

St. Gertrude

March 18, 2007 - 4th Sunday of Lent



Simple Suppers on Wednesday evenings (6-7pm in the Social Hall), a Lenten staple at St. Gertrude, feature the likes of (from left) Sandy Bowen, Bill Barnett, Mary Grover, Sara Ellis, Mary McCormick, Sergio Ott, Wally Bradford and Jim Zajakowski-Uhll. Perfect ingredients for a meaningful meal.

GOD CONSCIOUSNESS IV • FINDING WHAT FILLS US

Have you made it over to one of the Lenten Simple Suppers? They really are great. You meet lots of people there who take different approaches to the meal. Some of us, seeing eight or nine different soup options, and another five or six bread choices, try to taste each one, raving about how excellent the cooks are and how full we feel afterward, ho, ho. Others of us, having fasted through the day, carefully sip one bowl of soup and gnaw on one piece of bread, believing that the gnawing hunger pangs that persist in our stomachs will draw us into solidarity with those who rarely have their appetites whetted. And some of us are so busy enjoying the wonderful people that we have to be reminded about the food. In the end, all are fed -- body and spirit -- and we come away with a bit different sense of what it means to be filled.

From Father Grassi

Lent is traditionally a time to work at bringing about a more just society in which to share all God's blessings with our sisters and brothers. Looking at just one issue - housing - in Chicago, here are some statistics to ponder, pray over, and act on.

The city of Chicago has lost over 71,000 rental units since 2000 and will lose an additional 8,000 federally subsidized units by 2010. Fewer among us will be able to rent decent housing.

The median home purchase price in Chicago was \$255,000 in 2005. The annual income needed to purchase a home is at least \$68,000. But the median household income in Chicago has declined from \$45,278 in 2000 to \$41,015. So, fewer are able to buy a home in the city.

"Cost-burdened" home owners and renters are identified as paying over 35% of their income for housing. And the number of these "cost-burdened" owners with mortgages has jumped in the last five years from 26% to 40% and "cost-burdened" renters from 30% to 40%. Clearly, a significant number of both owners and renters are struggling with the issue of housing for themselves and their families. One significant cause of this is the fact that median home prices have risen 65% in the last five years and rents by 27% in Chicago.

The poverty level in Chicago is no longer declining, having reverted back to the 1990 level of 21.6%. Median income in Chicago has shown a 9.4% decrease from the 2000 census. We don't always see the poverty and what it causes around us, do we?

These figures were taken from the Courage Program Monthly Newsletter. But can they really tell us what is going on? In so many ways Chicago is a beautiful and vibrant city. But can we in justice enjoy it when hidden underneath is the pain and struggle so many of our sisters and brothers face? These figures don't tell the real stories of real people, their heartache, their hopelessness, their despair.

Healthcare, jobs, education, and safety are all issues that intersect with these figures. As Lent continues, how must we respond in justice to what is happening to our neighbors? I do know that we don't need more studies. As Bill Vaughn said, "It would be nice if the poor were to get even half of the money that is spent studying them." There are no easy, no facile answers. But justice demands a response from us.

DJG



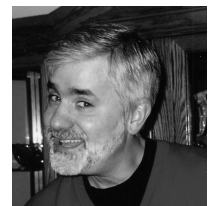
The story of the Prodigal Sons (why leave out the older son?) is a sort of heart catheterization test. The story functions as a literary dye designed to highlight spiritual occlusions. The younger son suffers from a Self-Loathing Heart. This spiritual occlusion blocks itself from Love, because the self is convinced it is beyond redemption. It will produce an itemized and notarized list detailing its infinite faults. This is a heart only a feast of Eucharist proportions can heal.

Harder to spot but just as occulted is the older son's Self-Righteous Heart. This is a heart that is so convinced of its own purity it cannot relate to others it views as flawed. The Self-Righteous Heart erects boundary fences that would make Homeland Security proud. It is so busy trying to earn Love, it can never enjoy it. This heart majors in judgment and minors in work-a-holism. It is, after all, lots of work to stay perfect and point out the infinite imperfection in others. So much work, in fact, that it wears itself out trying to earn the Love that is freely given.

What part of your history do you feel is beyond redemption? Are your bouts of depression and anxiety an expression of self-loathing? How does Self-Righteousness damage our country, our church, our parish and our families? Do you think you have to EARN God's love?

G. K. Chesterton once said that, "The soul does not die by sin, but by impenitence." Failure to spot your spiritual occlusion is prodigal impenitence of the riskiest sort.

John Horan for *Growing in Faith*





**St. Gertrude Parish Players present *Something's Gotta Give!*
It's A Musical Tale ... A Fantastical Farce**

Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 24, 2007 in the social hall. Doors open at 7:30pm with an 8pm curtain call. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased from any cast member, at the rectory or call Carol Clennon at 764-1186.

What's Happening? Take A Look!

Silent Procession - Join with Edgewater/Rogers Park people of faith for a procession through Edgewater grieving for the victims of the Middle East Wars and their loved ones. Today, Sunday, March 18, 3:00-4:30pm, beginning and ending on the steps of St. Gertrude Church. If you wish to participate with a reading or prayer, please call Jim at 743-4632.

