

## St. Gertrude Chicago

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Palm Sunday

April 10, 2022

### From Fr. Rich

#### **Palm Sunday**

Today, with the Feast of Palm (Passion) Sunday, we enter into our "High Holy Days." This Holy Week contains so many celebrations of the foundation of our faith: the Passion and Death of the Lord; the example of service; the gift of the Lord's Body and Blood in the

Eucharist; the agony of the crucifixion; the fountain of salvation -- the water and wine - the baptism and Eucharist - that flowed from the pierced side of Jesus; the silence and despair of the tomb; finally - the unexpected announcement of the Resurrection of the Lord!

Some believers take this week off from their regular jobs to spend it in a retreat, praying over and cherishing the gift of our salvation through the events of this week. But even if we can't do that, we can participate in these sacred events by attending the services on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday.

I encourage you to take as much time as you possibly can to spend it in quiet with the Lord in any way you can do that; and to participate in as many of these primary celebrations as you are able.

#### **Palm Sunday - April 9-10**

Weather-permitting, all the Masses will have the Blessing of Palms in the courtyard between the church and the Ministry Center. At the Saturday 5:00 pm and the Sunday 8:00 am Masses, immediately following the blessing, we will process out of the courtyard and into the church through the front doors.

At the 10:30 am (combined) Mass, we will bless palms and then process around the block (weather-permitting) and then into church through the front doors.

#### **Holy Week Schedule/COVID Protocols**

This year's COVID protocols are much less restrictive than the past two years, so much so, that overall the services of Holy Week are pretty much back to normal with a few exceptions listed below.

#### **Holy Thursday, April 14**

- No morning Mass
- 7:30 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper (live-streamed)
- Church will remain open until 10:00 pm for private adoration.

**Pandemic protocols:** The most evident restriction is the limited washing of feet. This year, we will have the candidates for entrance into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil Mass (RCIA Catechumen and Candidates) represent various groups of people that Pope Francis keeps reminding us are on the peripheries, and it is up to us to move them into the center of our church and our lives.

### **Good Friday, April 15**

- No morning Mass
- The Rectory office is open from 8:30 am-2:00 pm.
- 3:00 pm - Stations of the Cross (No Stations at 6:30 pm)
- 7:30 pm - Service of the Lord's Passion (live-streamed)

**Pandemic protocols:** The Good Friday Service will once again restrict the Veneration of the Cross to non-touching forms of veneration (e.g. a bow, a genuflection, a brief moment in silence before the cross).

### **Holy Saturday, April 16**

- No morning Mass
- 11:00 am - Blessing of Easter baskets
- 7:30 pm - Easter Vigil Mass (live-streamed)

**Pandemic protocols:** This year, everyone will once again receive a taper on their way into church. We will use the large crystal bowl for baptisms in front of the altar, instead of erecting the pool in the sanctuary.

### **Easter Sunday Masses**

- 8:00 am
- 10:30 am in church
- 10:30 am Gym Mass
- The Rectory office is closed.

**Pandemic protocols:** Easter Sunday Masses should also pretty much look like pre-pandemic -- with the exception that Communion is still limited to reception in the hand (not on the tongue) and there will be no distribution of the Precious Blood.

***The Rectory office is open from 8:30 am-2:00 pm on Good Friday, and closed on Easter Sunday and Easter Monday, April 18.***

### **Parish Pastoral Council**

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is looking for new members that are more reflective of the diversity in the parish. We are hoping to include NCA school parents, youth group parents, new members from St. Ignatius, and parishioners who may not have been active, but would like to be more involved. Please consider joining the PPC in time for our next scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 28 at 7:00 pm.

Email me at [rprendergast@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:rprendergast@stgertrudechicago.org) for details.



## Update on *Repair, Renew, Refresh* Projects

With the arrival of milder weather, we will continue with or start projects to improve the parish buildings. Tuckpointing and masonry repairs, the final phase of the multi-year project to care for the exterior of the Ministry Center, should be finished in just a few weeks. The scaffolding will be taken down afterwards and that part of the campus will return to a more normal appearance.



