

Be a grace giver instead  
of a stone thrower.

## St. Gertrude Chicago

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### Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 3, 2022

### From Fr. Rich

#### Lenten Reconciliation Service

Everyone is invited to join in the Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service this Sunday, April 3 at 1:00 pm in church. This is a reflective service, offering music, scripture, and a guided reflection/examination of conscience and then absolution. This service is under an hour

and a great time for some quiet reflection in this Lenten season.

#### The Fifth Sunday of Lent

In today's First Reading from the prophet Isaiah, we hear that extraordinary and comforting message from the prophet, *"Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"*

It is a message of enormous consolation as we move into the final days of this Lenten season, in what we once called Passion Week (the fifth week in Lent).

And if we were wondering what this change, this time of transition is, we experience it fully in the Gospel passage of the woman caught in adultery. Not so different than what we might still experience today, with a select group of male religious leaders bringing forth a woman already determined as guilty for a sexual sin (somehow always considered far more serious than their bigotry, misogyny, and small-mindedness) and somehow having committed this sin with some man who remains unnamed, uncharged, and NOT brought before Jesus. And all of this in order to trap Jesus so they could remove him from their midst because they were tired of his challenges to their established authority. But outfoxing them once again, Jesus simply redirects their focus to, *"Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."*

In this single incident, with a dynamic we have seen countless times in the Gospels, Jesus drives home the point that in God's eyes we are all sinners, all loved by God, and all equal in stature.

In this final, full week of Lent, let us pause to consider how we think of and treat other human beings. Let us especially think of those on the peripheries, those who belong to minorities, or who in any way are deemed by ourselves and our society as worthless, powerless in the way we measure -- in wealth and prominence, fame, and production. If Jesus were sitting with us today, which people would he be recognizing, calling forth to be treated with honor, respect, and dignity? And then let us tend to our own "homework" of making such a culture our lived reality.

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

Next weekend is Palm Sunday. Weather-permitting, all the Masses will all 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**

Next week, we begin the celebration of Holy Week as we gather for the Blessing of Palms.

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.
- The Mass of the Lord's Supper will still have some of the pandemic restrictions. The most evident 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. The procession of the Blessed Sacrament at the end of Mass returns to its usual format this year.



## **Good Friday, April 15**

- No morning Mass
- 3:00 pm - Stations of the Cross (No Stations at 6:30 pm)
- 7:30 pm - Passion of the Lord's Supper (live-streamed)
- The Rectory office is closed.
- Good Friday Service of the Lord's Passion once again will restrict Veneration of the Cross to only non-touching forms of veneration (e.g. a bow, a genuflection, a brief moment in silence before the cross). The rest of this service should be pretty much as it usually was before the pandemic.

## Holy Saturday, April 16

- No morning Mass
- 11:00 am - Blessing of Easter baskets
- 7:30 pm - Easter Vigil Mass (live-streamed)
- Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass -- this year everyone will once again receive a taper on their way into church, which will be lit from the newly lighted Paschal Candle, while the Exsultet is sung. We will use the large crystal bowl for baptisms in front of the altar, instead of erecting the pool in the sanctuary. The rest of the Easter Vigil should look pretty much as it did pre-pandemic.

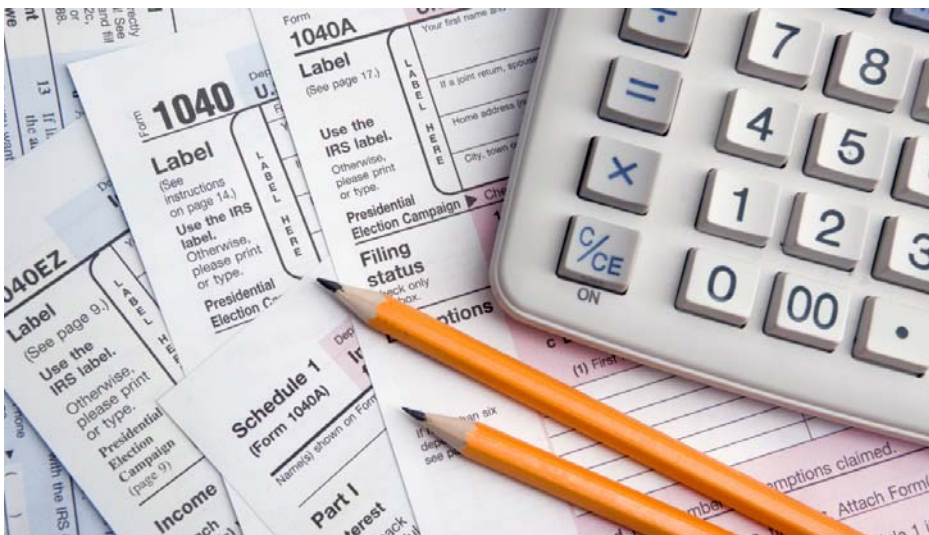
## Easter Sunday Masses

- 8:00 am
- 10:30 am in church
- 10:30 am Gym Mass
- 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 closed on Good Friday, April 15 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.



