

1 2  
9 0  
1 1  
2 2

# St. Gertrude

## "COME & SEE"

1420 W. Granville Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60660 • Telephone: 773-764-3621

Third Sunday of Advent • December 11, 2011



## Keep Searching!

What our Fourth-graders are learning in religion class this season: The story of Christ's birth is a story of promise, hope, and revolutionary love. How did it turn into a trigger for traffic jams, shopping lists, and stress? What if it could be different? The Advent Conspiracy is a movement of thousands of Christians in over 20 countries around the world celebrating Christmas more deeply while blessing others with safe drinking water. The conspiracy is based on four simple ideas:

**Worship Fully:** Christmas is about revealing divine life in human form, i.e. Jesus!

**Spend Less:** Consumerism ≠ meaning or even happiness. Americans spend \$450 billion on Christmas - is there a meaningful way to celebrate while buying fewer gifts?

**Give More:** Christmas is about God's self gift to us, as love. We could do the same, giving our time, our presence, to the people we love and to ...

**Love All:** Christmas is about love without borders or boundaries.

With Advent Conspiracy, people give just a little of the money they would have spent on presents to clean water projects, and the impact is enormous. Hundreds of thousands have received clean drinking water because some have chosen to widen their circle of care. We can view their video [www.water.cc/advent](http://www.water.cc/advent), and give some thought to discovering more this Christmas! ~ PB

## *From Father Grassi*

Clearing off my desk after brief return and before another "layoff"...first of all, thanks to all who worked so hard at, donated to, and attended the Christmas Bazaar from our staff, seniors and our youth and everyone in between...it was a great weekend filled with smiles and the spirit of the season for all to enjoy while helping support our parish ministries...my gratitude to all...when you read this hopefully I will be beginning my recovery from my second surgery and able to return to work soon...thank you for all the prayers, cards, books, meals, the beautiful prayer blanket and other signs of your concern...and most of all for your understanding...speaking of which, my absence from the parish clearly has highlighted the need to adjust our weekday Mass schedule... after consulting the staff and the parish pastoral council, beginning on January 2 we will be combining our weekday 7 and 9am Masses into one Mass at 7:30am on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Thursdays at 7:30am there will be a Communion Service and on Saturdays there will be morning Mass at 7:30 as well...Mass intentions will be taken for only one daily Mass...any days already scheduled with two will have both intentions offered or a new date set if preferred...with Fr. Mike's schedule, my health, the loss of the St. Patrick Fathers being the reality, this decision had to be made...the Centennial Committee is setting up many ways to continue to celebrate our hundred years as a parish... so watch for details in the bulletin about our first Centennial Cabaret night coming up January 21 and many other activities and events... remember to bake those Christmas cookies that Heart to Heart will bring to our shut-ins and to take an ornament from the Parish Giving Tree and bring Christmas to those in need...it's heartening to hear so many of you responding prayerfully with the new words in our liturgy...each week it seems a little more natural... how nice of Norman Bowers to write the Catholic New World recognizing how Fr. Mike's marathon pledges have been so helpful to NCA and others...finally, my gratitude to all the Religious for whom we will take up a second collection this weekend, those from the past who have helped form many of us, those continuing to minister in so many ways, and those who are a vital part of our parish community here at St. Gertrude...thanks to all of them!

DJG



"Gaudete," which is the Latin word for "rejoice," is the Third Sunday in Advent.

### **Gaudete**

Because Christmas is almost here  
 Because dancing fits so well with music  
 Because inside baby clothes are miracles.  
 Gaudete  
 Because some people love you  
 Because of chocolate  
 Because pain does not last forever  
 Because Santa Claus is coming.  
 Gaudete  
 Because of laughter  
 Because there really are angels  
 Because your fingers fit your hands  
 Because forgiveness is yours for the asking  
 Because of children

Because of parents.  
 Gaudete  
 Because the blind see.  
 And the lame walk.  
 Gaudete  
 Because lepers are clean  
 And the deaf hear.  
 Gaudete  
 Because the dead will live again  
 And there is good news for the poor.  
 Gaudete  
 Because of Christmas  
 Because of Jesus  
 You rejoice.

Brad Reynolds, S.J.

(Published in America Magazine, 12/11/06)

From the GIF Bulletin Committee

## Spotlight

# CABARET

Come celebrate our *100 Years*  
with an evening of music and lively conversation !

