



**The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want.**

St. Gertrude Chicago

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April 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter

From Fr. Mike Gabriel

Each week as we continue to move away from Easter, the Resurrection, we hope to start understanding what happened to Jesus and to the Church over Christ triumph over death. As we look back to the second week of Easter in that locked room of the disciples who were feeling hopeless, then they find themselves renewing their friendship with the Risen Lord.

Today, we encounter the Good Shepherd, who really knows his flock, and they know him. The image of the shepherd reminds us of that intimate relationship of compassion that Jesus has with his people. Jesus reminds the disciples that he knows them and they him and that he loves each of them with a personal love and treats them each as if they were the only ones who existed for him. This is the same message for each of us, Jesus knows us and we him and that he has a personal love for each of us.

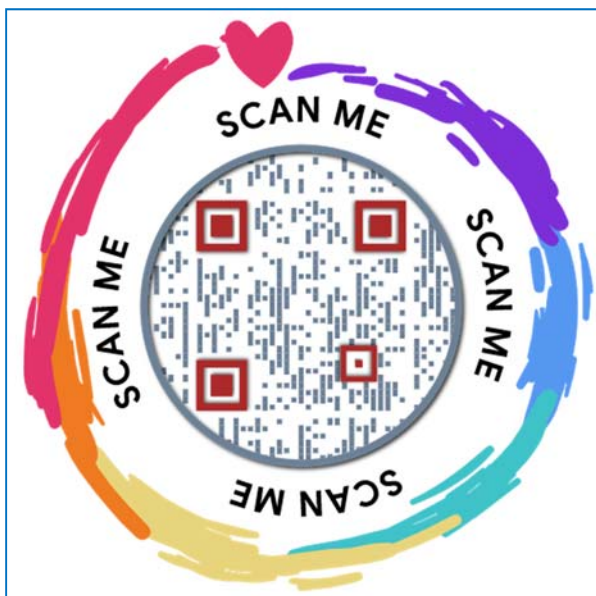
Today being Good Shepherd Sunday means that it is also Vocation Awareness Sunday. I ask all of you to join with the people around the world to pray that the Church may be provided with the leaders needed to do its work. We all know at the present there is a critical shortage - at least in the traditional sense of priest and religious and we pray others answer that call. I am often amazed that many do not include themselves or family in this prayer. They often others pray earnestly for more young people to become priests and religious, but exclude their children or grandchildren, expecting and assuming someone else will answer this call.

A bigger problem is that for too long there has been way too narrow of a definition of the word vocation. We tended to limit the call to just priest and religious. But the fact is that every one of us has a vocation - as a spouse, a parent, a teacher, doctor, a waitress, salesperson, etc.

We should also be praying and asking ourselves, "Am I spending my energies on a real vocation? Am I doing what God wants me to be doing? Am I giving witness to others of Christ? Am I trying to make this world a better place for all God's people?"

Fr. Dom Grassi's 50th Anniversary of Priesthood

Speaking of Good Shepherds: On May 7, 2023, Fr. Dominic Grassi will be celebrating 50 years as a priest! Fr. Dominic is one of the retired pastors here at St. Gertrude's. He served here from 2006-2017 and is pastor emeritus at St. Josaphat. Fr. Dom will be celebrating a Mass of thanksgiving on May 7th at St. Josaphat 10:00 am. All are invited. You can also send cards of good wishes here to St. Gertrude and we will make sure he gets them.



Parish Town Hall Planned for Next Sunday, May 7

On Sunday, May 7th in the Gym after the 10:30 am Masses in the Gym, the Parish Pastoral Council invites you to a town hall discussion on the parish's strategic plan.

To view a copy of the Strategic Plan, scan the QR code (pictured right) or visit <https://bit.ly/StGertsStrategicPlan>. Hard copies are available in church.

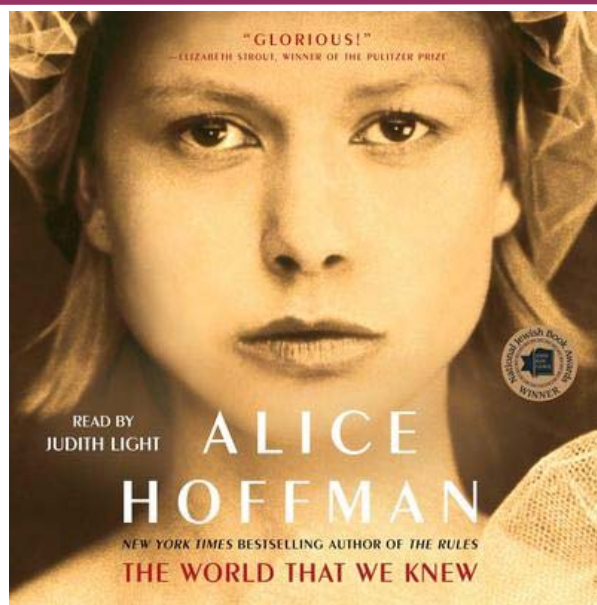
Your attendance is crucial for the future of our parish!

