



Lent 2022: Harden Not Your Hearts

St. Gertrude Chicago
E-Bulletin for the Second Sunday of Lent
March 13, 2022

Click here to read the print bulletin distributed in Church

St. Gertrude Mass times are:

- Monday-Saturday: 7:30 am
- Saturdays at 5:00 pm
- Sundays at 8:00 am, 10:30 am in Church, and 10:30 am in the Gym
(The 10:30 am Mass in church is live-streamed on [our parish Facebook page.](#))

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From Fr. Rich

Pray for Ukraine

Recently, while speaking with another pastor about the horrible situation in Ukraine, he expressed the hope that all people would pray for the conversion of President Putin, that he might reverse his course and end the violence against the people of Ukraine. In whatever form our prayers take, let us continue to ask for God's help to end this war.

If you would like to donate to the care of the Ukrainian people, please consider making a contribution to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for emergency aid to the people in Ukraine:

<https://support.crs.org/donate/donate-ukraine>.

The Second Sunday of Lent

As we continue our Lenten journey, today we join with the disciples on the mountain top, witnessing to the transfigured Lord and the appearance of Moses and Elijah. This miraculous change is a living reminder of who we are and how we are called to be our best selves.

One of the areas in which we need to be careful not to harden our hearts is in the confrontation with violence and evil in our world and in our own lives. Our knee-jerk response to personal and structural violence and injustice is usually to respond in kind. Never a good solution! Returning violence for violence only ever leads to more violence. As Christians, our challenge is to follow Jesus, to “turn the other cheek” and resist the temptation to more violence.

Here in our own nation, one of the most egregious and repetitive examples of violence is towards people of color. In a frighteningly regular pattern, people of color are shot, wounded, and killed simply because they were people of color. We have all seen the news reports of innocent African-Americans being attacked by civilians, and even police, for no reason. Confronted by the racist injustice of these patterns of violence, we have to discern how we respond to stop this violence and to treat all people, regardless of their race or skin color, as brothers and sisters of Our Lord.

The first step in confronting this injustice brought about by racism is to open our own hearts and minds and souls to the Lord and ask for clarity of vision and purity of hearts to see every human being as our equal, respecting that creative diversity as a gift from God. No life is of lesser value because of race or color or place of birth or any of the millions of distinguishing markers that make up the full breadth of humankind. Always treating others as we wish to be treated is a perfect starting point! It is the proper response to the question, “How can I be my best self?”

Jesus calls us all to the mountain top. Let us remember that all God’s children are also our sisters and brothers. And when they are being mistreated or are mistreating others, we can begin with prayers for changed hearts, and careful treatment as we wish to be treated.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) top priority is to encourage parishioners to consider becoming members of the PPC in the next few weeks, in time for our next scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 28 at 7:00 pm. We would like to see members more reflective of the diversity in the parish, including NCA school parents, some youth group parents, some of our new members from St. Ignatius, and parishioners who may not have been active, but would like to be more involved.



Why I am a Member of the Parish Pastoral Council *by Denise Goodman*

I can honestly say that the St. Gertrude community is like a family, and I have formed deep and lasting friendships here. And like all families, I think it's important to listen to each other, to be present for each other, and to stay connected even when we (inevitably) don't agree about everything. As a member of the PPC I have become more knowledgeable about the different ministries, opportunities, and challenges of the parish. As members it's our responsibility to maintain a generous and loving vision of what we can be, and as parishioners and pastor to make that happen. I am so grateful to the other members of the PPC, who are caring, loving, and faith-filled people.



Catholic Sisters Week

Fifty-two weeks a year, women religious stand with the poor and immigrants, teach children, fight injustice, heal the sick, share spirituality, empower women, defend the planet, promote peace, create community, offer hope. But for one week, March 8-14, Catholics around the country honor women religious, recognize their good work, and invite all who follow Jesus to:

- expand and support their gospel witness
- grow the service networks they have seeded
- share their spirituality, charisms, and community
- encourage young women to consider a vocation to religious life
- support their pastoral, teaching and prophetic works

Why not take this opportunity this week to thank one or more sisters who have benefited your life and your faith.

The theme for Catholic Sisters Week this year is "Caring for Earth, Caring for You," incorporating an environmental focus or aspects of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si' on Care for Our Common Home."



