



# Third Sunday of Easter

## St. Gertrude Chicago

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### Third Sunday of Easter

May 1, 2022

#### From Fr. Rich

One In today's Gospel passage, we continue to hear stories of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. Today's scene is an idyllic, pastoral scene with the disciples having returned to their previous profession -- fishing.

And when they have an exchange with some guy on the shore, they do what he instructs and are suddenly overwhelmed with the catch of fish in their nets. He then invites them to bring some of the fish they have caught to join him for breakfast. When they get to land, Jesus has already built a fire for cooking and offers them some of the bread he has prepared along with some fish he had cooked.

What is extraordinary about this scene is that it is extraordinarily normal. There is an every-day-life-ness about it! It's just a bunch of friends getting together and having breakfast.

Two things stand out as unusual. The first is the count of fish. They caught "153 large fish." Why such an exact number? Scripture scholars have determined that was the number of different types of fish people thought existed in the waters. In other words, the catch in the nets of those fisherman contained every type of fish imaginable. A great metaphor for the "types" of people that he would soon be sending his disciples out to so that all might all hear the Gospel. Salvation is for everyone!

The second unusual event is almost an addendum to the fishing/breakfast story. Jesus questions Simon about his love for him and instructs him to "feed my lambs." But he does this three times. The same number of times, just a few days earlier, Simon Peter had denied even knowing Jesus as He was in the midst of His Passion. At first reading, this might sound like a cruel thing to do to Simon Peter. Certainly, the scriptures make clear Simon was hurt by being asked three times if he loved the Lord.

But this seems on closer examination, not a moment of meanness on the part of Jesus, but a profound understanding of how we often accept being forgiven - but don't really take that pardon deeply into our hearts and souls in order to move away from the errors of the past. So, this is not a mean activity on the part of the Lord, but a truly salvific moment for Simon Peter. He is being forced to understand in his deepest heart that he is forgiven for his previous actions - and he needs to accept that forgiveness, that pardon, in order to go forth and accept his new challenge -- to proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

**Office Hours Change:** The Rectory office will temporarily close at 4:30 pm. Weekend office hours may be limited. We apologize for the inconvenience.



## From Fr. Rich (*cont.*)

This week, why not spend a few minutes reviewing any old grudges, horrendous mistakes you've been holding on to, or moments of shame or embarrassment still lingering in your consciousness -- and ask the Lord to speak directly to your heart that you are forgiven, and you are loved. The Lord wants nothing less than that you move forward, free from the burdens of yesterday's mistake.

### **First Communion is Saturday, May 7 at 10:00 am**

This coming Saturday, we will celebrate First Holy Communion with the girls and boys who have been preparing for this celebration all year. Please keep them in your prayers for this special moment in their lives of faith.

### **Mother's Day & May Crowning**

Next Sunday, May 8th, is Mother's Day. We will honor and pray for all our mothers, living and deceased, at all the Masses next weekend. And everyone is invited to join in the 10:30 am Mass when we will celebrate our annual May Crowning at the end of the service. Children who made their First Communion on Saturday, May 8 are welcome to wear their Communion finery to Mass. There will also be a Mother's Day second collection for Catholic Charities.

### **Help for Ukraine**

If you would like to donate to the care of the Ukrainian people, please consider making a contribution to Catholic Relief Services for emergency aid to the people in Ukraine at <https://support.crs.org/donate/donate-ukraine>.

### **Update on Stairs Reconstruction**

You may have noticed last weekend the re-building of the stairs on the Granville/handicap-access entrance is well underway, as well as the stairs at the entrance to the Social Hall. All the stair projects should be completed within a few weeks. Please be sure to follow any sign re-directing you to another entrance if the one you usually use is being worked on.

### **Mother's Day Spiritual Bouquet**

Mother's Day cards for enrolling living and deceased mothers during the Masses said on Mother's Day and throughout the year are available on the tables in the back of church. Please fill out the information on the outer envelope, include a donation in the outer envelope, seal it, and drop it in the collection basket or at the Rectory. Take the card and large envelope with you to give to your mother or for your own remembrance.

