

St. Gertrude

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

Corpus Christi Sunday • June 14, 2009



First Communion Class, May 16, 2009

This is my body, this is my blood

How lucky are those who *administer* communion at mass, standing as if at the gates of heaven. Forward comes the community of believers and seekers alike, some barely able to contain their joy, their reverence, their enthusiasm, others bearing wounds and wonderings, clinging to a battered but unbeaten faith. Delicate white wafer is the perfect humble favor each receives, embodying hope and promise, Bread of Life. Further on, bitter wine puts a pucker on lips and will, broadcasting our Jesus-following vocation to service and sacrifice – “Unless a grain of wheat fall to the ground and die, it shall not give life.” This meal of muted manna and blood-stained beverage, done in memory of our master, reveals our inner divinity. Now we go forth to do life in remembrance of Jesus. The table is set for every meal to be sacred, every action communion. In the name of Jesus we kiss the wrinkled cheek, reveling in its story while fighting the indignity of age-ism, we savor every chew of the French fry and seek health care for minimum wage workers and their families, we honor the energy of every gallon of gas but resist any war for oil. If such basic elements as wine and wafer are holy, then mustn't the whole world likewise be awash in the Body and Blood of Christ? *L'chaim!!!*

From Father Grassi

Confession is good for the soul. But, a good fresh hunk of homemade, doughy bread is even better. I am confessing that I am more than a carbaholic. I am a breadaholic, a glutton for gluten, a craver of crusts. I lust for loaves and relish rolls. I need the kneaded. And now, it's public and you know. One of the meaning of life questions that I find myself asking when I sit down at someone's table for dinner and there is no bread basket is "How can they consider it a meal without including bread of some kind?" Bread is essential to me. I need it to feel satisfied, to make a meal complete. I know it's self-serving for me to say this. But we Italians got it right, turning bread into a complete meal with protein, dairy, vegetable all included and all of it bubbling hot. We call it "pizza." If the sight and the smell of freshly baked bread don't make your mouth water, take your pulse. You may need to call one of the funeral directors on the back page of this bulletin.

On this Feast of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Christ, we need to reflect. Shouldn't we be longing for, hungering for, yearning for Holy Communion? Shouldn't we be eager and anxious to share with one another what Jesus shared with his disciples, the men and women who gathered with him in the upper room? When we break bread together at the Eucharist it is more than just a reenactment of what Jesus told us to do in his memory. We are sharing with one another the life-giving, transforming Bread of Life. It is greater than the manna in the desert that kept the chosen people alive, greater than the loaves and fishes shared by Jesus on the side of the hill to the thousands that gathered to hear him speak. What nourishes us, fills us up, is the very presence of our redeemer and savior Jesus. This is the meaning in life for which we hunger. Like yeast, like leaven, it grows in us and it becomes part of who we are and who we share with one another.

Bread has become more than a symbol, and so receiving Communion more than a symbolic act. It is part of the very essence of what we believe and what we celebrate today and every time we gather at Mass.

DJG



FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

Corpus Christi, the celebration (and parade!) for Jesus in the Eucharist.

Because the Eucharist is *it* for us. It's our center. It's the mystery that's so big we can't contain it to just one feast of Holy Thursday – besides, Holy Thursday is full of the sadness of impending death. But Corpus Christi: it's Jesus in the Eucharist, and He lives, and instead of impending death, it's impending summer. Everlasting life!

It's a quirky feast, as some of ours are. Started with St. Juliana's vision in 1246. Extended to the universal church in 1264 by Pope Urban IV. And what else was going on in those years? An era of dark and light not unlike our own. Chartres Cathedral was consecrated in all its impossible glory. And instruments of torture began to be used by the Inquisition on potential heretics. Anyone for a little clarity and focus? The Body and Blood of Christ stops us in our tracks.

What about today? What do we think and know and feel and believe when we receive the Body and Blood of Christ? (What say you about the Eucharist?) I remember our beloved Father Bill noting one Sunday that, if you went up and down the pews and asked each community member to explain the Eucharist, you'd probably get as many answers as there were people. A symbolic meal? (I want to believe.) A mystical reunion, over and over again with the Lover? (I want to believe; Lord, help my unbelief.)

It's our love and our joy. We eat and drink Him, sharing and becoming Him. We are His. In thanks and dancing joy – a parade, at least!

Susan Lersch for *Growing in Faith*



**St. Gertrude
Balance the Budget**



Today is "Commitment Sunday" for St Gertrude's Balance the Budget Drive

As far as budgets go, we are on the verge of an impressive accomplishment. Despite over \$140,000 in building repairs this past year, we are very close to balancing our parish budget again (thanks to your incredible generosity, The GRalley, two wonderful bequests and the conscientious parish staff working to keep expenses under budget). If you forgot your check today, don't worry - any donation on or before June 30 counts towards this fiscal year. As always, thank you very much for all that you share with St Gertrude Parish.

What's Happening? Take a Look!

Father's Day Hospitality: Pax Christi will host hospitality ~ coffee, tea and breads, in the social hall next Sunday, June 21, after the 8, 10 and 10:30am masses. All are welcome.

Profiles in Courage Award: Organization of the Northeast (O.N.E.) will present Father Grassi with this year's award. Please join them as they present his award and others on Thursday, June 18, 6-7:30pm at St. Augustine College, 1333-1345 W. Argyle. There is a \$35 donation. For more information, please call 769-3232 ext. 23.