Interfaith Climate Summit - This Sunday, March 13

This Sunday, March 13 at 3:00 pm, Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church will host an Interfaith Climate Summit, bringing together representatives from six different faith communities to talk about issues related to climate change. Given the seriousness of the challenges posed by climate change and the need for both unique and wide-ranging solutions, the faith-based discussion includes a wide spectrum of faith perspectives, with speakers from the Baha'i, Buddhist, Sikh, Protestant, Jewish, and Catholic faith traditions.

The free event will be held at [Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church](#), 600 W. Fullerton Pkwy, and also will be live-streamed on the church's [YouTube channel](#). Visit lppchurch.org for more details.

Care for Our Common Home: Did you know ...?

Pope Francis is not the first Catholic leader to emphasize care for the planet. In fact, every pope for the past half-century — except John Paul I, who died after just one month in office — has addressed environmental issues in his official publications. So next time you pick up a piece of trash

or recycle a plastic bottle, remember you are in good company when you Care for our Common Home! Learn more [here](#).

[Click here for a flyer](#)



Growing in Faith

The Transfiguration and Two Graces: Listening, and Seeing!

"In the prayer at the beginning of the Mass, we asked the Lord for two graces: "To listen to Your beloved Son", so that our faith might be nourished by the Word of God, and another grace — "to purify the eyes of our spirit, so that we might one day enjoy the vision of glory". To listen, the grace to listen, and the grace to purify our eyes. This is directly related to the Gospel we heard..." ~ [excerpt of Pope Francis' homily on the Transfiguration, March 16, 2014](#)

For me, the story of Jesus' transfiguration, tells the truth about what happens when we do go with Jesus, away for quiet prayer, especially when there is an issue of suffering, as Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him right after he had told them the hard news of his coming Passion. What

seems, then gives way to what is, as surely as the person of Jesus became transformed and shining, divinely beautiful, while God told the apostles, "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him."

As Pope Francis says it, the graces of prayer change our hearing and our sight, so that what we bring to prayer, takes on a new light, coming from the Lord himself and his silent message of love and support, his inspiration, and kind call for outreach.

~ Sister Wendy Cotter, CSJ, Ph.D



Lenten Faith Activities Planned

All are invited to participate in some Lenten devotions.

Almoners Program: These groups will meet on Mondays during Lent at 9:00 am and/or at 6:30 pm in the church for a brief prayer. Participants will then go out to be more compassionate to the less fortunate by giving alms of \$10 McDonald cards. If you are not able to join us on Mondays, we will have McDonald's cards available in the back of church for you to take and distribute to the needy.

There will be a second collection to support the purchase of the McDonald's cards used by the Almoners program beginning February 26 and 27 and then each weekend during Lent.

Stations of the Cross: Every Friday during Lent, we will take time from our busy schedules and reflect on the suffering journey of Christ and others in the world.

On Friday afternoons at 3:00 pm, we will offer the traditional Way of the Cross and at 6:30 pm we will also have Stations of the Cross - joining Jesus' journey, recognizing the present struggles and crosses that challenge our modern world.

Anti-Racism Discussion Groups: Small prayer and discussion groups will be meeting in the morning and evenings using the book *The Spiritual Works of Racial Justice*, by Patrick Saint-Jean, S.J. These groups will offer us the opportunity to see that by taking on an anti-racist position we become all that God calls us to be. Books are available for \$15 after Mass this weekend. A sign-up sheet is available in the back of church.

Please email Father Mike at mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org or Maria Garcia at the Rectory office at stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org if you would like to sign up or need more information.

Little Black Books of Lenten Reflections and parish prayer cards are available in Church.



Confirmation Class of 2022

Congratulations to the young adults of our parish who made their Confirmation on Saturday, March 5! We are so proud of these teens, who have worked towards receiving this sacrament for two years!



Reconciliation for First Communion Candidates - Monday, March 14

Please keep the young students of our parish in their prayers as they prepare for their First Reconciliation on Monday, March 14 at 6:30 pm in church.

