



St. Gertrude Chicago

1420 W. Granville, Chicago, IL 60660

773.764.3621

stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org

www.stgertrudechicago.org

Easter Sunday

April 17, 2022

From Fr. Rich

Easter Sunday

Happy Easter to you and all those in your family and community! May the Spirit of Our Risen Lord enlighten your minds and hearts with the renewed hope that is the gift of Easter!

Today we celebrate the greatest gift we could ever receive -- the forgiveness of our sins and the promise of eternal life with God in heaven! May the joy and glory of this day be with you throughout the fifty days of the Easter Season. May you share that gift with your family and friends, and may it reach well beyond to bring renewed hope and joy to the world.

A word of thanks to all those who participated in this year's Lenten Almoner's Program! There is a complete review of the Almoner's collection throughout Lent as well as the number of McDonald gifts cards that were distributed in Father Mike's column later in this bulletin. We averaged over one thousand dollars per week in contributions and about the same in card distribution. If you were one of those who distributed, I'm sure you saw the gratitude those simple gifts brought to so many in need! Thank you to everyone for once again making this wonderful outreach so successful!

And a big thank you to all those who planned, led and/or participated on the Lenten anti-racism prayer and faith-sharing groups. It requires a certain kind of courage and determination to be willing to consider our own role in societal sin and how we can move beyond the sin into healing and reconciliation. This was a wonderful Lenten exercise!

Thanks to all our Ministers for all their Service

All of the services beginning with Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday require a great commitment of time and energy from many of our ministries. Thank you to all those who have come out for extra rehearsals, for volunteering to minister at a number of services, to be flexible in covering where most needed. A special thanks to all those who have recently returned to church after the COVID pandemic limited their ability to be in church.

Our Adult Choir and Instrumentalists and Cantors; Presiders; the Ministers of Communion and Lectors and Ushers and Sacristan -- THANK YOU for making our prayer in these Holy Week services so beautiful and prayerful!

The Rectory office is closed on Easter Sunday and Easter Monday, April 18.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



A message from the Cardinal



An Easter Message from Cardinal Cupich

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we gather this year to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection, we cannot avoid our circumstances. Shadows of sin and death loom large over us. The pandemic, our experience of social unrest and daily violence on our streets, and, of course, the horrors of war in Ukraine and other parts of the world—all remind us how much we need the Lord's redemptive and healing power in our lives.

Our source of hope amid these challenges is anchored in all that we have witnessed in the liturgies of Holy Week. We have celebrated that the Lord Jesus entered into the fullness of our human experience. He went to the very darkest edges of that human experience. He entered into our suffering, struggle, and even our desperation, when he cried out on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" He squarely faced sin and death on the cross.

And it was precisely in the moment he fully emptied himself, placing himself totally in the hands of God, that he was raised up from the dead victorious. But, his rising from the dead is not just a matter of his personal vindication. He came back from the dead for us, to give us a share in his victory. This is what takes place in our Baptism, which is confirmed in the Holy Spirit, and sustained by the Eucharist. He lives in us, and his victory over sin and death lives in us as well.

As Pope Francis reminds us, we need to share the victory of the resurrection with others, as Jesus did with us. We do this by being sisters and brothers to one another. As Church, we are a family of faith that walks with each other in moments of pain, struggle, and grief, keeping alive the promise that Jesus, the victor over sin and death, remains with us. We are never abandoned. My prayer for all of us in the Archdiocese of Chicago is that we will stand firm in hope, confident that the One who has gone before us in death has come back from the dead for us. May the peace of the Risen Lord be with you and those you love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Cardinal Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago



Congratulations to the RCIA Class of 2022

At Holy Saturday's Easter Vigil, Marlena Siroski, Russell Gipe, Bella Meaux, 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, Marlena and Russell's son (pictured with his dad), who was baptized on Saturday evening.

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



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>.

A Prayer for Ukraine

Holy and Gracious God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.
And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son. Amen.



Photo courtesy of CRS partner, Caritas Poland.

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



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>!

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.

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



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.

