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St. Gertrude

"COME & SEE"

1420 W. Granville Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60660 • Telephone: 773-764-3621
The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time • February 19, 2012

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Parish teens, getting better by cleaning up Osterman Beach

LENT: AN INVITATION TO BE BETTER PEOPLE

In today's Gospel, we hear of four friends who are so "on fire" with care and affection for their sick pal that they literally raze the roof so they can drop him into the healing presence of Jesus. These four friends were probably good people, for the most part. They did their chores at home, got to work on time, donated their used clothes to Care For Real. But they were cautious people, reserved. They didn't like to draw attention to themselves, never wore Hawaiian shirts, never sang in church, never made waves against injustice. Then something happened, something moved them to break out of their conformity, break free of their social immobility to do something unthinkable! That "something" that happened is Jesus. Jesus lit the fire, Jesus turned good people into better people. That's what we're looking for this Lent – becoming better people. Not necessarily nice. Not so much polite, though respectful. Not quiet, but noisy with passion, like the passion that awaits us at the end of Lent – Christ's Passion to be One with the One who sent him, even if it means making the "unthinkable" sacrifice. This Lent let's pray, fast some, and, by the grace of God, become better. ~ PB

From Father Grassi

“When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites.” (from the Gospel of Ash Wednesday we will be hearing later on this week when Lent begins.) Last Sunday afternoon when all my work of the weekend was finished, I drove to my apartment for a few hours of uninterrupted quiet time, something I find myself in need of more and more at this point in my life. As I reflected on the day I was struck by how gracious many of the parishioners of St. Gertrude Parish are. Your kind words, encouragement and concern, the smiles and the embraces that you share with me and with others all lifted me up. But there were a significant number of others who often without even a hello came at me to express their anger at something or another. More often than not the anger was justified. I think that sometimes I responded well to what they said. Other times there really wasn't anything for me to say. And too often the person didn't even wait for a response. It was dump and run. Sadly I realized that there are some parishioners that I have seldom seen, and even some who I have never seen, joyful or laughing or even with a smile. Too often we look at Lent as those weeks after Mardi Gras when our demeanor can only reflect a rock hard appearance, and therefore a rightly impressive seriousness, kind of like never washing off the ashes so that everyone can see how unambiguously repentant we are. That's not the message of the Gospel. We should rejoice that we have been given the opportunity to *celebrate* Lent. For sure there is a whole lot of sinfulness in me for which I should truly be sorry. I hope to reflect and pray over and act on my life in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. There is much more that I need to do to be the person of justice and compassion I know I am called to be. And so I will try to take advantage of Lent this year in these areas and others. But I'll be positive and smiling and upbeat about it and about life. I extend two invitations to you. First, call me on it if I look too dour or serious or self-consumed, if I am complaining or negative. Secondly, join with me and try to make this a joyful Lent for yourself and others around you. And feel free not to agree with me on any of this. Okay. I know it's three invitations I have just offered. So cut me some slack. You don't have to point it out to me. See what I mean.

DJG



As we approach Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent, it is a time for each of us to think about our faith journey and our preparation for that central mystery of our faith, the Resurrection. Each year, we focus on this preparation again, and each year, there is a group among us that is making this particular journey for the first time: the candidates in the RCIA seeking the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation). We, as their community, walk with them on this journey. We pray for them and bless them as they leave the 10:00am mass each Sunday to contemplate the scripture. We welcome them in the Rite of Welcoming and listen and respond to what they ask of us as they make their way. During the Lenten observance, we will celebrate the Rite of Sending, when the candidates sign on to this church of ours, and we give them our stamp of approval and forward them to the Cathedral to be called by name as the elect. On the three Sundays preceding Palm Sunday, the three great teaching gospels are delivered to those to be baptized in the ceremony known as the “Scrutinies”. These gospels are the Woman at the Well (John 4: 3-42), the Man Born Blind (John 9: 1-41), and the Raising of Lazarus (John 11: 1-44). The gospels that form the Scrutinies are read every year at this time at the mass for the RCIA candidates, regardless of the liturgical cycle, because of their importance in faith formation.

We are with the RCIA candidates to support them as they travel along the path to their sacramental initiation. But as they travel that path, the RCIA candidates are a support to us as well. They remind us of the preciousness of our calling. They affirm that our faith and our church are living and growing. They bring us back to the fundamental messages of Jesus. Perhaps this year, as we try once again to make our Lenten experience a holy time, we can enter into that experience of initiation anew, as if we, too, were hearing these great gospels and choosing these sacraments for the first time.



