within minutes of meeting her, offered to publish her book. Dyer is quoted as saying, "There is something much more than charisma at work here - Immaculée not only writes and speaks about unconditional love and forgiveness, but she radiates it wherever she goes." The presentation is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Purchase tickets at www.rdhs.org or contact Kerrigan McNulty at 847-256-7660 x224 or at kmcnulty@rdhs.org.

Ladder Up ~ is a non-profit organization offering free income tax preparation for families earning up to \$45,00 and individuals up to \$20,000. Recommended by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, the Ladder Up volunteers are professionals who will assist in preparing your income tax return from January 22 through April 16 at 23 Tax Assistance Program sites. For more information, visit goladderup.org or call 312-409-1555.

Our Parish at Prayer

MONDAY, JANUARY 3

7:00am Aleksas Stanaitis

9:00am Harriette Fitzpatrick †

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

7:00am Jeanne Gawron †

9:00am Kathleen Gillespie †

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

7:00am Thomas Schmitz †

9:00am Martin and Ellen Joyce †

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

7:00am *Communion Service* ~Andrew Haas †9:00am *Communion Service* ~
Irene and Jesse Dalsky †

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

7:00am Antoinette Benedict †

9:00am Patricia D'Elia †

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

8:00am Helen M. Schmidt †

5:00pm Michael Walsh †

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

8:00am Jim Mohiser †

9:30am *St. Gertrude East (Sheridan and Granville)* ~
The Connery Family †

10:00am Shirley Brill †

10:30am The Family of St. Gertrude †

11:30am Bernadine Coletti †

Oswaldo Calvopina †

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

Altar Servers

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

5:00pm Veronica Madell, Caily Nolan,
Katie O'Donaghue

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

10:00am Andrew Dwyer, Sergio Ott, Hannah Rapp

11:30am Ilia Aguirre, Alani Vargas, Kayla Vargas

Lectors

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

5:00pm WOW Team

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

8:00am Ed Futa, Charlotte Kovacs

10:00am Jeff Seitzer, Bob Dwyer

11:30am Debra Kite, Elizabeth Sterling

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25**Tuesday:** Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52**Thursday:** 1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Lk 4:14-22a**Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16**Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30**Sunday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29; Acts 10:34-38;
Mt 3:13-17

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Eucharistic Ministers

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

5:00pm Kathy Wall, Michelle Kuehlhorn,
Helen Banta, Peggy Dawson,
Kathleen Dawson

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

8:00am Charles Shaw, Donald Nyderek,
Hallie Burhoe, Barb Daly, Ann Bushelon,
Mary Stachura, Paula Rodriguez10:00am Karen Gianos, Manry Donlan, Ruth Ott,
Theresa Resch, Eileen Quinlan,
Rose Marie Anichini11:30am Debra Kite, Chris Lincoln, Anthony Long,
Bernard Ndiwe, Mary Pat Hartung,
Claire O'Brien, Molly O'Hara

Greeters

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

5:00pm Eileen Schragar, Cathie Moorhous

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

8:00am Brenda Arreola, Ona Kozar,
Pamela Sherrod Anderson10:00am Jessie North, Maria Vallyely, Mae Lauricella
11:30am Paul Elue, Melinda Banahene

Financial Highlights

November 2010 Giving

Electronic Giving.....\$14,579
 Sunday Envelopes.....34,337
 Loose Cash.....3,385
 Total Giving for October.....\$52,301*

Total Budgeted (5 Sundays)....\$56,260

Deficit.....- \$3,959

YTD Giving.....\$256,427

YTD Budgeted.....\$309,430

YTD Deficit.....- **\$53,003**

**Includes special donations received to help close the deficit.*

Congress recently re-authorized legislation that allows you to make charitable gifts from your IRA accounts during 2010 and 2011 without incurring income tax on the withdrawal. The IRA Rollover provides you with an excellent opportunity to make a gift during your lifetime from an asset that would be subject to multiple levels of taxation if it remained in your taxable estate. If you would like to make a contribution to St. Gertrude, please contact Rich Goode at 312-534-7848.

Milestones




If you have been attending Mass or other activities at St. Gertrude and have been thinking of becoming a member of our parish community, please consider registering. Just ask for the simple, one page registration form from one of the greeters after all the Sunday masses or stop at the rectory, 1420 W. Granville. Remember...membership has its privileges and its graces! Come join us!



New Parishioners

Perfeto Hernandez and Kelly Schofield



May she rest in peace:
Patricia Weimer

ST. GERTRUDE PASTORAL SERVICES

STAFF

Rev. Dominic Grassi, Pastor
 Rev. Michael Bradley, Resident
 Rev. William Kenneally, Pastor Emeritus
 Dr. Peter Buttitta, Director of Ministries
 Ann O'Connor, Faith Formation
 Mary Herbin-Horan, Liturgical Music
 Carol Beatty, St. Gertrude East Music Director
 Mary Ann Collins, Social Services
 Marge Butzen, Business Manager
 Jayne Deiters, Minister of First Impressions

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 - Wednesday, 4:30PM to 8PM
 Saturday 9AM to 6PM, Sunday, 9AM to 1PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Individual: Saturday from 4:15-4:45 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 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. 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 772-761-4164, 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. And, you may 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, SPIRITUAL DIRECTION AND MASSAGE THERAPY

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

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY – 773-338-4334, Dr. John Neafsey

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION – 773-764-8884

Bob Backis, Marilyn Gehant, Jim Manzardo, Terra Solove

MASSAGE THERAPY –

Carol McRaith, 773-259-1268; Terra Solove, 773-358-8020

SUPPORT GROUPS ...

Heart to Heart ~ Senior outreach and service connection - 773-973-5464

AI-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.