

St. Gertrude

1420 W. Granville Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60660 • Telephone: 773.764.3621

Sixth Sunday of Easter • May 17, 2009



A Parish, A Family, A Faith

More than seven decades ago, Donald Carter Sweeney began his faith journey at St. Gertrude. Pictured here, awaiting his graduation from kindergarten, he wore a fancy gown and a serious expression standing on the church steps. He was one of four Sweeney siblings born to Daniel Carter Sweeney and Charlotte (Ryan) Sweeney of the 1300 block of Rosemont Ave. (See photo above.) Donald, Edmund, Dorothy and Daniel played in the alleys and streets around St. Gerts, with the Suerths, the Egans, Wally Bradford and Willie McDermott - among others. They played ball at Hayt School. Dorothy rode the "L" to Wrigley with Charlotte on Ladies Day. The three boys eventually joined the U.S. Marine Corps, developing a deep appreciation for its values. Daniel C. Sweeney's name remains embossed in gold on St. Gertrude's War Memorial.

Saturday morning, 53 students made their first communion at St Gertrude, taking an early step on their faith journey, just as Donald and his brothers and sister did here years ago. On that same day, the extended clan of the four Sweeney's gathered in church to celebrate one of life's later spiritual journeys, the passing of those we love. Recently, the last of the four Sweeneys, Dorothy, passed away. It was shortly before that, Eileen McAvaney, beloved daughter of Daniel Sweeney also had died. She was the witty older cousin, a dear sister and loving wife, whose uncles called her "Red."

Dorothy's death marked the passing of a generation of fathers and an aunt whose belief in family was strong and guided in part by their faith. Build a family. Make it strong. Give good example. Take care of each other. St. Gertrude has always been a place where families like this flourished, where communion with one another was strong and always celebrated. Donald liked it here so much he never moved more than three blocks away, marrying a girl from one parish over (their grandson graduates from NCA next year). But through the years the Sweeney's have gathered here to celebrate life's markers. Once again, we welcome everyone back to this sacred place.

From Father Grassi

While most of us were just doing what we do on Saturday morning, something very special was happening in St. Gertrude Church. A group of our children processed up the aisle of the church smiling but nervous. They were going to receive their first Holy Communion. They were excited. It was hard for them to concentrate. They were thinking to themselves “left hand over right” and “remember to say ‘Amen’” and who knows what else. Then they came forward. And when they received the body and blood of Christ, they walked proudly back to their pew with their family. Their lives were changed at that moment more than they could begin to imagine. May Christ walk with them wherever the years take them. Please keep them in your prayers. Congratulations to them and to their families:

St. Gertrude Parish First Communicants – May, 2009

Christopher Aderupatan	Christine Agpasa	Ilia Aguirre	Christopher Agunloye
Ashton Barker	Carlos Barragan	Sophia Jennie Billones	Andreas Bugler
Nicholas Bussey	Casey Cancilla	Sean Conway	Jossalyn Coppens
Alexandra Coscioni	Gabriella Coscioni	Ryan Ellis	Jonathan Elue
Emmet Elward	Chelsea Erickson	Ryan Evans	Sade Gabourel
Gabrielle Giamarusti	Maggie Goode	Mathieu Halpin	Jonathan Hart
Simon Hart	Maeve Hastings	Cayden Hunter	Christian Joya
Victoria Kozak	Charles Lewis	James Lynch	Jack Madell
Freddy Martin	Ntsang McCormick	David Meyer	Brendan Moran
Jade Mosquera	Bryan Neafsey	Lucius Negrillo	Bonita Odigie
Emma Paladino	Maggie Plomin	Seamus Retzloff	Marlene Rodriguez
Joseph Salvatore	Ethan Seitzer	Eleanor Siegle	Carl Kimondo Tuttle
Ruben Urquiza	Bridget Verdon	Matthew Waller	Charlie White

DJG



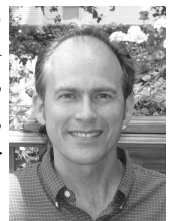
God Bless the Whole World, No Exceptions

In today’s first reading, when Cornelius is overdoing the homage, Peter reminds him that he is a human being just like everybody else and that “God shows no partiality” no matter who we are or where we come from. This reminded me of a beautiful line from Walt Whitman:

“Each belongs here or anywhere,
just as much as the well-off--just as much as you;
Each has his or her place in the procession.”

After 9/11, when the kind of “God Bless America” thinking -- that Americans are somehow more entitled to God’s blessing than others -- was popular, as a small act of protest we put a bumper sticker on our car that reads “God bless the whole world, no exceptions.”

