

St. Gertrude

ALL ARE WELCOME

1420 W. Granville Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60660

www.stgertrudechicago.org • 773.764.3621

Fourth Sunday of Lent • March 31, 2019

The Prodigal Son

**We all know one, been
one, or are waiting for one
to come home.**



From Father Rich

In today's wonderful Gospel passage of the story of the Prodigal Son, there is a dynamic that most of us struggle to get to in many of our relationships as a result of the brokenness, we have experienced in those relationships.

It is captured in the middle of the story when the younger son, having gone through his inheritance with riotous living, finally reduced to poverty, wishing he could eat some of the food he was feeding the pigs, at last comes to his senses (or, if you prefer the terminology of the 12-step recovery program, he finally, "hits rock bottom.")



Formulating exactly the words he will use to beg some forgiveness from his father—for he now knows he is undeserving of any forgiveness and so is seeking only to be treated as one of the hired hands, nowhere near the prestige of a son—he sets off for home.

The story tells us that the father spotted him a long way off. In other words, he was sitting on the porch, looking down the road, in hopeful anticipation of his son's return. How many days has this been the father's position? When he spots his son, he leaps up from where he was, and runs down the path, overjoyed that his son is indeed home! And the son begins his recited script, begging for forgiveness. To which the father pays no attention whatsoever! Instead, he is all about getting him dressed up and shouting instructions to get the preparations underway for the party!

What's missing? I think for most of us, as overwhelmingly grateful and moved as we are to hear this story, we know that in our own lives our reconciliations too often have a lingering sense of withholding. We forgive, but...we find we can't let go of the hurt, even though we want the breach healed. We forgive, but we discover we are still holding on to the pain, the resentment, the bitterness of the betrayal, the offense.

How can we move beyond that? The answer is, not easily. Every now and again we might be able to forgive and leave it all behind. But too often that doesn't happen. Perhaps we have to start with the awareness we are not God. We hold on to our hurts for longer than we know is healthy for us. So first of all, we have to give ourselves permission to be human. The second step is to call to mind that God has forgiven us for whatever our offenses in the past have been. And if we truly feel this in our hearts and souls, can we not try to stir that into letting go of the pain and suffering from whatever we are struggling with? Finally, we may need to replace our thought processes with something more positive. One of the most effective tools is to switch from focusing on the pain and suffering to focusing on all we have to be grateful for. Eventually, we might even be able to move far more quickly to the actual celebration of joy which accompanies all reconciliations. What a great work for this week of Lent!

Congratulations to Therese Schreiner, her talented cast, crew, musicians, and all the volunteers who produced *Just a Dream Away* last weekend. What a great theatrical evening!

~ Father Rich

Growing in Faith: Hope & Rejoice

Some things just go together so profoundly that it is almost impossible to separate them like...spaghetti and meatballs, Laurel and Hardy, Ernie Banks and the Cubs. As we near the halfway point in our Lenten journey, we may be tiring. The clarion call "Remember, you are dust, and unto dust you shall return!" has faded even more than the ashes that were crushed onto our foreheads. We need to pause and catch our breath, refocus and move forward.

We are given "Laetare" Sunday and the command to rejoice in the prayers and the readings of this weekend's liturgy. Why rejoice? This is Lent, after all, isn't it? We cannot rejoice without hope and without hope we will give up. It's as simple as that. God's chosen people rejoiced when they finally ate from the bounty of the Promised Land. The father and his sons rejoice at becoming a family again. None of this could happen without remaining or rediscovering hope in their hearts.

These are hard times to be hopeful. Violence in our community and city, chaos in every level of government, religious leaders that have lost our confidence, uncertainty about the future in so many ways.

These and so much more are precisely the reasons for Lent and for us to heed St. Paul. Rejoice! We are called to be ambassadors of a new creation. Through us, the old failed ways will and must pass. When we reconcile ourselves personally with God on our Lenten journey, we will bring others from despair to rejoicing as we work together, as we work for Resurrection.