Mary Ann O'Connor *for Growing in Faith*

Spotlight

* Lent: Becoming Better People *

Lent invites us to consider our faith more intentionally so that we might pray more powerfully and act with greater conviction. Our job as parish is to support one another in this goal. Below lists a variety of ways for us to collectively *keep* this holy season. Hopefully you will find at least one of the following opportunities convenient and meaningful.

Faith Sharing Groups - Running throughout the Lenten season. These groups meet weekly for an hour to consider more intentionally what it means to put our values into practice. Morning & evening groups are forming. Please call the rectory for details, 764-3621.

Wednesday Simple Suppers & Prayer – February 29, March 7, 14, 21.

A mid-week call to community. Supper, 6pm, *Social Hall*. Prayer, 7pm, *Church*.

Friday Stations of the Cross - 2:30-3:00pm, *Church*.

Join our NCA students in this time-honored Lenten prayer.



Fasting Guidelines:

Abstinence from meat by all Catholics 14 years old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. Abstinence from all festive foods is encouraged on every day of Lent as part of the common discipline of this holy season.

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by those between the ages of 18 and 60. The fast allows only one full meal per day and two smaller meals if necessary to maintain one's needed strength. Eating solid foods between meals should be avoided.

Other suggestions for fasting:

- * Make time for prayer in your daily routine by fasting from other activities...
- * Fast from grudges, gossip, cigarettes, procrastination, alcohol, gossip, noise...
- * We invite as many as are able to fast from at least one meal each Wednesday for world peace (beginning at home) and to break-fast together at the simple supper that evening.

Participate in Operation Rice Bowl, a program of Catholic Relief Services (pick up the small O.R.B. collection box in the back of church). 75% of your contribution goes overseas to buy cornmeal for a family's sustenance, or seeds to plant a field, or a sewing machine to make a living, while 25% supports poverty-alleviation efforts here in Chicago.

*Use our parish *Sharing* envelope. Your contribution goes to Care For Real and our parish St. Vincent de Paul chapter.

Please call the rectory for further details, 764-3621.

Calendar Notes

Wednesday, February 22 ~ Ash Wednesday

Day of Fast and Abstinence

Masses at 7:30am, 9am and 7pm with
Ashes before and after the 7pm Mass.

Friday, February 24

Day of Abstinence

2:30pm ~ Stations of the Cross.

Sunday, February 26

10am Mass ~ RCIA Rite of Sending.

Wednesday, February 29

6pm ~ Simple Supper

7pm ~ Prayer Service

Parish News

As We Celebrate 100 years ~ we want to think of the physical structures which support our prayers, ministries, and faith. Although the Building and Grounds committee has spent time walking through the buildings and observing how they function, the committee would like your thoughts in terms of: areas/systems in need of repair; means of reducing operating costs; and determining improvements which would enhance the faith and mission of our fabulous community. This weekend, we will be soliciting your input after all the masses via feedback cards. Please contact Marge Butzen: 764-3621 or email stgertsuggestions@yahoo.com



St. Gertrude's Adoptive Families Group ~ and the Chicago-Area Families with Children from Vietnam group will co-sponsor a Tet Lunar New Year's celebration Sunday, Feb. 26, from 4-6:30 p.m. in the social hall and gym; includes kids' crafts, a catered Vietnamese dinner, performances by a lion team and dance troupe. \$15 per person. Children under 2 free. RSVP by Feb. 18 to Heidi Schlumpf, 312-771-8633 or at schlumpfh@yahoo.com

St. Gertrude's Youth Choir: The St. Gertrude's Parish Youth Choir, resumes Sunday, February 26. Enrollment in this group is open to all parish children in grades 3 and up. This is a musical ensemble for kids who love to sing; no prior musical experience is necessary.

Our first rehearsal is Sunday, February 26, from 11:15am to noon, rectory building. Rehearsals are biweekly, and there is no fee for choir. The choir season runs from February thru May. Any questions – contact Ethna Byrne at jbyrne9512@aol.com

Retired Men's Group ~ will meet on Thursday, February 23 at 9am in the Ministry Center. All retired men of the parish and community are welcome. Contact Jim Corbett: 773-631-9920.

Market Day: A Very Belated Thank You! We would like to thank everyone for the tremendous response we had to the Market Day sale in November. We earned over \$1,600 in profit for the parish that month and delivered over 125 desserts and other Market Day products to Care for Real.



For the month of February, order forms may be turned in at the rectory by Sunday, February 19, or go on-line to marketday.com and place your order by 11pm on Wednesday, February 22. Pick up will be on Saturday, February 25 from 9 - 10am in the school cafeteria. Please be prompt.

