

St. Gertrude Chicago

1420 W. Granville
Chicago, IL 60660
773.764.3621

stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org

www.stgertrudechicago.org

Bulletin for Sunday, April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

From Fr. Mike Gabriel

"This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad."

When I think of Easter, this is one of the first phrases that come to mind. It is actually the refrain for the responsorial psalm on Easter Sunday. The phrase remains for me a reminder of what Easter is about, not only on Easter Sunday, but throughout the Easter Season.

I mention that because each year, I find it sometimes difficult to hold on to the focus of Easter. It's a long season, stretching for almost two months. And it always seems that once we've survived Lent, and celebrated Easter, it just feels like it is time to move on. Yet, Pentecost is coming, but we'll deal with that when we get there. How do we continue to celebrate Easter for all those weeks?

What is strange is that Advent and Lent don't seem to present the same challenge. While both are shorter than the Easter season, it seems that it's just easier to keep the energy going. That said, Christmas and Easter are a bit more significant in most of our lives.

So if this is the day the Lord has made, how do you keep rejoicing week after week after week? If we're talking about the exultant joy of the first believers as they discovered that the tomb was empty, I don't think anyone could maintain that. But perhaps there is a quieter kind of rejoicing, not quite so overflowing with emotion. This is the day that the Lord has made. This is true of Easter Sunday, but it is also true of each and every day of our lives. There would be no day had not our God loved us enough to pour forth the fruits of creation. What this means is that no matter what happens today, or tomorrow, or the day after, it is a day that the Lord has made. He has had a hand in each day from the very beginning. No matter what I make of this day, no matter what choices I make, no matter what I accomplish, it is still a day that the Lord has made. What if something happens that doesn't make me feel like rejoicing? Then I recall what Jesus went through to get to that Easter day that the Lord has made. In this way, I connect whatever is happening to what God accomplished through the death and the rising of Jesus. No matter what, that is the cause to rejoice.

Bravo-Bravo-Bravo! Last Saturday, the curtain closed on "Light, Camera, Action!" Thank you to the St. Gertrude Players, who once again gave us a toe-tapping night of entertainment. So many need to be applauded, not just the St. Gertrude players, but the many behind the scenes. Thanks for another great night of entertainment.

Thanks also to the Guadalupanos for the wonderful spread of Dulce Pan and coffee after mass last Sunday. Your kindness is deeply appreciated. Remember, everyone is invited to come participate in the bilingual rosary every Friday night in the Ministry Center. With May approaching (the month of the Rosary), please attempt to come at least one Friday night.



Altar Server Training - Tuesday, April 30

Students in 5th grade and up are invited to become altar servers! There is a training session planned for Tuesday, April 30th at 6:00 pm in church. It should last about an hour.

Please note, serving as an altar server does qualify for Confirmation service hours.

Contact pastoral associate Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org with questions.

Guadalupanos Rosary Group (Grupo del Rosario de Guadalupanos) on Friday Evenings

All are welcome to attend the weekly Rosary group held on Friday evenings at 7:00 pm.

The bilingual gathering is held in the dining room of the Ministry Center, located at 6214 North Glenwood Avenue.