Saturday, January 21, 2012  
7:30pm to Midnight  
St. Gertrude's Jumpin' Gym!

Music will be provided by local talent —  
our own St. Gertrude parishioners!!

Consider this evening to be something akin to an Irish pub:  
a place where neighbors gather to tell stories, dance a little,  
and enjoy live music.

Beer, wine, and pop will be sold at the concession,  
And bring along an appetizer to share.

All are welcome!

## Calendar Notes

### Wednesday, December 14

7pm ~ Advent Reconciliation Service.

### Sunday, December 18

4pm ~ Quest Theater's *Blue Nativity*

### Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve

5pm ~ Family Mass

10:30pm ~ Mass with carols beginning at 10pm.

### Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day

Regular Mass schedule (no 10:30am Gym Mass).

### Monday, December 26

Rectory Closed.

### Saturday, December 31, New Year's Eve and Sunday, January 1, New Year's Day

Regular Mass schedule (no 10:30am Gym Mass).



## Parish News

**Cookies for the Homebound!** Each year Heart to Heart creates holiday gift packages for our homebound seniors. Key to the success is homemade cookies. If you plan to bake cookies for the holidays, please consider a batch for our elderly for Christmas. Cookies. Bring cookies to the rectory by Thursday, December 15 or call Heart to Heart at 773-973-5465.



**The Giving Tree:** provides Christmas gifts for needy families. Choose an ornament from the basket near the trees in back of church, remove the gift idea and place the ornament on the tree. Purchase the gift and bring it back, unwrapped, and place it under the tree by Sunday, December 18. Help make Christmas special for our neighbors in need.



**The Friendship Club** ~ invites seniors in the parish to a Christmas luncheon on Thursday, December 15 at noon in the Social Hall. The luncheon will be catered by Ann Sather's Restaurant and will cost \$15. The fee must be paid by Tuesday, December 13, payment may be dropped at the rectory, Contact Judy Diaz at 773-334-1507.

**Become a Communion minister?** Please prayerfully consider joining the ranks of those who administer Communion at mass. A training will be held Tuesday, December 13, 7pm, in church. Anyone 16 years of age who has been Confirmed is eligible. Contact Peter Buttitta at 773-764-3621.

**Blue Nativity is coming once again!** Quest Theatre Ensemble's 10th (and final) Christmas celebration featuring visually arresting, large-scale puppetry, soaring music and the greatest story ever told! Admission is free; donations are greatly appreciated. Sunday, December 18, 4pm, in church.

**Broadway Cellars' Give Back Saturday** ~ is Saturday, December 17 at Broadway Cellars, 5900 N. Broadway. They donate 10% of the day's lunch and dinner revenues to St. Gertrude.

**Centennial Year Parish Play:** Never been in the parish play before? Sign up for it every year? Either way, we'd love to have you join our cast and crew for the 2012 parish play, to be performed on March 16 and 17. Rehearsals begin mid-January. We welcome everyone, high school age and older. Please call Carol Clennon by Tuesday, December 27 to sign up or for more information...773-764-1186.

**Retired Men of the Parish** ~ will meet in the Ministry Center on Thursday, December 15 after the 9am Prayer Service. All retired men of our parish community, neighbors and friends are welcome. Contact Jim Corbett at 773-631-9920.

**Market Day:** Order forms may be turned in at the rectory by Sunday, December 11, or go on-line to marketday.com and place your order by 11pm on Wednesday, December 14. Pick up will be on Saturday, December 17 from 9 - 10am in the school cafeteria. Please be prompt.



Dear St. Gertrude community,  
Last weekend's *Christmas Bazaar and Pancake Breakfast* was a great happening for our parish! Over 200 parishioners and NCA parents and kids worked as a team, so that our community could come together to mingle and spread holiday cheer. We were able to find unique gifts and treasures in a festive atmosphere because of the hard work of many. The Bazaar makes a contribution to our parish's "bottom line," but it also builds our community so that we may continue to flourish and grow.

Thank you to the many volunteers who gave of their time, energy and creativity; thank you to the parish staff who went the extra mile to make the Bazaar a success; thank you to all who donated treasures, books and food to be enjoyed by all of us; and thank you to everyone who came to the Bazaar, invited someone new and made our community a place of welcome and friendship. We wish you a blessed and peaceful holiday!