~ Father Dom Grassi
for *Growing in Faith*



Parish Calendar

Sunday, March 31

- No Religious Ed classes today
- 8:00 am ~ R.C.I.A. - Second Scrutiny of the Elect
- 6:00-7:00 pm ~ Living Stations practice in Church

Monday, April 1

- 7:00 pm ~ Baptismal prep class in the Rectory

Wednesday, April 3

- 6:00 pm ~ Simple Supper in the Social Hall
- 7:00 pm ~ Refugee Committee meeting in the Ministry Center

Friday, April 5

- 3:00 pm ~ Stations of the Cross in Church

Saturday, April 6

- 5:00 ~ R.C.I.A. - Third Scrutiny of the Elect

Sunday, April 7

- 8:30 am ~ Religious Ed classes resume
- 10:00 am ~ Family Mass hosted by second graders in the parish and Religious Ed program

Sunday, April 7 (continued)

- Postcard writing event hosted by the Refugee Committee in the Ministry Center after the 10:00 am, 10:30 am, and 11:30 am Masses
- 3:00 pm ~ Lenten Reconciliation Service in Church
- 3:00-5:30 pm ~ Commonweal Conversation in the Ministry Center
- 6:00-7:00 pm ~ Living Stations practice in Church

Friday, April 12

- 3:00 pm ~ Stations of the Cross in Church

Saturday, April 13

- 5:00 pm ~ Palm Sunday Vigil

Sunday, April 14 *Palm Sunday*

- 8:00 am ~ Mass in Church
- 10:30 am ~ Combined Mass (in lieu of the 9:30 am (St. Gertrude East), 10:00 am, 10:30 am (Gym), and 11:30 am Masses)

Lent 2019: Our Invitation to a Second Chance Week IV

Today's Gospel story of the son asking his father for his share of the inheritance is one of the most beloved stories in the entire Bible. We often call this the story of the Prodigal Son. And that is a fitting title because prodigal means spending lavishly, even to the point of being wasteful. Which is exactly how this son spent the inheritance once his father gave it to him. But it would be equally appropriate to call it the story of the Prodigal Father, for the father is beyond lavish in the mercy and forgiveness he showers upon both of his sons.

It is hard to imagine more disrespectful ways for a child to speak to a parent than the exchanges both sons have in this story. The younger son basically tells his father he just can't wait anymore for him to die. He is impatient to get on with his life and needs the inheritance now. And the older son is so enraged with the situation he finds upon his return from working in the fields and his father's generosity in welcoming back the younger son, he forces his father to come out of his own house to try to get his son to take part in the welcome home celebration. This older son has been obedient, in one sense, but beneath the thin veneer is a fury of ingratitude for what he already has.

In today's epistle reading from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he explains that God has reconciled the world through his son, Jesus Christ. We are now entrusted with that mission of reconciliation.

Reconciliation doesn't mean we go back to the way things were. If everything had been fine, there wouldn't be a need for reconciling. Reconciliation is all about restoring a relationship in order to forge ahead in a new and healthier and more complete way. We are changed and because we are changed, so also will be all those with whom we are in a relationship.

This is a normal, human urge. It is like when we have stumbled upon a beautiful work of art, heard a gorgeous piece of music, been shocked at the beauty of a sunset, and so on. There are two simultaneous feelings within us in those moments -- we are filled with awe and gratitude at being visited with such beauty and wonder, AND we want to share this gift with others.

Isn't that the very heart of the story of the Prodigal Son? The father is so delighted to have his son back he immediately orders a party to share his joy with others.

Perhaps during this fourth week of Lent, each of us might consider what moments in our own life have led us to want to share with others such goodness. And also, when have I truly felt reconciled and when have I reached out to others in the hopes of reconciling? Lent is our invitation to a second chance. God always gives us a second chance. Are we giving a second chance to others.....and to ourselves? Share the good news!