If you have questions, please email the PPC at stgertrudeparishcouncil@gmail.com.

Book Club: Next Meeting is Monday, May 8

All are welcome to attend the next book club gathering on Monday, May 8! We will meet in the Ministry Center that evening at 7:00 pm and will discuss *The World That We Knew: A Novel* by Alice Hoffman. We would love new voices and opinions.

Contact Lea Cloninger at 773.973.2465 or Sue Benjamin at 773.551.8401 with questions. The gathering may be virtual if the weather is stormy.



First Communion Information/May Crowning Planned for May 14

Families of students making their First Communion at St. Gertrude this spring should keep the following dates in mind:

- **Friday, May 12** at 6:30 pm in church - Rehearsal for the Sacrament of Communion
- **Saturday, May 13** at 10:00 am in church - Sacrament of Communion

Our annual May Crowning is **Sunday, May 14** at 10:30 am Mass! Students who made their First Communion on Saturday, May 6 are

invited to attend the 10:30 am Mass in church wearing their First Communion outfits.



Catholic Charities Second Collection on Mother's Day

For Eva* and her young daughter, the St. Sabina Food Pantry operated by Catholic Charities is a lifeline for nutritious produce and meat. She's grateful to the staff who help her secure healthy food that is keeping her small family fed in uncertain economic times.

As she navigates this stage, finding her footing as a young parent, Eva recently shared, "I'm thankful that I have someplace to go where I can be helped and respected."

Catholic Charities helps hundreds of mothers like Eva every day throughout Cook and Lake counties. Please support the Second Collection on Mother's Day, May 14, or anytime at www.catholiccharities.net/donate.
**Name changed to protect privacy*

Registration for 2023 Wildcat Summer Camp is Now Open!

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!

Prices:

- \$250/week for campers who registers/attends 4 or more weeks; \$200/week for each sibling.
- \$290/week for campers who registers for less than 4 weeks; \$240/week for each sibling.

For more information, visit www.northsidecatholic.org or call 773.743.6277. The 2023 Wildcat Summer Camp Flyer is be seen at <https://bit.ly/WildcatSummerCamp>.

We look forward to seeing you this summer!



This Summer: St. Gertrude's Youth Group Mission Experience

Attention teens in sixth grade through high school! This summer, from July 10-14, the parish youth group will volunteer with a different Chicagoland organization each day.

This is an excellent opportunity to have fun and earn volunteer hours!

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. Please register before Saturday, May 28.

Financial Report from Easter Sunday, April 16

Sunday Collection Envelopes: \$2,470.00
 Loose Checks: \$790.00
 Loose Cash/Coins: \$1,111.33
 Online Donations: \$4,681.16
 Easter: \$638.00
Total Collected: \$9,052.49

Budgeted: \$10,730.00
Difference: -\$1,677.51

Year-to-date Collected: \$405,505.55
 Year-to-date Budgeted: \$558,000.00
Difference: -\$152,494.45



Donate to our Parish

Parishioners can donate to St. Gertrude in various ways:

- 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

Questions? Please reach out to Eduardo Soto, St. Gertrude's business manager, via email esoto@stgertrudechicago.org for additional information.



NCA Looking for Feedback on Candidates for Their Leadership Team

Northside Catholic Academy is recruiting for an Executive Director and a Principal to lead the school.

Bishop Bartosic has formed a team of stakeholders to interview prospective candidates for the open leadership positions.

The Leadership Transition Committee (LTC) is excited to start meeting with prospective candidates and wanted to give a formal introduction to who we are and our approach to this important work. Visit [https://](https://bit.ly/NCA-LTC)

bit.ly/NCA-LTC see an outline of the mission of the LTC and who we are.

We also want to hear from you! Visit <https://bit.ly/NCALeadershipSurvey> for a survey where you can provide feedback on the types of candidates you think will best fit the needs of NCA. Also in the survey you can indicate your interest in a group listening session, an opportunity for the LTC to hear directly from you.

NCA has many stakeholders and we want to make sure everyone is heard throughout this process.

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.

In Memory of/Individual who Honored Them

- Kathy Schneider Runstrom ~ *Mary T. Scheider*
- Jon Anderson ~ *Pamela Sherrod Anderson*
- Lilder & Albert Sherrod ~ *Pamela Sherrod Anderson*
- Randy, Lydia & Manuel Cruz ~ *Monica T. Cruz*
- Ma'Araceli Frias ~ *Nona T. Frias*
- Gonzalo & Sulecia Frias ~ *Nona T. Frias*
- Theresa McMahan ~ *Joe McMahan*
- Deceased member of Slane family ~ *Millie Slane*
- Mother and Father ~ *Efrain Cortes*
- Mary Ellen Mellon ~ *Jo Anne Joyce*
- Mary Pat Ross ~ *Steve & Anne Hasselbeck*
- Deceased of the Laczkowski & Glotkowski families ~ *Jean L. Laczkowski*





Growing in Faith

The readings for this week focus on the theme of the Good Shepherd. Here in the city of Chicago, I confess that it is hard for me to relate to this imagery, and I am not quite sure how I feel about being a sheep. However, we can all relate very well to the stark language that refers to living in a troubled time. The readings name suffering, injustice, and those falsely seeking power.

