



*Last week, the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was lit up with the hashtag "Praying together" in multiple languages as well as the flags of countries currently afflicted by the coronavirus.*

## **St. Gertrude Chicago E-Bulletin**

*For the Fifth Sunday of Lent - March 29, 2020*

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During the COVID-19 crisis, we are moving our printed bulletin to an online one. Please know that despite the fact we cannot gather together in community to worship, we can hold each other in prayer.

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Our [COVID-19 Spiritual Help page](#) on our website is now up and will be expanding in the coming weeks! We will have daily readings, prayers to help with stress and anxiety, faith-based activities for kids, reflections by parishioners, our resident priests, and more. Please visit us [here!](#)

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[From Father Rich: News About  
Easter/Funerals/Weddings](#)

*Bulletin for the  
5th Sunday of Lent*

Dear St. Gertrude parishioners,

It is not an understatement to say all of us here in the Rectory miss seeing all of you! We especially miss gathering together for daily and Sunday Eucharist! Perhaps one of the things this unique time will teach us is how much we take for granted our many freedoms and habits. When they are suddenly altered or not possible, we realize how much we rely upon them every day and every week.

The Governor's order to stay in place is not only understandable but necessary for everyone's health. And no one yet knows for how long we may be asked to continue in this way. But I did want everyone to be aware that we already have clarity from Cardinal Cupich and the Archdiocese about some things.

First and foremost, **there will be no public Holy Week or Easter services.** All of those services, including daily and Sunday Masses, will be offered at Holy Name Cathedral (without congregations) and can be accessed online. ([\*A list of online and televised Masses is available on our website.\*](#))

In response to the new stay-at-home order, all funerals and all weddings are being postponed.

### [\*\*Gospel Story of Lazarus - Loss and New Life\*\*](#)

This coming Sunday is the Fifth Sunday of Lent when we hear the gospel story of the raising of Lazarus. I encourage you to spend some time with this gospel, in particular, which offers us much for reflection about what it means to lose not only someone we love, but the life we knew, and how, in Christ Jesus, new life always comes forth from death. A daily reflection on the events of the day and our feelings and thoughts about them can be a great spiritual tool for giving thanks and for realizing God's presence in our lives.

# 3/29



Visit Our COVID-19 Crisis Spiritual Resource Page



[Click here for a list of online and televised Masses.](#)

### [The 2020 U.S. Census](#)

One of the many items we need to pay attention to during this time is maintaining awareness of other activities that cannot be postponed.

Uppermost is the **2020 Census**. The census plays such a huge role in how representatives are distributed and how funds are allocated. Please be sure to complete the [2020 Census form online](#) or via the paper form you may have received in the mail.

### [Archdiocese Staff](#)

When the Archdiocese ordered all services to cease until further notice and all employees to work from home, or simply to stay at home, along with that was the commitment from the Archdiocese and every parish and institution to pay all employees their usual pay -- whether they are full-time, part-time or hourly employees. I applaud this decision! It will be so very necessary for all of us in the coming weeks and months to do whatever we can to assist those who have lost jobs or have had their hours and pay greatly reduced or eliminated.

### [Sunday Offertory Collections/Parish Finances](#)

As you know, our financial situation depends entirely on contributions, and especially the Sunday Offertory collections. If you are currently contributing electronically, please continue to do so. We have also received some Sunday envelopes that were either dropped off at Church or the Rectory or mailed in. Please try your best to contribute each week for the financial health of the parish.

The Archdiocese has now made available [a new online giving option via the Archdiocesan website](#). You simply click on the link, it takes you to the website. Once there, you determine if you want to contribute via a credit card or a checking account. You fill out the form, including selecting the parish to which the contribution is going, and the money will be electronically debited. The site offers options for amounts and the frequency of the contribution.

If you prefer to make an offertory donation through cash or check, please mail them to the parish office, [1420 W. Granville Ave., Chicago, IL 60660](#).

The fact that this pandemic is occurring during our Lenten journey offers each of us important reminders about the role of faith, hope, and charity in our daily lives and in whom we place our trust. I believe we are being called by Jesus Christ to a renewed sense of solidarity. This is a time for unity in

prayer, not for isolation; it is a time for hope, not despair; it is a time for generosity, not self-focus. "This is how all will know that you are my disciples- if you have love for one another." (Jn 13:35)

Thank you for doing your best to care for those in need as well as helping to maintain the financial health of St. Gertrude Parish.

