



St. Gertrude Chicago

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**Second Sunday of Easter/
Divine Mercy Sunday**

April 24, 2022

From Fr. Rich

One of life's mysteries for me is why we are so good at trying to "keep" the 40 days of Lent but pay little attention to the 50 days of Easter, especially when Lent is meant to be a time to prepare ourselves for this celebration. Now

only on the eighth day of Easter, within a very few days we will have moved on until we come to church wondering why all those flowers are still up there, "Isn't Easter over?"

Today's feast of the Second Sunday of Easter continues the stories of the post-resurrection encounters the disciples and followers of Jesus had as they were trying to figure out where their lives would now take them since their Master and Teacher had been brutally killed.

Little by little, we can see in these stories the dawning realization that something extraordinary happened, something beyond the realm of human understanding. They could feel it in their bones and in their hearts and in their souls. He wasn't just their rabbi and teacher, there was something more there -- something they had never before experienced. And when the miraculous accounts began to be shared, it was as if the sun finally broke through the dark clouds of their depression and loss and they saw it for what it was -- Jesus was the Son of God, and He had, indeed, been raised from the dead. They could feel it down to their deepest core.

This Second Sunday of Easter picked up another "attached feast" during the pontificate of Pope John Paul II when he made this also Divine Mercy Sunday, honoring the devotion of St. Faustina from his native Poland. As he wrote in a prayer about her experiences with Jesus, "And you, Faustina, a gift of God to our time, a gift from the land of Poland to the whole Church, obtain for us an awareness of the depth of Divine Mercy; help us to have a living experience of it and to bear witness to it among our brothers and sisters."

And perhaps that is where my own question gets answered. It is easy to overlook the fifty days of Easter if we have not begun to grasp the depth of God's love for us poured out daily in the mercy we are shown and the mercy we are invited to share. Perhaps that is also why our current Holy Father, Pope Francis, gave the universal Church the gift of a Holy Year of Mercy a few years ago. Offering all of us a time to reflect upon this extraordinary gift from God.

This week, the second week of Easter, try to spend a few moments of self-reflection on how

From Fr. Rich (cont.)

God has been merciful with you. And let that reflection lead you to a more determined sharing of mercy with your family members, friends, co-workers, and people you encounter daily. When we all take on a greater awareness of and sharing of God's mercy, the fifty days of Easter will seem like nothing but a great treat!



Congratulations to the RCIA Class of 2022

At Holy Saturday's Easter Vigil, Bella Meaux, Russell Gipe, Marlana Siroski, and Iverson Moore, part of the RCIA class of 2022, celebrated the Easter Sacraments.

Congratulations to these new members of St. Gertrude parish, and to Lucas Gipe, Marlana and Russell's son, who was baptized on Saturday evening.

Thank you to all who attended and provided an atmosphere of love and support!

Thank You to our Musicians and Cantors From Mary Clare Barker

A special thanks from the bottom of my heart goes out to all the cantors and musicians who contributed mightily all of Lent and most especially during Holy Week to our Music Ministry at St. Gertrude.

These people gave freely of their precious time and practiced hours to get everything perfect for our evening services. Their musical talents added a profound depth and helped us to pray better. We are indeed so blessed to have so many wonderfully talented musicians at St. Gertrude who are so willing to share their time and talents.

THANK YOU!

~ Mary Clare



Holy Week and Easter at St. Gertrude

Thank you to all who attended our services during Holy Week and on Easter both in-person and online! What a joy it was to get together and celebrate God's unending love for us.

The past few weeks have required extra time and energy from so many of our volunteers in order to rehearse and then serve at all the services of Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter! Thank you to all of our wonderful and generous cantors, our choir, musicians, and corps of liturgical ministers. They did a magnificent job!

Great churches don't just happen, they are created and nurtured by active, engaged, and generous parishioners. We appreciate you sharing your time at Church, your talents and helping hands at Mass and parish events, your stewardship, and your prayers. We are grateful to have you as part of our St. Gertrude family!



A Note from Kevin Cheers

For the past nine years, I have had the pleasure of being part of the Pastoral staff here at St. Gertrude. After lots of prayerful discernment and family conversations, I will be retiring in June.

Sharing in the ministerial life of the parish first with Fr. Dom and Fr. Mike Bradley and later with Fr. Rich and Fr. Mike Gabriel and all the other ministerial staff members over the years has been a grace filled time for me.