Some of the roofing repairs on the church and rectory are scheduled to begin. These include removing some downspouts that have been the source of water getting inside parish buildings, affixing new gutters in other parts, and adding new roofing to sections of the buildings.

Here is the status of other projects funded by the *Renew, Repair, Refresh* campaign:

- We hope and expect the repairs/rebuilding of some of the outside stairs will get underway soon.
- The re-carpeting of church is also moving forward, albeit a little slower than we might have hoped.
- The handrails from the main floor of the church into the sanctuary have all been installed.
- And the Fund for Catholic Education at NCA for parish families with children attending NCA has been funded and all the school families have been made aware of that support possibility.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I will try to provide regular updates.

~ Father Rich



## Registration for NCA Summer Camp Now Open

Everyday is a holiday at NCA Summer Camp! Wildcat Camp strives to provide a safe, engaging experience with a variety of recreational, educational, athletic, and fine arts programs at an affordable price. Age-specific programs are available for children who are 3 by June 1 through 8th grade.

Visit <https://bit.ly/NCASummerCampFlyer> to learn more. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/NCASummerCamp>!

June 20 - August 5  
Registration is now Open!



## St. Vincent de Paul Parish Chicago Presents: A Faith Studies Event: *The Music and Significance of the Renaissance Voice*

Join St. Vincent de Paul parish on Saturday, April 23 to learn about one small moment in history, where composers in Renaissance Europe used their genius to give praise to God,

forever changing the development of music. Presenters James Keene and Joe Labozetta will lead an innovative lecture-recital on the works known as the Renaissance Polyphony. There is a \$10 suggested donation for general seating; priority seating is \$30. The performance is at 7:00 pm at St. Vincent DePaul, 1010 W. Webster Avenue

This event will feature talented local Chicago vocalists including Joe Labozetta, Kaitlin Foley, Matthew Dean, John Orduña, and Alexandra Olsavsky, with a special guest performance by Samuel Mason. They will perform selections from composers including Josquin des Prez, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, and Carlo Gesualdo.

For more information, visit [www.stvdep.org](http://www.stvdep.org) or call 773.325.8610 .

## Help/Pray for Ukraine

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>.

### A Prayer for Ukraine

*God of peace and justice,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.  
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.  
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at-risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.  
Amen.*

~ Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary



*Photo courtesy of CRS partner, Caritas Poland.*

# Meet the Members of the RCIA Group at St. Gertrude

Below is an introduction to two of our RCIA candidates, Marlena Siroki and Russell Gipe.

## **Marlena Siroki**

Hi! I am Marlena Siroki. I am a 33-year-old Ohio native and I am an acupuncturist at REMIX Acupuncture + Integrative Health in the West Loop. My husband, Russ, and I moved to Chicago in 2014 so that I could complete my masters and doctorate in Acupuncture and East Asian medicine. After that, we chose to stay in Chicago and start our family here.

I have always felt a close connection with Catholicism since I come from a large family of Catholics. Both my grandparents were raised Catholic (Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic) and my mother was raised in the Greek Orthodox Church. Because of these familial ties, I grew up with a lot of the traditions associated with Catholicism and our eastern European heritage, but never truly understood them or their importance. While I was baptized as Greek Orthodox Catholic as a young child, I didn't have the opportunity to pursue further sacraments or religious education. It was one of the many questions I had for my mother as a child. I wanted to understand our traditions, understand faith and my relationship with God.

Even though my family didn't attend church weekly or regularly, faith and God have always been a part of my life, in one way or another. As I became an adult, I realized I had a yearning to connect with it on a deeper level. I have grown to appreciate that my faith has always been present, but I just need more of it in my life. I simply didn't know how to make that happen until I stumbled upon the RCIA program.



What ultimately brought us to St. Gertrude and the RCIA program, was our son, Lucas. I have always known that I wanted Lucas to have a relationship with God. So it's important that he has a good foundation from the start. And when the time came, we chose to enroll him at NCA. It is through his growth and learning that inspires us, as a family, to grow in our faith too.