Our Monthly Asylum Seeker's Food & Supply Drive is May 4-5

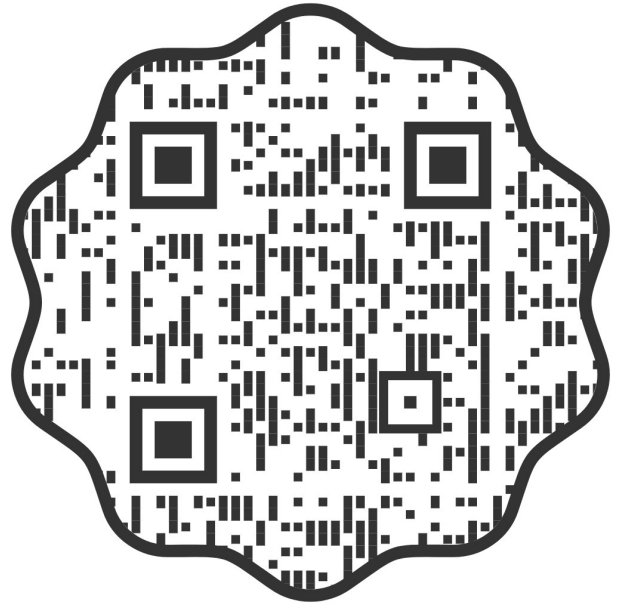
On Saturday, May 4 and Sunday, May 5, we will host a food and supply drive for Care for Real to help asylum seekers. Items needed for migrants include:

- Protein bars
- Ramen or other instant noodles
- Snack size chips and crackers
- Juice boxes
- Fruit cups
- New underwear (all genders and sizes)
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Body wipes
- Bar soap
- Menstrual pads

News from the PPC—May 5th Town Hall; Join the PPC

The Parish Pastoral Council will be hosting a Town Hall on Sunday, May 5 after the 10:30 am mass in the gym. To enrich our gathering, please review the [Strategic Plan](https://stgertrudechicago.org/our-mission-%26-vision) found on our website at <https://stgertrudechicago.org/our-mission-%26-vision>.

Are you called to leadership? The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is looking for new members. If you are interested in joining please complete the [Interest Form](#) at the above link or scan the QR code. There are also paper copies in the back of church. The deadline for submission is May 10. If you would like to nominate someone for the PPC, please email stgertrudeparishcouncil@gmail.com.



First Communion Parent Info

Our parish's First Communion is approaching, and families with students making this sacrament need to know/do several things before this important celebration takes place.

- Some parents have not sent the Sacramental Request Form. Please fill it out and send it to Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.
- If you have not paid the registration fee for the 2023-2024 catechetical year, this is the time to do it. Notice that there is a sacramental fee as well. All payments can be done by check or online.
- Your child will practice the reception of Holy Communion on Sunday, April 28 and

Sunday, May 5 during her/his regular Sunday session. Please bring your child on time for those two important sessions.

- On **Friday, May 10**, there will be a First Communion practice at 6:30 pm. Please be on time.
- Our parish's First Communion Mass is **Saturday, May 11** at 10:00 am. No photos are allowed before and/or during mass, but rather after the service.
- On **Sunday, May 12**, there is a May Crowning celebrated at the 10:30 am mass in church. All communicants should participate in the Crowning of Blessed Mary in their First Communion finery.

The attire for First Communion is simple, age appropriate, and should not distract from the focus of receiving the Sacrament. For boys, we ask they wear any color suit or slacks and a dress shirt. Girls usually wear white dresses, but if any color can be worn. Veils are optional, but should not block the face. Gloves can be worn, but not while receiving Holy Communion. While sitting in the pew (and especially when going up for Communion) children should not hold bibles, rosaries, etc. 3



Next Book Club is is Monday, May 13

Please join the book club in the Ministry Center on Monday, May 13 at 7:00 pm. We will discuss *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb, and we would love new voices and opinions.

On Monday, June 10, our group will talk about *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride.

There are many copies of both books available at the Chicago Public Library.

Contact Lea Cloninger at 773.973.2465 or Sue Benjamin at 773.551.8401 with questions.

Youth Group Event - Car Wash

If We are considering having a car wash fundraising event on Saturday, May 18 from 10:00am-1:00 pm.

If your teen in grades six and up (or even you!) wants to volunteer, please contact Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org before May 4.

If we have enough volunteers, we definitely would go ahead with our plan.

Snacks will be provided.