Lenten Reconciliation Service

Next Sunday, April 7 at 3:00 pm in Church, please join in our Lenten Reconciliation Service, celebrating the forgiveness of our sins which was gained for us through the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

This service lasts less than an hour and offers us time for reflection and quiet prayer. It also includes absolution of our sins in preparation for the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter.

~ *Father Rich*



Almoner's Program

This Lenten season, we have continued the Almoner's Program to help us connect with those we come across in our daily life that are struggling. Each Sunday during Lent, we have a second collection, and take that money and purchase McDonald's gift cards with \$5.00 pre-loaded on the card. After Sunday Masses, parishioners are invited to take as many pre-loaded gift cards as they think they will likely use during the week to give to people they encounter on the bus or el, or at certain intersections, or anywhere and take the time to have a short, kind exchange with the recipient.

If you've taken part in this program, I'd love to

know how it went. If you have any stories to share, or any thoughts about this program, please email me at kchears@stgertrudechicago.org.

~ Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate

Almoner's Program

Cards distributed last weekend:	238
Funds collected March 24-25:	1,059.63
Total cards distributed during Lent:	477
Total funds collected:	\$3,290.60

Thank you for your generosity!

R.C.I.A.

The R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) group has been gathering since September to learn about the Catholic faith and our sacred traditions. At the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 20, this class of six will become members of the Catholic Christian community or Received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church.

We'll continue to share their stories in the bulletin as Easter approaches. Please keep all of our Elect and Candidates in your prayer during these weeks of Lent.

Hello, my name is Vu Truong. I am 39 years old and this is my daughter, Lauren, and fiancée, Mimi. Lauren is currently 14 years old and is a freshman attending Northside College Prep. She and I have enrolled in this year's R.C.I.A. program to be baptized into the Catholic church.

We decided to convert to Catholicism after seeing how much Mimi has improved her life since converting through the same RCIA program two years ago. Lauren and I both have had no religious background in our upbringings, but ever since we've been attending Mass at St. Gertrude's for the past two years, we've truly been inspired to join the community and convert to Catholicism along with Mimi.

We chose St. Gertrude parish to walk us through our spiritual journey because of its kind and welcoming community.

*Pictured:
Vu, Mimi,
and Lauren.*



TODAY—Second Scrutiny of the Elect: At the 8:00 am Mass today, the R.C.I.A. will celebrate the Second Scrutiny as they continue their journey to the Easter Sacraments.

The Scrutinies are a three-week process of prayer and self-examination for the Elect as they uncover and heal whatever is sinful in their hearts and strengthen all that is upright and good. Today's prayers ask that as they prepare for their anointing at the Easter Vigil, they begin to see as God sees, recognize Jesus as the light of the world, and bring that light to those they encounter each day.

Parish News

Living Stations Practice: Our Living Stations practice will be held today, Sunday, March 31 and Sunday, April 7 from 6:00-7:00 pm in Church. Dinner will be provided after every Living Stations practice.

April Baptismal Preparation Class: The next class will be held tomorrow, Monday, April 1 at 7:00pm in the Rectory. Please call the Rectory office at 773.764.3621 to register for the class.

Religious Ed Classes Resume Next Sunday: The Religious Education program is on spring break. Classes will resume on Sunday, April 7.

Family Mass: Next Sunday, April 7, there will be a 10:00 am Family Mass hosted by second graders in the Religious Ed program and NCA students from the parish. Please note, hospitality will not be offered after Mass during Lent.

Thank You for Coming to Our Parish Play: *Just a Dream Away: A Musical Dream Machine Adventure* was a smash hit! Thank you to those that came on Friday and Saturday, and an even bigger thanks to our talented cast and crew who worked so hard on the performances. (Pictured: cast and crew.)



Heartbeats

A free, informational meeting sponsored by the Illinois Coalition on Substance Use and Aging will be held next Sunday, April 7.

Several pharmacists will be available for private consultations and to discuss the proper use of medications. For details and to register, please call the Heart to Heart office at 773.973.5464.

