



Lent 2022: Harden Not Your Hearts

against the people of Ukraine. In whatever form our own prayer takes, let us continue to ask for God's help to end this war.

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>.

As Ukrainians flee their homes due to the conflict with Russia, CRS partner Caritas Poland assists Ukrainians crossing into Poland for safety. Photo courtesy of Caritas Poland.



The Second Sunday of Lent

As we continue our Lenten journey, today we join with the disciples on the mountain top, witnessing to the transfigured Lord and the appearance of Moses and Elijah. This miraculous change is a living reminder of who we are and how we are called to be our best selves.

One of the areas in which we need to be careful not to harden our hearts is in the confrontation with violence and evil in our world and in our own lives. Our knee-jerk response to personal and structural violence and injustice is usually to respond in kind. Never a good solution! Returning violence for violence only ever leads to more violence. As Christians, our challenge is to follow Jesus, to "turn the other cheek" and resist the temptation to more violence.

Here in our own nation, one of the most egregious and repetitive examples of violence is towards people of color. In a frighteningly regular pattern, people of color are shot, wounded, and killed simply because they were people of color. We have all seen the news

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Second Sunday of Lent

March 13, 2022

From Fr. Rich

Pray for Ukraine

Recently, while speaking with another pastor about the horrible situation in Ukraine, he expressed the hope that all people would pray for the conversion of President Putin, that he might reverse his course and end the violence

reports of innocent African-Americans being attacked by civilians, and even police, for no reason. Confronted by the racist injustice of these patterns of violence, we have to discern how we respond to stop this violence and to treat all people, regardless of their race or skin color, as brothers and sisters of Our Lord.

The first step in confronting this injustice brought about by racism is to open our own hearts and minds and souls to the Lord and ask for clarity of vision and purity of hearts to see every human being as our equal, respecting that creative diversity as a gift from God. No life is of lesser value because of race or color or place of birth or any of the millions of distinguishing markers that make up the full breadth of humankind. Always treating others as we wish to be treated is a perfect starting point! It is the proper response to the question, "How can I be my best self?"

Jesus calls us all to the mountain top. Let us remember that all God's children are also our sisters and brothers. And when they are being mistreated or are mistreating others, we can begin with prayers for changed hearts, and careful treatment as we wish to be treated.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) top priority is to encourage parishioners to consider becoming members of the PPC in the next few weeks, in time for our next scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 28 at 7:00 pm. We would like to see members more reflective of the diversity in the parish, including NCA school parents, some youth group parents, some of our new members from St. Ignatius, and parishioners who may not have been active, but would like to be more involved.



Why I am a Member of the Parish Pastoral Council by Denise Goodman

I can honestly say that the St. Gertrude community is like a family, and I have formed deep and lasting friendships here. And like all families, I think it's important to listen to each other, to be present for each other, and to stay connected even when we (inevitably) don't agree about everything.

As a member of the PPC I have become more knowledgeable about the different ministries, opportunities, and challenges of the parish. As members it's our responsibility to maintain a generous and loving vision of what we can be, and as parishioners and pastor to make that happen.

I am so grateful to the other members of the PPC, who are caring, loving, and faith-filled people.

Catholic Sisters Week

Fifty-two weeks a year, women religious stand with the poor and immigrants, teach children, fight injustice, heal the sick, share spirituality, empower women, defend the planet, promote peace, create community, and offer hope. But

for one week, March 8-14, Catholics

around the country honor women religious, recognize their good work, and invite all who follow Jesus to:

- expand and support their gospel witness
- grow the service networks they have seeded
- share their spirituality, charisms, and community
- encourage young women to consider a vocation to religious life
- support their pastoral, teaching and prophetic works

Why not take this opportunity this week to thank one or more sisters who have benefited your life and your faith?

The theme for Catholic Sisters Week this year is "Caring for Earth, Caring for You," incorporating an environmental focus or aspects of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si' on Care for Our Common Home."



Growing in Faith

The Transfiguration and Two Graces: Listening, and Seeing!