## **Russell Gipe**

Hello! My name is Russell Gipe. I am originally from Virginia and moved to Chicago in 2014 for my wife to attend school. I am currently a massage therapist and teacher at The New School for Massage and Bodywork in River North.

I was raised in the United Methodist church and attended church every Sunday with my family growing up. I drifted away from my faith in my late teens and lost



## Meet the Members of the RCIA Group at St. Gertrude *(continued)*



my way for quite a few years. It was not until my son was born that I felt a reawakening of my faith. This slowly grew in me, with the patient and understanding guidance of my wife. Becoming a father made me realize how important my relationship with God was and how I wanted my son to have a close relationship with God as well.

Our son, Lucas, attends NCA, which led us to St. Gertrude. As my faith has continued to grow, we decided that the RCIA program was the next step in our journey. Fostering and nurturing our faith as a family has been an incredible experience that will continue to grow as we do.



### Growing in Faith

#### *The Kingdom of God is in the Palms of Our Hands*

Last Palm Sunday isn't usually thought about in terms of the Kingdom of God. But we cannot read the (very long) Scripture passages today without recognizing that the Kingdom of God was Jesus' big idea, the one he was willing to die for, the new way of being that he proclaimed to his followers (i.e., us) had "already begun" and "is already within us."

In today's readings, the people proclaim: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord." There is only one king who fits that description, and he is right in front of them (and us) today. He comes as a leader, not as a ruler.

Jesus says, "I am among you as the one who serves...and I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father has conferred one on me, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom." In fact, when Jesus taught us to pray, the first thing he told us to pray for was that "thy kingdom come...

on Earth as it is in Heaven."

So, we leave here to today, with our palms in our hands, looking forward to Holy Week and then Easter. But what we need to think about are the days when we will be like Joseph of Arimathea, a "virtuous and righteous" human being who was "awaiting the kingdom of God."

That is the mission we are all sent to help bring about...on Earth, as it already is in Heaven.

~ Greg Pierce

# St. Gertrude Composting Program

With the arrival of spring, it's time to start thinking about our parish compost and garden projects. This year, we are going to use a compost tumbler. It's user-friendly and will produce compost at a quicker pace. I highly suggest going to [www.mantis.com](http://www.mantis.com) for more information and watch a short video demonstration. Additionally, our *Composting Do's and Don'ts* list has been updated and is outlined below.



A Zoom discussion was held last weekend on how to use the new compost tumbler and what can and cannot go into it. It was recorded and available for anyone who would still like to be a part of the program! We plan to get the garden ready for planting in early June, I'll share details about that in later bulletins. Email me at [mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org) if you have any questions or if you would like to be a part of the composting program or planting team. ~ Mary Clare Barker

## Compost Bucket Do's and Don'ts

**DO's:** *Collect in your buckets:*

### 1/3 Brown:

- Leaves and dead-headed flowers
- Shredded paper
- SMALL sticks

### 1/3 Green:

- Grass clippings
- Leaves of vegetables like broccoli and cauliflower, parsley, herbs, and spices

### 1/3 Food:

- Vegetables and fruit (Chopped up into small parts.)
- Egg shells (small pieces)
- Coffee and tea grounds (Tea must be taken out of the tea bag.)

**DON'TS:** *Please do not add these to your bucket:*

### Brown:

- Don't overuse this, break it up to only 1/3 of the bucket.
- No plastic or labels on shredded paper. (Remove the labels first because they won't decompose.) Do not include magazines or glossy paper.
- Break up shredded paper if it clumps together in your bucket. The materials must be able to breathe, and air must be able to circulate.
- No paper towels, napkins, or tissues

### Green:

- Grass clippings must be chemical free at the time of cutting.
- Do not include diseased plants of any kind.