### Donating Blood

Since the stay at home order, the ability of the Red Cross and associates to host blood drives has disappeared, but the need for blood donations has not lessened. Please consider giving the gift of life! St. Gertrude has worked with Vitalant for many years (but this is a new name!). Click [HERE](#) for the link to their website where you can make an appointment: Please, donate blood if you can!

*J. Rich*

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## Readings for Sunday, March 29

### **First Reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel (Ez 37:12-14)**

Thus says the Lord GOD: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD. I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.

### **Responsorial Psalm (Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8)**

**R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to my voice in supplication.

**R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities, LORD, who can stand? But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered.

**R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

I trust in the LORD; my soul trusts in his word. More than sentinels wait for the dawn, let Israel wait for the LORD.

**R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

For with the LORD is kindness and with him is plenteous redemption; And he will redeem Israel from all their iniquities.

**R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

**Second Reading - From the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans  
(Rom 8:8-11)**

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.**

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die.

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John  
(Jn 11:1-45)**

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill.

So the sisters sent word to him saying, "Master, the one you love is ill." When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this, he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." He said this, and then told them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him." So the disciples said to him, "Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved." But Jesus was talking about his death, while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep. So then Jesus said to them clearly, "Lazarus has

died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him.” So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go to die with him.” When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.” Martha said to him, “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying, “The teacher is here and is asking for you.” As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him. For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him. So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Sir, come and see.” And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him.” But some of them said, “Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?”

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him, “Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me.” And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice,

“Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.”

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

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## Growing in Faith Reflection

“At its most brutal, home is no more than one’s name.” - I read that sentence years ago in an essay that had nothing to do with Lazarus. But I think of it whenever I hear the Lazarus gospel, this spare story, so few details - yet there it is, “Lazarus.” Jesus calls him by name.

Such a human thing to do, to NAME one another, and even to tame places and things by giving them a name. The poet Lisel Mueller captures this in her poem, “The Possessive Case.” Dr. Oliver Sacks writes about this when he describes how a person is called forth – awakened – from her seemingly incapacitated disordered state by the simplest human contact from a faithful friend, sometimes as simple as being called by name. "The awakened patient turns to the world, no longer occupied and pre-occupied by sickness," Dr. Sacks writes, "The world has become wonderfully vivid again."

If we can do this for one other - if our loving friendship has the power to call forth our beloved’s true self, and if we ourselves, in turn, can be summoned and steadied in dizzying times by hearing our name spoken by a true friend, well then, wow.

What might be possible when God is the one who calls us - by that intimate,

uniquely human invention – our name?

Lazarus' story gives us a glimpse of the answer: nothing short of resurrection!

- Madeleine Philbin for *Growing in Faith*

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## Faith & Coping

Here are some suggestions to ease stress and anxiety during these unsettling times.

Parishioner KC Conway, a psychotherapist at The Center for Grief Recovery, recently offered some tips about managing anxiety and generously allowed us to share them [on our website](#).

U.S. Catholic Magazine reporter Susan Salaz wrote [Life under lockdown: 8 ways to handle staying at home](#), an article about Coronavirus canceling so much, but not stopping love, trust, faith, or hope.

Father James Martin, S.J., [offers spiritual advice](#) on how to live in the time of coronavirus. He hopes that this may help all of us, especially those who are frightened or panicking.

Music can lift our spirits. Here are some suggestions of music for Lent and Easter from Mary Clare Barker, our Minister of Music. [Our website](#) has the links up for both the music and the lyrics.

We'd love to hear from you if you have suggestions for prayers, articles, and music! Email [stgerbulletin@yahoo.com](mailto:stgerbulletin@yahoo.com) to share your thoughts.



## Online Kids Word Using Zoom Meeting Planned for This Sunday.

This Sunday, March 29 at 10:30 am, Jim Potthast, our Youth & Family Minister, will host a live online Kids Word. He will read the readings for Sunday from the Kids Word Book, have a brief discussion about the readings and provide an activity to do at home at the end. Anyone interested in joining should follow the link below:

Join us via Zoom Meeting here:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/544415630?pwd=aXNTZjN3c2kwY05OU1JWR2NaTEQwQT09>.

The meeting ID is **544 415 630** and the password is **016195**.

Stay safe, stay sane, stay well, and stay connected to God!

If you would like to receive a weekly Religious Ed newsletter for more activities and resources, please email Jim at [jpotthast@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:jpotthast@stgertrudechicago.org) to be added to the list.



## NCA - Ideas for Activities

If you're looking for helpful things for your kids to do at home, we have streaming character and fitness videos online! We usually provide these videos for teachers at school, but they are available to everyone for the time being!

