



# Fourth Sunday of Easter & Mother's Day

## St. Gertrude Chicago

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### Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 8, 2022

#### From Fr. Rich

The oldest icon we have of Jesus is from the catacombs and it is an image of Jesus carrying a sheep around his neck. It seems likely this image is from the story of the Good Shepherd, who left the 99 sheep to go searching for the one who had wandered off to bring it back to the herd.

As we hear over and over again in so many of the post-Resurrection stories, in word and in imagery, Our Lord and Our God is constantly reaching out to us, going in search when we

*This Sunday, we give thanks for all the women who are nurturing and encouraging to others, whether they are mothers, step-mothers, sister, aunts, cousins, friends, caretakers, teachers, co-workers, or neighbors.*

have wandered, seeking us out to give us back our sense of direction when we have strayed off the right path. In other words, the recurring images are just about the opposite of what we had feared -- that God was keeping some kind of ledger and we were all in big trouble! Nothing could be farther from the truth!

It is valuable to take some time, during this Easter season -- but any time, and consider what is my operational image of God in my life? How do I imagine Jesus looks upon me? So often we get caught up in an image from when we were young children. We have grown up in so many ways, yet often we leave our image of God stuck back in our childhood. And that image is often less than positive. As we listen to all of these stories, after Jesus had been raised, and reflect upon them in our minds and hearts, we will always be led to the forgiving, loving, kind, concerned Lord who only wants what is best for us. He is always stretching out his hand to hold us and protect us. As we hear at the end of today's brief Gospel passages, "No one can take them out of the Father's hand."

This week, no matter what you have feared about your past failures, your sins, your bad attitudes, try only considering the positive: that ALL your sins are forgiven; that God loves you just the way you are; God only wants what is best for you.

In that same spirit, Happy Mother's Day to all those who have been our mother and all those who have nurtured us throughout our lives. In fact, it might do us all well to replace the image of "God our Father" with "God our Mother." Since God is way beyond our limitations, no reason not to consider the mother side of God. In that, we might find ourselves more comfortable with a kind, loving, nurturing, caring God. Happy Mother's Day!

## From Fr. Rich (cont.)

### Catholic Charities Mother's Day Collection

This weekend's second collection is the Annual Catholic Charities Mother's Day collection. Please be generous for those who are in such great need. Thank you for your consideration.



### Mothers

support us through every season of our lives.

Please support them through every season of theirs.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**  
Archdiocese of Chicago

### Mother's Day Spiritual Bouquet

Cards for enrolling living and deceased mothers during the Masses said 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.

### Congratulations, First Communicants!

Congratulations to all the girls and boys who celebrated their First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 7. They have been preparing for over a year for this special day in their lives of faith. Please keep them in your prayers as they join us in receiving Our Lord's Body and Blood.

### Mother's Day & May Crowning

We will honor and pray for all our mothers, living and deceased, at all the Masses this weekend. At the 10:30 am Mass in church, we will celebrate our annual May Crowning at the end of the service with the girls and boys who celebrated their First Holy Communion yesterday.

### Help for Ukraine

Greeting some 30,000 pilgrims in St. Peter's Square on Sunday, May 1, Pope Francis said: "Today, we begin the month dedicated to the Mother of God. I would like to invite the faithful and all communities to pray the rosary every day during the month of May for peace."

He told them, "My thoughts go immediately to the city of Mariupol, the city of Mary, that has been barbarically bombed and destroyed." When Russian President Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, Mariupol had a population of over 400,000 people. While three-quarters of the population managed to flee, 100,000 remained and are surviving underground in what is now an almost totally devastated city after daily bombing by Russian forces.

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>.

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



## St. Ignatius Update

This past week, as required in church law, I asked both the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Council for their approval to sign-off on the sale of the school portion of the St. Ignatius campus. This was only for the portion of the St. Ignatius campus that is the various school and school-related buildings. It does not involve the portion of the campus that is the church and Rectory.

Because we "inherited" the St. Ignatius campus when the parish was closed, the sale

of that property requires the agreement of the parish leadership -- in this case, us. The offer was presented to the Archdiocesan Board of Consultors which the Archbishop is required to check in with for any property sale in the Archdiocese.

Once the Board of Consultors approves, the sale is free to go forward. After this process is completed, I will let you know the next steps.

~ Fr. Rich

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## Growing in Faith

Every day, my son Milo and I walk home from school. As we made the trek a few weeks ago, Milo noticed a teenage girl on the phone in the distance. He asked me why she was crying. In that instant, I caught sight of a man lying on the ground next to the girl. As if blown by a sacred wind of motherly instinct, I grabbed Milo's hand and ran to the girl. Her father was having a heart attack and she was trying to reach 9-1-1. Too upset to speak, she handed me her phone. Assured that an ambulance was on its way, I huddled with the girl.

She needed her mother, and in that moment, I felt a boundless and unending love for this stranger-child of mine. There was no way I was leaving. I did what mothers do. They stay. They console. They accompany, shepherding through the dark valleys of life toward the light.

Milo and I stayed while the ambulance sped off with her father, and the girl was safely in her own mother's arms. As we walked away Milo asked me why we helped the girl. "I want to believe that someone would do the same for, you, Milo." Even when it's exhausting, frightening, maddening, aren't we all called to love with a boundless, unending, "motherly," divine love?

"I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

~ Ellen Buttitta



## May Is Mental Health Awareness Month

We have entered into the “busy” time of the year! May has so many special celebrations - Mother’s Day, First Communion, graduations, weddings, etc. These are celebrations of gratitude and thanksgiving.



For some people, these “extra” celebrations also cause extra anxiety when they already have so much on their plates. There is a need for all of us to be aware that we may feel over-burdened and undone by trying to balance a few more items into already over-scheduled lives. It is vitally important for each of us to take our “mental health temperature” on a regular basis.