I have had the privilege of working with a wonderful group of Eucharistic Ministers, Ministers of the Word, ushers, and other volunteers who give deeply of themselves and have taught me so much about service.

As I write this so many memories come flooding in. Standing in the back of church hearing your news of the week, watching the children grow, sharing a hug in celebration or sorrow, learning from each other in faith sharing groups and retreats in the Social Hall, the Christmas Bazaars, the Gralley, International Night dinners, Centennial celebrations, Pastoral Council meetings, weddings, baptisms, funerals, reading the announcements, decorating the altar, sharing the RCIA journey with those coming into the church, my year shepherding the Religious Education program and learning about faith and kindness from the voices of our future, of the lingering love and laughter of those we have lost along the way. Truly a tapestry to wrap around me as a prayer shawl.

While I am looking forward to this new chapter with hope and wonder at the possibilities, I

know that I will miss you and miss being part of your lives. Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and patience. My heart overflows with gratitude and love.

This will be my second attempt at retirement, the first resulted in the call to ministry that lead me here. Who knows what God has in store for me this time.

May God continue to bless us all in these difficult times.

~ Kevin



Thank you from the Peace and Justice Ministry

What a blessing this Lent has been to so many! The Peace and Justice Ministry would like to thank you for participating in various Lenten practices.

The Almoner program collected \$7,000, and at the time of this article being written, we have given out over \$5,000 in gift cards to those who are homeless and hungry. The true blessing came to those passing out the gift cards, meeting and

learning more about the challenges so many on the street experience. To all those who distributed the cards, to those who donated so generously, and to those who prayed especially for the hungry and homeless, thank you. Any remaining money will be used to purchase cards to be given to Care for Real or to people who come to social services in need.

Along with the Almoners program, thank you to the many who participated in the anti-racism discussion groups. We learned that every day, each one of us can and should stand up against racial prejudices and disrespectful attitudes towards others. For six weeks, six groups met to share in discussions on racism. It wasn't always an easy conversation to have, but ones that were and are greatly needed. We are planning on further discussions and actions that we as a parish can participate in to reduce the impact of the racism that exists in homes and our society. Let us build a world beyond racism and discrimination where we all can recognize each other sisters and brothers in Christ.

~ Fr. Mike Gabriel



Mother's Day Spiritual Bouquet

Mother's Day cards for enrolling living and deceased mothers during the Masses said on Mother's Day and throughout the year are available on the tables in the back of church.

Please fill out the information on the outer envelope, include a donation in the outer envelope, seal it, and drop it in the collection basket or at the Rectory.

Take the card and large envelope with you to give to your mother or for your own remembrance.

Mass Intentions for 2023

The Mass Intentions book for 2023 is now open. Intentions are limited to one per Mass. There is a \$20 suggested offering. Please note that the dates for intentions are subject to change.

Care for Our Common Home: *Appreciating God's Gifts*

Everyone has a role in caring for our common home and creating a more sustainable world. The first, and easiest, step we can take is to examine our daily choices and see where we can make small changes.

During Earth month, we will share simple "sustainable swaps" that can be easily incorporated into your everyday life. Pick a few or try them all and help sustain our planet for future generations.

This week's tips are:

- Remember your reusable bag at the grocery store or farmer's market.
- Eat lunch with reusable cutlery or bring silverware from home wrapped in a cloth napkin.
- Switch your iced coffee from single-use plastic cups to mason jars or upcycled pasta jars.
- Switch your battery-operated items to rechargeable batteries.
- Get a library card or use the "Libby" app to check out books for your e-reader.

A thought to consider: "Humility is admiration for the gifts God has given to others, reverence for God in others, recognizing and developing our own gifts for others."



How to Help Ukrainians

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>.

CRS has supported Caritas Ukraine in its emergency efforts by providing shelter, food and livelihood support for

individuals and families displaced and affected by crisis. Emergency assistance supports people who have been displaced to safe areas, as well as conflict-affected residents in isolated settlements.

CRS takes a holistic approach to comprehensively meet people's immediate and long-term needs. These include food, water and safe, dignified shelter, as well as counseling and care for psychosocial needs, opportunities to strengthen livelihoods and the resources to rebuild homes.

Growing in Faith

See For Yourself

My appreciation for Thomas has grown through the years. Thomas, the outlier, the one who had to see for himself. I give him credit for not settling for a second-hand experience of the risen Christ. We could do worse than to follow the example of Doubting Thomas.