The gospel in which Jesus calls us “friends” brought to mind Fr. Stanley Rother, an American priest who worked for many years in Guatemala. Rother’s humility, quiet kindness, and generosity earned him great respect and affection from his poverty-stricken parishioners, and he refused to leave them even during the terrible repression and violence of that country’s civil war. In 1981 he was murdered by a government death squad in the rectory. At first, when parishioners heard what had happened to their beloved pastor, they refused to allow his body to be taken back home to the U.S. They felt that he belonged with *them* and wanted him to be buried *there*. But then a creative compromise was reached: Rother’s body would be returned to his family, but his parishioners would be allowed to keep his heart. His heart is still kept there in a shrine at the church, under a plaque that reads: “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”



John Neafsey, for *Growing in Faith*

Rectory Facelift In case you haven't noticed the front door of the rectory is blocked off while the limestone is sandblasted, tuckpointed, and window mullions replaced. The Chicago winters have been hard on our rectory and we've noticed pieces of stone cracking and falling, but thankfully not hitting anyone on their noggin! Please continue to use the side door off of the garden on the west side of the rectory. Next week we will begin addressing the bell tower first by cleaning up after the pigeons and then putting up some netting to prevent further damage caused by our winged friends. If you have any questions about any of the work being done, please feel free to contact the rectory.



What's Happening? Take a Look!

Feast of the Ascension: The feast will be celebrated next Sunday, May 24. Thursday, May 21 will be the usual Communion Services at 7am and 9am..

Memorial Day: On Monday, May 25 there will be one mass at 10am; no 7am or 9am mass that day.

Presentation on Christian Peacemaker Teams: Hear Christina Linehan, our parish intern, describe her recent experience on a peacemaking delegation to Palestine. It will be in the gym, after the Gym Mass on Sunday, May 17, at 12pm. For information, please call Christina at ~ 714-722-9335.

Visions of Greatness ~ is the premier fundraising event to benefit the Scholarship Program at St. Gregory the Great High School. This first annual *Visions* is a special celebration of Catholic education. Reverend Michael J. Garanzini S.J., President of Loyola University Chicago, will be honored on Thursday, May 21 at 5:30pm at Galleria Marchetti, 825 W. Erie, Chicago

Poetry Pilgrims: On Monday, May 18 at 7:30pm in the rectory, the poetry pilgrims will be reading a group of poems written about the art of poetry ~ "Ars Poetica." Contact Mary Grover at 338-3564.

Ethereal Light: The North Shore Choral Society and Metropolis Symphony Orchestra will perform works of Fauré, Rachmaninov, and Lauriden on Sunday, May 31 at 3pm at St. Luke, 9393 Hinman Ave., Evanston . Tickets are \$12 - \$25. Call 847-272-2351 or www.northshorechoral.org

Chicago's First Lay Synod: Join other St. Gert's folks as we call forth the faithful to participate according to our roles, rights and responsibilities as Catholics. Held on the campus of Loyola University, Simpson Center, 6333 N. Winthrop Ave. (corner of Sheridan/east on Devon), Saturday, May 23, 9am to 5pm. Suggested fee of \$20 (\$30 at the door) includes coffee and lunch. Call Terry Houk at 339-8724 or chicagosynod@yahoo.com

The Edgewater Singers: On Saturday, May 16 at 7:30pm at Bethany Lutheran Church (Magnolia and Thorndale); the Edgewater Singers will perform their 29th annual spring concert.: *Virtue and Vice*. St. Gert's parishioners sing in the group: Claire Conley, Paul Boyd, Kathy Gemperle, KC Conway. The concert is free.

Baptisms

Emmett Patrick Dealy, son of Matthew Dealy and Meghan Murphy

David Aaron Meyer, son of Luke Meyer and Kerry Smith

Hamish Shane Boden, son of Peter Boden and Deborah Horkay

William (Liam) Patrick Sheridan, son of William and Patricia Sherdian

Olivia Haruko Moore, daughter of Steve Moore and Jennifer Chase

New Parishioners

• John and Jeanne Gibbs and their son John (Jack)

• Brenda Broderick

• Dan and Sarah Creviston

• Somtochukwu Emma Okoye

• Jevon Pierson



Our Parish at Prayer

MONDAY, MAY 18

7:00am Betty Taylor †

9:00am Fred Diaz †

TUESDAY, MAY 19

7:00am Baby Lonska †

9:00am Dr. Rose Greco †

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

7:00am Martina Hayes

9:00am Elsa Vazquez †

THURSDAY, MAY 21

7:00am *Communion Service* ~ Helen M. Schmidt †9:00am *Communion Service* ~ The Connery Family †

FRIDAY, MAY 22

7:00am Jaime Jeyuson †

9:00am In Thanksgiving ~ The Ezeocha Family

SATURDAY, MAY 23

8:00am Adalbert Schmuttenmaer †

3:00pm *McEnerney/ Stocking Wedding*

5:00pm John J. McCall, 46th Anniversary †

SUNDAY, MAY 24

8:00am Joseph Slavicek †

9:30am *St. Gertrude East (Sheridan and Granville)*
The Helping Hands Ministry

10:00am Mary Heidkamp †

10:30am The Family of St. Gertrude †

11:30am Daniel C. Sweeney and Family †

† Indicates Mass is being said in memory of the individual
Rosary: 8:40am Monday - Friday; 8:30am Saturday