Sincerely,  
The St. Gertrude Christmas Bazaar Team

## Community Activities

**Chicago Homeless Persons' Memorial:** On Wednesday, December 21, the longest night of the year, at 6pm at Old St. Patrick's, the Ignatian Spirituality Project, the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, the Harmony, Hope & Healing choir and Old St. Patrick's Church invite you to a memorial service to remember those who have died on the streets of our city, homeless and alone. In our city, where the abundance of wealth and security is ever present there is in the shadows of the Magnificent Mile another reality: the reality of human beings losing the struggle for their lives. Certain things only the weakest and most vulnerable among us can teach us about life and the incarnation. Let us join together as a community to step outside the mania of Christmas and honor these men and women who have died. Contact Becca Little, IPS, at 312-226-9184 or [ignatianspiritualityproject.org](http://ignatianspiritualityproject.org)

**Loyola's Community Holiday Party:** Thursday, December 15, 5:30 - 7:30pm Mundelein Center Auditorium, 1020 W. Sheridan. Free entry with at least one canned good for donation. The entire Loyola community - students, staff, faculty, alumni, friends, family neighbors, and more - are invited to attend this festive gathering to celebrate the holiday season.

**An Olde English Christmas:** The Chicago Chamber Choir, which makes its home at St. Matthias parish, continues its Christmas Around the World series with *An Olde English Christmas*. This stirring candlelight program will span more than 400 years of English music, including many familiar carols in traditional and contemporary settings. Saturday, December 17, 4:00pm at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1509 Ridge, Evanston; Sunday, December 18, 3:00pm at Unity Lutheran Church, 1212 W. Balmoral Ave, Chicago. Tickets are \$20 for adults at the door, \$18 in advance. \$15 for children, students, and groups of 10 or more. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.ChicagoChamberChoir.org](http://www.ChicagoChamberChoir.org) or by calling 312-409-6890.

## School News and Activities

### NCA Curriculum News

We have many exciting curriculum initiatives at NCA: A few of them are listed below:

**Everyday Math Coaching:** The University of Chicago math coach has been observing in the PS-6<sup>th</sup> grade math classes, meeting with teachers and administrators.

**Inquiry Units for Social Studies PS-8 and Science PS-5** The supervisors for this curricular initiative have been out to observe and meet with teachers in grades K, 3 and 7. We received an exuberantly positive email from Dr. Michelle Lia indicating that they are very impressed with the professionalism of the teachers and their implementation of these units.

**Loyola University Ethics Bowl:** 8<sup>th</sup> grade religion period on Wednesdays has been taught by several Loyola University students who are teaching the 8<sup>th</sup> graders how to develop an argument or case around ethical issues. On Wednesday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> in the morning, our NCA 8<sup>th</sup> graders will go to LUC, Lake Shore Campus, to participate in an Ethics Bowl.

**Literacy Skill Development:** With a new vision statement which will help guide all instructional decisions about language arts curriculum we continue to do the tracking of early literacy skill development in grades K-5 (DIBELS). We added a computer based program that tracks the development of basic math skills. Both of these tracking systems have been developed by the University of Oregon and as users, we are adding data to their research. These help identify, early on, any skill development issues and interventions before a skill gap grows.

**LUC After-School Math Program:** an optional after school class where students are grouped according to ability and are challenged or skill remediation is provided by LUC students.

*And, these are just a few of the wonderful things happening at 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](http://www.northsidecatholic.org)



### Our Parish at Prayer

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

7:00am Emmett McKee †  
9:00am Frederic Donnelly Jr. †

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

7:00am Grace Plunkett †  
9:00am Dr. Rose Greco †

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

7:00am Helen M. Schmidt †  
9:00am *NCA Children's Mass* ~ Nancy Donnelly †  
7:00pm Advent Reconciliation Service

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:00am Communion Service ~ Mary Francis Burke †  
9:00am Communion Service ~ The Connery Family †

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

7:00am Ethan Seitzer †  
9:00am Carroll Farrell †

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

8:00am Kevin Black †  
5:00pm The Strubbe-Galoney Family †

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:00am Lillian and Michael Nyderek †  
9:30am Maureen Sweeney Cain †  
10:00am Joseph and Isabelle Laczkowski †  
10:30am The Family of St. Gertrude †  
11:30am Azarias Padilla †

† Indicates person mentioned is deceased.