**Edgewater Singers Concert Planned for Saturday, April 30:** Please come to the Edgewater Singers concert on Saturday, April 30 at 7:30 pm at St. Gertrude church. The theme is *Among Friends* and the group will perform popular standards such as *Lean on Me*, *Stand by Me*, and *You've Got a Friend*, as well as selections from *West Side Story*, *Les Miserable*, and *Rent*. All are welcome.

## A Note from Kevin Cheers

For the past nine years, I have had the pleasure of being part of the Pastoral staff here at St. Gertrude. After lots of prayerful discernment and family conversations, I will be retiring in June.

Sharing in the ministerial life of the parish first with Fr. Dom and Fr. Mike Bradley and later with Fr. Rich and Fr. Mike Gabriel and all the other ministerial staff members over the years has been a grace filled time for me.

I have had the privilege of working with a wonderful group of Eucharistic Ministers, Ministers of the Word, ushers, and other volunteers who give deeply of themselves and have taught me so much about service.

As I write this so many memories come flooding in. Standing in the back of church hearing your news of the week, watching the children grow, sharing a hug in celebration or sorrow, learning from each other in faith sharing groups and retreats in the Social Hall, the Christmas Bazaars, the Gralley, International Night dinners, Centennial celebrations, Pastoral Council meetings, weddings, baptisms, funerals, reading the announcements, decorating the altar, sharing the RCIA journey with those coming into the church, my year shepherding the Religious Education program and learning about faith and kindness from the voices of our future, of the lingering love and laughter of those we have lost along the way. Truly a tapestry to wrap around me as a prayer shawl.



While I am looking forward to this new chapter with hope and wonder at the possibilities, I know that I will miss you and miss being part of your lives. Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and patience. My heart overflows with gratitude and love.

This will be my second attempt at retirement, the first resulted in the call to ministry that lead me here. Who knows what God has in store for me this time.

May God continue to bless us all in these difficult times.

*~ Kevin*

**Summer Mission Trip:** The Summer Mission Trip has been cancelled. Unfortunately, we did not reach the minimum number of participants. We hope to have our Mission Trip next year.

## March Lending Closet Report

*"Siyahamba, ekukanyen' kwenkos', Siyahamba, ekukanyen' kwenkos' We are MARCHing in the light of God, we are MARCHing in the light of God"*  
~ South African folk song

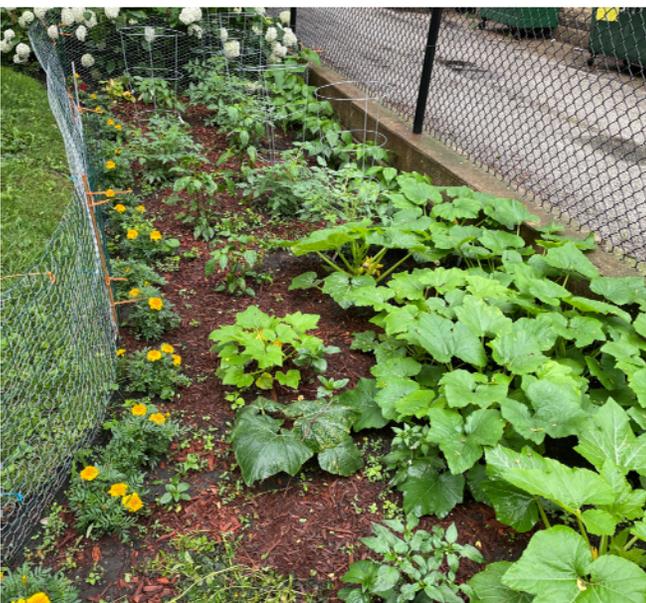
Friends from Swedish Hospital called in March -- medical supplies for a field clinic in Ukraine were desperately needed. Could the Lending Closet help? Serving internally displaced refugees, the clinic needed basic items. The Lending Closet sent 12 boxes of donated first aid supplies (gauze bandages, alcohol wipes, aspirin, etc...), delivered directly by a Chicago delegation to the Ukrainian clinic that week.

Closer to home, a grateful mother stopped by to donate durable medical equipment, including "the Hog", pictured above. A folding Hemi Walker, the Hog, supported her 26 year-old son during his recovery from a motorcycle accident. The mother said she'd spent hours in prayer at her son's bedside. The Hog, no doubt, has been amply blessed for whoever needs it next!