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

Please help us cover our increased operating costs by considering a direct gift of securities or mutual funds. You can reduce or eliminate federal capital gains taxes on the transfer. You may also be entitled to a federal income tax charitable deduction

based on the fair market value of the securities at the time of the transfer. For more information about donating stock or securities, please contact your financial advisor.

To make a stock donation to St. Gertrude, visit [archchicago.org/stockgiftform](http://archchicago.org/stockgiftform) and complete the electronic Letter of Intention form. Once you have submitted the form, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for you to complete your gift. Contact Karen Whitehead at 312.534.7461 or [kwhitehead@archchicago.org](mailto:kwhitehead@archchicago.org). with questions.

## 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.*



Photo courtesy of CRS partner, Caritas Poland.

The poster features a dark red background with a gold floral pattern. At the top left is a small crest with 'S.V. De P.' inside. The text reads: 'St. Vincent de Paul Parish Chicago Presents: A Faith Studies Event'. The main title is 'Out of Many One' in large, stylized gold letters. Below it is the subtitle 'the Music and Significance of Renaissance Voice'. At the bottom are three circular portraits of men in historical attire.

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

## The Scrutinies/Introduction to the RCIA Group

This is the final weekend that the RCIA group will undergo the Scrutinies, where they will be examined about their own desires to turn away from sin and embrace the gospel of Jesus.

These Rites invite all of us "old Catholics" to do the same in our lives, as we share the common goal of being ready for the celebration of Easter.

We are so pleased they are a part of St. Gertrude and ask that you keep them in your prayers during these final weeks of Lent.

Below is an introduction to one of our RCIA candidates, Bella Meaux.

Allison "Bella" Meaux was raised as a Baptist but grew away from any spiritual tradition as she got into her teens and twenties until she met her fiancé, who is a cradle Catholic, at 27. Her faith and interest in the church increased at age 30 when she became a teacher with Archdiocese of Chicago.

She is currently a first grade teacher's assistant at Sacred Heart School on Sheridan Road. She and her fiancé are planning a wedding at Saint Gertrude's in October of 2022. She enjoys smuggling with her cats and reading when she is not completing homework for her MFA in creative writing.



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## 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 in your prayers.



Visit St. Gertrude's website at [www.stgertrudechicago.org](http://www.stgertrudechicago.org) for the latest parish information, details about our office hours, Mass times, Holy Week events, staff contact information, our ministries, phone numbers, Religious Ed program, bulletins, and more!

## Growing in Faith

### *Rejoicing on the Way*

Last Sunday (March 27) was the 4th Sunday of Lent and Laetare Sunday. Laetare means "rejoice," a time to be filled with hope, for Easter is now within sight. But it's hard to rejoice when many suffer from the horrors of war. We've come through two years of pandemic, with grievous losses for some, and we don't know what lies ahead. We stand on a threshold, that liminal in-between time that invites transformation and growth while requiring acceptance of a wobbly present.



In this Sunday's first reading, Isaiah tells us to "Remember not the events of the past" and promises "something new...water in the desert." Paul, in the second reading, has "accepted the loss of all things" that he may be found in Christ, "depending on faith to know Christ and the power of his resurrection."

Both readings show us that the threshold we experience today is not something new. Isaiah wrote in anticipation of the coming of Christ, which is now our "already," the "something new" that begins our salvation. Paul speaks of our "not yet," the fullness of faith which will "somehow. . .attain the resurrection from the dead." From their points of view wars and pandemics are only bleeps on the long Christian journey. Our shared pilgrimage takes place on a threshold where we teeter together, taking deep breaths, between the already of Jesus' birth and the not yet of Christ's return.

~ Maggie Kast

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## Teen Summer Mission Trip to Lake Traverse, South Dakota

The youth group's Summer Mission Trip is scheduled for July 17-22. The group will travel to Lake Traverse, South Dakota.

All teens in grades 7-12 are welcome to take part in this jam-packed week of service, friendship, and fun! Space is limited.