Contact Eloy Escamilla, our Pastoral Associate for Religious Education and Youth Ministry, at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org if you have questions.

heart 
to heart

Heart to Heart Update

January Lending Closet Report: A resident of Uptown started the new year with a sturdy wheelchair from the Lending Closet, enabling her to continue chemotherapy treatment at Northwestern Hospital after her wheelchair broke down. Grateful for the assistance, she donated boxes of incontinence supplies to the Lending Closet. Like many of our recipients, she was intent on contributing what she could to help others. This is a frequent occurrence at the Lending Closet -- individuals or families assisted by the Lending Closet often contact us again, eager to donate what they can to keep the circle of giving strong!

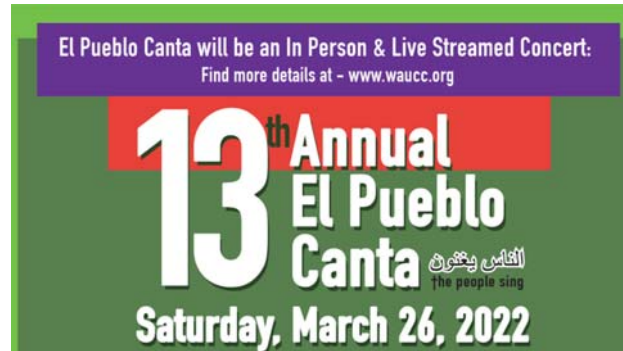
In the first month of the year, we fielded information, request and donation calls from over 16 zip codes. An occupational therapist, physical therapist, and social worker respectively, who see homebound patients throughout Chicago, made repeat visits to the Lending Closet, thrilled to discover a local resource that doesn't require lots of paperwork. They have spread the word to colleagues that the Lending Closet is ready to help provide durable medical equipment to patients in need. ~ *Laurie Hasbrook*

Other Activities: Heart to Heart staff continued the effort to get all of our volunteers VIRTUS-trained and compliant before the end of March. (The VIRTUS training program, created and monitored by the Archdiocese of Chicago, focuses on teaching staff and Volunteers how to protect vulnerable adults from all forms of abuse.)

Additionally, staff has begun preparations to develop an Emergency Action Plan for our Parish which will detail how to respond to various situations such as medical and mental health emergencies, etc., which occur during our Masses or on-campus meetings.

As other exciting programming is also being finalized, please offer up your prayers that God's grace will flow over our efforts during this and next month. Thank you so much for your continuing support of this vital ministry!

~ Jane Callahan-Moore



St. Gertrude Refugee Ministry to Sponsor El Pueblo Canta Concert on March 26

The Refugee Ministry will again sponsor El Pueblo Canta. This is an immigrant justice benefit concert on March 26 at North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Ave, with both in person and live-stream options. Performers include El Wadi Ensemble, Wanda Pabellon-Garcia, Dare 2 dream Centro Romero Youth Choir, VOICES, LeRob K. Rafael, the Wellington Community Choir, and more. Doors open at 5:30 pm, with the concert and live-stream held from 7:00-8:30 pm. Traditional Latino and Middle Eastern food will be available for purchase.

In-person attendance is limited to 100 people, but an unlimited number can

watch the live-stream. Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$15 for students and those on a limited income. Children under 12 are free.

Even if you cannot attend, you can make a donation.

Visit <http://waucc.org/2022-el-pueblo-canta/> to purchase tickets, be a sponsor, or donate. All proceeds support the immigrant justice work of Centro Romero, CRLN, and Wellington UCC.

El Pueblo Canto Concert Tickets



Why is the RCIA Dismissed?

After the homily, those participating in the RCIA, their sponsors, and members of the RCIA team are dismissed from mass to engage in reflective discussions that are meant to deepen the knowledge of God through connecting the scripture readings, the homily, and our lived experiences.

The RCIA has been gathering since September to learn about the faith and our sacred traditions in preparation for the sacraments of initiation that will take place at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday night.

Please keep the RCIA group your prayers.