The generosity of St. Gertrude parishioners and donors from throughout Chicago allow us to meet needs locally, and sometimes farther afield. Thank you for your support!

~ Laurie Hasbrook, Medical Equipment Lending Closet Manager



## Care for Our Common Home: Get Back to Nature

This week's eco-friendly, sustainable tips bring us back to nature and they might surprise you. Try to integrate a few of these into your regular routine as you care for our common home:

- Instead of makeup remover, use coconut, jojoba or olive oil (depending on your skin type).
- Get softer skin by applying used coffee grounds as an exfoliant.
- Use coffee grounds as a DIY plant fertilizer.
- Try eating plant-based meals once per week.
- Save banana peels and soak them overnight in water for nutrient-rich water for plants.

**St. Gertrude Garden Update/Composting Program:** We hoping to plant many vegetables and herbs on Saturday, June 4 from 9:00-11:00 am. Bring your garden trowels, tools, and knee pads and help us weed, plant, and water. Additionally, all are welcome to be a part of our parish composting program! If you are interested, please reach out to Mary Clare Barker at [mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org).



## 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. 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](mailto:rprendergast@stgertrudechicago.org).

~ Father Rich

**Part-Time Help Wanted at the Rectory Office:** We are looking to staff the Rectory office in the evenings and on weekends. The hours are Monday-Thursday from 4:30-7:00 pm, Saturdays from 9:00-2:00pm, and Sundays from 8:30 am-noon. Please email Kevin Cheers at [kchears@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:kchears@stgertrudechicago.org) if you are interested. Candidates must either be Virtus trained or willing to attend a Virtus class.

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

### Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, April 30 at 5:00 pm - Millie Slane
- Sunday, May 1 at 8:00 am - Marty McDermott
- Sunday, May 1 at 10:30 am - Rafael Melendez
- Sunday, May 1 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

### Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, April 30 at 5:00 pm - Tim Harrington
- Sunday, May 1 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, May 1 at 10:30 am - Steve Monti, Carlos Barragan, Bob Backis
- Sunday, May 1 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

### Cantors:

- Saturday, April 30 at 5:00 pm - Amir Ghazaleh
- Sunday, May 1 at 8:00 am - Jon Blake
- Sunday, May 1 at 10:30 am - Rob Schroeder
- Sunday, May 1 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

## Mass Intentions

- Monday, May 2: 7:30 am - Parishioners of St. Gertrude
- Tuesday, May 3: 7:30 am - World peace
- Wednesday, May 4: 7:30 am - For St. Gertrude's 2022 First Communion class
- Thursday, May 5: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, May 6: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
- Saturday, May 7: 7:30 am - Ethna Nolan + ; 5:00 pm - Living and deceased mothers of St. Gertrude parishioners
- Sunday, May 8: 8:00 am - Living and deceased mothers of St. Gertrude parishioners; 10:30 am in Church - Living and deceased mothers of St. Gertrude parishioners; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Living and deceased mothers of St. Gertrude parishioners

## New Parishioners

- Michael and Patricia Montemurro

## Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- |                           |                          |                        |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Pamela Sherrod Anderson | • Caloy Desembrana       | • Molly Morris         |
| • Helen Banta             | • Ann Collins Dole       | • Karey Myers          |
| • Zara Bradley            | • Christine Frisoni      | • Tina Piemonte        |
| • Sharon Brown            | • Shirley Marie Gonzales | • Charley Scantlebury  |
| • Connie Bueck            | • Gina Heidkamp          | • Richard Seitz        |
| • Lilly Buie              | • Maria Hertl            | • Peggy Stoffel        |
| • Claire Bushey           | • Daniel Hidalgo         | • The Sullivan family  |
| • Maggie Callaway         | • Patricia Irwin         | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Aida Calvopina          | • Bernice Kiedysz        | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • KC Conway               | • Sheila McGuire         | • Valerie Williams     |
| • Connie Cool             | • Dean Mattoni           | • Ken & Vyes Yoza      |
|                           | • Larry McCauley         |                        |

## 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

The office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am-2:30 pm and by appointment. 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.