For more information about the mission trip, please visit the Lake Traverse Youth Mission Trip/ YouthWorks website at <https://youthworks.com/trips/lake-traverse/>.

If you have any questions, please email Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate, Religious Education and Youth Ministry, at [eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org).



## Lenten Faith Activities

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 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 we also have Stations of the Cross - joining Jesus' journey, recognizing the present struggles and crosses that challenge our modern world. (There are no Stations of the Cross at 6:30 pm on Good Friday, April 15.)

## 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!>



**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. Content touches on the personal, emotional, and even spiritual resilience found in change, growth, and regeneration.

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.

## Coming This Spring—St. Gertrude Composting Program

Dear St. Gertrude Compost and Garden Team,

It is time to start thinking about spring and our parish compost and garden projects. I think we had a great year last year and am hoping that many or most of you will return to be involved again this year.



We have some new changes with our compost program this spring. Last year, we had many people drop off their compostable goods; so many in fact that it required a huge labor-intensive effort to move the material from one bin to another bin to speed along the breakdown process. And while Grace and Paul were very helpful in getting us started, they both work full time jobs and manage their own composting project at St. Gregory, so they were often not available.

So, I have decided to go with a different system that is more user friendly and will produce compost at quicker pace. We have purchased a compost tumbler that is actually a large steel drum on its own stand that is totally self-contained with a removable door ( for loading and unloading of compost materials) , air vents and drainage units, and a gear driven spin handle. Simply spin the handle five times before loading your material, and five times afterwards and you are done! This unit is also impermeable for city wildlife to enter which is very important since we are close to an alley. I highly suggest going to [www.mantis.com](http://www.mantis.com) for

more information and watch a short video demonstration.

Because of this new system and the fact that we need to make a few revisions to our Do's and Don't's lists, I think it might be wise to set up a Zoom meeting with our group so I can better inform you of the coming changes and answer any of your questions. This will probably be on a Saturday morning in the near future. We hope to get this system up and running by mid-April.

We sincerely hope you will participate in our project again this year and of course we eagerly welcome any newcomers. Email me at [mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org) if you have any questions.

~ Mary Clare Barker







## Scouting for Food: Pack 3822 to Collect Food in Edgewater on Saturday, April 9

Scouts from the Cub Scout Pack 3822 will hold their annual food drive, hosted by the Pathway to Adventure Council, to help families in need.

On the morning of Saturday, April 2, members of Cub Scouts Pack 3822 canvassed the neighborhood surrounding St. Gertrude, distributing door hangers inviting people to donate non perishables.

Next Saturday, April 9, the Scouts will revisit those homes to pick up donated, nonperishable items from 10:00 am-1:00

pm. These donations will benefit the Greater Chicago Food Depository and other local food banks.

To participate or to ask questions, please contact [PTAC.ScoutingForFood@scouting.org](mailto:PTAC.ScoutingForFood@scouting.org).

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

### Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, April 2 at 5:00 pm - Steve Monti
- Sunday, April 3 at 8:00 am - Jacalyn Meier
- Sunday, April 3 at 10:30 am Mass in church - Patrick Robinson
- Sunday, April 3 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

### Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, April 2 at 5:00 pm - Tim Harrington
- Sunday, April 3 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, April 3 at 10:30 am Mass in church - Rafael Melendez, Carlos Barragan, Bob Backis
- Sunday, April 3 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

### Cantors and Musicians (No Piano):

- Saturday, April 2 at 5:00 pm - Bernie O' Connor; Jim Szmurlo-violin, James Casey-violin
- Sunday, April 3 at 8:00 am - Cindy Lawson; Amir Ghazaleh-trombone
- Sunday, April 3 at 10:30 am Mass in church - Kate Hibbs Davis; Denise Goodman-Bb Clarinet, Dana Sullivan-flute
- Sunday, April 3 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

## Mass Intentions

- Monday, April 4: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
- Tuesday, April 5: 7:30 am - Mary Carole Nelson & Helen Nelligan +
- Wednesday, April 6: 7:30 am - World peace
- Thursday, April 7: 7:30 am - Communion Service (+ indicates the person is deceased)
- Friday, April 8: 7:30 am -Victor Melendez +
- Saturday, April 9: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society; 5:00 pm - Stephan Oleszczuk +
- Palm Sunday, April 10: 8:00 am - Parishioners of St. Gertrude; Combined 10:30 am in Church - Peter Zammi + and Des McConnell +

## New Parishioners

- Alec & Genna Jankowski
- Ruel & Ma Nove Maderada

## 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.