Altar Servers

SATURDAY, MAY 23

5:00pm Daniel Cancilla, Henry Jacob,
Peter Zajakowski-Uhll

SUNDAY, MAY 24

10:00am Andrew Dwyer, Rachel Nelson,
Samantha English

11:30am Claude Allen, Sloveig Martin, Kendall Elue

Lectors

SATURDAY, MAY 23

5:00pm Clarisse Croteau Chonka, Elizabeth Sterling

SUNDAY, MAY 24

8:00am Mary Stachura, Sara Millar

10:00am Bob Backis, Bob Dwyer

11:30am Elizabeth Hartman, Susan Lersch

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 16:11-15; Jn 15:26 — 16:4a**Tuesday:** Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11**Wednesday:** Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1; Jn 16:12-15**Thursday:** Acts 18:1-8; Jn 16:16-20*Ascension to be celebrated on Sunday.***Friday:** Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23**Saturday:** Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23b-28**Sunday ~ The Ascension of the Lord:**

Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47; Eph 1:17-23 or

Eph 4:1-13 [1-7, 11-13]; Mk 16:15-20

Wedding Banns

I Andrew Cosslett and Sara Weitz
III Trevor Stocking and Christie McEnerney



May they rest in peace...

Sarah Wilson

Joy Hammond

John Tunney

In Memoriam

Eucharistic Ministers

SATURDAY, MAY 23

5:00pm Laura Pelehach, Mickey Resch,
Meghan Thompson-Wilda, Joan Harrington,
Tim Harrington

SUNDAY, MAY 24

8:00am Mary Stachura, Judy Coswell, Debbie Kern,
Julie Dorger, Sara McCarthy10:00am Gail Smith, RoseMarie Anichini, Ruth Ott,
Madeleine Fister, Rosita Nordgren,
Eileen Quinlan, Viki Chikow11:30am Elizabeth Hartman, Susan Lersch,
Troy McMillan, Kari Hamende,
Mary Pat Hartung

Greeters

SATURDAY, MAY 23

5:00pm Maggie Howell, Tim and Joan Harrington

SUNDAY, MAY 24

8:00am Kate Flynn, Lisa Torres, Chris Phillips

10:00am Kim Wagner, Heidi Schlumpf,
Edmond Butler, Gwen Arnold

11:30am Steven Mitchell, Tracy Mitchell

Financial Highlights

Budgeted goal for April	\$55,157.04
Received via Parish Pay	\$16,667.83
Received in Sunday envelopes	\$32,322.00
Loose contributions	<u>\$ 3,182.16</u>
Total contributions in April 2009	\$52,171.99
April deficit	\$ -2,985.99
Budgeted goal through 4/30/09	\$592,938.18
Actual fiscal year to date 4/30/09	<u>\$532,464.92</u>
YTD deficit	\$ -60,473.26
Easter Budgeted Goal	\$27,500.00
Easter Contributions	\$29,439.45

Incredible Savings = Delicious Meals: Stock up on some great Market Day deals for the summer and when you spend \$35 this month receive a free 4-pack 1/4 lb burgers! Frequent buyers don't forget you will receive a free insulated bag with this order. Forms are at the back of church and due May 26 at the rectory or go to marketday.com and use our code 1811 so that the school earns valuable dollars!



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

Music to our ears...

Ms. Brooks and Mr. Stapleton conducted fantastic Spring Music Shows last week with the help of Ms. Phillips and all the teachers, But, the credit really goes to our students!!! What talented and self confident children we have here at NCA. Each one of the them, from 3-13, on stage without fear or intimidation, sang (and danced) their hearts out!!! It takes a lot of hard work to learn the words and movements, and it takes a lot of courage to get on stage in front of huge crowds and bright lights.



ST. GERTRUDE PASTORAL SERVICES

STAFF

Rev. Dominic Grassi, Pastor
Rev. Mike Bradley, Resident
Rev. Bill Kenneally, Pastor Emeritus
Peter Buttitta, Pastoral Associate
Ann O'Connor, Faith Formation
Mary Herbin-Horan, Liturgical Music
Carol Beatty, St. Gertrude East Music Director
Mary Ann Collins, Social Services
Marge Butzen, Business Manager
Jayne Deiters, 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: Monday - Wednesday, 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 the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. All arrangements should be made 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 Phone 773/973-5464

NEW PARISHIONERS

You are most welcome and are invited to stop in at the rectory to introduce yourself and register.. You can also register with one of the parish Greeters before or after any Mass."

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 - 338-4334

John Neafsey

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION - 764-8884

Bob Backis, Marilyn Gehant, Jim Manzardo, or Janine Denomme

SUPPORT GROUPS

Al-Anon — Sundays at 7:00 PM in the Ministry Center
Open AA - Gertie's Group - Tuesdays at 7:30 PM in the Ministry Center
Caris Pregnancy Center - Pregnancy Support, free pregnancy tests, and post-abortion help, ~ 773-338-8311.

Gamblers Anonymous — Fridays at 7 PM in the Ministry Center.