



St. Gertrude Chicago

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022

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May 15

From Fr. Rich

We have been hearing in the Easter Season scripture readings the movement outward from the moment of Jesus' Resurrection. What began as a small group of witnesses to the Risen Lord keeps expanding, first to the entire

nation of Israel, then to all the Gentiles. In the first readings, we hear from the Acts of the Apostles as their missionary journeys continue broadening in scope and distances.

In this weekend's Gospel readings, there is a change from what Jesus had been doing since being raised from the dead. Initially, he was primarily concerned with His encounters with the disciples and close followers. In today's passage, it is clear he is now preparing them for his imminent departure, and their mission assignment to go out to all the world and tell the good news, glorifying God.

Some theologians refer to our homes as the first church. It is as we experience the practice, discussion, and living out our faith with our parents and families where we first come to have a sense of the community to which we belong. From that initial encounter, we then experience the shared worship in our local parishes, and, for many, the experience of a Catholic school or Religious Education program. But, like all the good things of growing up in a family, there then comes the time we have grown into adulthood and take responsibility for ourselves and leave home and begin establishing our own families. The message continues to be spread.

Today and for the next few weeks, the readings invite us to consider how we view the broader world. Is it the place a loving God has created and in which we live as brothers and sisters of all humankind? Or have we become isolated, "quarantined" into our own little worlds that we fear leaving? There is always a temptation to lock the door, keep away anyone and anything new so we can live only with who and what we already know and with which we are very comfortable. But that is not the message of the Gospel! As believers it is incumbent upon each and every one of us to look out and see all those who are our sisters and brothers, even if we haven't yet met them, and to treat them as we would treat the Lord himself. It is an enormous challenge because it is not a singular event, but the way we live our lives.

Perhaps this week we can make an effort to have an actual conversation with someone we may see frequently but with whom we have never before communicated. God's challenge, presented through His Son, Jesus Christ, is that we are forever expanding our

From Fr. Rich (cont.)

view to be more inclusive. Just as God views all of us and our world.

Catholic Charities Mother's Day Collection

If you missed last weekend's Annual Catholic Charities Mother's Day Collection, you can still contribute for the care of the hungry, homeless, and unemployed in our communities by going on to their website: www.catholiccharities.net/donate, or directly by mail: Catholic Charities, 75 Remittance Drive, Dept 1623, Chicago, IL 60675-1623. Thank you for your generosity!

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>.

St. Ignatius Update

Last week in my column, I mentioned that the St. Ignatius parish school part of that campus has been sold. I received a message from a parishioner wanting to know who purchased that part of the St. Ignatius campus, but that is not yet public information. I expect the sale will be closed soon, and when it is, I will be happy to report on the new owners. It's not exactly a secret, but it is also not my decision to make it public.

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.



Congratulations to our First Communicants

On Saturday, May 7th, 35 children from the Religious Ed program and NCA made their First Communion at 10:00 am in church.

We are so proud of their hard work and are so blessed by their kind hearts and loving presence in our parish. Together, we offer our congratulations and express our joy for the faith of these young people.

We are especially thankful for our teachers: Ewa Jablonska and Cristine Salazar from NCA; Peter Buttitta, Ellen Buttitta, Dorothea Tobin, Ginevra Clark, Suzanne Stryczek, Steven Monti, and Jacalyn Meier from our Religious Education Program, for their kind and patient instruction.

Please continue to hold the First Communicants in your prayers as they experience the unfolding mystery of the Sacrament of Communion.



First Communion—Class of 2022

- Calla E. Banazek
- Eleanor A. Baravetto
- Taryn Blake
- Braden Blake
- Maeve M. Brett
- Violet R. Burns
- Joseph D. Caramagno
- Grady A. Cunningham
- Kora M. Cunningham
- Grace M. Daleo
- Bryan O. Eisiri
- Lucas Gajos
- Thomas L. Hand III
- Guillermo F. Hernandez M.
- Elliot G. Holden
- Eloise M. Hull
- Fiona Battaglia Keating
- Josephine D. Kollar
- Viviana M. Love
- Leonardo H. Marineli
- Sonja I. Martin
- Maggie McGowan
- Janet R. Meier
- Violet L. Milkovic
- Scarlett A. Negrillo
- Adaobi Okoli
- Jasmin Orduno Tolayo
- Leslie Orduno Tolayo
- Miriam Orduno Tolayo
- Gael Pacheco
- Brisa Palma
- Maria de Jesus Perez L.
- Matthew Robinson
- Christopher Sanchez
- Frank P. Sweeney





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 kccheers@stgertrudechicago.org if you are interested. Candidates must either be Virtus trained or willing to attend a Virtus class.

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.



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



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. Participants can bring their compost to St. Gert's next week!

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.

Donate Used Cooking Oil

The Biodiesel Program at Loyola University accepts donations of used cooking oil! If you have recently deep-fried a turkey, or have a jar of expired oil...they'll take it!

All vegetable oil (including peanut oil) donated to Loyola will be turned into clean-burning, renewable fuel: biodiesel. To learn more information and the drop off locations visit the School of Environmental Sustainability's page at <https://www.luc.edu/sustainability/>.