Growing in Faith

It's hard to imagine that the world has ever been in worse shape. Society seems to be growing more violent every day. We are seeing the effects of the lingering pandemic play out in terrible ways. And we have lost so many people. And then there is Ukraine and Afghanistan. You know the litany. You know what the world looks like right now.


So what does Easter tell us? Easter tells us that THIS is exactly the same world that Christ loved, that Christ died for and Christ rose in – exactly the same. The world has always been the world. The evil we see is not more potent than in the past. The good that we find is not less potent than it ever was or less prevalent. The purpose and power of good is to be good. Our challenge is to confidently face the power of evil—the evil that always was, the evil that always is—with goodness.

Jesus didn't come to conquer evil. He conquered death, so we can face evil unafraid. So, this Easter, I rejoice in the good: the beauty of nature; the frontline workers who sacrificed their lives to care for us during the pandemic, and the nurses, doctors, family, and friends who still provide loving care; the good people who daily work to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, teach the children; the splendor of creation and perfection of our fellow creatures. I rejoice in the good, wherever I find it...and it is abundant. Happy Easter!


- KC Conway



EVENING OF PRAYER FOR CANONIZATION OF DOROTHY DAY



Saturday, April 30
at St. Thomas of Canterbury
4827 N Kenmore Ave



5:30 PM - Holy Hour
with Bishop Mark Bartosic
Music by the Canons
of St. John Cantius

7 PM - Discussion:
"Dorothy Day: Yesterday,
Today and Tomorrow"

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 on the Catholic Worker titled, "*Dorothy Day: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*".

Care for our Common Home: Appreciating God's Gifts

The Pope's encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, is basically an analysis of how humanity can use spirituality to improve our relationships with each other and with the natural world, all in service of caring for our common home.

Perhaps this is a good time to focus on these relationships – whether by praying for or with a loved one, or by being especially attentive to the world around us. When you see flowers pushing their way through the soil this time of year, do you immediately thank God for those gifts? When you hear robins chirping (a sure sign of spring!), are you awed by one of God's creations? Taking time to appreciate these things is a perfect way to care for our common home.



Earth Day

The 52nd anniversary of Earth Day is Friday, April 22, 2022. This year, the Earth Day theme is Investing in Our Planet. Please consider whatever at-home project(s) you might do as a family, or by yourself, to help improve the health of our home, Mother Earth!

Perhaps planting a garden -- either in the dirt in the ground or in the dirt in the pots. Flowering plants not only bring delight to our sense, but they also increase the production of healthy oxygen.

Another possible project might be some form of cleaning up or out, perhaps preceded by a "Stuff Examination of Conscience" - just how much "stuff" have I accumulated? Do I really

need all of it? If it is clothing or housewares, could I contribute my excess to those in need through donations to the Goodwill, St. Vincent DePaul Society, or Salvation Army shops?

One of the tricks in this kind of project is to plan, at the same time, to resist the "nature abhors a vacuum" syndrome, feeling the necessity of filling all those empty spaces by going out and purchasing more "stuff".

Happy Earth Day!

Retired Religious Fund Thank You

Dear Pastor, Staff and Parishioners,

On behalf of retired religious in the Archdiocese and across the nation, I extend my deepest gratitude to you for your support of the Retirement Fund for Religious collection in December 2021.