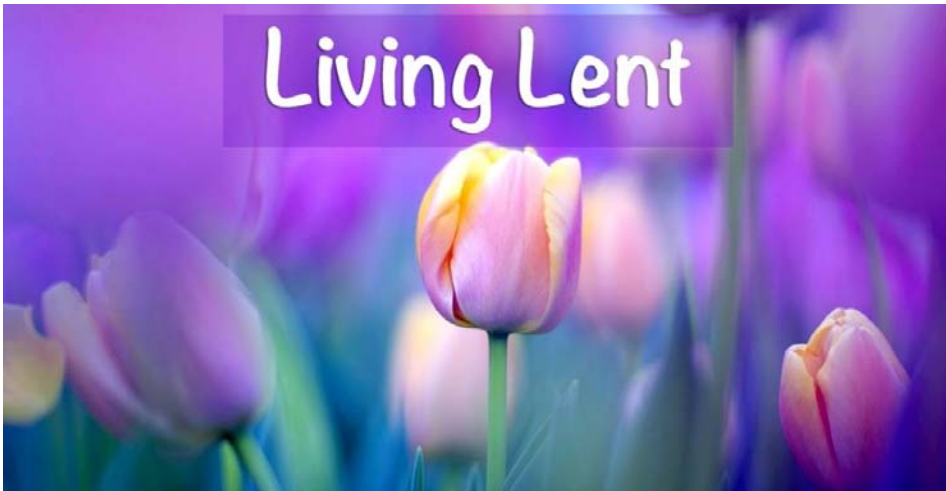
"In the prayer at the beginning of the Mass, we asked the Lord for two graces: "To listen to Your beloved Son", so that our faith might be nourished by the Word of God, and another grace — "to purify the eyes of our spirit, so that we might one day enjoy the vision of glory". To listen, the grace to listen, and the grace to purify our eyes. This is directly related to the Gospel we heard..."

~ excerpt of Pope Francis' homily on the Transfiguration, March 16, 2014 (Read the full text here: <https://sites.google.com/view/popefrancishomilies/transfiguration>.)

For me, the story of Jesus' transfiguration, tells the truth about what happens when we do go with Jesus, away for quiet prayer, especially when there is an issue of suffering, as Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him right after he had told them the hard news of his coming Passion. What seems, then gives way to what is, as surely as the person of Jesus became transformed and shining, divinely beautiful, while God told the apostles, "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him."

As Pope Francis says it, the graces of prayer change our hearing and our sight, so that what we bring to prayer, takes on a new light, coming from the Lord himself and his silent message of love and support, his inspiration, and kind call for outreach.

~ Sister Wendy Cotter, CSJ, Ph.D



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 beginning February 26 and 27 and then 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.

Anti-Racism Discussion Groups: Small prayer and discussion groups will be meeting in the morning and evenings using the book *The Spiritual Works of Racial Justice*, by Patrick Saint-Jean, S.J. These groups will offer us the opportunity to see that by taking on an anti-racist position we become all that God calls us to be. A sign-up sheet is available in the back of church.

Please email Father Mike at mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org or Maria Garcia at the Rectory office at stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org if you would like to sign up or need more information.

Little Black Books of Lenten Reflections and parish prayer cards are available in Church.

Reconciliation for First Communion Candidates - Monday, March 14

Please keep the young students of our parish in their prayers as they prepare for their First Reconciliation on Monday, March 14 at 6:30 pm in church.

Contact Eloy Escamilla, our Pastoral Associate for Religious Education and Youth Ministry, at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org if you have questions.



Confirmation Class of 2022

Congratulations to the young adults of our parish who made their Confirmation on Saturday, March 5!

We are so proud of these teens, who have worked towards receiving this sacrament for two years!



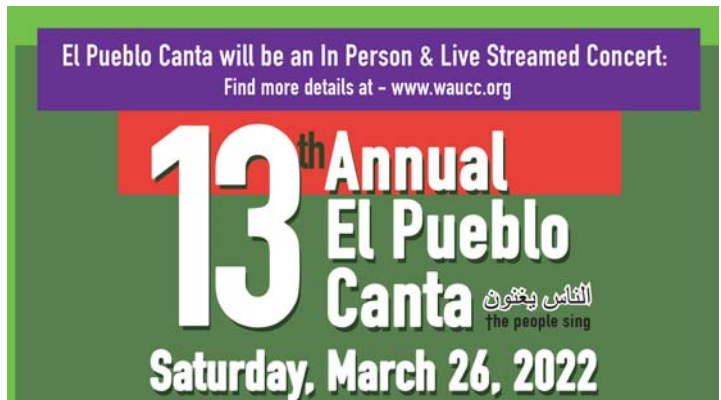
El Pueblo Canta Concert

The Refugee Ministry will again sponsor El Pueblo Canta. This is an immigrant justice benefit concert on March 26 at North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Ave, with both in person and live-stream options.

Doors open at 5:30 pm, with the concert and live-stream held from 7:00-8:30 pm. Traditional Latino and Middle Eastern food will be available for purchase.

In-person attendance is limited to 100 people, but an unlimited number can watch the live-stream. Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$15 for students and those on a limited income. Children under 12 are free.