Most of us learned about Jesus and his Way from our childhood. We listened to the stories of faith at Mass Sunday after Sunday, and we received instruction in Church doctrine. Many Catholics, whether they regularly practice as adults or not, feel their religious training served them well and continues to inform their lives. All to the good. There is something lacking, though, if one's religious faith does not evolve beyond "what I've been taught."

Like Thomas who was not content with just accepting what others told him, we need to delve deeper and discover the truth of the risen Christ and his teachings for ourselves. An unquestioned faith simply handed down to us will be inadequate to equip us for the spiritual journey to which we are called.

We shouldn't sell short the role of doubt in our faith lives. Doubt can be a great teacher if it moves us beyond a faith that is too small, too pat, too parochial, too timid, too pre-packaged, and not forged in the crucible of life experience. A healthy inner Doubting Thomas can help refine and enrich our spiritual life into something true and galvanizing, something worth staking our lives on.

~ *Bob Raccuglia*



St. Gertrude Composting Program

All are welcome to be a part of our parish composting program! Those who join our program are welcome to use the parish's new compost tumbler, a user-friendly options that will produce compost at a quicker pace.

A Zoom discussion was held earlier this month on how to use it 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!

If you are interested in joining our composting program, please reach out to Mary Clare Barker for information about the fee and how to watch the composting *Dos & Don'ts* discussion at mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org.



Evening of Prayer for the Canonization of Dorothy Day

On Saturday, April 30, St. Thomas of Canterbury parish will hold a Holy Hour for the Canonization of Dorothy Day in the church, located at 4827 N. Kenmore.

Dorothy Day was a 20th century Catholic convert and one of the founders of the Catholic Worker Movement and a Benedictine oblate. Day's radical vision of societal renewal - based on the Gospels and the Church's social doctrine - has influenced generations of Catholics, including those who started the soup kitchen at St. Thomas of Canterbury.

The Holy Hour begins at 5:30 pm, presided over by Bishop Mark Bartosic, with sung Vespers by the Canons of St. John Cantius. At 7:00 pm, there will be a discussion titled, "*Dorothy Day: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*".

Leave a Legacy to Bring Hope to the World

As we stand before God's promise to make all things new, please consider one of the greatest acts of stewardship by including a gift to our parish in one of the following ways:

- Will or Trust
- Retirement Assets
- Life Insurance Policies
- Charitable Gift Annuity



For more information, please contact or Eduardo Soto at esoto@stgertrudechicago.org or visit giving.archchicago.org/cga.



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 Fr. Rich at rprendergast@stgertrudechicago.org for details.



Married Couples Needed to Work with Engaged Couples

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.

~ Father Rich

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

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, April 23 at 5:00 pm - Susan McKean
- Sunday, April 24 at 8:00 am - David Sullivan
- Sunday, April 24 at 10:30 am - Steve Modde
- Sunday, April 24 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, April 23 at 5:00 pm - Tim Harrington
- Sunday, April 24 at 8:00 am - Brian DeVarenne
- Sunday, April 24 at 10:30 am - Rafael Melendez , Troy McMillian, Bob Backis
- Sunday, April 24 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Cantors and Musicians:

- Saturday, April 23 at 5:00 pm - Bernie O'Connor
- Sunday, April 24 at 8:00 am - Jim Manzardo
- Sunday, April 24 at 10:30 am - Cindy Lawson
- Sunday, April 24 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Mass Intentions

- Monday, April 25: 7:30 am - Terrence & Kevin Cole +
- Tuesday, April 26: 7:30 am - Dr. Saji Francis + *1st death anniversary*
- Wednesday, April 27: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society (+ indicates the person is deceased)
- Thursday, April 28: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, April 29: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
- Saturday, April 30: 7:30 am - Kathleen Marsh; 5:00 pm - Hal Mann +
- Sunday, May 1: 8:00 am - Mercedes Caro +; 10:30 am in Church - Odhran Marsh; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Elise Malary +

Join our Community of Faith

To join St. Gertrude parish, download the registration form at <https://bit.ly/JoinStGerts> and email it to stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org. Please call the Rectory at 773.764.3621 with any questions.

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
- GiveCentral: www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevants

Email esoto@stgertrudechicago.org for additional information.

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 for staff emails.

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.