



"It May
Bear
Fruit in
the
Future."
Luke 13:9

St. Gertrude Chicago

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Third Sunday of Lent

March 20, 2022

From Fr. Rich

The Third Sunday of Lent

Today's Gospel story of the un-producing fig tree given another chance to bear fruit is a not so subtle reminder to each of us that we should not give up -- because God is always giving us another chance to repent and follow His Word.

The Scrutinies

This Sunday, we begin the "Scrutinies". These are special rites for the women and men who have been meeting weekly to explore their faith and their movement into the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday. On the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent each year, we call these candidates and catechumens forward and invite them to reflect upon their past lives and commit themselves to repentance as they continue this spiritual journey to a new life.

We celebrate these rites publicly in order for all of us, already baptized, confirmed Catholics, to reflect upon our own lives and how we have or have not lived up to the promises made at our own baptisms. And, like these searchers, we also are invited to reject whatever has been sinful in our lives, leading us away from the Lord. We ask God's help to cleanse us of our sins and follow the true path of Our Lord's gospel.

Lenten Reconciliation Service

Everyone is invited to join in the Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service on 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.

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.



Why I am a Member of the Parish Pastoral Council by Jen Reyes

My name is Jen Reyes (Carpio). I have been a member of St. Gertrude's for as long as I can remember. I graduated from St. Gertrude, married at the church, and both of my children graduated from NCA.

I joined the parish council in order to be more involved in the church, get to know fellow parishioners, and more importantly to be a part in helping shape the future of our parish. I still remain very involved with the school and find that brings a fresh perspective to the group.

This church community has brought so much to my life that this is just my way of giving back.

Growing in Faith

"Remove the sandals from your feet for the place you stand is holy ground." ~ Ex 3: 4-5

When I am telling her about an experience I've had, a friend will sometimes quietly say: "remove your sandals." She means to point out the holiness of simple moments like these and help me appreciate God's presence in everyday occurrences. Sadly, the sacredness rarely dawns on me until after the fact.



Fr. Greg Boyle, a Jesuit priest who works with gang members in LA, was talking about how church leaders are overly worried about people forgetting the Eucharist is sacred. He lamented that, since Jesus consecrated the bread and wine and shared it with friends, we have been trying to wrest the cup from his hands and replace it with a chalice. In his words "Jesus isn't losing any sleep that we'll forget that the Eucharist is sacred. He's anxious that we might forget that it's ordinary." It sounds like his riff on the Ignatian principle that God is in all things.

As I type this, I can think of moments of connection with a loved one or a stranger. I realize now that those moments were sacred. I think of places and times in my past where I grew and changed, often accompanied by pain, loss or my own resistance. It dawns on me how holy that ground I stood on was.

Perhaps this Lent, I might focus on paying attention so I know when I need to be taking my sandals off.

~ Rich Goode

Pray for Ukraine

Let us continue to ask for God's help to end the war in Ukraine, to provide comfort and hope to those who lost family, friends, homes, and their way of life, and for the safety of Ukrainians who are still under attack.

How to Help

If you would like to support Ukrainian people, please consider making a contribution to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and their partner, Caritas Ukraine.



Photo courtesy of CRS partner, Caritas Poland.

They are in Ukraine and neighboring countries, providing safe shelter, hot meals, hygiene supplies, transport to safe areas, and counseling support to refugees and those harmed in the conflict. Visit <https://support.crs.org/donate/donate-ukraine> to make a donation online.

A Prayer for Peace by Pope Francis

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman.

Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!



Change, Hope and the Catholic Church

Pope Francis is asking Catholics to talk about our Church. Join us in answering that call when we welcome the national group **Discerning Deacons** and actively engage in the conversation around restoring the female diaconate and once again ordaining women deacons. Be part of the change and let your voice be heard all the way from Beverly to Rome. **The future is bright!**

Sunday, March 27th 7:00pm

St. Barnabas Church

10134 S Longwood Drive

Hosted by St. Barnabas Parish

Women in the Church: Change, Hope, and the Catholic Church Discussion Planned

On Sunday, March 27 from 7:00-8:30 pm, St. Barnabas Church, will host the national group [Discerning Deacons](#), whose mission is to engage Catholics in the active discernment of our Church about women and the diaconate.

The gathering will be in St. Barnabas church, 10134 S. Longwood Dr.

Music This Sunday to Feature Chicago Composer Florence Price

This week, we are fortunate to hear two recently published spiritual arrangements by noted Chicago composer, Florence Price (1887-1953) at the 10:30 am Mass in Church.



Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, Florence was a child prodigy in music and quite accomplished on the piano, violin, and organ. She graduated from New England Conservatory with advanced studies in piano and organ and taught in Little Rock until racial tensions became too threatening to her family and precipitated a move to Chicago in the early 1920's.

It was in Chicago that Florence's musical career truly blossomed, and she became a recognized figure in the classical music world. Her award-winning Symphony No. 1 in E Minor garnered the attention of CSO conductor, Frederick Stock and was performed at the Century for World Progress Exhibition fair in Chicago in 1933. This was the first time a major American orchestra performed a work by an African-American woman.

Throughout her life, Florence remained active as a pianist, organist, private teacher, and composer. A prolific composer of over two hundred works, she worked tirelessly throughout her life to get her compositions published to no avail. In the past five years, though, there has been a renewed interest in publishing her works and many of her large works are now readily available and are being performed throughout the country.

Jennifer Dunne and I will perform two lovely spiritual arrangements for Violin and Piano at the 10:30 am Mass in Church. The prelude will be the haunting *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child* (six minutes) and our meditation piece will be an arrangement of *O Lord*.

The music will be on our Facebook live-stream and also featured on the home page of our parish website, stgertrudechicago.org, on Monday.

~ Mary Clare Barker, Music Minister

Coming This Spring—St. Gertrude Composting Program

Next week, I'll share details of our composting program, which had its inaugural run last spring. We hope to get it up and running by mid-April.

~ Mary Clare Barker



The Scrutinies/Introduction to the RCIA Group

Over the next three weekends at one of the Sunday Masses, 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, Iverson Moore.

A native of Northwest Indiana, I grew up there and on the South Side. I later lived overseas many years working for the government and multinational business. At one point this involved providing Chinese language services to the United Nations staff for the meetings with the Chinese Communists at Panmunjom, Korea.

When I retired a few years ago, I returned to Chicago to live near relatives, who were by then on the North side. Some of them were members of St. Gertrude’s parish, and I sometimes attended services there. One granddaughter was a pupil at NCA.

My religious background is Episcopalian. A few years ago, I began to be concerned about some of that denomination’s policies and teachings. About four years ago, I became interested in the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, Portugal. Eventually, this led to my praying the Fatima Rosary on a daily basis, as Our Lady requested of all Christians.

While praying the Rosary, I came to understand that I wanted to be a Christian, that is, a member of the church Jesus Christ founded while on earth—not one founded by a European king, as in the case of the Anglican/Episcopal denominations.

Once I came to this decision, the next step was to seek out RCIA to guide me in the next stop of my journey.



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.



Join the conversation

Pope Francis has invited people everywhere—and he is specifically reaching out to the LGBTQ+ community—to take part in a conversation about their relationship with the Church, and about its future.

AGLOChicago, the LGBTQ+ outreach for the Archdiocese of Chicago, is working to organize our community's response, and we're inviting you to take part.

Go to:
www.aglochicago.org/synod
Questions:
synod@aglochicago.org



Synodality: Opportunities to Participate at an Event at St. Gertrude on March 27, via Zoom, and by Submitting Reflections Online

Pope Francis invites the laity worldwide to participate in the 2021-2023 Synod by offering our reflections journeying together as the Universal Church in the areas of Communion, Participation, and Mission.

Synodality is Spirit-filled listening to God's active presence in each of our lives. This is a wonderful way for us to move forward as the Renew My Church consolidation process is coming to conclusion.

The purpose of this Synod is not to produce documents, but to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another, and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, and give strength to our hands.

Ways to Participate

You are invited to be part of the sharing in three different ways:

- An in-person gathering at St. Gertrude in the church on Sunday, March 27 from 12:00-1:30 pm.
- Any or all of the following virtual sessions with laity from other nearby parishes. You can join online by going to zoom.us/join and using the Meeting ID and passcode provided or by calling (312) 626-6799:
 - ◆ Thursday, March 24 at 7:00 pm
(Meeting ID: 814 3978 3310; Passcode: 820376)
 - ◆ Friday, March 25 at 7:00 pm
(Meeting ID: 898 9999 0278; Passcode: 852477)
 - ◆ Saturday, March 26 at 7:00 pm
(Meeting ID: 871 9707 7905; Passcode: 235618)
- Reflections in any language can be entered until Friday, April 1 at archchicago.org/news-and-events/synod. The Archdiocese will then condense the responses into a paper to be submitted to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The conference will collect the responses from all U.S. dioceses and use them to create a national report to be sent to the Vatican .