Meatless Mondays



Care for our Common Home: Meatless Mondays

Have you tried "Meatless Monday" yet? Reducing meat consumption supports one of the important principles of the Pope's encyclical "Laudato Si" by creating sustainable dietary habits. Your veggie-friendly choices can make a difference to our climate and support caring for our common home. To learn more, visit: <https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2022/03/14/meat-industry-vegetarianism-laudato-si-242456>.

Refugee & Immigrant Ministry Update

For I have some updates from our ministry as well as news from the neighborhood and the world.

Our Local Ministry:

We recently met and reflected on all the sorrow in the world right now. We also talked about some concrete steps we might take.

In terms of refugees from Ukraine, we still don't know what the timeline will be on that. Biden had said the U.S. will accept 100,000, but we don't know when or if that will materialize. (The expectation is that most of the Ukrainian refugees will want to remain in Europe with the hope of returning home at some point.)

With that in mind, we have sufficient resources to support more families, and Catholic Charities is in a bit of a lull (Brother Joe reports that the main influx of Afghans ended around January). We're going to reach out to Refugee One, World Relief, and Heartland Alliance to see if we can partner with them to sponsor a family and also the Ismaeli Center to see if there are needs.

We also talked about having another education station in the church vestibule (you may recall we've done this for the Rohingya, the regions from which our families have come, etc.). We'd aim for the fall and gather information on the worldwide refugee crisis, perhaps with real-life local stories.

In regards to families currently being sponsored, Refugee & Immigrant Ministry member Catrine Guzik has continued to regularly assist Kadidja and her daughters, whom, she said, still have various needs. This family is in need of people available to drive the mom and/or daughters to different regular events. If interested, contact Catrine at cjguzik@yahoo.com.

Illinois School of the Americas Watch (ILSOAW) and the national organization have long been in the trenches of justice work in Latin America. SOA Watch has grown to become the largest grassroots Latin America solidarity organization in the United States, and works to close training centers such as military, law enforcement and border patrol. We strive to expose, denounce, and end US militarization, oppressive US policies and other forms of state violence in the Americas. On October 8-9th, SOAWatch will be part of a presence at the AZ-Mexico border in support of and collaboration with Border Patrol Victims' Network on the 10th anniversary of the murder of Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez by US Border Patrol.

Our Neighborhood:

Perhaps you've heard of the free store for refugees in Rogers Park (<https://bit.ly/FreeRogersParkStorearticle>). They are running out of space and need to find new space soon. If you know of anything, please forward the information to Allen Stryczek at astryczek@sbcglobal.net.

Information & Upcoming Events:

We've all seen so much suffering for the Ukrainian people. The Social Justice Resource Cen-



ter's April newsletter, conta.cc/3yr5ADi, has important information on the Ukrainian refugee situation.

And of course, there are still terrible conflicts in Syria, Afghanistan, Africa, and other parts of the world. All of these people are our brothers and sisters.



Featured speakers from the Illinois Holocaust Museum's *In Our Voices: Stories of Survival & Resilience*, include Ida Sefer Roache, Mark Akgulian, Immaculee Mukantaganira, and moderator Kelley Szany.

You also might be interested in an event sponsored by the Illinois Holocaust Museum on Wednesday, June 8 at 6:30 pm at Navy Pier. The program is entitled "In Our Voices: Stories of Survival & Resilience". The evening will feature discussion and storytelling from descendants and survivors of genocides in Armenia, Bosnia, and Rwanda, their personal and families' experiences, and end the discussion with key lessons for today and beyond. Registration is required but the event is free. Details are here, <https://bit.ly/IllinoisHolocaustMuseumJune8>

So much need, but also so much good work going on! That's the Easter message - together we can be the light of love and hope.

On behalf of the refugee ministry team, thank you!

~ Denise Goodman

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

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, May 14 at 5:00 pm - Jennifer Kiedaisch
- Sunday, May 15 at 8:00 am - David Sullivan
- Sunday, May 15 at 10:30 am - Patrick Reardon
- Sunday, May 15 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, May 14 at 5:00 pm - Tim Harrington
- Sunday, May 15 at 8:00 am - Barb Daly
- Sunday, May 15 at 10:30 am - Rafael Melendez, Carlos Barragan
- Sunday, May 15 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Cantors and Musicians:

- Saturday, May 14 at 5:00 pm - Jim Manzardo
- Sunday, May 15 at 8:00 am - Paula Dempsey
- Sunday, May 15 at 10:30 am - Kate Hibbs Davis; John Horan-guitar
- Sunday, May 15 10:30 am Gym Mass - TBA

Mass Intentions

- Monday, May 16: 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society
 - Tuesday, May 17: 7:30 am - Jennifer Batza
 - Wednesday, May 18: 7:30 am - Mary Joe Martin +
 - Thursday, May 19: 7:30 am - Communion Service
 - Friday, May 20: 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
 - Saturday, May 21: 7:30 am - World peace; 5:00 pm - Stephen Cook +
 - Sunday, May 22: 8:00 am - Daniel Goodman; 10:30 am in Church - parishioners of St. Gertrude; 10:30 am Gym Mass - Maria Padilla
- (+ indicates the person is deceased)*

Baptisms

- Louis Raih Hamann, child of Jacob Hamann & Anne Raih
 - Sienna Cruz, child of Daniel and Jenny Cruz

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
- GiveCentral: www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevants

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

The office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am-2:30 pm and by appointment. Contact them at 773.973.5464.