TEEN MISSION EXPERIENCE

July 22-26, 2024

REGISTER TODAY

Youth Mission Experience Planned for July

Teens in sixth grade through high school are invited to take part in St. Gertrude's Youth Mission Experience, planned for the week of July 22-26. The group will volunteer with a different Chicagoland organization each day. There is a \$100 fee for the week. A \$50 deposit is required at the time of registration. Please note that there are scholarships available! All participants will receive a t-shirt, water bottle, and a sports drawstring backpack. To reserve a spot or to get more information, contact Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.

Heart to Heart Lending Closet News

The Lending Closet is in the midst of SPRING SHARING! Volunteers are needed to help pack and label boxes of medical supplies that we are sharing with Project C.U.R.E. (which ships supplies to clinics in need worldwide).

Please e-mail or call Laurie Hasbrook at hasbrook@stgertrudchicago.org or 773-973-5464 ext. 115 if you can volunteer for hour or two.



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!

Join us for:

- Arts & Crafts
- Snacks
- Sports
- Field Trips
- and MUCH MORE!

Register at <https://bit.ly/49CGPmH>.

Financial Report for April 13-14

Sunday Collection Envelopes: \$2,189.00
 Loose Checks: \$755.00
 Loose Cash/Coins: \$910.00
 Online Donations: \$5,979.59
Total Collected: \$9,833.59

Budgeted: \$10,000.00
Difference: -\$166.41

Year-to-date Collected FY 2024: \$469,463.32
 Year-to-date Budgeted FY 2024: \$386,400.00
Difference: \$83,063.32

Thank You for Your Generosity!

Thank you to the many parishioners who dropped off donations for Care for Real this weekend! These donations will providing support to our neighbors in need.

Growing in Faith

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit....If you remain in me and my words remain in you...By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." John 15: 5-8

The Gospel of John is full of remarkable stories like the gospel reading this Sunday. John puts it together for us beautifully and poetically. In many of his stories he writes about signs, deeds and remarks that often reveal a key precept: The Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in us, through his words and through the Eucharist.

KC Conway, my friend and fellow parishioner, and I were bantering about this gospel passage and she fondly recalled a childhood memory: a huge "vascular" grapevine in her grandmother's garden. Each year, this vine would produce loads of fruit—bunches of gorgeous grapes—for her family.

John uses the powerful and accessible metaphor of vine, branches and fruit to help us make an imaginative link to Jesus and the Eucharist. So, to take John's symbolic image further: Jesus, the vine, is a big vascular system with many branches. Those branches are well pruned, nourished by the "blood" of the vine, and bear fruit. The fruit of that vine becomes the wine of his blood. Through the bread and wine, he remains in us and we in him.

Have I taken this too far? I don't know, but when I read John's stories I reconnect with Jesus in such a profound way.



Easter Flower Offering Envelopes

We are offering an opportunity to celebrate someone in your life, living or deceased, during the Easter season. Please consider making an Easter Flower offering in their name.

Envelopes are available in the back of the Church and may be placed in the collection basket or sent to Rectory. The names of those honored will be published in the bulletin during the Easter season.

Flower Offering Remembrances

In Memory of/Individual who Honored Them

- **Caskie Family**
- **Peter Steenveld** by Joanne Steenveld
- **John and Elizabeth** by Pat O'Neal
- **Groleau Karasti** by Rose Karasti
- **Slane and Quinn families** by Millie Slane
- **Mary Ellen Mellon & JoAnne Joyce** by Bernard Joyce
- **The deceased of the Strubbe-Galoney family** by Marie Galoney
- **Larry McCauley** by Marilyn Klein

Parish Information

New Parishioners

- Joseph Regan

Cantors, Ministers of the Word, Eucharistic Ministers, & Altar Servers for This Weekend

Ministers of the Word

- Saturday, April 27 at 5:00 pm - Jennifer Kiedaisch, Kathleen Dawson
- Sunday, April 28 at 8:00 am - Patrick Reardon, David Sullivan
- Sunday, April 28 at 10:30 am - Sarah Millar, Joe Dunne