Poetry Pilgrimage - "The poem comes in the form of a blessing ... like rapture breaking on the mind" The poetry of Stanley Kunitz will be discussed on Monday, March 19. The group meets in the rectory at 7:30pm. All are welcome. Information: Mary Grover ~ 338-3564.

Loyola Peace Conference - *Peacemaking in an Age of Terror* will focus on how religious appeals can inspire both violence and the pursuit of justice, compassion and peace. Tuesday, March 20 through Thursday, March 22. Conference is free but registration required. Contact 508-3552 or www.luc.edu/ethics

Simple Supper & Taizé - This Wednesday, March 21, the Simple Supper will be hosted by the Women's Spirituality Group in the school cafeteria. **Childcare will be provided by WOW teens and the 2007 confirmation class** during the Taizé prayer service that follows. The childcare is free; however, donations to Operation Rice Bowl will be gratefully accepted.

Market day - Order forms are available at the back of the church and are due Sunday, March 25. Pick up is Saturday, March 31. We are looking for some new folks to help coordinate Market Day so we don't lose this wonderful resource. If you are interested, please call the rectory ~ 764-3621.

Women's Book Club - The women's book club is seeking new members. They meet on Thursdays from 12:30pm to 1:30pm in the ministry center. For information contact Julie O'Donoghue ~ 338-8733.

Mass Book - The Mass Book for 2008 is now open for intentions. Please note, we are only taking one intention per week day, not two. Please call or stop by the rectory between 8:30 and 4:30 if you would like to have a Mass said for a loved one.

Vision for Senn High - Monday, March 26, 6:30-8pm there will be a community meeting to gather input on the strategic plan to build and enrich learning opportunities at Senn High school. All are welcome. There will be a student performance from 6-6:30pm. Info 534-2365. (5900 N. Glenwood)



New parishioners:

Ronald Sanchez and Ruth Sanchez-Schlacter Mark Macksood and Andrea Schlachter
Lauren Kemp and James McNamara Gerald Jackson
Enoch Rivers and Rosemary Castronova-Rivers

Baptisms

Elise Janine Tumaliuan Cruz, daughter of Randy Cruz and Monina Tumaliuan
Kathleen Marie Griffin, daughter of Kevin Griffin and Donna Freiburger
Cailey Curtis Nolan, daughter of James Ritt and Martha Nolan
Ashley Giovany Chavez, son of Alma Lorena Chavez
Rafael Orenda, Jr. son of Rafael Orenda and Maria Chavez
Sofia Napoleon Welch, daughter of Michael Welch, Jr., and Melanie Napoleon

Our Parish at Prayer

MONDAY, MARCH 19

7:00am Helen M. Schmidt †
9:00am Tom Nelson

TUESDAY, MARCH 20

7:00am Anna White †
9:00am Tom Barrett †

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

7:00am Deceased of Connery Family †
9:00am Dorothy Guthrie †
7:00pm Taizé

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

7:00am Dorothy Guthrie †
9:00am *Communion Service*
Michael White †

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

7:00am Marion White †
9:00am Erhard Bambach †
2:30pm Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

8:00am Josephine Rogan †
5:00pm John J. & Lillian J. McCall †
76th anniversary

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

8:00am Family of St. Gertrude
9:30am *Held at St. Gertrude East*
Loretta Kator †
10:00am Tassome Emanuele & Pitaro Families †
10:30am John Pembroke †
11:30am Deceased of Strubbe Galoney Family †

† Indicates the Mass in being said in memory of an individual

Rosary: 8:40am Monday - Friday; 8:30am Saturday

Altar Servers

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

5:00pm Luke O'Connor, Josh Ortiz, Robert Weber

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

10:00am Rachel Nelson, Emilio Raby-Newsom,
Steven Guardino-Hasbrook
11:30am Roger DeKind, Ryan Smith, Thair Thompson

Lectors

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

5:00pm Elizabeth Sterling, Joan Steinbrecher

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

8:00am Jennifer Kiedaisch, Sr. Kathryn Stimac
10:00am Rafael Melendez, Jeff Seitzer
11:30am Kathy Kollar, DeLaina Ellis

Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16;
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53
Sunday: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

Sunday Offering

March 11, 2007

Sunday Envelopes (222)	\$ 6,210.00
Loose Checks (44)	\$ 1,135.00
Cash/Coin	<u>\$ 895.64</u>
Total Collected	\$ 8,204.64
Budget *	<u>\$ 9,375.00</u>
Difference	\$ - 1,134.36
Year-to-Date Collected	\$ 441,767.32
Year-to-Date Budget	<u>\$ 447,919.00</u>
Difference	\$ - 6151.68