Sacred Seeds Now Available Online! Did you want to attend Sacred Seeds, but missed out? A video of each session is now available at our webpage: www.stgertrudechicago.org

Conscientious Projector Monthly Movie Night: Pax Christi invites everyone to join in viewing and discussing *Encounter Point* ~ A true story about the everyday leaders who refuse to sit back as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict escalates. If you lost your loved ones to violence, if you spent ten years in prison, if conflict drove you from your home, would you seek revenge or struggle for peace? Friday, June 26 at 7pm in the ministry center. Call 743-4632 or email paxgert@gmail.com

Heart to Heart: If you know of someone who could use assistance equipment such as a cane, walker, or bath chair, H2H has a lending closet with multiples of these items. Please contact Mary Ann Collins at 973-5464.



Market Day: Stock up on some nutritious yet quick and easy meals for the summer so that you can get out of the kitchen and enjoy the summer days! Market Day forms are available at the back of church. Purchase \$35 and get a free bottle of Market Day Grilling Sauce ~ yummm!

Confirmation Service Project Walkathon: THANKS to everyone who donated to our walkathon last month. We used your donations (which amounted to over \$1,000!) to host an ice cream social at Cornerstone Community Outreach, a shelter for 300 homeless men, women and children in Uptown. To see photos from these two events, be sure to stop and take a look at our thank you card in the back of the church.

-The Confirmation Class of 2009

Baptisms

Amina Gabrielle Murray, daughter of Jules Murray and Corina Lainez

New Parishioners

Stanley Fisher

Christine Krieser and Abe Davis

Christie Webb



Our Parish at Prayer

MONDAY, JUNE 15

7:00am Joseph Allgaier and Family †
9:00am Betty McGee †

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

7:00am Joseph Kiernan †
9:00am Mary Ann Schmitz, and
Cassidy and Jeremy Smith †

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

7:00am John Konitzer †
9:00am Rodolfo Magadan †

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

7:00am Diane Heidkamp †
9:00am Aileen D'Elia †

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

8:00am The Schragger Family
3:00pm *Robert Nelson and Beth Siegel Wedding*
5:00pm T.J. Heidkamp †

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

8:00am Novella Family †
9:30am *St. Gertrude East (Sheridan and Granville)* ~
Roger Brinkman †
10:00am Jaime Jeyuson †
10:30am The Family of St. Gertrude †
11:30am William M. Deiters †

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

Altar Servers

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

5:00pm Allison Wall, John Wall, Sam Guennette

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

10:00am Ryan O'Toole, Michael Zajakowski-Uhll,
Ellen Buttitta
11:30am Louis Hasbrook-Guardino,
Stephen Hasbrook-Guardino, Basma Saadallah

Lectors

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

5:00pm Clarisse Croteau Chonka, Ann O'Brien

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

8:00am Mark Kollar, Jay Cook
10:00am Bob Backis, Jeff Seitzer
11:30am Susan Lersch, Troy McMillan

Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Cor 6:1-10; Mt 5:38-42
Tuesday: 2 Cor 8:1-9; Mt 5:43-48
Wednesday: 2 Cor 9:6-11; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: 2 Cor 11:1-11; Mt 6:7-15
Friday: Hos 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9; Is 12;
Eph 3:8-12, 14-19; Jn 19:31-37
Saturday: 2 Cor 12:1-10; Lk 2:41-51
Sunday: Jb 38:1, 8-11; Ps 107; 2 Cor 5:14-17;
Mk 4:35-41



May they rest in peace...

In Memoriam

J. Neil Boyle
Joan Lohan

Wedding Banns

I Gregory Woodard and Ellen Frisbie
I Michael Salvatore and Melissa O'Neal
III Robert Nelson and Beth Siegel

Eucharistic Ministers

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

5:00pm Ann O'Brien, Joan and Tim Harrington,
Mary Cook, Meghan Thompson-Wilda

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

8:00am Peter Morin, Charles Shaw, Judy Coswell,
Paula Rodriguez, Hallie Burhoe
10:00am Kathy Dunne, Beth Siegel, Theresa Resch,
Tere Zdunek, Val Hastings, Gail Smith,
Laurie Hasbrook
11:30am Susan Lersch, Claire O'Brien,
Molly O'Hara, Emily Williams,
Troy McMillan

Greeters

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

5:00pm Michelle Kuehlhorn, Terri MacKenzie

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

8:00am Joe Lepkowski, Glenn Sieverson,
Barb Daly
10:00am Jeff Clennon, Matthew Foran, Dana Johnson
11:30am Nancy Bujnowski, Susan Lersch

Financial Highlights



Construction Update

Workers continue to be busy about the church bell tower. This past week we were finally able to repair the bell tower roof and the netting is in the process of being erected to keep pigeons out. We are waiting on the new mullions (window supports) to complete the work on the front of the rectory ~ which will mean lots of noise, dust and using the side door once again to access the rectory. But, it will also mean that our walls will not crumble and the rectory will continue to be a place of welcome and where folks can gather and grow in their faith!



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



Nurturing Baby Chicks & Kindergarten Babes

Throughout the year the third graders and kindergarteners paired up through NCA's "Buddy Program." The students sat together each Tuesday at the school mass where the older kids could help the younger ones with reading from the song book, and knowing when to sit, kneel, and stand.

As a part of the third grade science life cycle curriculum, students incubated duck and chick eggs which hatched this spring. It was so exciting to watch the animals working their way out of the eggs and into the world. Here is a picture of their last meeting of the year when the kindergarteners came up to see the baby ducks and chicks. Both programs are truly nurturing experiences and will be remembered by these students for years to come.

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@sbcglocal.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.