The arrival and duration of the COVID pandemic has caused an enormous increase in cases of depression and other mental health challenges. For many, being isolated only got worse during the highly contagious time of the virus. And for everyone, grappling with the uncomfortable, daily sensation that we were no longer in control of our own lives was extremely unsettling.

We are also, possibly, at the end of the pandemic phase of the COVID virus. But that simply means we have entered the endemic phase -- and we are going to have to adjust to the virus being around for a long time -- even if not as threatening as when the virus was causing so much sickness and death.

On top of those issues, is that nearly everyone had to find a way to deal with is that so many people also were either sick themselves from the virus or had close friends and relatives that got sick. Many lost important and significant people in their lives to the virus. Now, the added awareness of the horrible situation in Ukraine has become a constant in our lives. Taken together, this may well be an unprecedented level of burden upon our mental health. And each of us needs loving and caring support to re-establish we are not alone and that we are cared for.

If you or someone you know has been adversely affected and still hurting from these various situations, please consider consulting with a mental health professional. Visiting a counselor may be a good option for many. In some cases, medication may help to lift you out of your depression or other ailment.

~ Fr. Rich

## 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

# heart to heart

## Heart to Heart Monthly Report for March

March saw our staff quite busy with getting all of our volunteers into compliance with the VIRTUS program mandated by the Archdiocese of Chicago. This program requires all volunteers to complete yearly background checks and monthly training

sessions to help keep the seniors helped by our Heart to Heart Seniors Ministry safe. Thank you to all those who spent valuable time and energy achieving this mandated compliance!

Staff also plans to offer interesting and educational programming to our parishioners and neighbors later this spring and into the summer months. One such presentation will focus on the origins and focus of palliative care and hospice. Sheets listing all of the hospices in Chicagoland and their contact information will be distributed to all attendees. For further information, please call Jane Callahan-Moore, Director of Parish Social Services/Heart to Heart Seniors Ministry at 773.973.5464, the Ministry Center telephone number. Calls not answered immediately will be returned promptly.

Heartfelt thanks to all who so generously offer their support to this important ministry.

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## 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





## St. Gertrude Composting Program/Garden Planting Day

All are welcome to be a part of our parish composting program! Those who join our program are welcome to use the parish's new compost tumbler, a user-friendly option (pictured) that will produce compost at a quicker pace.

We are 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 get our parish garden up and running. Teens are welcome to participate. We will need people to weed, plant, and water over the growing season. Please come join us!

If you are interested in joining our composting program or need information about our garden, please reach out to Mary Clare Barker at [mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:mcbarker@stgertrudechicago.org).

## Congratulations to George Siegle!

Many of you remember the outstanding music contributions George Siegle made to our parish liturgies on the piano and trumpet for the past eight years. George is now a freshman at the University of Illinois and was recently declared the winner of the Clara Rolland Piano Competition!!! The competition was open to undergraduate piano students and is designed to encourage and support the development of their musical talent. It is quite an honor to win this competition as a freshman.

We wholeheartedly congratulate George on this award and look forward to hearing of future accomplishments.



## Registration for NCA Summer Camp Now Open

NCA Summer Camp strives to provide a safe, engaging experience with a variety of recreational, educational, athletic, and fine arts programs at an affordable price. Visit <https://bit.ly/NCASummerCampFlyer> to learn more.

To register, go to <https://bit.ly/NCASummerCamp>!



## 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 [kcchears@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:kcchears@stgertrudechicago.org) if you are interested. Candidates must either be Virtus trained or willing to attend a Virtus class.

## Thank You for Coming to the Edgewater Singers Concert

We are so thankful to the many parishioners that attended the Edgewater Singers concert on Saturday, April 30 at 7:30 pm at St. Gertrude church.

The church was filled with attendees and the music was beautiful!



## Summer Mission Trip Cancelled

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.

~ Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate for Religious Education and Youth Ministry





## 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

## Baptisms

- Ashley, Leslie and Maria de Jesus Perez-Lopez, children of Bulmaro Perez and Emma Lopez
- Somadina, Uzoma and Adaobi Okoli, children of Ejike Okoli and Enode Okoli

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

### Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, May 7 at 5:00 pm - Millie Slane
- Sunday, May 8 at 8:00 am - Jay Cook
- Sunday, May 8 at 10:30 am - Rose Karasti
- Sunday, May 8 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

### Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, May 7 at 5:00 pm - Steve Monti
- Sunday, May 8 at 8:00 am - Hallie Burhoe
- Sunday, May 8 at 10:30 am - Troy McMillian, Carlos Barragan, Debra Novak
- Sunday, May 8 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

### Cantors and Musicians:

- Saturday, May 7 at 5:00 pm - Carol Ann Munro
- Sunday, May 8 at 8:00 am - Denise Goodman
- Sunday, May 8 at 10:30 am - Michael Callahan; Jim Szmurlo-trumpet, Kieran Blake-trumpet, Fran Guenette-euphonium
- Sunday, May 8 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

## Mass Intentions

- Monday, May 9: 7:30 am - Living & deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
- Tuesday, May 10: 7:30 am - Laura Linke +
- Wednesday, May 11: 7:30 am - Dr. Saji Francis + (1st death anniversary)
- Thursday, May 12: 7:30 am - Communion Service
- Friday, May 13: 7:30 am - Deacon Sonny Annoreno +
- Saturday, May 14: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society ; 5:00 pm - Stephen Cook +
- Sunday, May 15: 8:00 am - Parishioners of St. Gertrude; 10:30 am in Church - Patricia McKee +; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Bill Kerns +

*(+ indicates the person is deceased)*

## Rest in Peace

- Deacon August (Sonny) Annoreno, husband of Barbara

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.