After spending time reflecting on the readings, I am left with more questions than answers. In our current day, when everywhere we turn, we are met with divisiveness and conflict, how do we recognize the voice of the shepherd? How do we follow that which

will lead us to the promised life of abundance for all?

What kind of leadership do we need in such a fractured world? The image of shepherd and sheep is an intimate one. A leader who truly knows us, and to whom our lives truly matter... a leader that really shares our lives and is with us, especially in our pain...these simple qualities seem so far from the leaders and voices that are filling up our airwaves. What are our current images of loving leadership, a leadership which both cares for us and calls us to be active members of the community?

Sheep are communal; perhaps we are called to discern this together. We can help one another recognize Truth and that place where goodness and mercy meet.

~ Amy Zajakowski Uhl

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



ANNUAL VOCATIONS APPEAL

World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Sunday, April 30

We see in Jesus, the Good Shepherd, the heart of every calling. Everyone is called, and everyone has a vocation in the Church. Please pray for an increase in vocations in the Archdiocese of Chicago!

Mass and Adoration with Cardinal Blase Cupich
Friday, May 12, 5:30–7 p.m.
Holy Name Cathedral

All are invited to pray for vocations and all those who will be ordained.

If you have questions regarding your vocation, please contact Fr. Tim Monahan at 847.531.0148 or tmonahan@archchicago.org.



Youth Group Outing Last Weekend

This past weekend, our parish youth group ventured downtown! The kids had a blast walking around the Chicago Cultural Center and the some of the downtown green spaces. The next youth group gathering is Sunday, May 21. All teens in 7th grade and up are welcome! Email eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org for more information.

New Parishioners

- The Gatto family

Recent Baptisms

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hudson Nieman • Beau Buicko • Charlotte Swoboda • Anthony Minchella | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua Albores • Sebastian Albores • Angel Albores • Hark Mohiser | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bence Mohiser • James Smyle • Maximus Mendoza |
|--|--|---|

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

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, April 29 at 5:00 pm - Patrick Reardon, Kathleen Dawson
- Sunday, April 30 at 8:00 am - Anthony Myers, David Sullivan
- Sunday, April 30 at 10:30 am - Bob Backis, Rafael Melendez

Altar Servers:

- Sunday, April 30 at 10:30 am - cross bearer - Ethan Craft; acolytes - Henry Villareal, Alise Veleta

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, April 29 at 5:00 pm - Kathy Wall
- Sunday, April 30 at 8:00 am - Brian DeVarenne
- Sunday, April 30 at 10:30 am - Michelle Kuehlhorn, Carlos Barragan, Debra Novak

Cantors & Musicians:

- Saturday, April 29 at 5:00 pm - Paula Dempsey
- Sunday, April 29 at 8:00 am - Denise Goodman
- Sunday, April 30 at 10:30 am - Rob Schroeder

Mass Intentions

- Monday, May 1: 7:30 am - Sheila McGuire +
- Tuesday, May 2: 7:30 am - Living & deceased Torreano family members
- Wednesday, May 3: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- Thursday, May 4: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, May 5: 7:30 am - Franchesca Munoz +
- Saturday, May 6: 7:30 am - Living & deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners, Ethna Nolan +; 5:00 pm - Sheila McGuire +
- Sunday, May 7: 8:00 am - Living & deceased Torreano family members; 10:30 am – Patricia Messbarger; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Ethan Seitzer

Mass Times/Reconciliation/Rector 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.

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

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|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| • Zara Bradley | • Maria Hertl | • Bernadette Stanis |
| • Lilly Buie | • Bernice Kiedysz | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Aida Calvopina | • Marilyn Klein | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • Claire Conley | • Patricia Meade | • Leon Ward |
| • Ann Collins Dole | • Janet McCulley | • Tammy Wielgosz |
| • Luke Fitzgerald | • Karey Myers | • Janice Wittenberg |
| • Gina Heidkamp | • Richard Seitz | • Yyes Yoza |

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.

Parish Staff and Contact Info

Rev. Michael Gabriel, Parish Administrator—mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org
Mary Clare Barker, Minister of Music—mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org
Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate—eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org
Rectory Office Manager—stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org
Laurie Hasbrook, Heart to Heart Lending Closet Manager—lhasbrook@stgertrudechicago.org
Andy Mueller, Parish Buildings Engineer—stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org
Tracy Shields, Communications Director—stgerbulletin@yahoo.com
Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management—esoto@stgertrudechicago.org
Patricia Sullivan, Heart to Heart Director—psullivan@stgertrudechicago.org