The 2013 Daily Mass Book: Effective Thursday, March 1, the book for 2013 Mass intentions will be open. Mass stipends remain at \$15.

Job Seekers: Looking for work can be an isolating experience...don't let it happen to you. St. Gertrude's support group combined with Ebenezer Lutheran and meet at Ebenezer (1650 W. Foster) on Mondays at 11am. Due to the Presidents Day holiday, the next meeting will be February 27. For further details, please contact Carolyn Placko at Ebenezer Lutheran: 773-561-8496.

SAVE THE DATE

St. Gertrude & NCA

All Years Reunion

Saturday, May 19

To receive information on this event please e-mail: lholzman@ncaweb.org
For Centennial events, visit stgertrudechicago.org



Community Activities

Support St. Vincent de Paul by attending the Friends of the Poor Benefit: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is hosting its 4th Annual Friends of the Poor Benefit on Sunday, April 15, 2012 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace. The cost is \$75 per person and will include a fabulous champagne brunch, silent auction, pick a prize, 50/50 raffle, the Big Raffle, and entertainment from "Padres on Parade," a group of talented and gifted pastors from parishes within the Archdiocese that will entertain and delight you! The Big Raffle prizes: 1st prize: 5 night cruise on the Royal Caribbean with a deluxe ocean view state room with balcony (including round trip airfare from Chicago), 2nd prize: 55-inch LG television, 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th prizes: \$250 gas card. "It's great fun and an easy way to lend your support." To attend, please contact Elvia Rojas at (312) 655-7182 or at Elvia@svdpchicago.org.



Axiom Sports Camp ~ is a Catholic overnight Basketball and Soccer Summer Camp for children who strive for athletic excellence! Located 45 minutes north of Chicago, at the beautiful University of Saint Mary of the Lake/ Mundelein Seminary, in Mundelein Illinois. We are offering 6 weekly camps in June and July. Please visit our website at: www.axiomsportscamp.com for more information. "Like" us on FaceBook (Axiom Sports Camp) and receive a \$25 discount off registration fee. Call 847-532-9785 for more information.

Some of the activities for Lent:

- Fridays 7:15 am: Vigil and Rosary at Broadview Detention Center, 1930 Beach St., Broadview. Call: 312-534-5333.

- Mon-Fri, 9 am-12 pm, 1-4 pm: Detention Court Watch and Accompaniment: 101 W. Congress Parkway. Call 773-297-6386.

For the full calendar of events of the Archdiocese Office of Immigrant Affairs during Lent, please go to: www.archchicago.org/immigration



School News and Activities

NCA Registration is Strong

We are happy to report that registration of our current NCA students for next year is very strong, and we expect a very high retention rate. We welcome 20 of those current families' new siblings into our school. We have over 90 applications of new students for next year including 7 new transfer students for the older grades. Typically, transfer students happen during the end of the



current year or over the summer, but we are happy to report that the word is getting out about our excellent school which is increasing the interest in specifically 1st and 6th grades. In fact, we will most likely run waiting lists in those grades next year (as well as preschool and kindergarten). If you know someone who is looking for 'something greater' than what they are getting at their current school, please have them contact Kristi Erickson for a personal tour. Throughout the years, we have found that families who transfer in to NCA are incredibly happy they did.



NCA Primary School:
6216 N. Glenwood Ave
Phone: 773-743-6277
NCA Middle School:
5519 N. Magnolia
Phone: 773-271-2008, or
www.northsidecatholic.org



Our Parish at Prayer

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

7:30am Albert Swoboda †

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

7:30am John Resch †

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22~ Ash Wednesday

7:30am Helen Schmidt †

9:00am Christine and Waclaw Kiedycz †

7:00pm The Family of St. Gertrude †

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

 7:30am Communion Service ~
Charles Nesbitt †

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

7:30am Jack Clemency †

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

7:30am Patricia Shaw †

5:00pm Cecille Heidkamp †

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

8:00am The Family of St. Gertrude †

9:30am The Connery Family †

10:00am Jacqueline Elwood †

10:30am James Dorsey †

11:30am Strubbe-Galoney Family †

† Indicates person mentioned is deceased.