### Food:

- No MEAT, BONES, FAT, SKIN, BUTTER, or OLEO! These will attract animals.
- No corn cobs
- No plastics of any kind, including bags
- No avocado pits or skins
- No flour products, grains, or legumes
- No nuts, seeds, baked goods, or snacks
- No spoiled tofu/tempeh/tomato products
- No old jelly jams or preserves
- No organic house waste



**Virtual Retreat**

**25th Anniversary  
Finding Work Without  
Losing Heart**

**Friday April 22 | 1-5pm CST  
Register @ [ctcchicago.org](https://ctcchicago.org)**

**Led by CTC Founder Allen Gustafson**

**For the past 25 years this retreat has helped people find the purpose, encouragement, and hope needed to persevere in their search for meaningful work.**

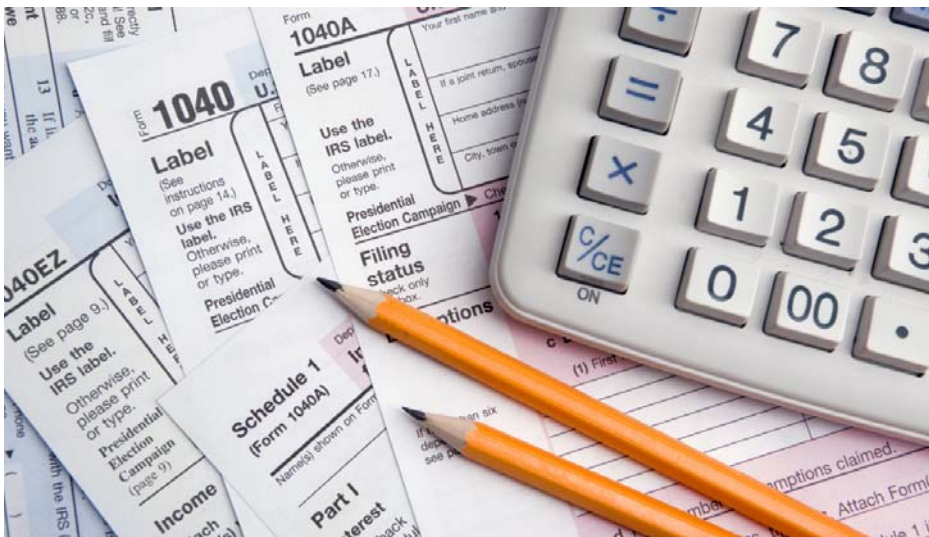
**Career Transitions Center**  
A Career Resource Built Around You.

## Career Transitions Center Annual Retreat: *Finding Work Without Losing Heart*

On Friday, April 22 from 1:00-5:00 pm, Career Transitions Center will host their annual retreat for those looking for a job. For the past 25 years, this retreat has helped people find the purpose, encouragement, and hope they need to persevere in their search for meaningful work.

The retreat will help participants explore and understand the grief brought on by job loss and the impact of COVID. Content touches on the personal, emotional, and even spiritual resilience found in change, growth, and regeneration. Participants may find that understanding transition helps them to engage better in their job search, with greater confidence and hope for a positive outcome.

Visit <https://bit.ly/CTCretreat2022> for more information about this virtual event and to register or email [register@ctcchicago.org](mailto:register@ctcchicago.org). There is a \$25 fee.



## A Tax-Savvy Way to Support St. Gertrude Parish

Jesus told us "whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." Every day, we have the opportunity to be the face of Jesus to others. You can help to support our parish and cover our increased operating costs by making a qualified charitable distribution ("QCD")

gift from your individual retirement account.

A QCD gift (a.k.a. IRA charitable rollover) allows individuals age 70½ or older to authorize their IRA administrator to make a direct transfer of funds from their IRA to qualified charities, tax-free. This way of giving does not generate taxable income, which may lower your annual income level. If you are age 72 or older, the amount you transfer may count towards your required minimum distribution.

If you would like more information on how to make a QCD gift to St. Gertrude, please contact Eduardo Soto at [esoto@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:esoto@stgertrudechicago.org).





## Married Couples Needed to Work with Engaged Couples

Scouts As part of our marriage preparation program, St. Gertrude offers a parish-based PreCana classes, as well as the premarital inventory tool, FOCCUS. The FOCCUS tool measures the level of agreement between the engaged couple in about 11 different areas they will encounter in their married life.