* Does not include parish pay budgeted amount

Eucharistic Ministers

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

5:00pm Pat Mann, Peggy Dawson, Pat Norcik,
Kathleen Dawson, Manny Eckert

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

8:00am Ed Bugler, Ester Bugler, Hallie Burhoe,
Roman Reyes, Sr. Kathryn Stimac
10:00am Bob Dwyer, Kathy Dunne, Val Hastings,
Rosita Nordgren, Nancy Merrill,
Eileen Quinlan, Dana Sullivan
10:30am Maggie Kast, Shelly Boniwell
11:30am Dave Kasten, Bernard Ndiwe, Susan Lersch
Anthony Long, Brent Billock

Greeters

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

5:00pm Maggie Howell, Maria Kulp

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

8:00am Kate Flynn, Lisa Torees, Chris Phillips
10:00am Kim Wagner, Heidi Schlumpf, Ed Butler
11:30am Steven Mitchell, Tracy Mitchell

Imagine a day without the comforts we take for granted – soap, toothpaste, shampoo, and fresh water. **The Night Ministry** serves homeless and runaway youth, working poor adults, and others who have “fallen through the cracks” of our social service system.

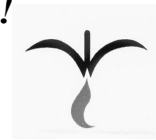
During Lent, the WOW teens are supporting The Night Ministry by collecting trial-sized items such as shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, mouthwash, bar soap, hand lotion, deodorant, and pre-moistened towelettes. Donations may be brought to the rectory or the back of church. Please mark your donations for “The Night Ministry.” Questions, call the rectory ~ 764-3621.

Don't Forget! Tonight at 6:30! In the Ministry Center!

A Lenten faith sharing experience led by WOW teens.

Two groups: 6& 7 graders; and 8 & 9 graders.

Come for the food; stay for the prayer. See you there.



Why do parents choose NCA?

One mother's story... “I applied to several magnet schools and had my child tested for the gifted programs. I looked at many private schools. I attended two NCA open houses this winter and found myself drawn to NCA. As we both work full time, my husband and I were looking forward to the day we didn't have to pay tuition. A year ago (before visiting), NCA wasn't even a choice in our pool of options. Honestly, although I am a practicing Catholic, I was surprised by how impressed I was with our parish school. I scheduled a third visit to NCA, with private tour where I could observe the classrooms in action. After that, I had an overwhelming feeling that we had finally found a ‘home’ – the right school for our family. I rejoiced when I registered, I actually started to cry.”

There is something very special about NCA, about our community, about our teachers and staff... It's something very difficult to express in words. It's something you'll never know until you are a part of it.

Primary School Campus
Preschool - 5th grade
6216 N. Glenwood Ave, Chicago



Middle School Campus
6th - 8th Grade
5525 N. Magnolia Ave, Chicago

call 773.271.4310 or visit www.northsidecatholic.org

ST. GERTRUDE PASTORAL SERVICES

STAFF

Rev. Dominic Grassi, Pastor
Rev. Bill Kenneally, Pastor Emeritus
Peter Buttitta, Pastoral Associate
Chris Sikora, Pastoral Intern
Ann O'Connor, Faith Formation
Mary Herbin-Horan, Liturgical Music
Mary Ann Collins, Social Services
Walter Pophin, Business Manager
Marge Butzen, Parish Secretary

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM
9:30 AM Gertrude East (at Sheridan & Rosemont)
10:30 AM Mass in the Gym (except summer months)
MONDAY through FRIDAY: 7:00 AM & 9:00 AM
SATURDAY: 8:00 AM & 5:00 PM (Sunday Vigil)

RECTORY HOURS

Business Hours: Weekdays, 8:30am to 4:30pm
Drop off/pick up: Weekdays, 4:30pm to 8pm
Saturday 9am to 6pm, Sunday, 9am to 1pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Individual: Saturday from 4:15-4:45 PM and by request
Communal: Consult bulletin for specific times and dates.

BAPTISM

Baptisms take place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. A mandatory parent preparation meeting is held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. All arrangements should be made one month in advance by calling the rectory.

MARRIAGE

Arrangements begin by setting up an appointment with the pastor or associate. According to diocesan policy, preparations are to begin at least four (4) months prior to the desired date.

LOCATIONS:

RECTORY: 1420 W. Granville Ave. (60660)- Phone 773/764-3621
Fax 761-4164, E-mail stgertrude1420@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.stgertrudechicago.org>

MINISTRY CENTER: 6214 N. Glenwood — 973-5464

NEW PARISHIONERS

You are most welcome and are invited to stop in at the rectory to introduce yourself and register.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

We have an enriching program called the R.C.I.A (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults). Contact the rectory for details.

MINISTRY OF CARE AND COMMUNION

Trained ministers will gladly visit and bring communion to those who are sick or homebound. Please call the rectory to make arrangements.

COUNSELING AND SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

For information, consultation and referrals for counseling, psychotherapy or spiritual direction, leave a confidential message.

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY

John Neafsey 338-4334

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Bob Backis, Marilyn Gehant, Jim Manzardo, or Janine Denomme 764-8884

SUPPORT GROUPS

Al-Anon — Sundays at 7:00 PM in the Ministry Center
Pregnancy Support — Free pregnancy tests, post-abortion help, Caris Pregnancy Center, 773-338-8311.
Gamblers Anonymous — Fridays at 7 PM in the Ministry Center.