Rest in Peace

- Catherine Egloff



New Parishioners

- Tom Suchy

Readings and Music for This Weekend



- [Links to readings for Sunday, March 13](#)
 - [Lyrics and Copyright Info for Sunday, March 13](#)
 - Music planned:
 - Prelude: *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*, piano solo (10:30 am)
 - Entrance: *Seek the Lord*, #661
 - Penitential Rite: *Lord Have Mercy*
 - Psalm 95: *If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.*
 - Gospel Acclamation: *Glory to you Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - Offertory: *I Have Loved You*, #616
 - Mass Parts: *Deutsche Messe* by Franz Schubert
 - Lamb of God: Chant
 - Communion: *Christ Be Our Light*, #598
 - Meditation: *Precious Lord*-piano solo at 5 and 8; Duo for Violin and Clarinet at 10:30
 - Recessional: *Lead Me Lord*, #739
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Cantors, Musicians, Eucharistic Ministers, and Lectors Scheduled for This Weekend

Our Ministers of the Word are:

- Saturday, March 12 at 5:00 pm - Jen Keidaisch
- Sunday, March 13 at 8:00 am - Jacalyn Meier
- Sunday, March 13 at 10:30 am Mass in church - Victoria Healy
- Sunday, March 13 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Our Eucharistic ministers are:

- Saturday, March 12 at 5:00 pm - Kathy Wall
- Sunday, March 13 at 8:00 am - Barb Daly
- Sunday, March 13 at 10:30 am Mass in church - Carlos Barragan, Patrick Robinson, Rafael Melendez
- Sunday, March 13 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Our cantors are:

- Saturday, March 12 at 5:00 pm - Amir Ghazaleh
- Sunday, March 13 at 8:00 am - Cindy Lawson

- Sunday, March 13 at 10:30 am Mass in church - Matt Heimer plus small vocal choir: Kate Hibbs Davis-soprano, Beth Nelson-alto- Joe Pindelski-tenor, Fran Guenette-bass; Instruments, Denise Goodman, clarinet, Jim Szmurlo, violin
- Sunday, March 13 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA



Ways to Help Our Parish: Amazon Smile, Text to Give, GiveCentral, PayPal, and Amazon Smile

Visit smile.amazon.com and select St. Gertrude Parish as your charity of choice. From then on, connect to Amazon through smile.amazon.com and St. Gertrude will automatically benefit as your charity of choice.

We have set up a "Text to Give" option through GiveCentral. Parishioners are welcome to text the word **Donate** to 1.773.741.9505 to make a donation via phone.

To access our PayPal link, please visit [our parish website](#) and donate from there. [GiveCentral](#) offers parishioners the option of one-time gifts or weekly contributions.

For more information on text to give or to sign up for online giving, please email esoto@stgertrudechicago.org.

[Click here to go to GiveCentral](#)

[Click here for PayPal \(via our website\)](#)



Daily Scripture Readings

Click [HERE](#) for the daily readings for Masses. Here is the list of readings for this for parishioners that prefer to look them up:

Monday, March 14: Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday, March 15: Is 1:10, 16-20/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday, March 16: Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28

Thursday, March 17: Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31

Friday, March 18: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday, March 19: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Sunday, March 20: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9 (30)
or, for Year A, Ex 17:3-7/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42



Mass Intentions

Next week's intentions are:

Monday, March 14: 7:30 am - Kathleen Naughton +

Tuesday, March 15: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society

Wednesday, March 16: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners

Thursday, March 17: 7:30 am - Communion Service

Friday, March 18: 7:30 am - Cheryl Veccie +

Saturday, March 19: 7:30 am - Alfredo Narea +; 5:00 pm - John and Lillian McCall +

Sunday, March 20: 8:00 am - Jack B. Williams II +; 10:30 am in Church - Peggy Sue Riordan +; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Parishioners of St. Gertrude

(+ indicates the person is deceased)



Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends

- Pamela Sherrod Anderson
 - Helen Banta
 - Jean Bautista
 - Zara Bradley
 - Sharon Brown
 - Connie Bueck
 - Lilly Buie
 - Maggie Callaway
 - Aida Calvopina
 - Connie Cool
 - Caloy Desembrana
 - Ann Collins Dole
 - Christine Frisoni
 - Shirley Marie Gonzales
 - Gina Heidkamp
 - Maria Hertl
 - Daniel Hidalgo
 - Patricia Irwin
 - Bernice Kiedysz
 - Dean Mattoni
 - Larry McCauley
 - Molly Morris
 - Karey Myers
 - Tina Piemonte
 - Charley Scantlebury
 - Richard Seitz
 - Peggy Stoffel
 - The Sullivan family
 - Elinora E. Tolentino
 - Manuel & Norma Viray
 - Valerie Williams
 - Ken & Vyes Yoza
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