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.

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 Held for First Communion Candidates

Congratulations to the young students of our parish who made their First Reconciliation on Monday, March 14 at 6:30 pm in church.

The children will make their First Communion on Saturday, May 7.



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.

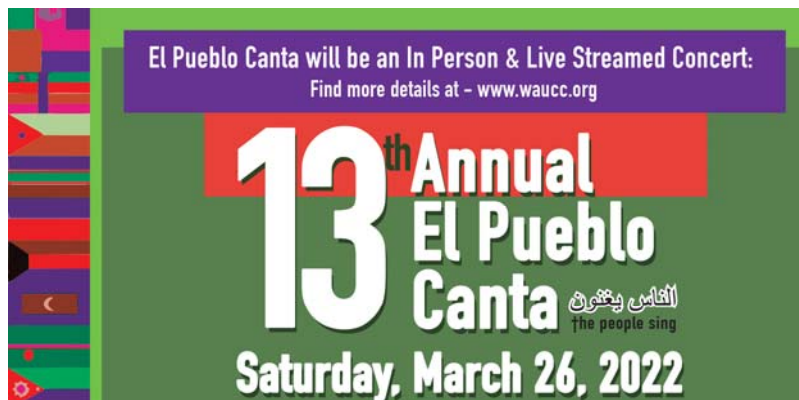
Performers include El Wadi Ensemble, Wanda Pabellon-Garcia, Dare 2 dream Centro Romero Youth Choir, VOICES, LeRob K. Rafael, the Wellington Community Choir, and more.

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

Thinking Globally Acting Locally in February with Heart-to-Heart!

In addition to responding to local needs, the Lending Closet collaborated in February with Margaret Okodua, a nurse from Rogers Park. Margaret arranges shipments of donated medical equipment and supplies to Home of

Mercy & Peace in Uromi, Nigeria. A refuge for formerly homeless, abandoned, or isolated seniors, HMP is a pastoral initiative of the Catholic Bishop and Diocese of Uromi, managed by the Sisters of St. Louis.

Thanks to your generosity and donations from our local community, Heart-to-Heart has an abundance of certain items. On a frigid February night, a group of stalwart St. Gert's volunteers loaded two cars full of surplus walkers, commodes, and crutches for Home of Mercy and Peace.

A heartfelt thank you to those volunteers, and to all who make such generosity beyond our borders possible.

~ Laurie Hasbrook



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 Saturday, April 2 between 10:00 am-1:00 pm, members of Cub Scouts Pack 3822 will be canvassing the neighborhood surrounding St Gertrude and distributing flyers inviting people to donate non perishables.

These donations are to benefit the Greater Chicago Food Depository and

other local food banks. Donations will then be collected/picked up the following Saturday, April 9 from 10:00 am-1:00 pm.

To participate, please contact PTAC.ScoutingForFood@scouting.org.

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

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, March 19 at 5:00 pm - Susan McKean
- Sunday, March 20 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, March 20 at 10:30 am Mass in church - Pat Reardon
- Sunday, March 20 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, March 19 at 5:00 pm - Tim Harrington
- Sunday, March 20 at 8:00 am - Marty McDermott
- Sunday, March 20 at 10:30 am Mass in church - Carlos Barragan, Patrick Robinson, Bob Backis
- Sunday, March 20 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Cantors and Musicians:

- Saturday, March 19 at 5:00 pm - Jim Manzardo
- Sunday, March 20 at 8:00 am - Jon Blake
- Sunday, March 20 at 10:30 am Mass in church - Michael Callahan; Jennifer Dunne, violin; Small vocal ensemble- Cindy Lawson-soprano, Pat Branigan-alto, Joe Pindelski-tenor, Matt Heimer-bass
- Sunday, March 20 at 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Mass Intentions

- Monday, March 21: 7:30 am - Parishioners of St. Gertrude
- Tuesday, March 22: 7:30 am - Joseph Haas +
- Wednesday, March 23: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- Thursday, March 24: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, March 25: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
- Saturday, March 26: 7:30 am - World peace +; 5:00 pm - Blanche Saldanha +
- Sunday, March 27: 8:00 am - Lynn LeFevre +; 10:30 am in Church - Mickey Resch+; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Caprice Boylan +

(+ indicates the person is deceased)

New Parishioner

LaPellia Williams

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
- 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
Visit stgertrudechicago.org for staff emails.