Couples fill out this questionnaire through a link provided by a facilitator couple and each party answers a series of questions online. The two sets of responses are then matched and scored, then a print-out of the level of agreement/disagreement between the bride and groom is shared. The

facilitator couple, who has been trained in how to read the results, then meets with the engaged couple to discuss the results.

Right now, we have only one couple doing this important ministry, and we are hoping to get one or two more couples involved to share the load. As is true with PreCana, the facilitator couple should be married for at least a few years, with or without children. Experience as a married couple is a prerequisite, but couples of any age are welcome.

Please consider if this might be a good ministry for you! If you have any questions, I would be glad to speak with you, and/or connect you to our facilitator couple who could better explain exactly how FOCCUS works. Contact me at [rprendergast@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:rprendergast@stgertrudechicago.org).

~ Father Rich

## This Weekend's Cantors, Musicians, Ministers of the Word, and Eucharistic Ministers

### Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, April 9 at 5:00 pm - Millie Slane, Victoria Healy
- Sunday, April 10 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe, Jay Cook
- Sunday, April 10 at 10:30 am Mass in church - Troy McMillian, Debra Novak

### Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, April 9 at 5:00 pm - Steve Monti, Tim Harrington, Victoria Healy
- Sunday, April 10 at 8:00 am - Barb Daly, Hallie Burhoe, Rob Sierzega
- Sunday, April 10 at 10:30 am Mass in church - Carlos Barragan, Bob Backis, Rafael Melendez

### Cantors and Musicians:

- Saturday, April 9 at 5:00 pm - Siobhan O'Neill Meluso
- Sunday, April 10 at 8:00 am - Jon Blake
- Sunday, April 10 at 10:30 am Mass in church - Michael Callahan, cantor; Tona Palomino-trumpet, Amir Ghazaleh-trombone

## Mass Intentions

- Monday, April 11: 7:30 am - Maria Vallely +
- Tuesday, April 12: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners (+ indicates the person is deceased)
- Wednesday, April 13: 7:30 am - Nancy Quinn Jaskowiak +
- Holy Thursday, April 14: 7:30 pm - All who have died from Aids and HIV-related Illnesses
- Good Friday, April 15: 7:30 pm - Intentions of the Universal Church
- Holy Saturday, April 16: 7:30 pm - Easter Vigil Mass - Parishioners of St. Gertrude
- Easter Sunday, April 17: 8:00 am - Parishioners of St. Gertrude; 10:30 am in Church - Parishioners of St. Gertrude; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Parishioners of St. Gertrude

## New Parishioners

- June Gerdes
- Emmanuel & Florence Okoye

## Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- Pamela Sherrod Anderson
- Helen Banta
- Zara Bradley
- Sharon Brown
- Connie Bueck
- Lilly Buie
- Claire Bushey
- Maggie Callaway
- Aida Calvopina
- KC Conway
- Connie Cool
- Caloy Desembrana
- Ann Collins Dole
- Christine Frisoni
- Shirley Marie Gonzales
- Gina Heidkamp
- Maria Hertl
- Daniel Hidalgo
- Patricia Irwin
- Bernice Kiedysz
- Sheila McGuire
- 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

## Donate to our Parish

Parishioners can donate to St. Gertrude:

- Text the word *Donate* to 1.773.741.9505.
- PayPal link - visit our parish website at [www.stgertrudechicago.org](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org)
- GiveCentral: [www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevants](http://www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevants)

Email [esoto@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:esoto@stgertrudechicago.org) for additional information.

## Heart to Heart Office

Our Heart to Heart office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am - 2:30 pm. Contact them at 773.973.5464.

## Parish Staff

Rev. Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor  
Rev. Michael Gabriel, Associate Pastor  
Mary Clare Barker, Minister of Music  
Jane Callahan-Moore, Director, Heart to Heart  
Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate  
Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate for Religious Education and Youth Ministry  
Maria Garcia, Rectory Office Manager  
Laurie Hasbrook, Heart to Heart Lending Closet Manager  
Samantha Lilly, Rectory Office  
Andy Mueller, Parish Buildings Engineer  
Tracy Shields, Communications  
Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management  
Visit [stgertrudechicago.org](http://stgertrudechicago.org) for staff emails.