Rosary: 8:40am Monday - Friday; 8:30am Saturday

### Lectors

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

5:00pm Michelle Kuehlhorn, Clarisse Croteau-Chonka

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:00am Kathy Osberger, Jay Cook  
10:00am Rob Sierzega, Rafael Melendez  
11:30am Jayne Deiters, Elizabeth Hartman

### Altar Servers

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

5:00pm Sofia Martin, Anna Perona,  
Mary Lynn Sikorski

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

10:00am Maeve Hastings, Tim Plomin, Maggie Plomin  
11:30am Taylor Hartung, Angela Ndiwe,  
Dominic Ndiwe

### Readings for the Week

#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of The Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712  
**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32  
**Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23  
**Thursday:** Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30  
**Friday:** Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Jn 5:33-36  
**Saturday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17  
**Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38



### Eucharistic Ministers

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 107

5:00pm Mary Cook, Michelle Kuehlhorn, Pat Norcik,  
Charlotte and John Sullivan

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:00am Mary Stachura, Chris Phillips, Roman Reyes,  
Hallie Burhoe, Chuk Lewis, Ann Bushelon,  
Donald Nyderek  
10:00am Justine Aten, Bob Backis, Laurie Hasbrook,  
Val Hastings, Kevin Kaufman, Jackie Carlton,  
RobSierzega  
11:30am Lisa Kelly, Karen Griebel, Elizabeth Hartman,  
Chris Lincoln, Anthony Long, Maria Hertl,  
Mary Ellen Thomas, Troy McMillan

### Greeters

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

5:00pm Sr. Terri MacKenzie, Michelle Kuehlhorn

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:00am Glenn Sieverson, Barb Daly  
10:00am Jeff Clennon, Lee Hubbell, Walter Pophin  
11:30am Nancy Bujnowski

## Financial Highlights

### Sunday Giving for November 2011

Budgeted	\$56,260
Actual	<u>\$55,387</u>
Difference (Deficit)	- \$873

### Sunday Giving Year to Date

Budgeted	\$313,180
Actual	<u>\$266,964</u>
Difference (deficit)	- \$46,216

As you look over the past year's giving and realize that you perhaps missed a month, now is the time to make a donation and still be able to use it as a deduction on your 2011 tax return. For more information, contact Marge at the rectory 773-764-3621.

**Living Stewardship Now!** Advent is a season of patient waiting. Make an effort to cultivate patience. Pray for patience with family, especially small children, with people who are hard to take, with the petty annoyances of everyday life.

## Milestones



### New Parishioners

Remy, Juanita and Dorothy Gusmanos

If you have been attending Mass and 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, at the rectory, or online at the parish website: [stgertrudechicago.org](http://stgertrudechicago.org).

*Remember...membership has its privileges...and its graces!*

*Please come join us!*



*May he rest in peace...*

Roger Murray

## 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: 8:00am, 10:00am, 11:30am  
 9:30am Gertrude East (at Sheridan and Rosemont)  
 10:30am Mass in the Gym (except summer months)  
 Monday through Friday: 7:00am and 9:00am  
 Saturday: 8:00am and 5:00pm (Sunday Vigil)

### RECTORY HOURS

Business Hours: Weekdays, 8:30am to 4:30pm  
 Drop off/pick up: Monday - Wednesday, 4:30pm to 8:00pm  
 Saturday 9:00am to 6:00pm, Sunday, 9:00am to 1:00pm

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Individual: Saturday from 4:15-4:45pm and by request.

### 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 7:00pm.  
 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 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](mailto:stgertrude1420@sbcglobal.net)  
<http://www.stgertrudechicago.org>  
 Ministry Center: 6214 N. Glenwood Ave., 60660; Phone 773-973-5464.  
 Social Hall: 1401 W. Granville, 60660.

### NEW PARISHIONERS

You are most welcome and are invited to stop in at the rectory to introduce yourself and register. 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

Al-Anon: Sundays at 7:00pm in the Ministry Center  
 Open AA: Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the Ministry Center, and  
 Thursdays at 7:00pm in the school cafeteria.

Caris Pregnancy Center, pregnancy support, free pregnancy tests, and post-abortion help: 312-229-5700.

Gamblers Anonymous: Fridays at 7:00pm in the Ministry Center.