The Rosary: 8:00am, Monday through Saturday

Lectors

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

5:00pm Jeff Seitzer, Ann O'Brien

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

8:00am Sr. Kathryn Stimac, Mary Stachura

10:00am Carol McRaith, Chrissy Sofranko

11:30am David O'Donnell, Mary Ellen Thomas

Altar Servers

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

 5:00pm Cailey Nolan, Katie O'Donaghue,
Veronica Maddell

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

 10:00am Kathryn Moran, Brendan Moran,
Sarah Dundas-Gulley

 11:30am Jocelyn Coppens, Alexandra Coscioni,
Gabiellaa Coscioni

Readings for the Week

Monday: Jas 3:13-18; Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10; Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51; 2 Cor 5:20 - 6:2;
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25; 1 Pt 3:18-22;
Mk 1:12-15


Eucharistic Ministers

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

 5:00pm Megan Nolan, Mary Jo Bowers,
Ann O'Brien, Peggy Dawson,
Kathleen Dawson

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

 8:00am Roman Reyes, Charles Shaw,
Mary Stachura, Bill Mitchell,
Sr. Kathryn Stimac, Paula Rodriguez,
Donald Nyderek

 10:00am Rose Marie Anichini, Carlos Barragan,
Troy McMillan, Theresa Resch,
Gail Smith, Nancy Merrill, Kathy Dunne

 11:30am Lisa Kelly, Steve Monti, Lina Peon,
Mary Pat Hartung, Maria Hertl

Greeters

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

5:00pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

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

10:00am

11:30am Tracey and Steven Mitchell

Facility Highlights

January 2012

January budgeted (5 Sundays)	\$70,325
January Sunday envelope giving	\$38,053
Loose cash/coin	\$ 3,678
Online giving	<u>\$19,202</u>
Total	<u>\$60,933</u>
Deficit	- \$9,392

Fiscal Year 07/11-06/12

Year to date budgeted	\$436,015
Year to date actual	<u>\$384,306</u>
Deficit	- \$ 51,709

Christmas Update

Christmas budgeted	\$45,000
Christmas actual	<u>\$52,165</u>
Surplus	+ \$7,165

Milestones

Newly Baptized

John Dow Robinson,
son of Adam and Anna
William Frederick Dowling,
son of Matthew and Melissa



New Parishioners

Brittany and Steven Bierly, and
their children Brandon and Isabel
Mary Ward and Malvene Collins, and
their children Elizabeth and Isaac
Brooke and Brendan Gualdoni,, and
their children Frances and Esther
Benita and Samuel Ikengah
Maria Liza and Nilo Manansaza, and
their daughter Mika
Evelyn Nwankwo
Richard Porcelli
Maureen Callahan and Nick Rutkowski
Lexi and Robert Widman



May she rest in peace ~

Eileen Leahy

ST. GERTRUDE PASTORAL SERVICES

STAFF

Rev. Dominic Grassi, Pastor
Rev. Michael Bradley, Resident
Rev. William Kenneally, Pastor Emeritus
Dr. Peter Buttitta, Director of Ministries
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, Minister of First Impressions

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am, 11:30am
9:30am Gertrude East (at Sheridan and Rosemont)
10:30am Mass in the Gym (except summer months)
Monday through Friday: 7:30am
Saturday: 7:30am and 5:00pm (Sunday Vigil)

RECTORY HOURS

Business Hours: Weekdays, 8:30am to 4:30pm
Drop off/pick up: Monday - Wednesday, 4:30pm to 8:00pm
Saturday 9:00am to 6:00pm, Sunday, 9:00am to 1:00pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Individual: Saturday from 4:15-4:45pm and by request.

BAPTISM

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

MARRIAGE

Arrangements begin by setting up an appointment with the pastor. Preparations are to begin at least four months prior to the desired date.

LOCATIONS:

Rectory: 1420 W. Granville Ave. 60660; Phone 773-764-3621
Fax 773-761-4164; E-mail stgertrude1420@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.stgertrudechicago.org>
Ministry Center: 6214 N. Glenwood Ave., 60660; Phone 773-973-5464.
Social Hall: 1401 W. Granville, 60660.

NEW PARISHIONERS

You are most welcome and are invited to stop in at the rectory to introduce yourself and register. You may register with one of the 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, SPIRITUAL DIRECTION AND MASSAGE THERAPY

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

Counseling and Psychotherapy: 773-338-4334, Dr. John Neafsey
Spiritual Direction: 773-764-8884

Bob Backis, Marilyn Gehant, Jim Manzardo, Terra Solove
Massage Therapy: Carol McRaith, 773-259-1268; Terra Solove, 773-358-8020

SUPPORT GROUPS ...

Heart to Heart, senior outreach and service connection: 773-973-5464

Al-Anon: Sundays at 7:00pm in the Ministry Center
Open AA: Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the Ministry Center, and
Thursdays at 7:00pm in the school cafeteria.

Caris Pregnancy Center, pregnancy support, free pregnancy tests, and
post-abortion help: 312-229-5700.

Gamblers Anonymous: Fridays at 7:00pm in the Ministry Center.