~ Jane Callahan-Moore, Heart to Heart

Lenten Activities & Events

Simple Supper This Wednesday: The next Simple Suppers will be held this Wednesday, April 3 and next Wednesday, April 10 in the Social Hall from 6:00-7:30 pm. All are invited to participate in faith-focused reflections while sharing a meal of soup and bread.

Stations of the Cross: Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday during Lent at 3:00 pm in Church. On Good Friday, April 19, there will be Living Stations of the Cross at 3:00 pm, featuring teens from the parish.

Refugee Committee Postcard Event: A postcard writing event will be held next Sunday, April 7 after the 10:00 am, 10:30 am, and 11:30 am Masses, to encourage elected officials to treat refugees with fairness and compassion. All are welcome.

Lenten Reconciliation: Our reconciliation service will be held next Sunday, April 7 at 3:00 pm in Church. This is a quiet, reflective service which is a combination of music, scripture, and a guided reflection which serves as an examination of conscience.

Combined 10:30 am Mass on Palm Sunday, April 14: On Palm Sunday, April 14, there will be a Combined Mass held at 10:30 am, lieu of the 9:30 am (St. Gertrude East), 10:00 am, 10:30 am (Gym), and 11:30 am Masses.

NCA News

NCA's Board of Specified Jurisdiction is looking for candidates from our community. We are especially in need of insight from those with experience in facilities management, architecture and construction, education, and marketing and admissions.

If you would like more information, please reach out to Brian Pavona at brian.james.pavona@gmail.com and Sarah Millar at sbm618@gmail.com.

~ Shakira Morrissette, NCA

Refugee Committee

April Meeting: Our next meeting will be this Wednesday, April 3 at 7:00 pm in the Ministry Center.

Upcoming Concert: The Refugee Committee is sponsor of the El Pueblo Canta concert this Saturday, April 6 at Wellington Ave. United Church of Christ, 615 W. Wellington Ave. Doors open at 5:30 pm with traditional Latino and Arabic food for purchase. From 7:00-8:30 pm, performers will include Alex Farha, VOICES, the Wellington Choir, and the “Dare to Dream” Centro Romero Youth Choir. Proceeds benefit immigrant justice work for Wellington Avenue UCC, Centro Romero, and Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America. Tickets are \$25 for adults, and \$15 for students and those on a limited income. To purchase tickets and to get info on parking and child care, please visit <http://waucc.org/2019elpueblocanta/>.

Postcard Event: Postcard Writing Day: Your voice can be heard! The Refugee Ministry is sponsoring a postcard writing day next Sunday, April 7 in the Ministry Center after the 10:00 am, 10:30 am, and 11:30 am Masses. Please join us and let your elected representatives know how you feel about the proposal to dramatically reduce the U.S. refugee allotment to 30,000, and the proposal to revisit family separation at the border. We'll have postcards, suggested language, and the addresses of legislators.

~ Denise Goodman, Refugee Committee

The Future of Catholicism in the US

Catholicism in America is at a crossroads. Join Cardinal Cupich, Loyola's Michael P. Murphy, Gonzaga's Patricia O'Connell Killen, and America Magazine's Mike O'Loughlin for a conversation on accountability, leadership, participation, and other issues facing the Church in America as it strives to build a faithful future. This free event is on Thursday, April 4 from 6:00-7:30 pm at Loyola University's Information Commons, 1032 W. Sheridan Rd., 4th floor. Doors open at 5:00 pm. All are welcome.

Parish Stewardship Report

Sunday Collection March 23-24	\$5,428.98
Budgeted Collection	\$7,725.00
Underage	(-) \$2,296.02

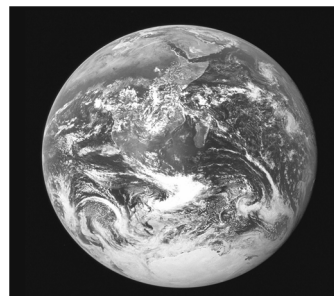
~ Art Blumberg,
Director of Parish Management and Facilities

Commonweal Conversation

The next gathering for our Commonweal community will be Sunday, April 7 from 3:00-5:30 pm in the front parlor of the Ministry Center. In keeping with the Lenten season, we will discuss themes of Jesus' passion and lessons we may learn from these stories to apply in our own day.