- Go to [BoosterthonCharacter.com](https://BoosterthonCharacter.com)
- Access Code: *AtHome*

There is no cost to register and the site offers 75+ videos with character topics and fitness exercises (PBIS, SEL, STEAM, etc.)

Also, on our Instagram page, [ChooseBooster](#), we will have a daily Booster storytime at 8:00 am and a Daily Family Fitness Break at 11:00 am!

Syd the kid has created [a fun little video](#) as a teaser for what your students will see when they join in for the fitness breaks or if they missed the first couple.



## NCA Has Meals Available to Students and ANY Families with Children

NCA is distributing free pre-packaged breakfast and lunches from our lunch provider, Aramark. These lunches are for our free-and-reduced-lunch students and also for any family with children between the ages of 2-18 in our community who could use some extra assistance in getting food for their children. We also provide milk with each of these meals.

Please let Fr. Rich know at [rprendergast@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:rprendergast@stgertrudechicago.org) if this would be helpful for your family and we will figure out the details.

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## Daily Scripture Readings & Stations of the Cross

Our website has links to the daily readings for Masses [HERE](#).

Here is the list of readings for this for parishioners that prefer to look them up:

**Monday:** Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11

**Tuesday:** Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30

**Wednesday:** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42

**Thursday:** Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59

**Friday:** Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

**Saturday:** Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56

**Sunday:** Mt 21:1-11 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]

Click [HERE](#) for online Stations of the Cross.

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## Mass Intentions

Mass intentions for scheduled mass will be transferred to the private masses the parish priests (Fr. Mike Bradley, Fr. Mike Gabriel, and Fr. Rich Prendergast) will say during this time.

If those who requested/scheduled these Masses would prefer to have them moved to a different date, please leave a message at the Rectory at 773.764.3621 or email [stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org). Sr. Judith will re-schedule them.

- Monday, March 30 - Gary Glasch +
- Tuesday, March 31 - Living & deceased mothers and fathers of St. Gertrude parishioners
- Wednesday, April 1 - Doctors, nurses, and medical staff working to stop COVID-19
- Thursday, April 2 - Those sick from COVID-19
- Friday, April 3 - Purgatorial Society
- Saturday, April 4 - Minh-Chan Phan +, Caprice Boylan +
- Sunday, April 5 - Parishioners of St. Gertrude, Revs. Philip Reiley + & Sylvester Eye +

*(+ indicates the person is deceased)*



## Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for something to do? [Care for Real](#) is always in need of volunteers! Please reach out to Karen at [volunteer@careforreal.org](mailto:volunteer@careforreal.org). She is overseeing scheduling and shifts available.

Our Heart to Heart Director, Jane Callahan-Moore, is also helping coordinate outreach to the elderly and shut-ins, including shopping and bringing food to those unable to get to the store. You can contact Jane by emailing her at [jcallahanmoore@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:jcallahanmoore@stgertrudechicago.org).

Our Alderman, Harry Osterman, is coordinating local needs and service

opportunities. His [website](#) has information on getting help during this crisis and giving help. Below are quick links to urgent community issues:

- [Community Response Fund](#) - Funds raised will help Care for Real purchase needed food and supplies for our neighbors in need, as well as help purchase medical supplies needed by our residents and care providers.
  - [Volunteer to be a part of the 48th Ward Community Response Team](#)
  - [Ask for daily check-in calls for yourself or a neighbor](#)
  - [How you can receive support from Care for Real](#)
  - [Get information on enrolling in emergency unemployment benefits](#)
  - [How you can support local businesses during this time](#)
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## Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends

- Walter Bradford
  - Ester Bugler
  - Maggie Callaway
  - Aida Calvopina
  - Geraldine Clark
  - Connie Cool
  - Mary Fitzgerald
  - Joan Harrington
  - Gina Heidkamp
  - Maria Hertl
  - Bernice Kiedysz
  - Karey Myers
  - Margaret O'Sullivan
  - Don Piven
  - Charley Scantlebury
  - David Sierzega
  - Richard Seitz
  - Peggy Stoffel
  - The Sullivan family
  - Elinora E. Tolentino
  - Norma E. Viray
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## [A Prayer During the Health Crisis](#)

Kerry Weber, a writer with [America: The Jesuit Review](#), recently wrote this beautiful Coronavirus prayer:

*Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.*

*Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.*

*Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.*

*Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.*

*Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” Come to our aid now, that we may experience your healing love.*

*Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.*

*Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.*

*Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.*

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**Our mailing address is:**

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