Even if you cannot attend, you can make a donation and help spread the word. Visit <http://waucc.org/2022-el-pueblo-canta/> to purchase tickets, be a sponsor, or donate. All proceeds support the immigrant justice work of Centro Romero, CRLN, and Wellington UCC.



heart to heart

Heart to Heart Update

January Lending Closet Report: A resident of Uptown started the new year with a sturdy wheelchair from the Lending Closet, enabling her to continue chemotherapy treatment at Northwestern Hospital after her wheelchair broke down.

Grateful for the assistance, she donated boxes of incontinence supplies to the Lending Closet. Like many of our recipients, she was intent on contributing what she could to help others. This is a frequent occurrence at the Lending Closet -- individuals or families assisted by the Lending Closet often contact us again, eager to donate what they can to keep the circle of giving strong!

In the first month of the year, we fielded information, request and donation calls from over 16 zip codes. An occupational therapist, physical therapist, and social worker respectively, who see homebound patients throughout Chicago, made repeat visits to the Lending Closet, thrilled to discover a local resource that doesn't require lots of paperwork. They have spread the word to colleagues that the Lending Closet is ready to help provide durable medical equipment to patients in need. ~ *Laurie Hasbrook*

Other Activities: Heart to Heart staff continued the effort to get all of our Volunteers VIRTUS-trained and compliant before the end of March. (The VIRTUS training program, created and monitored by the Archdiocese of Chicago, focuses on teaching staff and volunteers how to protect vulnerable adults from all forms of abuse.)

Additionally, staff has begun preparations to develop an Emergency Action Plan for our Parish which will detail how to respond to various situations such as medical and mental health emergencies, etc., which occur during our Masses or on-campus meetings.

As other exciting programming is also being finalized, please offer up your prayers that God's grace will flow over our efforts during this and next month. Thank you so much for your continuing support of this vital ministry! ~ *Jane Callahan-Moore*

Interfaith Climate Summit



Sharing Wisdom in a Time of Crisis

This Sunday: Interfaith Climate Summit

On Sunday, March 13 at 3:00 pm, Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church will host an Interfaith Climate Summit, bringing together representatives from the Baha'i, Buddhist, Sikh, Protestant, Jewish, and Catholic faith communities to talk about issues related to climate change.

The free event will be held at Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, 600 W. Fullerton Pkwy, and also will be live-streamed on the church's YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/InterfaithClimateSummit>. Visit lppchurch.org for more details.

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 your prayers.



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

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, March 12 at 5:00 pm - Jen Keidaisch
- Sunday, March 13 at 8:00 am - Jacalyn Meier
- Sunday, March 13 at 10:30 am Mass in church - Victoria Healy
- Sunday, March 13 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, March 12 at 5:00 pm - Kathy Wall
- Sunday, March 13 at 8:00 am - Barb Daly
- Sunday, March 13 at 10:30 am Mass in church - Carlos Barragan, Patrick Robinson, Rafael Melendez
- Sunday, March 13 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Cantors and Musicians:

- Saturday, March 12 at 5:00 pm - Amir Ghazaleh
- Sunday, March 13 at 8:00 am - Cindy Lawson
- Sunday, March 13 at 10:30 am Mass in church - Matt Heimer plus small vocal choir: Kate Hibbs Davis-soprano, Beth Nelson-alto- Joe Pindelski-tenor, Fran Guenette-bass;
- Instruments, Denise Goodman, clarinet, Jim Szmurlo, violin
- Sunday, March 13 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Mass Intentions

- Monday, March 14: 7:30 am - Kathleen Naughton + (*+ indicates the person is deceased*)
- Tuesday, March 15: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- Wednesday, March 16: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
- Thursday, March 17: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, March 18: 7:30 am - Cheryl Veccie +
- Saturday, March 19: 7:30 am - Alfredo Narea +; 5:00 pm - John and Lillian McCall +
- Sunday, March 20: 8:00 am - Jack B. Williams II +; 10:30 am in Church - Peggy Sue Riordan +; 10:30 am - Gym Mass - Parishioners of St. Gertrude

Rest in Peace

Catherine Egloff

New Parishioner

Tom Suchy

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- Pamela Sherrod Anderson
- Helen Banta
- Jean Bautista
- Zara Bradley
- Sharon Brown
- Connie Bueck
- Lilly Buie
- Claire Bushey
- Maggie Callaway
- Aida Calvopina
- Connie Cool
- Caloy Desembrana
- Ann Collins Dole
- Christine Frisoni
- Shirley Marie Gonzales
- Gina Heidkamp
- Maria Hertl
- Daniel Hidalgo
- Patricia Irwin
- Bernice Kiedysz
- 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/allevnts

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.