For more information, please contact one of the co-chairs of Commonweal, Denise DeBelle, ddebelle@gmail.com or John Williams, joolikar@gmail.com.

Care for our Common Home



From today's readings: "Whoever is in Christ is a new creation."

As a new person in Christ, you can start to recognize that all creatures are connected to one another.

In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis points out that we must act now. He states, "Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know for reasons related to human activity."

Let's learn to take care of our precious home which includes all plant and animal species.

This week's tip: Use public transportation or carpool.

~ Debbie Kern, NCA Green Team

Our Parish at Prayer

MONDAY, APRIL 1

7:30 am Rolando Santiago †

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

7:30 am Donna Fischer †

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

7:30 am Purgatorial Society

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

7:30 am Communion Service

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

7:30 am Living & deceased mothers & fathers of parishioners

10:00 am NCA Reconciliation (only for 3rd and 4th grades)

3:00 pm Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

7:30 am Joe "Terry" Shields †

5:00 pm Greg Wall †

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

8:00 am Johnny Outlaw †

9:30 am Dan Groves †

10:00 am Bernadine A. Buell †

10:30 am Parishioners of St. Gertrude

11:30 am Deceased members of the Galoney-Strubbe family †

† Indicates person listed is deceased.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53

Sunday: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

Alternate readings (Year A):
Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

Eucharistic Ministers

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

5:00 pm Kathy Wall, Roman Reyes, Michele Kuehlhorn, Mary Cook, Kathleen Dawson

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

8:00 am Sr. Kathryn Stimac, Rob Sierzega, Brian DeVarenne, Mary Wyler

9:30 am Pat Riley, Barbara Rossi, Leon Ward

10:00 am Christine Curran, Rose Marie Anichini, Kathy Dunne, Rafael Melendez, Sarah Millar, Ruth Ott, Debra Novak

10:30 am TBA

11:30 am Jana Ashbeck, Richard Ashbeck, Karen Griebel, Steven Monti, Lina Peon

Ministers of the Word

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

5:00 pm Steve Matre, Pat Reardon

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

8:00 am Rob Sierzega, Mark Kollar

9:30 am Pat Riley, Barbara Rossi, Leon Ward

10:00 am Sarah Millar, Christine Curran

10:30 am TBA

11:30 am Richard Ashbeck, Amanda Robertson

Altar Servers

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

5:00 pm Ephraim Curenton, Katie & Joey Dunning

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

10:00 am Zoe Asnis, Florence Szewczyk, Grace Cashman

11:30 am Adonai Agdubai, Mariyam Agdubai, Sophie Dean

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Donations may be made at
[https://www.givecentral.org/location/132/
event/12645](https://www.givecentral.org/location/132/event/12645).

Milestones



Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends

Carlene Lorys

Geraldine Clark

Helen Stryczek

Robert Howe

Maria Hertl

Joan Harrington

Maggie Callaway



New Parishioners

Linda Cook

If you have been
thinking of
becoming a member
of our Parish
community, please consider registering.

Applications to register as a parishioner are available
in the back of Church, at the Rectory, or online at
www.stgertrudechicago.org.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor
Brenda K. Arreola, Heart to Heart Office Staff
Mary Clare Barker, Minister of Music
Art Blumberg, Director of Parish Management and Facilities
Jane Callahan-Moore, Director of Parish Social Services
Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate
Laurie Hasbrook, Office Staff
Amanda Kvasnica, Office Staff
Jim Pothast, 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, 10:00 am, 11:30 am
9:30 am St. Gertrude East (Sacred Heart School/Sheridan and Granville)
10:30 am Mass in the Gym (except summer months)
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 - Friday: 8:30 am to 7:30 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

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. 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

Al-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
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