Eucharistic Ministers

- Saturday, April 27 at 5:00 pm - Michelle Kuehlhorn
- Sunday, April 28 at 8:00 am - Kathryn Stimac
- Sunday, April 28 at 10:30 am - Michael Kowalski, Patrick Robinson, Debra Novak

Altar Servers

- Saturday, April 27 at 5:00 pm - Carter Cartwright, cross bearer;
- Sunday, April 28 at 10:30 am - Mary Kate Cashman, cross bearer; Mathios Paulus and Xavier Lassus, acolytes

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

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|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| • Carlos Barragan | • Mr. and Mrs. Emin Euman | • Daniel Moore |
| • Patrick Barton | • Luke Fitzgerald | • Andy Mueller |
| • Zara Bradley | • Tim Giles | • Donald Nydereck |
| • Lilly Buie | • Estelle Guardino | • Dealina Peon |
| • Hallie Burhoe | • Gina Heidkamp | • Claude Poulsen |
| • The Buttitta family | • Tricia Hernandez | • Charley Scantlebury |
| • Maggie Callaway | • Maria Hertl | • Willy Spalla |
| • Aida Calvopina | • Marilyn Klein | • Floret Spalle |
| • Claire Conley | • Carleen Lorys | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Denise DeBelle | • River Malik | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • David Denegas | • Matilde Manzardo | • Leon Ward |
| • Ann Collins Dole | • Janet McCulley | • Ron Whitfield |
| • Renee Elhoumaide | • Nancy Michael | • Yyes Yoza |
| | | • Joel Pozzi Zio |

Contact the Rectory office at 773.764.3621 or email stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org if you would like to add a name to the prayer list.

Mass Intentions

- **Monday, April 29:** 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- **Tuesday, April 30:** 7:30 am - People of God
- **Wednesday, May 1:** 7:30 am - Pat Kelly+
- **Thursday, May 2:** 7:30 am - Communion Service
- **Friday, May 3:** 7:30 am - Joseph Shields+
- **Saturday, May 4:** 7:30 am - People of God; 5:00 pm - Blanche Saldanha+
- **Sunday, May 5:** 8:00 am - Ricardo Manalo; 10:30 am - Patricia Messearger; 10:30 am Gym Mass - People of God

**The 2025 Mass Intentions book is now open. If you would like a Mass Intention said for a person that needs prayers or in memory of someone who has died, please stop by the Rectory office. We'll help you find an available Mass and prepare a card for you to give to the person or family of the intention. A \$20 donation is suggested.*

Donate to our Parish

- 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/allevnts
- Questions? Reach out to Eduardo Soto, St. Gertrude's business manager, via email at esoto@stgertrudechicago.org for additional information.

Mass Times/Reconciliation/Rectory Office Hours

- Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:30 am in Church, 10:30 am Gym Mass; Monday-Friday: 7:30 am (Thursday is a Communion Service.); Saturday: 7:30 am & 5:00 pm Reconciliation is offered on Saturday from 4:15-4:45 pm in Church or by appointment by calling the Rectory at 773.764.3621.
- The Rectory office is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 am-4:30 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am - 2:30 pm. For the most up-to-date information, visit stgertrudechicago.org.

Parish Staff and Contact Info

Rev. Michael Gabriel, Pastor—mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org

Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate—eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org

Sherl Patterson, Office Manager—spatterson@stgertrudechicago.org

Laurie Hasbrook, Heart to Heart Lending Closet Manager—lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org

Andy Mueller, Parish Buildings Engineer—stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org

Sr. Susan Quaintance, OSB, Heart to Heart Director—squaintance@stgertrudechicago.org

Tracy Shields, Communications Director—stgertbulletin@yahoo.com

Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management—esoto@stgertrudechicago.org

Heart to Heart Contact Info

To reach our Heart to Heart director, Sr. Susan Quaintance, OSB, call her at 872.296.2537 or email her at squaintance@stgertrudechicago.org. To reach Laurie Hasbrook, our Lending Closet manager, please call 773.973.5464 or email her at lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org.