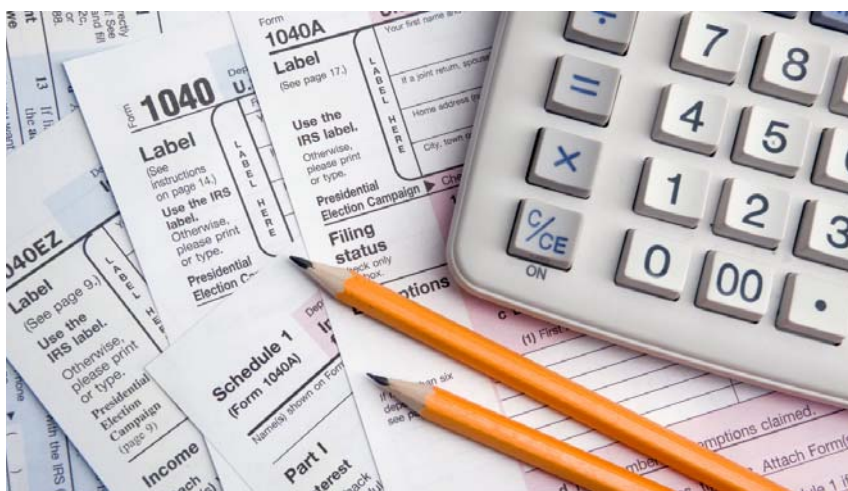
As of March 15th, parishes and missions in the Archdiocese of Chicago contributed \$604,000 to the appeal. This is a wonderful tribute to the women and men who have served in your parish or impacted your lives in some way over the years.

I join the many retired religious who benefit from your generosity as they remember you in their daily prayers. Your faithful support is received with profound and heartfelt gratitude.

As we look forward to the Easter season, may God's presence bless each of you with a sense of hope and promise.

Gratefully,

~ Sister Judith Zonsius, OSB, Retirement Fund for Religious



A Tax-Savvy Way to Support St. Gertrude Parish

What can I render to the Lord for all he has done for me? (Psalm 116:12-13)

As stewards of our faith, you can express your gratitude for God's gifts and help ensure that God's good work on earth continues by considering a charitable gift annuity.

When you establish a charitable gift annuity with the archdiocese, not only will you receive fixed payments for life, but you can designate our parish as the remainder beneficiary.

You can schedule payments according to your financial needs, and enjoy immediate and future tax benefits, including a federal income tax deduction for a portion of your gift, if you itemize. Also, a portion of each annuity payment will be tax-free (through life expectancy). The funds remaining after your lifetime will support our parish – as designated by you.

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



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. For more information, visit www.stvdep.org or call 773.325.8610 .

Virtual Retreat

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

**Friday April 22 | 1-5pm CST
Register @ ctccchicago.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@ctccchicago.org. There is a \$25 fee.

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 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 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



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:

- Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 16 at 7:30 pm - Patrick Robinson, Victoria Healy, Troy McMillian
- Easter Sunday, April 17 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Easter Sunday, April 17 at 10:30 am - Steve Moddle
- Easter Sunday, April 17 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 16 at 7:30 pm - Patrick Robinson, Victoria Healy, Troy McMillian
- Easter Sunday, April 17 at 8:00 am - Brian DeVarenne, Marty McDermott, Barb Daly
- Easter Sunday, April 17 at 10:30 am - Kathy Wall, Debra Novak, Steve Monti
- Easter Sunday, April 17 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Cantors and Musicians:

- Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 16 at 7:30 pm - Cantor: Matt Heimer; Instrumentalists: Scott Baker, trumpet; Amir Ghazaleh, trombone
- Easter Sunday, April 17 at 8:00 am - Cantor: Paula Dempsey; Scott Baker, trumpet
- Easter Sunday, April 17 at 10:30 am - Cantor: Kate Hibbs Davis; Instruments: Scott Baker, trumpet; Amir Ghazaleh, trombone
- Easter Sunday, April 17 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Mass Intentions

- Monday, April 18: 7:30 am - Joseph Carletta + (+ indicates the person is deceased)
- Tuesday, April 19: 7:30 am - Joe McMahon
- Wednesday, April 20: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
- Thursday, April 21: 7:30 am - (Communion Service) Margaret E. Kelley +
- Friday, April 22: 7:30 am - Sylvester Onyibor +
- Saturday, April 23: 7:30 am - Mary McGuinness ; 5:00 pm - Margaret Kelley +
- Sunday, April 24: 8:00 am - Augusto Batunbakal +; 10:30 am in Church - Antoinette G. Linke +; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Carl Palm

Rest in Peace

- Sheila Clerkin
- Thomas Eugene O'Malley
- Carmen Torrado Rodriguez, mother of Carmen Vidal-Hallett

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.

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
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